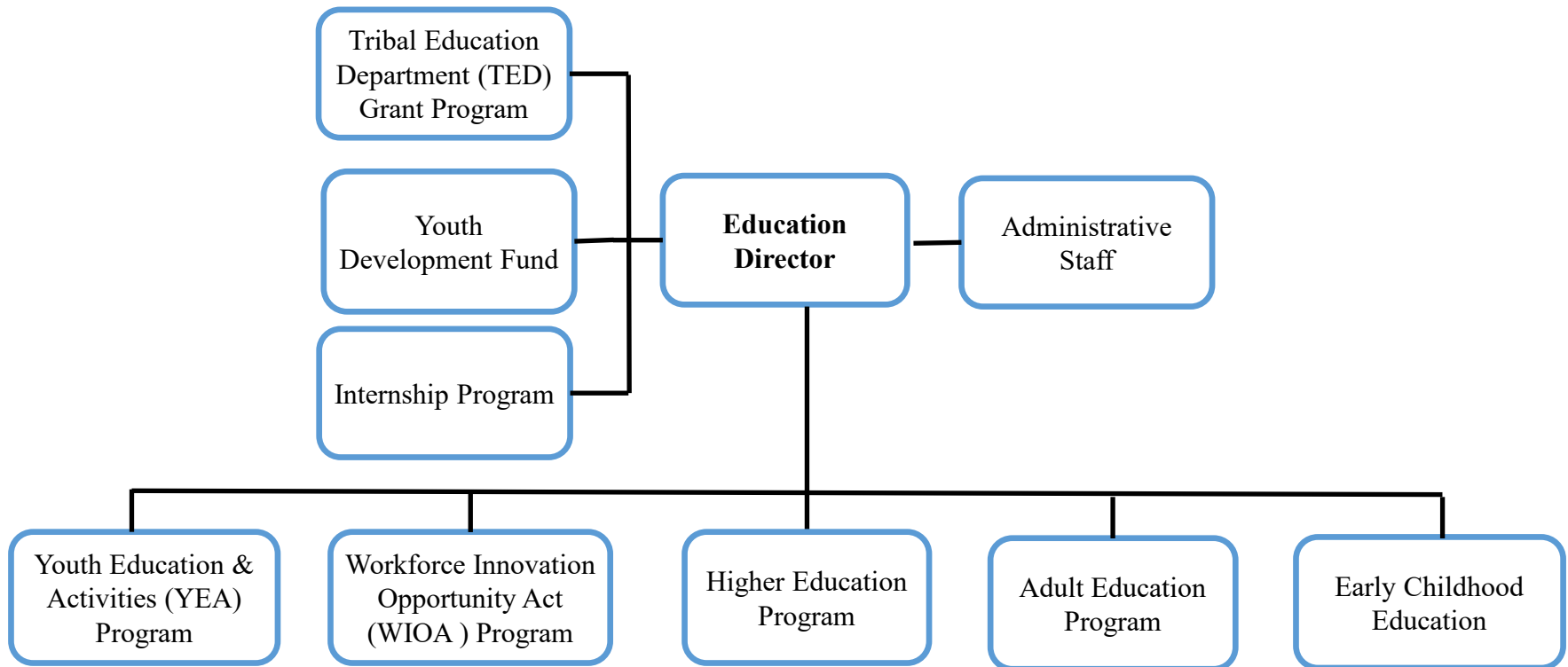


SEMI - ANNUAL REPORT

JULY – DECEMBER, 2025



Sault Tribe Education Overview



SAULT TRIBE EDUCATION SERVICES

Education Director's Office

- Daily operations oversight
- School outreach
- Legislative items
- Summer internship program
- Youth Development Fund (YDF)
- Tribal Education Department (TED) Grant

Early Childhood Education

- Child Care Center
- Early Head Start
- Head Start

Higher Education

- Grants
- Scholarships
- Self-sufficiency incentive Awards
- MI Indian Tuition Waiver Assistance
- FAFSA and other technical assistance

Adult Education

- Alternative high school completion
- GED classes

Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)

- Youth employment
- Senior employment
- Work experience
- Classroom training
- On-the-Job Training (OJT)

Youth Education & Activities (YEA)

- School year programming
- Summer programming
- Ongoing cultural activities

Scope of Services

Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians Units



Sault Tribe's Seven-County Service Area.

