
The Value of ISDs/RESAs



Michigan Association of Intermediate School Administrators

Adapted by MARESA

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Now, more than ever before, Michigan's intermediate school districts (ISD) are ensuring high-quality, effective, efficient, equitable and essential education, everywhere in Michigan.

For more than 55 years, from the day the Legislature created them in 1962, Michigan's ISDs/RESAs continue to:

- Maximize resources for K–12 districts by providing shared operational services.
- Train administrators, teachers and support staff in the latest research-based methods and best practices.
- Pilot innovative programs that districts couldn't afford on their own.
- Coordinate special education and other specialized student services across their region.

Over time, some ISDs/RESAs have renamed their agency a *Regional Educational Service Agency* (RESA) to better reflect and clarify the depth and breadth of services provided.



ISDs/RESAs work with local school districts, the Michigan Department of Education, business and industry and community groups.

Michigan's 56 ISDs/RESAs serve the State by providing education services to 1.5 million Pre-Kindergarten-12, and special education programs to age 26.



ISDs/RESAs are designed to work with local school districts to leverage limited resources in six core service areas:

1. **Teaching and Learning:** ISDs/RESAs offer literally thousands of professional learning sessions each year to educators, keeping them up on the latest research and teaching methods.
2. **Specialized Student Services:** Local school districts depend on ISDs/RESAs to meet ever-growing needs in Early Childhood (0-5) and Parent Education, Special Education (birth to age 26), Career and Technical Education, Tech Prep, Career Preparation, Talent Development, Online and Digital courses, Math and Science programs, Early/Middle College, Student Activities, Extended Day, Alternative and Adult Education programs, and Court-Involved Youth and Homeless Education programs.

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3. **Shared Operational Services:** Quality, efficiency, and cost containment are the hallmark of ISDs/RESAs as they help districts share services in technology, instruction, transportation, business, communication and support services, teacher and school staff training, and purchasing.
 4. **Developing Partnerships:** ISDs/RESAs are often key partners in local economic development through their community ties with colleges and universities, businesses, industries, and human service agencies. Many of these partnerships benefit our schools and students by readying them for 21st Century careers.
 5. **Technology Services:** ISDs/RESAs are technology leaders in their region. ISDs/RESAs often manage the area's fiber network, provide Internet access, obtain lower costs for computer hardware and software, provide Internet safety filters, purchase digital collections, promote online and digital learning options, and provide technical support.

Michigan's 56 ISDs are the only educational entities with 100% access to every public school to ensure implementation of six core services.



6. **School Improvement, Assessment and Mandates**
ISDs/RESAs help member districts follow often-complex state and federal education standards, meet state and federal requirements, secure grants, measure student performance and growth, and assist low performing schools.

In addition, each ISD/RESA customizes services to meet unique needs. Each ISD/RESA works with its local school districts to develop the mix of products and programs to maximize benefits for that area.