# Leave Your Child Behind (In the Woods): The Value of Placed-Based Education in Northeast Michigan

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### Traditional Education Needs Help...

#### High Potential of Place-Based Education

for lower-achieving students

Michigan ranks nationally, Grade 4: Increased academic ownership in participants 32nd in Reading Higher standardized test scores in Reading **36**th in Mathematics Higher standardized test scores in **Math** 38th in Sciences Higher scores in **Science** classes/test 49th in Mathematics, Higher engagement and participation rates

#### Place-Based Education Efforts in Northeast Michigan

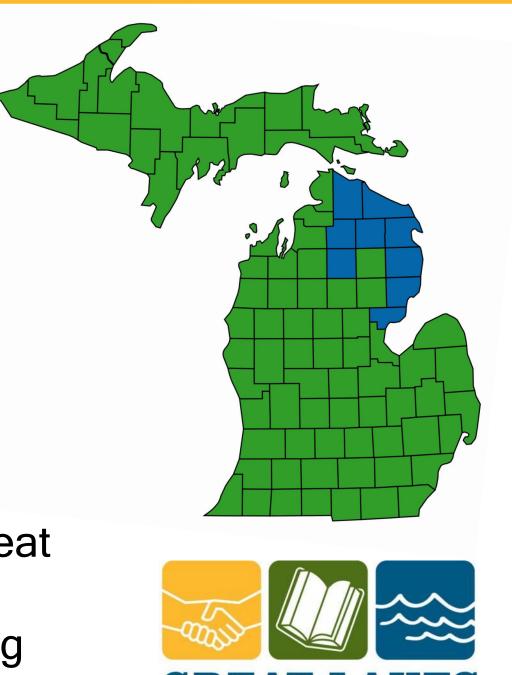
Low-Income Students

- Network operates across
  Counties in Northeast Michigan
- •129 community partners involved
- •4,601 Students participated in 2018

(26% of student population within 18 participating schools)

•\$876,000 invested in Northeast Michigan programming from the Great

Lakes Fisheries Trust over 10 years alongside independent sponsoring





#### Results at a Glance: Community Partners Benefit

It provides training and experience to students that may enter the workforce and want to work for the department in the future, creating a stronger pool of candidates for job openings.

88%

100%

place-based education

Agree that the projects and activities have a significant impact on their organizations

Responded that it is fun hosting and supporting



**77%** 

Indicate the benefits to their organization outweigh their costs of supporting the practice



**72%** 

Agree that awareness and knowledge of their organizations increased after supporting the practice

#### Strategies for Building Place-Based Education Partnerships







Education Organizations



Conservation/ Advocacy



Business/ **Private Sector** 

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Support **PBE** 

HOW **Partners** Support **PBE** 

What **BENEFITS Partners** 

See

| Conservation of<br>Environment        |
|---------------------------------------|
| Satisfying<br>Organizational<br>Goals |
| Personnel/Staffing                    |

**Hosting Projects** Direct Organizational **Functions** 

Increased Awareness/ Patronization

#### Authenticity of Education Community Oriented Focus of Practice Curriculum

Building Staff Training/ Personnel/Staffing Professionalization

Better Education for Students Increased Investment in

Community

## Conservation of Environment Youth-Oriented

Focus of

Practice

Hosting Projects

Conservation of

Environment

Growth in

**Professional** 

Network

Conservation of Environment Authenticity of

Education

Tied Across Other Categories

**Hosting Projects** 

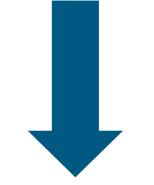
Increased Investment in Community

Conservation of

Environment

#### **SIZE** of Community Partner

While Organizations supporting PBE can have as many as 500 employees, **53%** of all community partners had between **1-10** employees



Size of organization is **not** a significant factor in number of: employees trained for PBE employees hired for PBE employee hours spent on PBE



Reasons for Supporting PBE



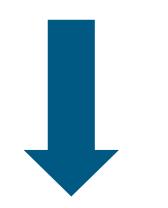
Different Ways to Support PBE



Benefits to Community Partners

**Promoting FUNDING** 

**36.2%** of respondents support the practice through direct funding. Direct funding is the second-least common type of support among Partners



Community partners aware of the benefits are more likely to fund the practice.

Communicating benefits and keeping partners satisfied could increase funding