

August 13, 2019

Berrien Regional Education Service Agency
711 St. Joseph Ave.
PO Box 364
Berrien Springs, MI 49903

Lee Adams - Director
Southcentral Michigan Planning Council
300 South Westnedge Avenue
Kalamazoo, MI 49007

John Egelhaaf - Director
Southwest Michigan Planning Commission
376 West Main Street, Suite 130
Benton Harbor, MI 49022

RE: Southwest Michigan Prosperity Committee Grant

Dear Mr. Egelhaaf and Mr. Adams:

During the 2018-2019 school year, several discussions were had relative to the opportunities available, the depth of curriculum and the possible barriers preventing students from participating in Career and Technical Education (CTE) programming in Berrien County. A proposal from Kinexus, as well as movement from surrounding counties toward a countywide CTE millage, have surfaced potential "areas of need" that must be assessed before moving forward with any long-term CTE planning.

A subcommittee of superintendents within Berrien County has decided to look into developing/conducting a countywide CTE needs assessment this coming fall. A countywide needs assessment will allow for feedback from all stakeholders regarding market demand, program alignment, internships and apprenticeship opportunities, and ensuring current programming focuses on viable industry recognized credentials for students.

Several recommendations for companies that could conduct the assessment have been identified. Additionally, a software program that could be utilized to support stakeholder feedback was also researched. The subcommittee is now looking for a funding source to begin moving into the next phase of a countywide needs assessment. From the subcommittees research, a grant in the amount of \$10,000 would assist in hiring a company to conduct a stakeholder assessment or purchase the software directed at stakeholder feedback.

If you have any questions concerning this proposal please contact Berrien RESA Superintendent Dr. Kevin Ivers kevin.ivers@berrienresa.org or myself at chris.machiniak@berrienresa.org your earliest convenience.

Best Regards,

Chris Machiniak
Director of Career and Technical Education
Berrien Regional Education Service Agency

Today's Purpose – Tomorrow's Promise

711 St. Joseph Avenue
Berrien Springs, MI 49103