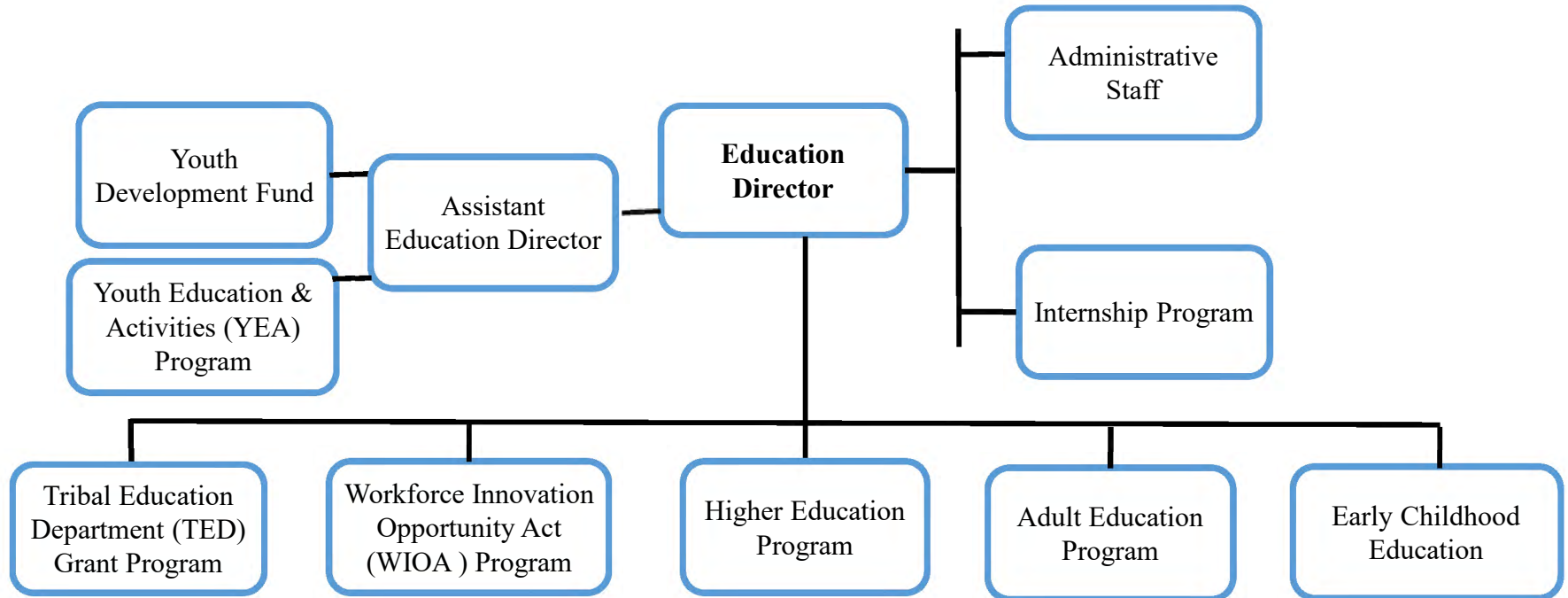


SEMI - ANNUAL REPORT

JANUARY – JUNE, 2026



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

2026 Summer Internship Program (June)

This summer beginning on 06/08/26, the Education Department placed eight interns, all senior level or graduate students across the Tribe in the following departments:

- ✂ Legal
- ✂ JKL / Education (2)
- ✂ Community Health (2) – Sault and Gladstone Clinics
- ✂ Communications, Video Production
- ✂ Sault Tribe Natural Resources, Fisheries
- ✂ Sault Tribe Natural Resources, Wildlife

Throughout the summer, interns will attend several cultural and educational activities alongside their full-time work schedule. Program will end on 08/14/26.



In June, interns visited the fisheries pond to assist in rearing.



