



TODAY'S PURPOSE - TOMORROW'S PROMISE.

711 ST. JOSEPH AVENUE • PO BOX 364 • BERRIEN SPRINGS, MI 49103-1583  
PHONE: 269-471-7725 • FAX: 269-471-2941 • WWW.BERRIENRESA.ORG

January 11, 2021

Kristin Harrington  
Executive Director  
Youth Solutions Inc.  
330 West Main Street  
Benton Harbor, MI 49022

Dear Ms. Harrington,

On behalf of the Berrien Regional Education Service Agency (RESA), I am writing to express support for Youth Solutions, particularly with regards to their work with Benton Harbor youth. As an educational leader, Berrien RESA understands the need to design a cross-sector collaborative that works together to create seamless high-quality programming that moves students along a continuum of services resulting in long-term career success. Our organization provides direct services of instruction, diagnostic services, operates specialized schools, and more. Through this work Berrien RESA continually operates with other agencies and partners, all the while seeking new relationships to support our local school districts and communities.

Youth Solutions is committed to providing opportunity for ALL students, particularly those that are non-traditional or in need of extra support for success. Last year alone their Jobs for Michigan's Graduates programs provided services to over 3,000 students all across the state of Michigan. Youth Solutions is a leader in this field, recognized both locally and statewide for its innovative approaches to serving vulnerable youth. Berrien RESA's own transitional services programs and area credit recovery programs often target this same student population and will gain insight through working with Youth Solutions.

Our own Benton Harbor community has a struggling student population that requires all of our attention and services. Through its "Big Idea" and an innovative new Benton Harbor-focused project, Youth Solutions is leading a partnership effort to create lasting, meaningful, and substantive opportunities for all students of the region - particularly those in Benton Harbor. The organization will focus directly on programs targeting youth that have been disenfranchised and need new educational opportunities for future success. Berrien RESA is excited to play a collaborative part in this most important work, **whole-heartedly endorsing this project and committing to its success.**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Eric Hoppstock".

Eric Hoppstock  
Superintendent, Berrien RESA