

Newaygo County Regional Educational Service Agency  
Annual Website Report

December 2023

## **Introduction**

The Newaygo County Regional Educational Service Agency (NC RESA) Annual 2023 Website Report provides an opportunity for the NC RESA to communicate with our community and report how we utilize the resources provided to us. Our spending decisions support our commitment to our mission: Newaygo County RESA provides results-driven educational services and support through visionary thinking, innovation, and cooperative efforts. Also reflected in our slogan of **SERVICE—Support Education Responsibly through Visionary, Innovative, Cooperative Efforts.**

Broad organizational strategic directions direct the work of the NC RESA and provide the framework for departmental planning and initiatives:

Strategic Direction I     Deliver a high-quality system of early childhood services, supporting the whole child, so all preschool age children will enter school developmentally ready to succeed at the time of school entry.

Strategic Direction II     Develop and deliver programs and services to support the whole child and enhance prenatal to grade 14 education so all learners will demonstrate career and college readiness.

Strategic Direction III     Develop and strengthen cross-functional, sustainable collaboration among internal NC RESA departments and across external network partners to provide innovative systems and services.

NC RESA partners with other service and educational agencies throughout West Michigan to maximize our impact and promote effective use of resources. The NC RESA is governed by a local school board selected by constituent district boards of education.

If you simply review the data in this report, you have just scratched the surface of the services provided by the NC RESA. We invite you to learn more by visiting our website at [www.ncresa.org](http://www.ncresa.org). We encourage you to visit the website pages of our Early Childhood, Career-Tech, Special Education, Student Services and Staff Services. If you have further questions, please direct your questions to Mr. Blake Prewitt, NC RESA Superintendent at 231-924-8854 or e-mail [bprewitt@ncresa.org](mailto:bprewitt@ncresa.org).

**Overview**

Michigan Public Act 413 of 2004 amended the *Revised School Code* by adding section 620, which requires each intermediate school district to post information on its website by December 31 of each year beginning in 2006. The following is a list of the information that is required to be included in the report with adjusted base amounts:

- a. General Information – budget, pupils, employees, constituent districts and schools
- b. Travel Information – for school board members or administrators in excess of \$4,591
- c. Contracts – in excess of \$100,000, not competitively bid in excess of \$25,000 or one in which a board member, administrator or family member of either had a known monetary interest
- d. Contract Modifications – modifications made to contracts reported in item c. above
- e. Employee Compensation – total annual monetary value for employees in top 3%
- f. Fiber Optic or Cable Equipment and Operating System Software for Fiber Optic/Cable Equipment Network – total costs and sources
- g. Public Relations, Polling, Lobbying and Legal – payments to non-employees
- h. IRS Tax Form 1099's – issued to non-employees paid in excess of \$25,000
- i. Certain ISD Expenditures – amount and percentage of administrative, public relations, polling, lobbying and legal services
- j. Motor Vehicles – list and purpose of vehicles weighing 7500 pounds or less owned or leased

**A. General Information (620(1)(a); 620(10)(c))**

The NC RESA provides support for all public and non-public schools that operate within Newaygo County. There are 56 Intermediate School Districts (ISDs) or Regional Educational Service Agencies (RESAs) in the State of Michigan – no two are exactly alike. Each ISD/RESA gears its services to the specific needs of its constituent school districts. These services may include educational leadership, monitoring, and a variety of programs and services in the areas of general education, career and technical education, special education, technology, and business. The following provides a list of some of the programs/services that represent the strategies NC RESA divisions use to realize the strategic directions listed in the introduction:

Early Childhood Education – Parents as Teachers, Great Parents/Great Start & Great Start Collaborative, Preschool Classrooms, Great Start Readiness Program, Early On

Learning Services – Curriculum & Professional Development, Advanced & Accelerated Programs, Continuous Improvement Planning, MTSS, Early College, Dual Enrollment College Classes

Special Education Services – Ancillary Services Speech/Occupational/Physical Therapy, School Psychology & Social Work, Autism Consultant, Special Education Classrooms, Transition Services, Monitoring and Compliance