Interns pictured on their first day of orientation alongside Chairman Lowes and Governmental CEO, Jessica Dumbuck

Youth Development Fund (YDF)

- ∞ This program helps families pay for activities that support the four directions of the medicine wheel; Academic, emotional, physical, and / or cultural growth of our youth.
- ∞ Families can receive a maximum of \$250 per calendar year per eligible youth. Eligibility is determined by enrollment status of child, residency within the 7 – County Service Area, type of request, and applicable income guidelines.
- ∞ Visit Education page of the Sault Tribe Website for more information and application.
- ∞ From January – June, 2026, this fund provided financial assistance to 139 youth.



Tribal Education Department (TED) Program

Program Overview

The TED Scholarship Program is administered by the Tribal Education Department (TED) Grant and funded by the Bureau of Indian Education (BIE). The program is designed to support Tribal members in achieving their educational and career goals by providing financial assistance for post-secondary education and workforce training opportunities.

Last Fall (2025), we were unable to open a scholarship round due to lack of available grant funding. In the Spring (2026), we were informed that we would receive additional funding from the BIE and were therefore able to open a Winter / Spring, 2026 scholarship application period in June. Due to the limited funding received, these were processed on a first-come, first-serve basis with 150 scholarships released earlier this month.

We are awaiting notification to apply for FY 2027 TED grant; currently, we have no update for this.

Tribal Education Department (TED) Program

2026 Winter/Spring TED Program

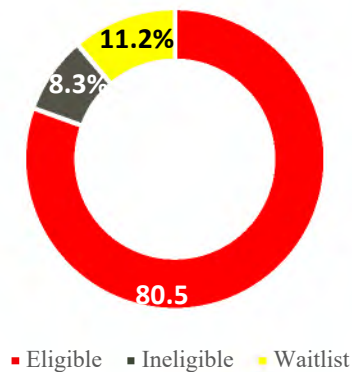
Release Date: June 1, 2026

Close Date: June 11, 2026 due to high volume of applications and limited funding (first-come, first serve basis)

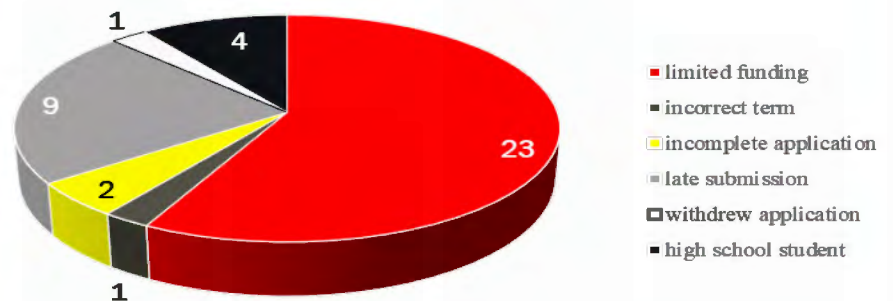
Total Applications: 205

Total awarded: 150

Eligibility Status



Ineligibility Reason



Tribal Education Department (TED) Program

Other Key Accomplishments

- ☞ Completed application data entry (demographics) – over 1,600 applications.
- ☞ Completed almost 50% of survey response data entry (i.e. Barriers to education, career plans, etc.)
- ☞ Once complete, this data will form the foundation for future data collection which will strengthen the division's capacity for evaluation and successful grant writing.

Higher Education

Fall, 2025 Self-Sufficiency Awards

- This program provides incentive awards to eligible Sault Tribe students enrolled in graduate or undergraduate studies (across the U.S.) earning grades of C or better during the Fall semester each year.
- Awards are calculated based on total amount of funding available divided by the total number of eligible credit hours submitted.
- 385 students received awards for Fall, 2025, totaling \$110,000. These awards were released in February, 2026.

Winter, 2026 Unmet Needs Grants

- Based on financial need as determined by school financial aid office.
- Due to funding source (BIA), eligibility requires students to be a full – time undergraduate student enrolled in a MI public college / university.
- Application period opened in mid – December 2025, with a deadline of 01/30/26.
- 101 grants were awarded in March, totaling \$69,889.06.

Higher Education

2026 – 2027 Scholarship Program

- Scholarship application period opened beginning of May with deadline of 07/03/26.
- This program is available to eligible Sault Tribe member students attending undergraduate, graduate, or trade school during the 2026 – 2027 academic year.
- Recipients will be selected in August.