Sault Tribe's service area is divided into five units covering seven counties in the eastern Upper Peninsula of Michigan.



Higher Education

Education Director's Office

Highlights from Administration (July – December)

- **Legislative Items**
 - Written consultation
 - Federal funding recommendations and responses
 - Government shutdown monitoring
- **School Outreach**
- **Data Collection Improvements**
- **New Position – Assistant Education Director**



Education Director's Office

Boards, Advisory Groups, and Co-Governance Responsibilities

- EUP Promise Zone Authority Board
 - Outdoor Discovery & Exploration Station Advisory Group
- Confederation of Michigan Tribal Education Departments (CMTED)
 - MiLEAP / CMTED Focus Group



Education Director's Office

Community Events

- 9/13 Marquette Community Center Grand Opening
- 9/25 “Dad’s Café” hosted by Sault Tribe, facilitated by MDHHS – 9-1pm, Sault Casino
- 9/25 Sault Tribe Behavioral Health Recovery Walk – 4:30pm, Big Bear



Higher Education Specialist, Diane Maleport at “Dad’s Café” event on 09/25.

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT FUND

From July – December, this fund served 195 youth.



2025 Summer Internship Program

The summer interns worked hard, but found time to relax as well!



Tribal Education Department (TED) Scholarships

- 268 Winter / Spring, 2025 scholarships awarded
- 55 Summer, 2025 scholarships awarded



Higher Education

2025-2026 Scholarship Program

- Approval of Resolution 2025-147 Amending Tribally Funded Higher Education Scholarship Criteria
- 215 applications submitted; 66 scholarships awarded
 - Allocation:
 - 20% Graduate Recipients (13 students)
 - 76% Undergraduate Recipients (50 students)
 - 5% Trade/Vocational Recipients (3 students) – There were only 3 trade/vocational student applicants

Higher Education

Fall, 2025 Unmet Needs Grants

- Received 144 total applications; an increase of approximately 60 applications from the previous semester.
- 90 grants awarded totaling \$69,889.
- Awards released end of October.

Winter, 2026 Unmet Needs Grants

- Application period opened mid-December.
- Deadline 01/30/26

Fall, 2025 Self-Sufficiency Awards

- Application period opened mid-December
- Deadline 01/16/26

Higher Education

Additional services offered by Higher Education:

- Assisting students in finding alternative funding sources including non-tribal scholarships
- MI Indian Tuition Waiver assistance
- FAFSA, college application and other technical assistance

Higher Education Committee

Members:

- Chair – Dr. Curt Babcock
- Vice – Chair – Dr. Sheryl Hammock
- Rheanna McKechnie
- Cheyenne Holappa
- Dr. Aaron Payment



Early Childhood Education

Recruitment & Retention Updates

- 112 children enrolled across our two locations in Sault Ste. Marie & St. Ignace.
- *Resolution 2025-210 Recruitment and Retention of Early Childhood Education Bus Driver Positions* approved, correcting bus driver wages.
- Teaching staff improvements – **all** classrooms had a lead Teacher at the end of December!
- Hired Health Services Supervisor in December.
- Working to fill all other supervisory positions by early 2026.





Early Childhood Education

Health Screenings

- 28 Hearing Screenings
- 29 Vision Screenings
- 79 Dental Screenings completed.

2025-2026 School Year Preparation

Office of Head Start Grant Renewal Approval





Early Childhood Education

Current Enrollment:

Head Start, 72 Children Enrolled:

60 in Sault

12 in St. Ignace, 2 vacant slots

Early Head Start, 34 Children Enrolled:

Child Care, 44 Slots, 6 Enrolled:

Vacancies due to unopened classrooms.

