



Traverse Bay Area Intermediate School District
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MEDIA ALERT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 12, 2009

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Leading Lifetime Learning: Traverse Bay Region awarded Project ReImagine Grant by MI Department of Education

Traverse City, Michigan --- November 12 --- The Michigan Department of Education has announced that the Traverse Bay Area Intermediate School District (TBAISD) and its educational partners, representative of all schools and several community organizations within the five-county region, have been awarded a portion of the Project ReImagine Grant, which will help implement strong education reform throughout the region.

This past April, State Superintendent of Public Education Mike Flanagan issued a challenge to reform public education and re-imagine Michigan's educational system through innovative strategies that would encourage every educator and student to achieve and surpass past expectations. In the months that followed community members: public, private, and parochial school teachers and administrators; school board members, early childhood educators, parents, students, business leaders, and regional human services organizations all came together to develop a unified level of support toward this regional initiative for change. The TBAISD proposal, through the work of many contributors, was submitted on August 15 along with over 71 other proposals from across the state of Michigan.

TBAISD Superintendent Mike Hill proudly states, "We are humbled and honored to be selected as one of 13 demonstration sites. Our collaborative region is poised and ready to meet the challenges of reforming education throughout the five counties. Change is always a hard initiative to embrace, but to successfully prepare our young people to succeed and compete in this competitive global environment, it must be our mission. Our vision is for this region to have the best educational system in the world. With this announcement, the Traverse Bay Area has moved one step closer."

Since the Project Reimagine grant was introduced and the TBAISD proposal was delivered, the region's educational community has embraced the opportunity to boldly reinvent its educational system and steps to initiate progressive and non-conforming action plans have begun to appear on leadership agendas and committee meetings; almost as if anticipating a dramatic change in the future course of education, with or without funding support. The deteriorating Michigan economy and eminent school funding cuts were already written on the wall, but Reimagining education in northwestern Michigan has continued to push forward.

Leland Public School District Superintendent Mike Hartigan says, "This is great news and allows for serious planning for early childhood and an International Baccalaureate program that will benefit the entire region"

The TBAISD Reimagine proposal synergizes with the region's Grand Vision and includes plans for learners from birth through high school and beyond by providing a **Grand Start**, a secure foundation for every child through early learning experiences; a **Grand Opportunity**, region wide access to programs and opportunities; a **Grand Promise**, guaranteeing the integrity of the high school diploma; a **Grand iLEARN Network**, providing 24/7 learning access points for curriculum content support and extended learning programs; and a **Grand Compact**, ensuring the entire community works together to actively engage and connect schools and community. Each aspect of the proposal is designed to successfully educate all of the region's children and prepare them to meet the challenges of the 21st century.

To view the TBAISD proposal and more information about this project, please visit

www.tbaisd.k12.mi.us

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