Higher Education

Additional Services Offered by Higher Education:

- Assisting students in finding alternative funding sources including non-tribal scholarships and/or grants.
- Assistance with MI Indian Tuition Waiver, FAFSA, and other college/technical applications.

Education Committee Members:

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



Early Childhood Education

Recruitment and Retention Updates

Team Member Data

- 53 Employees (as of 6/30)
- 9 New Hires and 6 Promoted from Within
- 8 Terminated

Professional Development

- 60 Team Members participated in over 100 different training topics in the areas of Education, Health, Safety, Family Service, Policy, Supervision, Language & Culture, and Mental Wellness.
- 12 graduated from BMCC in May, 2026



Early Childhood Education

Current Enrollment

Early Head Start:

- Funded enrollment: 34
- Current Enrollment: 34
- Cumulative Enrollment: 36
- Number of Classes: 5

Enrollment by Site:

- 4 Ice Circle Drive: 34 (fully enrolled)
- Full Day Enrollment: 34 (18 CC Partnership)
- Dropped out: 2 Replaced: 2



Early Childhood Education

Current Enrollment (continued)

Head Start:

- Funded Enrollment: 74
- Current Enrollment: 72
- Cumulative Enrollment: 79
- Number of Classes: 4

Enrollment by Site:

- 4 Ice Circle Drive: 60
- 225 WaSeh: 12 (under enrolled by 2)
- Full Day Enrollment (CC Partnership): 20
- Extended Duration Enrollment: 52
- Dropped out: 7 Replaced: 7

Child Care Center:

- Funded enrollment: 44
- Current Enrollment: 44
- Cumulative Enrollment: 47
- Number of Classes: 4

Enrollment by Site:

- 4 Ice Circle Drive - 38 (HS/EHS Partnership)
- 6 Child Care
- 36 vacant slots (unopened classrooms)
- Dropped out: 3 Replaced: 3

Early Childhood Education

Relevant Statistics

USDA Meals (HS, EHS, CCC Combined):

- Breakfast: 1,337
- Lunch: 1,452
- Snacks: 1,247

Children enrolled with diagnosed disabilities (total enrollment):

- Head Start: 32%
- Early Head Start: 26%



Early Childhood Education

Health Screenings

Behavioral and Development Screenings Completed:

- 98% completed
- 1 new student
- 1 student dropped before completing Denver screening.

Health Screenings:

- 45 Day Requirements (hearing and vision)
 - 97% completed
- 90 Day Requirements
 - Nutrition 81% completed
 - Dental 88% completed
- Well Child Visits
 - 74% completed



Early Childhood Education

Family Services

- Family Needs Assessment: 100% completed

Family Outcome Assessment (Initial)

- Head Start: 100% completed
- EHS: 100% completed

Family Outcome Assessment Mid-Year (Due 6/30/2026)

- Head Start: 100% completed
- EHS: 100% completed

Family Outcome Assessment Final (Due 5/15/2026)

- Head Start: 100%
- EHS: 97%



Early Childhood Education

Highlights

- Family Events included Winterfest, Literacy Night, Reading Month Challenge, Father's In Action, STEM, Parent Meetings, Gardening Workshop, and End of Year Celebrations.
- Teachers completed Parent-Teacher Conferences and Home Visits.
- Hearing, Vision, and Dental Screenings were completed on-site.
- Attended Health and Mental Health Advisory Committee Meetings.
- Assisted with BMCC On-site Advising/Registration.

Monitoring Reviews/Audits

- Federal - CLASS Monitoring Review, RAN Reviews (Child Incidents in Nov & April), Focus Area Two Monitoring
- State - CACFP Monitoring Review
- Tribal - Licensing Review and Safety/Sanitation Audits



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

The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Program (WIOA) 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.

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 (ages 14 – 21 years) basic transferable work skills to help prepare them in obtaining unsubsidized employment. When known and when possible, youth are placed in the area of their employment goals. Some receive school credit for the hours they work.

Program begins in October and ends in May.

