



**For Immediate Release**

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## **North Ed Career Tech Adds Heavy Equipment/Diesel Mechanics Program**

### *New Course Brings Student CTE Pathways to 23*

**TRAVERSE CITY, Mich.** – Students interested in the mechanics of heavy equipment and diesel-fueled machinery will have a new educational pathway toward a high-paying career starting in the 2025-26 school year.

Northwest Education Services (North Ed) Career Tech has added a Heavy Equipment/Diesel Mechanics program, bringing its list of offerings to 23 career and technical education programs available to high school juniors and seniors in the region.

The new program, which received approval from the North Ed Board of Education at its meeting March 4, is offered in partnership with AIS Construction Equipment. The program will be located off-site at the AIS facility at 8300 M-72 East, Williamsburg, and will offer morning and afternoon sessions, with a targeted enrollment of 20-25 students per session. School-supported transportation will be provided for those students who need it. [Enrollment](#) in all Career Tech programs for the 2025-26 school year is now open.

“We are pleased to offer students another exciting opportunity to get hands-on experience that will set them up for success in a high-wage and in-demand industry,” said Pat Lamb, assistant superintendent of Career & Technical Education at North Ed. “Our discussions with local industry professionals and research into student interests indicated a need in the region for a program like this, and we are excited to begin this partnership with AIS Construction Equipment to provide a new pathway for students.”

A survey of local 10<sup>th</sup> graders found that roughly 18% of the 435 respondents listed the Heavy Equipment/Diesel Mechanics program as their top choice if they were to attend Career Tech. Similar mechanical programs offered at Career Tech – such as Power Equipment, Collision Repair and Auto Repair, have experienced waitlists. With the addition of the new program, students will have greater access to explore their interest in a mechanical field while gaining hands-on experience guided by industry professionals.

AIS Construction Equipment, headquartered in Lansing, operates seven similar programs in partnership with school districts throughout the state, including Eaton RESA Career Preparation Center, Bay Arenac ISD Career Center, Kalamazoo RESA Career Center, Allegan

Area ESA Tech Center, Shiawassee RESD, Ionia County Career Center and Richmond High School in St. Clair County.

“Through our education and training partnerships with schools and colleges, the graduates of these programs help to meet the tremendous need for adequately prepared diesel technicians and mechanics, not only for AIS but for the entire diesel equipment industry in Michigan,” said Anthony Wieber, Corporate Training Director at AIS Construction Equipment Corp.

According to the [2024 Hot Jobs Report from West Michigan Works!](#), Bus and Truck Mechanics and Diesel Engine Specialists could earn between \$20-\$30 per hour, while the [Going Pro in Michigan Hot 25](#) report shows Bus and Truck Mechanics and Diesel Engine Specialists earning a median annual wage of more than \$42,000.

The new program will prepare students to apply technical skills and content knowledge in the safe operation, maintenance and repair of heavy equipment. Students will be taught the foundational knowledge of electronics, hydraulics, engine performance, fuel systems and mechanics related to heavy equipment and diesel operations.

Career Tech offers more than 20 state-approved career and technical education [programs](#) to high school juniors and seniors from Antrim, Benzie, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska and Leelanau counties. Students are educated in career and technical fields, offering hands-on practical experiences, job shadowing, career exploration and early college opportunities, along with rigorous academic integration. [Click here for more information about North Ed Career Tech.](#)

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