Career-Tech Services – 14 Career Center Programs, Career Exploration and Development, Work Study, Summer Internship Program, NCCTC Follow-up and Job Placement

Technology Services - Newaygo County Advanced Technology Services (data, voice, and video), Internet Service Provider (ISP) – High-Speed Wireless Internet, Technical Support and Service

#### Pupil FTE's (Full Time Equivalents)

NC RESA provides services to the Big Jackson, Fremont, Grant, Hesperia, Newaygo, and White Cloud public school districts. The total number of (K-12) student FTE's enrolled in the NC RESA service area is 7,161.

#### Constituent Districts, Public School Academies, Non-public Schools

Most of the students within the NC RESA service area attend six constituent public school districts (Big Jackson, Fremont, Grant, Hesperia, Newaygo, and White Cloud). In addition, there are three (Cornerstone Christian Academy, Grant Christian, and Fremont Christian) non-public schools within the NC RESA service area that are registered with the Michigan Department of Education.

#### NC RESA Employees

The employees of the NC RESA are qualified professionals committed to the mission and exhibit a commitment to excellence and efficiency. NC RESA staff includes:

- Early Childhood, Career-Tech and Special Education teachers and assistants
- Special Education ancillary staff including psychologists, speech therapists, occupational therapists, physical therapists, social workers, autism consultants and other specialized personnel
- Curriculum and professional development consultants
- Technology support staff
- Maintenance and custodial staff
- Secretarial and administrative assistants

- Substitute teachers and assistants
- Administrative staff and program specialists

The total number of people employed by NC RESA is 389.

#### 2022-2023 Revenues, Expenditures and Total Dollars Distributed

During the 2022-2023 school year, the NC RESA received \$38,764,355 from multiple sources to be used to accomplish state-mandated obligations and provide services to the local school districts. The NC RESA expended \$34,213,116, within the parameters of its budget approved by the Board of Education. As a part of the total expenditures the NC RESA distributed \$2,244,931 to local school districts and other local organizations to help pay for locally operated programs and services.

<b><u>B. Travel Information (620(1)(b); 620(2); 620(9))</u></b>
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The NC RESA mission encourages staff to seek out best practices, gain broad educational perspectives, and gain knowledge that reflects the latest trends, innovations, and challenges. NC RESA staff members train and guide local teachers, principals, and other school staff who interact with about 8,000 students attending our public and non-public schools. Maintaining this level of expertise requires travel to conferences and trainings. Most leadership and consultant positions at the NC RESA require travel, both within the area and throughout Michigan. The NC RESA ensures accountability through school board approval of all out-of-state travel.

During the 2022-2023 school year, no NC RESA board member or administrators incurred more than \$4,591 in travel expenses (including airfare, lodging, car rental and meals).

**C. Contract Information (620(1)(c); 620(3), 620(5), 620(10)(a)(b))****NC RESA Guidelines for Competitive Bids**

Each year the State of Michigan Department of Education defines what expenditures for remodeling, procurement of supplies, materials, and equipment must be competitively bid by school districts. Sections 623a, 1267, and 1274 of the *Revised School Code* establish a base above which competitive bids must be obtained and provide for an increase in the base that corresponds with increases in the Consumer Price Index. For the 2022-2023 fiscal year, all expenditures covered by Section 1267 that exceeded \$28,048 and all expenditures covered under Sections 623a and 1274 that exceeded \$28,048 were required to be competitively bid.

**How Competitive Bids Work:**

When an item is competitively bid, a Request for Proposal (RFP) is created that includes detailed bid specifications and a deadline to submit a proposal. Proposal request forms are available in the NC RESA Business Office and the RFP is advertised in the local newspapers and posted on the NC RESA and State of Michigan websites.

The NC RESA practices and policy for purchases in compliance with the limits set by the State of Michigan Department of Education is as follows:

For purchases expected to exceed \$28,048 at least three competitive bids from qualified vendors are required. The results of the bidding process along with an administrative recommendation to purchase are presented to the Board of Education for approval. The Board of Education acts in the best interest of NC RESA in awarding the bid. Whenever

possible, local vendors are given an opportunity to participate in the competitive bid process.