Total enrolled for program: 112

Current Waitlist:

Sault Head Start 3-5 years old: 7 children

St. Ignace Head Start 3-5 years old: 0 children

Sault Early Head Start 0-3 years old: 49 children

Child Care: 8 children





Early Childhood Education

Relevant Statistics/Tribal Members Served:

- 90% American Indian/Alaskan Native, 10% Non-Native
- 49% Income Eligible (inc. homeless & foster)
- 97.5% of our children have health insurance (tribal health not included in %)
- Disabilities: 21% children ages 0-3 years with an IFSP, 27% children ages 3-5 with an IEP plus 2 more being referred for evaluation or in evaluation process.





Early Childhood Education

Highlights:

- 100% family participation in Family Partnership Agreements which includes family goals.
- Teachers completed home visits (EHS) and parent-teacher conferences (HS) to update/create education goals and to discuss progress being made in November and December.
- Sault Fire Department came to visit for October Fire Prevention Month.
- Field Trip to High School to Visit Santa.
- Sault Tribe Law Enforcement escorted Santa to hand out gifts to all the children.
- 11 team members received Honors or Academic Achievement accolades for Fall semester grades at BMCC through our HOPE Grant partnership.
- 10 program families received Christmas Assistance through dress down funds donated by our program staff and staff in another department.



Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act (W.I.O.A.)

W.I.O.A. is a federally funded program designed to help eligible Native Americans access employment and training services to assist them in obtaining and keeping productive employment

The Tribe has operated these types of programs for over 40 years. The first training program was the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act Program, otherwise known as CETA. Then the Job Training Partnership Act Program (JTPA), followed by the Workforce Investment Act Program (WIA) and currently the Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act Program (WIOA). The WIOA program assists approximately 120 native Americans per program year, including those in follow-up services.

Services Provided Include:

- Work experience
- On-the-job training
- Classroom training
- Summer youth employment
- Elder employment

W.I.O.A.

Work Experience Program

Work Experience is an after school training assignment meant to teach eligible youth basic transferable work skills that will help prepare them in obtaining unsubsidized employment. When known & when possible, youth are placed in the area of their employment goals. Some may receive school credit for hours worked.

Program begins in October and ends in May.

14 Youth are currently participating in this Program.

Participating Departments Included:

- STHC Pharmacy (Sault)
- Language & Culture (Sault)
- Youth Education & Activities (Sault & Escanaba)
- Purchase Referred Care (Sault)
- Higher Education (Sault)
- Community Health (Sault)
- Facilities (Escanaba)
- Human Resource Department (Sault)
- Chi Mukwa (Sault)
- STHC (Manistique)



W.I.O.A.

On-the-Job Training

- Provides opportunities for both employer & participant.
- Participant learns new skills while working at an actual place of business.
- Employer is reimbursed 50% of the participants wages.
- Length of training varies depending upon type of position, wage, and skill level of applicant.
- An OJT participant is not to be terminated without first contacting WIOA to discuss alternative options.

1 Participant (July – December)



W.I.O.A.

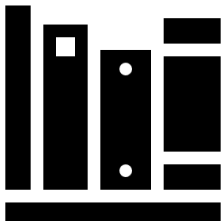
Classroom Training

Provides short-term skills training in an institutional setting to obtain an Industry Recognized License or Certification. Duration of trainings can vary from a few weeks to several months in a class-size program.

Examples: Nurse Aide Training, Heavy Equipment Operator, CDL, Welding, Phlebotomy, Medical Billing, etc.)

6 Participants (July – December)

- 1 heavy equipment
- 5 CDL's



W.I.O.A.

Summer Youth Employment

- › Provides summer employment opportunities to eligible youth ages 14 – 24.
- › Program runs ten weeks during the summer months (June – August).
- › Participants are placed into jobsites for approximately 20 hours per week at the tribe's minimum wage rate.
- › This program places approximately 44 youth into jobs throughout the summer months.



W.I.O.A.

Elder Employment

- Provides part-time employment opportunities to eight Sault Tribe Elders ages 60 and over that reside within the service area
- Elders work a maximum of 14 hours per week.

