



EASTERN UPPER PENINSULA
INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL DISTRICT

**Board of Education
REMC 22 and Technology
Report – May 2022**

**Jason Kronemeyer
Director of Technology and REMC22**

We are excited to welcome Erin Griffith to the team as Administrative Assistant for Technology and REMC. Erin comes to us from the role of floor supervisor at McDonalds of Sault Sainte Marie where she held an Operating Technology Person certification and was responsible for food safety, crew training, and hiring. Erin is currently working on a degree in Forensic Chemistry at LSSU.

EUPConnect Collaborative

Another Piece of the EUPConnect puzzle receives investment!

Merit Network was recently awarded a \$2.99 million Economic Development Administration (EDA) grant under the CARES Act to support another 70 miles of middle-mile fiber optic infrastructure in the EUP. The Leveraging Infrastructure for Transforming the Upper Peninsula (LIFT-UP) project will be matched with an additional \$2.2 million for a total investment of \$5.24 million. Merit will provide 100% of the required match for this investment in our communities.²

The infrastructure will be open access constructed from Engadine to Dafter through Garfield, Pentland, Hulbert, Chippewa, Superior and Dafter Townships. It will create new opportunities for internet service providers to expand their infrastructure and provide access services to homes and businesses along the entire route as well as providing much needed capacity to service providers expanding services in the unserved areas of the EUP.

This infrastructure is a key part of the connectivity blueprint for the EUP which was identified through our planning initiative, an EDA investment we collaborated with EUP Regional Planning and Development Commission on. Broadband infrastructure is measured in miles, this is a key 70 mile of progress toward the nearly 4,000 miles it will take to get to every 911 service address.

Broadband Communities Summit 2022

The summit was very informative! So much great information to bring back to our communities. I am very confident that we are on the right track in the EUP. Here is the summary of our keys to success:

- Broad community collaboration
- Public-private partnerships
- Community development, planning and engagement
- Data
- Relationships

*The Eastern Upper Peninsula Intermediate School District works to improve student success by supporting all of the **schools and communities** in Chippewa, Luce, and Mackinac Counties.*

- Utility
- Farming
- Research
- Education
- Healthcare
- Emergency services

The most popular presenter was a data scientist talking about the connectivity needs for farming and agriculture technology from Grand Farm, an education and research initiative in North Dakota.³

First Infrastructure RFP

The EUPCC will receive bids back on the first infrastructure RFP on May 11, 2022. We anticipate that the responding organizations will be key private partners to forward our mission of gigabit service to every 911 service address throughout Chippewa, Mackinac and Luce Counties.

Additional Resources

1. [Eastern Upper Peninsula Rural Communities To Receive High Speed Broadband Internet \(prnewswire.com\)](https://prnewswire.com)
2. www.eupschools.org/rfp
3. [About - Grand Farm](#)