- B&V Mechanical Inc. was contracted for the Career Tech Center welding ventilation upgrades project in the amount not to exceed \$624,400. No payments were made throughout the 2022-2023 school fiscal year.
- Presidio Networked Solutions Group, LLC was contracted for the NC RESA security system upgrade in the amount not to exceed \$385,021.94. The amount paid throughout the 2022-2023 school fiscal year was \$71,784.76.
- Turn-Key Network Solutions was contracted for fiber construction for the Newaygo County Library Project in the amount not to exceed \$147,537.56. No payments were made throughout the 2022-2023 school fiscal year.
- MOSS Telecom was contracted for NC RESA's core switch replacement in the amount not to exceed \$55,393.20. No payments were made throughout the 2022-2023 school fiscal year.

The following is a list of contracts, signed by the NC RESA Superintendent, not competitively bid in excess of \$25,000 with agencies that provided specialized services. NC RESA staff did receive an hourly price quote that was compared to quotes sought and received from comparative service providers:

- Baldwin Family Healthcare was contracted to provide PAT services. The amount paid throughout the 2022-2023 school fiscal year was \$40,425.00.
- Clare-Gladwin RESD was contracted to provide Pupil Auditing services. The amount paid throughout the 2022-2023 school fiscal year was \$44,108.



- Diversified UG Utilities Inc was contracted to provide underground boring and plowing for fiber construction. The amount paid throughout the 2022-2023 school fiscal year was \$27,543.75.
- H&S Companies was contracted to provide Financial Auditing services. The amount paid throughout the school fiscal year was \$28,000.
- Mecosta Osceola ISD was contracted to provide Visual Impairment Services. The amount paid throughout the 2022-2023 school fiscal year was \$41,297.62.
- Fountain Hill Center was contracted to provide a school psychologist. The amount paid throughout the 2022-2023 school fiscal year was \$78,938.34.
- PCMI West was contracted to provide various positions Agency wide. The amount paid throughout the 2022-2023 school fiscal year was \$369,644.56.
- West Shore Community College was contracted to provide instruction services to Newaygo County Career & Technical Service students in the Criminal Justice program as well as tuition for Criminal Justice, Business and transcribed credits for the 2022-2023 school year. The amount paid throughout the 2022-2023 school fiscal year was \$55,000.
- Newaygo County Mental Health was contracted to provide counseling services. The amount paid throughout the 2022-2023 school fiscal year was \$88,000.

The preceding list is exclusive of individuals reported receiving an IRS Form 1099 in Section H of this document. The NC RESA has not entered into a contract with an entity in which a board member, administrator or family member of either had a known monetary interest.

**D. Contract Modification Information (620(1)(d); 620(3))**

During the 2022-2023 fiscal year, no contract modifications were awarded by the NC RESA.

**E. Salary, Expense Account, and Supplemental Compensation Information (620(1)(e); 620(4))**

All employees of the NC RESA are classified by position. All classifications are established according to the demands of the position, level of responsibility, job functions performed, credentials and skills. Each classification falls into at least one established salary schedule, which takes into account such factors as seniority in position or in similar positions, comparison to similar jobs elsewhere in the community or comparable RESA organizations, cost of living factors, etc. Employees whose compensation packages including reimbursed expenses are within the top 3% of the agency salaries are listed on the following pages. These individuals and others of the leadership team are responsible for the operation of the NC RESA. They supervise 310 staff and manage a budget in excess of \$20 million that funds programs and services at more than 20 sites serving more than 25,000 customers.