July – December placements:

- UNIT 1
 - Program Clerk, Purchase Referred Care – STHC, Sault
 - Office Support, ACFS – Kincheloe
- UNIT 2
 - Kitchen Aide, Elder Services – Hessel
- UNIT 3
 - Office Support, Health & Human Services – St. Ignace
- UNIT 4
 - Community Health Program Clerk – Gladstone THC
 - Program Clerk, Rural Health Program – Manistique THC
- UNIT 5
 - Program Clerk, Community Health – Marquette THC
 - Program Clerk, Community Health – Munising THC





YOUTH EDUCATION & ACTIVITIES

General Overview:

Our mission is to build strong, confident Anishinaabe youth with a solid education foundation and values grounded in tradition by providing a balance of academic and cultural teachings.

The Youth Education and Activities (YEA) Program is staffed by seven Youth Service Coordinators, and 14 part-time Student Service Assistants.

YEA offices are located throughout the Seven County Service Area.

- Unit 1: Sault Ste. Marie (Big Bear);
- Unit 1 & 2: Rudyard Area School
- Unit 2: Hessel Tribal Center
- Unit 3: St. Ignace Elementary/Middle School
- Unit 4: Manistique - YEA House
- Unit 4: Escanaba - YEA Building
- Unit 5: Munising - Wetmore Building, Munising Schools & Marquette Tribal Center



YOUTH EDUCATION & ACTIVITIES

Data (July - December):

Total # Students Serviced: 3,755

Number of activities provided: 323

Various Community Events:

- ✓ Community Powwows
- ✓ Conservation District Scavenger Hunt
- ✓ Health Fairs
- ✓ Back to School Events
- ✓ Orange Shirt Day Events
- ✓ State & County Fairs
- ✓ Water is Life Events
- ✓ Music in the Park
- ✓ Halloween Events
- ✓ Veterans Recognition Events
- ✓ Veterans Drum Social
- ✓ Youth Leadership Conference
- ✓ Tribal Community Children's Christmas Parties





YOUTH EDUCATION & ACTIVITIES



**SAULT STE. MARIE TRIBE OF CHIPPEWA INDIANS
YOUTH EDUCATION & ACTIVITIES PROGRAM**



4TH ANNUAL YOUTH LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE OWN YOUR STORY

Confidence, Clarity, Connection

ARE YOU A YOUNG CHANGEMAKER EAGER TO MAKE AN IMPACT? THE YOUTH LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE IS WHERE YOUR JOURNEY BEGINS! THIS IS YOUR CHANCE TO CONNECT, LEARN, AND GROW WITH THE NEXT GENERATION OF LEADERS.

FOR ALL STUDENTS GRADES 7 - 12TH
*PARTICIPANTS DO NOT NEED TO BE A
SAULT TRIBE MEMBER

NOVEMBER 21, 2025
8:30AM-3:30PM

KEWADIN CASINO CONVENTION CENTER
SAULT STE. MARIE, MICHIGAN

PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED
DEADLINE: NOVEMBER 7, 2025

TO REGISTER, CONTACT THE SAULT TRIBE YEA OFFICE IN YOUR AREA (SCAN QR CODE) OR VISIT THE SAULT TRIBE EDUCATION WEBPAGE AT:
[HTTPS://WWW.SAULTTRIBE.COM/MEMBERSHIP-SERVICES/EDUCATION](https://www.saulttribe.com/membership-services/education)



**Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians
Youth Education & Activities
4th Annual Leadership Conference
PRESENTS**



Melissa Isaac
Michigan Department of Education (MDE),
Indigenous Education Initiative (IEI)



Michelle Simms
Chair - Confederation of Michigan Tribal
Education Departments (CMTED)

STEP INTO OUR STORIES - RESOURCES FOR EDUCATORS

SESSION 1

Join us for an interactive walk-through of the Step Into Our Stories website, where you'll explore resources created in partnership with Michigan's Tribal Nations. We'll highlight the educator learning bundles, maps, timelines, and classroom tools designed to help teachers and learners engage with Michigan's Indigenous histories and perspectives. Participants will leave with a clear understanding of how to navigate the site and begin using these materials in their own learning spaces.

SESSION 2

In the second part of our session, we'll take a closer look at the grounding documents that shape the Step Into Our Stories project—such as the Anishinaabe Learning Principles, the Baabiiskaanamat: The Cyclical Nature of Learning, and Essential Understandings for Michigan. Together, we'll unpack how these frameworks reflect Indigenous worldviews, guide the design of educator resources, and strengthen relationships between schools and Tribal communities. This discussion will deepen participants' understanding of the "why" behind the work.