- 14 Youth participated in the 25-26 Work Experience Program



W.I.O.A.

On-the-Job Training

- Provides opportunities for both the employer and the participant.
- Participants learn new skills while working at an actual place of business.
- Employers are reimbursed 50% of a participant's wage to assist in the increased costs associated with training a new employee.
- Length of training varies per participant and is based upon the type of position, wage, and skill level of the applicant.

January – June 2026

- 1 Participant with Sault Tribe's Tribal Court

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.

January – June 2026

- 9 participants
 - Heavy Equipment Operator, CDL's, and Clinical Medical Specialist



W.I.O.A.

Summer Youth Employment

- Provides employment opportunities to eligible youth (ages 14 – 24) during a 10-week period spanning June - August.
- Participants are placed into jobsites for approximately 20 hours per week and are typically paid at the tribe's minimum wage rate.

January – June 2026

- 29 current participants
 - Tribal Program: 20
 - Grant Program: 9



W.I.O.A.

Elder Employment Program

- The Elder Employment program is tribally supported and provides part-time employment opportunities to 8 Sault Tribe Elders.
- Elders work a maximum of 14 hours per week and are hired on at the tribe's minimum wage rate.

January – June 2026

- 8 Elders employed

The BOD recently approved for 2 additional Elder Employment positions, bringing the total to 10. Allowing for 2 positions per unit.



W.I.O.A.

Work Experience	14
On-the-Job Training	1
Classroom Training	9
Summer Youth Employment	29
Elder Employment	8
Tracking & Follow-up	<u>28</u>
	89

(January 1, 2026 thru June 30, 2026)



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.

Culture is at the heart of the Youth Education & Activities Program.

Whether through classroom presentations, cultural crafts, Seven Grandfather teachings, after-school activities, summer programming, or tribal youth council, cultural learning is intentionally integrated into nearly everything we do.

YEA operates within three guiding components, Culture, Academic, and Social, which work together to support the children. Although activities are categorized as Cultural or Academic for reporting purposes, many YEA offerings intentionally blend both. After-school programming, for example, may pair academic tutoring with a cultural craft that incorporates traditional teachings. This overlap reflects the program's core design: Culture is the foundation of YEA, and it is integrated into all aspects of learning, enrichment, and youth development.



YOUTH EDUCATION & ACTIVITIES

The YEA Program is staffed by (7) seven Youth Service Coordinators, and (16) sixteen Student Service Assistants.

YEA offices are located throughout the Seven County Service Area.

- Unit 1: Sault Ste. Marie (Big Bear)
- Unit 1 & 2: Rudyard (Rudyard Area School)
- Unit 2: Hessel (Makoons Community Center)
- Unit 3: St. Ignace (St. Ignace Area School)
- Unit 4: Manistique (YEA House)
- Unit 4: Escanaba (YEA Building)
- Unit 5: Munising (YEA Building)
- Unit 5: Marquette (Marquette Tribal Center)



YOUTH EDUCATION & ACTIVITIES

Data (January - June):

Total # Students Serviced: 10,215

Number of activities provided: 223

Various Events:

- ✓ Community Powwows
- ✓ Tutoring
- ✓ Homework Help
- ✓ Sewing
- ✓ STEM
- ✓ Tribal Youth Council
- ✓ Journaling
- ✓ Outdoor Games
- ✓ Storytelling
- ✓ Feasts
- ✓ Graduations
- ✓ End of Year Celebrations
- ✓ Start of Circle of Life Summer Programming





YOUTH EDUCATION & ACTIVITIES

Activities by Site

Sault Ste. Marie

- After School Program: Monday-Friday
- Tribal Youth Council
- Academic Support
- Sewing Saturdays
- Drum Social
- End of Year BBQ

Hessel

- After-School Program: Monday-Friday
- In-School Tutoring
- Tribal Youth Council
- YEA Thursdays @ Pickford Schools
- Field Trips
- Dance Presentations

St. Ignace

- After School Program: Monday-Friday
- Seminar Tutoring
- In-Class Tutoring
- Homework Helpers
- TYC Meetings
- Classroom Presentations