POSITION	SALARY	EXP ACCT	REIMB EXP	SUPPL COMP
Superintendent	\$ 170,000.00	\$ 2,250.00	\$ 9,997.83	\$ 21,956.70
Chief Financial Officer	\$ 118,060.00	\$ 2,250.00	\$ - 0 -	\$ 3,147.14
Director of Special Education Services	\$ 118,060.00	\$ 2,250.00	\$ - 0 -	\$ 3,147.14

Director of Tech. & Security Services	\$ 112,157.00	\$ 2,250.00	\$ - 0 -	\$ 4,989.78
Director of Instruction/CEPD	\$ 112,157.00	\$ 2,250.00	\$ - 0 -	\$ 841.18
Early Childhood Specialist	\$ 85,344.78	\$ - 0 -	\$ - 0 -	\$ 27,005.92
Director of Early Childhood Services	\$ 106,254.00	\$ 2,250.00	\$ - 0 -	\$ 796.91
Special Education Supervisor	\$ 91,190.00	\$ 2,250.00	\$ - 0 -	\$ 12,881.20
Physical Therapist	\$ 88,927.00	\$ - 0 -	\$ - 0 -	\$ 14,951.21
Psychologist	\$ 88,927.00	\$ - 0 -	\$ - 0 -	\$ 14,362.68

**F. Fiber Optic/Cable Equipment and Operating System Software for Fiber Optic/Cable Equipment Networks (620(1)(f))**

NC RESA supports technology through the Newaygo County Advanced Technology Services (NCATS). NCATS oversees, operates, and maintains over 120 miles of backbone fiber optic cable that connects all five cities within Newaygo County. This cable is used to support voice, video, and data networks. In addition to the backbone, an additional 15 miles of fiber is maintained that links all educational buildings of each local school district, several city government buildings and fire departments, the Newaygo County administrative complex, Community Mental Health, and the Fremont Area Community Foundation. This fiber network was originally constructed in 1995 and funded through local foundation grants. No funds from general, special or vocational education funds were used to establish the network.

Expenses Related to Fiber Repair:

Moves, changes, and damage to Consumers Energy utility poles resulted in expenses to the NC RESA in the amount of \$111,288 during the 2022-2023 fiscal year. A portion of these costs are divided by six (6) and charged back to the five local public school districts. In addition, repairs for breakage due to vandalism, vehicle accidents, and/or heavy equipment are repaired and billed back to the offending party if possible.

Hardware that supports the data, voice, or video traffic (routers, switches, and hubs) is the responsibility of NC RESA and each local district or partner. The NC RESA may, on occasion, purchase replacement hardware and bill local districts for the cost. Hardware that supports the data, voice and video traffic (routes, switches and hubs) is the responsibility of NC RESA and each local district or partner. The NC RESA may, on occasion, purchase replacement hardware and bill local districts for the cost. Hardware that supports the internal NC RESA network is replaced and paid for by NCATS. Monthly billings by NCATS recover these expenses from the department, local district, or partner requesting or needing the hardware. For 2022-2023 school year NCATS purchased \$31,168 of hardware for replacement or repair. Vendors providing hardware were Dell, CDW, Grainger, FS.Com, Amazon, Graybar and Double Radius.

Expenses for Software:

All of the NC RESA servers used to support the network services running across the fiber use Microsoft Server technology. This software is purchased from the State of Michigan REMC bid list. During the 2022-2023 fiscal year, the contract was held by CDW-G. This contract allows the NC RESA to purchase most Microsoft software with education discount pricing. Also included was our VMware Annual renewal and our vulnerability testing software licensing. The cost of the server software purchased was approximately \$23,310. This amount does not include the software that supports the individual

desktop/laptop computers within the district or application software running on the fiber optic network.

#### Total Fiber Optic Expenditures

During the 2022-2023 school year the total amount expended to maintain the fiber optic network was \$111,288. All expenses were paid through the NCATS Enterprise Fund.

### **G. Public Relations, Polling, Lobbying, and Legal Services (620(1)(g))**

The 56 ISDs/RESAs were created by the legislature in 1962 to bring about quality and equitable educational opportunities to students and schools throughout the State. Public education is funded and regulated by the state and federal government. It is necessary to fund activities that promote public accountability, research, and government communications. Since it is publicly funded, the NC RESA is responsible for communicating available programs and services to the schools and community.