OTHER SESSIONS:

Mandated Reporting Training
Melissa Tomimac
Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians
Child Placement Supervisor

"Make and Take" Traditional Craft Activity
Melissa Causley
Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians
YEA Student Services Coordinator

November 21, 2025

8:30am-12:00 pm

Kewadin Casino Convention Center
Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan

To Register: E-mail Lisa Burnside, YEA Manager
burnside@saulttribe.net or call (906) 635-4944 ext. 26314

Deadline to Register: Friday, 11/14/25



Abby Rush

Guest Facilitators



Rudy Indigenou



YOUTH EDUCATION & ACTIVITIES

Kitchi Miniss Jiingtamok

BAY FURNACE CAMPGROUND
SATURDAY, AUGUST 9, 2025

In Partnership with YEA's 2025
Annual Youth Empowerment Powwow

ARENA STAFF

MC: Josh Homminga
Arena Director: Dan Garceau
Head Veteran: Phil Martin
Head Female: Katy Matson
Head Male: Jeremy Burnside
Head Junior Female & Male: TBD
Firekeeper: TBD
Host Drum: Teal Lake Singers
Co-Host Drum: TBD
Youth Drum: TBD
Invited Drums: TBD

GRAND ENTRY at
12 & 6 p.m.
FEAST at 4 p.m.

Vendors! Contact Amanda
at 906-450-1439 or
amandashellnut@gmail.com



Everyone is Welcome!

No Alcohol, Politics or Dogs.



YOUTH EDUCATION & ACTIVITIES

Activities by Site

Sault Ste. Marie

- After School Programs: Monday-Friday
- Tribal Youth Council
- Academic Support Monday – Friday
- Sewing Saturdays
- Children's Christmas Party
- Back-to-School Event

Rudyard

- After School Program
- Anishinaabe After School Arts Program
- Tribal Youth Council
- Jr. Tribal Youth Council
- Orange Shirt Day
- Lunch Drop-In
- In-School Tutoring
- Senior Native American Literature Class
- Traditional Teachings in the Learning Lodge
- Community Feast
- Trunk or Treat at Kinross Recreation Center
- Children's Christmas Party



YOUTH EDUCATION & ACTIVITIES

Activities by Site

Hessel

- In-School Tutoring
- After-school activities
- Tribal Youth Council
- YEA Thursdays @ Pickford Schools
- Orange Shirt Day
- Halloween Events
- Veterans Powwow
- Community Feast
- Children's Christmas Parties
- Apple Cider Making with Elders
- Newberry Programming
 - Newberry School Library

St. Ignace

- Seminar Tutoring
- In-Class Tutoring
- Afterschool Zone
- Homework Helpers
- TYC Meetings & Service Project
- Art & Culture
- Classroom Presentations
- Orange Shirt Day



YOUTH EDUCATION & ACTIVITIES

Activities by Site

Manistique

- Academic Help – Tuesday –Thursday
 - Manistique High School
 - Jack Rogue Alternative School
- Tribal Youth Council
- Orange Shirt Day Event
- Monday Culture Class
- Classroom Presentations
- Rock your Mocs
- Drumming
- Children’s Christmas Party
- Ice Skating

Munising

- Mather Elementary Native Education presentations; K-5th grade, Monday - Friday
- In-school tutoring
- Little Learners
- Burt Township Native Education Presentation
- Tribal Youth Council
- Little Learners: K-2nd; Wednesdays
- NMU Powwow
- YEA Native Arts: 5th – 12th grades; Wednesdays
 - Middle – High School
- Culture Club
 - Wetmore
- Thursdays - Marquette Cultural Club



YOUTH EDUCATION & ACTIVITIES

Activities by Site

Escanaba

- Classroom Presentations (6 Schools)
- Gladstone Little Learners
- Negaunee Little Learners
- Bark River PreK Littles
- After School Programming
- Culture Club
- Boarding School Presentations
- Orange Shirt Day Event
- Leadership Conference
- Children's Christmas Party





YOUTH EDUCATION & ACTIVITIES





YOUTH EDUCATION & ACTIVITIES





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YOUTH EDUCATION & ACTIVITIES





YOUTH EDUCATION & ACTIVITIES





YOUTH EDUCATION & ACTIVITIES

MiLEAP Out-of-School Time (OST) Grant

In December, we were informed by the State of Michigan that we were selected as a recipient of the 2025- 2026 MiLEAP Out – of – School – Time (OST) grant, as applied for in partnership with Lake Superior Academy (LSA).

