

## We are Berrien Regional Education Service Agency...

### Our Purpose

Regional Education Service Agencies (RESAs), sometimes called Intermediate School Districts (ISDs), exist to serve the common needs of their constituent local school districts. There are 56 RESAs/ISDs in Michigan, and every school district is part of one. Their primary mission is to foster efficiency and innovation while optimizing the use of public funds. By pooling resources and providing services regionally, RESAs provide cost-effective, high-quality assistance to local school districts.

Berrien Regional Education Service Agency (Berrien RESA) proudly offers educational services to Berrien County's 15 public school districts, 24 parochial and private schools and four charter school academies.

In addition to responding to traditional customer needs, Berrien RESA is often called on to lead. Regional consultants work with experts across the state and nation to "bring home" best practices in teaching, state-of-the-art technology, the latest research and new ideas for system efficiency for Berrien County school districts. This proactive approach keeps local districts ahead of the learning curve and able to respond quickly to changes. Berrien RESA is a dynamic organization with an eye toward the future. As customer needs change, Berrien RESA rigorously explores new avenues for success.

### Our Culture

Berrien RESA's educational family includes 265 employees. Our vision statement, "Today's Purpose. Tomorrow's Promise," focuses on five core areas that each our employees value: respect, compassion, leadership, quality, and partnership. It is with these guiding values that we have developed a longitudinal strategic plan. Additionally, Berrien RESA is currently undergoing the accreditation process through AdvancED.

### Our Funding

The operation of the Berrien Regional Education Service Agency is financed by using dollars from five major sources: A special education (2.1954 mills) and general education (.1745 mills) millage tax, State Aid, Federal Aid, Grants (Berrien RESA serves as the fiscal agent for many of the grants that fund ongoing and pilot projects for the benefit of Berrien County students); and, Interdistrict revenue.

Through those funding sources, Berrien RESA generated just over \$40 million in revenue during the 2012-13 school year (according to our most recent audit performed by Plante Moran).

### Our Surroundings

Berrien RESA and its associated educational facilities are located just miles from one of our nation's most abundant resources of fresh water; Lake Michigan. We are also neighbors with the state of Indiana, which creates our southern border.

Berrien Springs is home to our Administrative Building, Mathematics & Science Center, Juvenile Center and Blossomland Learning Center. Lighthouse Education Center is located in St. Joseph (about 10 miles north of Berrien Springs). We also host a number of off-site classrooms throughout Berrien County.

We support our school community with respect and compassion through quality programs, leadership and dedicated partnerships.