

# Superintendent's Report

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**Month:** May 2026

**Administrator:** Dedrick Martin

**Update:**

**KRESA Special Education Millage Election Trends (2015–2026) Summary:**

The Kalamazoo Regional Educational Service Agency (KRESA) Special Education Millage has shown steadily increasing voter support across Kalamazoo County over the past eleven years, reflecting growing public confidence in countywide special education funding and services.

**2015 Initial Approval**

The original 1.5-mill proposal passed narrowly with 51% voter approval (20,294 “Yes” to 19,532 “No”). Support was strongest in the Kalamazoo and Portage areas, while several rural precincts expressed concern about the introduction of a new countywide tax.

**2021 First Renewal**

Voter support increased substantially to 63.7% approval (18,670 “Yes” to 10,645 “No”). This election reflected broader countywide consensus as communities increasingly recognized the millage’s role in protecting local district general funds from rising special education costs. The strongest support again came from Kalamazoo, Portage, and Gull Lake precincts.

**2026 Second Renewal and Restoration**

The proposal achieved its highest level of support to date with 66.01% approval (24,972 “Yes” to 12,857 “No”). Results demonstrated sustained and expanding voter confidence in the long-term value of the millage, including support in communities simultaneously considering local school bond proposals. Kalamazoo and Portage again showed strong support, with victories in most school district precincts, with the exception of Comstock.

**Overall Trend**

Across all three election cycles, voter approval for the KRESA Special Education Millage increased by approximately 15 percentage points, evolving from a narrowly approved initiative in 2015 to a broadly supported countywide funding measure by 2026. These results suggest a clear shift toward long-term regional consensus on the importance of stable, dedicated special education funding throughout Kalamazoo County.

**Outstanding Achievements and Retirement:**

Last month, April 30, we held the 40th annual Outstanding Achievement Awards breakfast at the Radisson Plaza Hotel. The room was full, and the ceremony ran smoothly as we recognized more than 70 students from across the county for their outstanding accomplishments during their high school careers.

In addition to the scholarship awards, Kalamazoo RESA recognized the Millennium Restaurant Group as the Business and Industry Partner of the Year award and the Northside Ministerial Alliance as the Outstanding Community Organization Partner of the Year Award.

**Early / Middle College Completion Ceremony**

On May 7, students from Kalamazoo RESA, Gull Lake and Van Buren programs were recognized at the annual EMC Completion Ceremony. KRESA had 36 students participating.

**KRESA Retirement Celebration**

On the evening of May 12, we again had the opportunity to recognize and honor 10 of the 14 retirees for this year. The dinner was well attended and included heartfelt remarks from supervisors across the organization in appreciation of the honorees. One of our retirees had 30 years of KRESA experience.