Total award is \$705,355 with our YEA program receiving \$514,075 to disburse across all sites and LSA Academy receiving \$191,280 to support after-school and summer programming.



Adult Education

Online G.E.D. Program

Due to current funding restrictions, this service is only available in Chippewa, Luce, and Mackinac counties. Our goal is to continue working to lift obstacles so that we can soon, expand this opportunity to our students first, across the 7-county service area and then after, across the State of Michigan.

Now is the time to earn your diploma or GED.

If you have dropped out or are thinking of dropping out, give us a call. In-class and online options are available and free of charge.

Class Locations

- Brimley
- Cedarville
- Kinross
- Newberry
- Sault Ste. Marie
- St. Ignace

Main Office:
(906) 495-7305


[f](#)

CONSOLIDATED COMMUNITY SCHOOL SERVICES
ccss.eupschools.org

Adult Education

Consolidated Community School Services
2024/25

8/14/2024



Alternative High School Completion 9th – 12th Grade:
Ongoing 9/3/2024 through 6/5/2025 meeting M-F.

Kinross Alternative Education: M-F 9:00 a.m. – 3:05 p.m. Call Michelle at 495-7305 mvincelot@eupschools.org	Newberry Alternative Education: M-F 9:00 a.m. – 3:05 p.m. Call David Edie at 293-3282 diedie@eupschools.org
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G.E.D. Prep:
G.E.D. Prep Classes begin the week of September 9th and are ongoing through May 2025. Candidates should be 18 years old, and their high school class must have graduated.

Brimley Area: Class meets at Bay Mills Community College.
Monday/12:00 – 4:30 p.m., Tuesday/8:00 – 2:30 p.m., Wed/ 8:00-2:00 p.m.,
Thurs/8:00-2:00 p.m. Call CCSS Central Office @ 906-495-7305 or Rennel Ailing
rparish@eupschools.org



Cedarville Area: Class meets at the Cedarville High School.
Monday/5:00 – 8:00 p.m. Call CCSS Central Office @906-495-7305 or Lexi Duncan
aduncan-isd@eupschools.org

Kinross Area: Class meets at Kinross Education Center, Kincheloe.
Mon/Wed/Fri 9 :00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Call CCSS Central Office @ 906-495-7305 or
John Petkus jpetkus@eupschools.org

Newberry Area: Class meets at Newberry Michigan Works!! Agency, Newberry
Mon/Tue 2:00 – 8:00 p.m. Call the Newberry CCSS Office at 906-293-3282 or Dave Edie
diedie@eupschools.org

Sault Ste. Marie Area: Class meets at Sault Area High Sch Rm 209
Mon/Tue/Wed/Thurs 5:45 – 9:15 p.m. Call CCSS Central Office @ 906-495-7305
Tanya Pages tpages@eupschools.org

St. Ignace: Class meets at 412 N. State Street, St Ignace
Tues 9:00 a.m. – 4:30 & Thu 12:30 – 4:30 p.m. Call CCSS Central Office @ 906-495-7305
or John Petkus jpetkus@eupschools.org or 906-984-2150

 **CCSS Consolidated Community School Services**
 <http://ccss.eupschools.org>

DIVISION CONTACTS

➤ **Education Director**

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O: 906-632-6798

➤ **Education Executive Assistant**

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➤ **Youth Education & Activities (YEA)**

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➤ **Early Childhood Education**

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➤ **Higher Education**

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➤ **Tribal Education Department (TED) Program**

Rachel McKechnie, Project Specialist

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906-440-8298

➤ **Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act**

Brenda Cadreau, WIOA Program Manager

bcadreau@saulttribe.net

906-635-4767