#### Public Relations

During the 2022-2023 school year NC RESA contracted Go Media, LLC in the amount of \$46,200.

#### Polling and Lobbying Services

During the 2022-2023 school year the NC RESA paid the following in lobbying costs:

- School Equity Caucus – Check #14153 – Check Date 07/27/2022 \$3,769
- Karoub Associates – Check #14211 – Check Date 08/11/2022 \$8,625

#### Legal Fees

Like any company, legal advice and representation are required in the normal course of business. Legal counsel is often used as contractual documents are being drafted and

reviewed, in contracting personnel, addressing human resource matters, protecting NC RESA property, and assuring compliance with the laws of Michigan. Many of the issues that require the need for legal counsel are areas that are highly specialized, and directly related to education statutes. These specialized areas of expertise often fall outside of the expertise of local general law practitioners.

In the 2022-2023 school fiscal year the NC RESA incurred and paid invoices for legal fees as follows:

- Clark Hill Law Office - \$17,119.26
- Thrun Law Firm PC - \$3,632.00
- Miller Johnson Attorneys - \$25,936.00

These fees were incurred at the direction of the superintendent and in accordance with the policies of the NC RESA.

<b><u>H. IRS Tax Form 1099's In Excess of \$25,000 (620 (1)(h))</u></b>
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Cost savings can often be realized by contracting with individuals for limited, specialized projects. For calendar year 2022, the NC RESA issued the following IRS Form-1099NEC for services that exceeded \$25,000.

- EDUSTAFF LLC was contracted to provide substitute teachers and paraprofessionals in both Career Tech and Special Education classrooms. The amount paid in 2022 was \$99,713.47.
- Clark Hill Law Office was contracted to provide legal services. The amount paid in 2022 was \$39,842.87.

- Go Media, LLC was contracted to provide on-line marketing and branding services. The amount paid in 2022 was \$50,105.00.
- Good Neighbor Fencing was contracted to build fence enclosures. The amount paid in 2022 was \$34,966.00.
- Smartcomm LLC was contracted for underground fiber cable boring and burial services. The amount paid in 2022 was \$27,368.00.

#### **I. Certain ISD Expenditures (620(1)(i))**

In 2022-2023 NC RESA administrative expenses totaled \$975,226. These costs accounted for 2.85% of the total NC RESA expenses. In addition, during the 2022-2023 school year, NC RESA expenses for public relations, polling, lobbying, and legal services totaled \$59,081.26. These costs accounted for 0.17% of the total NC RESA expenditures.

#### **J. Motor Vehicle Expenses (620(1)(j))**

The NC RESA serves multiple school districts and operates programs across Newaygo County and throughout West Michigan. Therefore, it is more efficient and cost effective to provide vehicles for specific transportation needs. To aid our employees in operating programs and providing services at more than 20 sites within the county and across the region, the NC RESA owns and maintains:

- 2010 Dodge Grand Caravan
- 2009 Dodge Grand Caravan

- 2015 Chevy Express Cargo 2500 Van
- (2) 2018 Dodge Caravans
- 2019 Dodge Grand Caravan

These vehicles are used to transport students for work study, community-based instruction and for NC RESA staff use for work related activities. The NC RESA also owns and maintains:

- 2003 Ford 550 Super Duty Truck
- 2012 Ford F-250 4x4 Truck
- 2014 Ford E250 Cargo Van
- 2015 Ford F-250 4x4 Truck
- 2016 Ford F-150
- 2017 Ford F-150
- 2014 Dodge Caravan
- 2020 Ford F-150
- 2021 Dodge Ram 2500 4x4 Truck
- 2021 Dodge Ram 2500 4x4 Truck
- 2008 Ford F450

These vehicles are used to transport large packages, supplies, paper, and maintenance and technology equipment/materials between the NC RESA campus in Fremont and other NC RESA sites and constituent districts: Big Jackson, Fremont, Grant, Hesperia, Newaygo, and White Cloud.