


Northern Lights

Northern Lights
Special Education Cooperative



NLSEC

Back to School
2023/2024





Agenda

- Welcome!
- Housekeeping Items / Schedule
- Introductions
- NLSEC Information / Resources
- Items for upcoming school year
- Q&A - group/individual





Hello!

My name is Jessa Cook
I am the Director of Special Education for
the Northern Lights SpEd Coop
You can find me at jcook@nlsec.org



My path...

- Special Education Teacher - 16 years (K-transition)
- Assistant Principal THHS
- Principal - Stowe Elementary (Duluth)
- Director - NLSEC



Welcome - NLSEC Info

Northern Lights Special Education Cooperative

The purpose of the Northern Lights Special Education Cooperative is to provide, by cooperative efforts, comprehensive special education services within member districts for children and youth having significant learning needs due to disability or developmental delay.

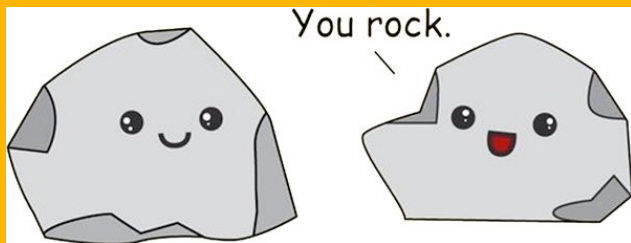
12 member districts and Northern Lights Academy

[NLSEC Website](#) - Upcoming trainings, SpEd forms, Contacts, resources, etc.





Thank you for being here and
for the work that you do!

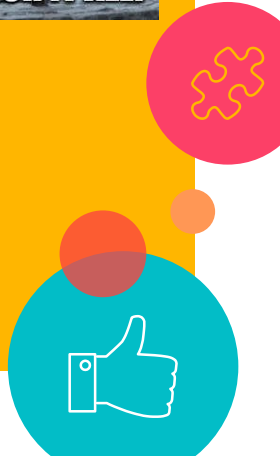
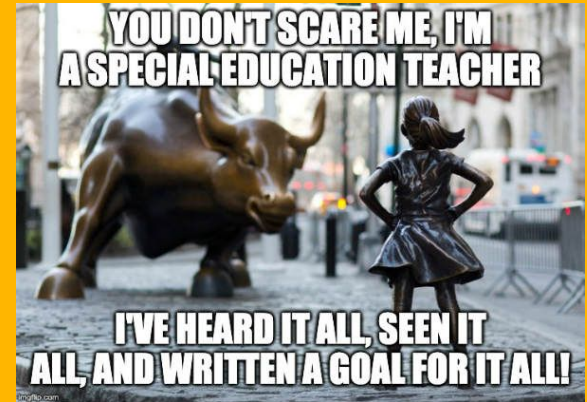
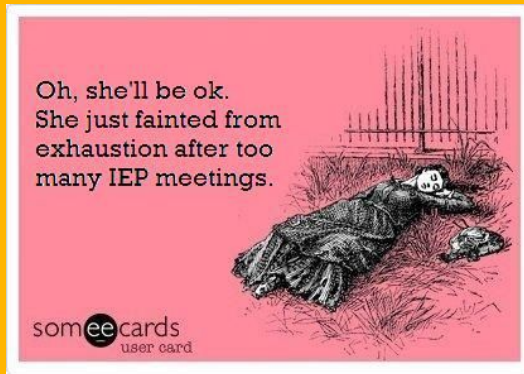
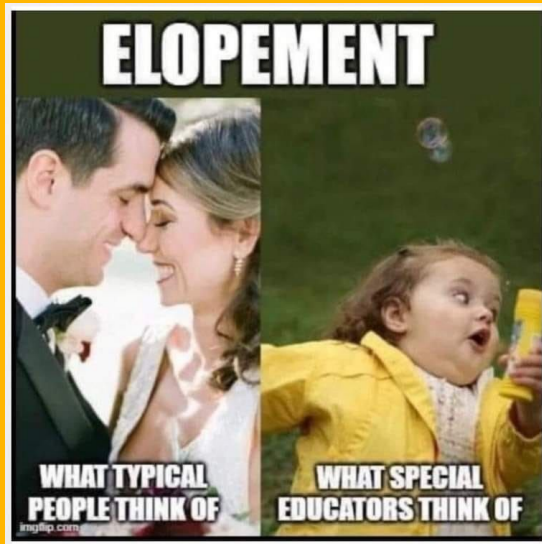


THANK
YOU
FOR
MAKING
A
DIFFERENCE
EVERY
DAY.





We are your people - we are here to support you!





New NLSEC Staff ...

Laura Wieck - K-12 Special Education Coordinator -
District Assignments - Lake Superior, Barnum & Moose Lake

Emily Thompson - K-12 Coordinator
District Assignments - Hermantown, Esko & McGregor

Jenny Bouchie - ECSE Coordinator
All Districts

Kari Spaete - Audiologist
All Districts

Ashley Allen - Physical therapist
District Assignments - Carlton, Wrenshall, