



Northern Lights Special Education Cooperative

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Northern Lights Special Education Cooperative (NLSEC)

NLSEC Data

- 12 independent member districts, 1 cooperative JPA district
- 5 counties
- 6,000 square miles
- 2,371 resident students on IEPs (11.2%-25.8% in various member districts)

NLSEC structure

- Northern Lights Special Education Cooperative is a *non*-government entity.
- Northern Lights Academy *is* a government entity.
- Agreement among 12 districts: share the cost of services that are too costly or difficult for individual districts to provide.
- The Northern Lights Academy is a cooperative, tuition-billed placement district for students with severe special education needs.
- Terms of these arrangements are detailed in the NLSEC Agreement and By-Laws and the NLA Joint Powers Agreement.
- NLSEC and NLA Boards consists of all superintendents as the voting member from each district. District school board member attends at the district's discretion and then is the voting member.
 - Voting member represents district school board
- Board meetings
 - 4 times per year for NLSEC
 - Monthly for NLA
 - Information, decision making

The NLSEC believes in and values that:

1. All children and students benefit from **individual specialized instruction** based upon the child's learning style, interests and needs.
2. All children and students have **access to a continuum of effective instructional services** located in the school, home or community.
3. All school staff, parents and related agency personnel have current knowledge related to the delivery of special education and related services. Interagency coordination provides the most efficient and effective disability services to families and children with disabilities.
4. Children and students with special needs are general education students **FIRST** and members of the larger educational community. They have a legal and moral right to a free and appropriate public education.
5. Special education supports general education, but does not supplant or replace the general education's responsibility to educate all students. Special education dollars serve students who are disabled and demonstrate special educational needs.

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