Rudyard

- After School Program: Monday-Friday
- Anishinaabe Arts Program
- Tribal Youth Council
- Regalia Making
- In-School Tutoring
- Traditional Teachings in the Learning Lodge



YOUTH EDUCATION & ACTIVITIES

Activities by Site

Manistique

- After-School Program: Monday-Friday
- Tribal Youth Council
- Classroom Presentations
- Rock your Mocs
- Drumming
- Elder Tea
- Senior Farewell

Munising

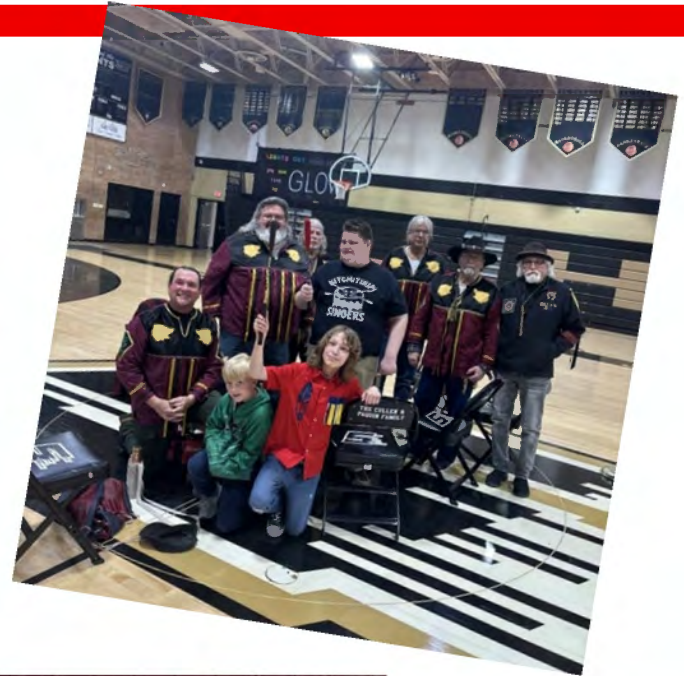
- After-School Program: Monday-Friday
- In-school tutoring
- Little Learners
- Tribal Youth Council
- Tribal Senior Recognition
- Marquette Cultural Club

Escanaba

- After-School Program: Monday-Friday
- Classroom Presentations
- Little Learners
- Culture Club



YOUTH EDUCATION & ACTIVITIES





YOUTH EDUCATION & ACTIVITIES





YOUTH EDUCATION & ACTIVITIES





YOUTH EDUCATION & ACTIVITIES

MiLEAP Out-of-School Time (OST) Grant/School Out Reach

In January we were selected as recipients for the 2025- 2026 MiLEAP Out – of – School – Time (OST) grant. We applied for this with Lake Superior Academy. We have been working on this since selected, implementing programing, working with all the coordinators, visiting all the sites, developing budgets, being as helpful and hands-on as possible, and attending required webinars/meetings with MiLEAP.

Over the last couple of months a lot of school out reach has taken place with various different schools. In May the Board approved several MOUs with Sault Area Public Schools, Rudyard Area Public Schools, Bark River-Harris Public Schools, and Les Cheneaux Community Public Schools. Each MOU is a bit different, but each one supports the specific needs of each area to run a successful summer program. We have also meant with administrators from Pickford Area Schools, Manistique Area Schools, and Escanaba Area Schools. The plan is to continue and get into as many schools as possible.

Adult Education – G.E.D. Program

Physical class locations:

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 Lexie 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 dedie@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

Adult Education

Online G.E.D. Classes

Currently available to students in Chippewa, Luce, and Mackinac counties. We are working with CCSS on funding solutions so that we can eventually expand this opportunity to our students across the 7-county service area and then after, across the State of Michigan.

For more information, visit:

<https://www.ccss.eupschools.org/ged-certification>

Data for 2025 – 2026 academic year due to Sault Tribe from CCSS 07/31/26. This data report will be provided in an upcoming Education Director report.

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

CCSS Consolidated Community School Services

[ccss.eupschools.org](https://www.ccss.eupschools.org)

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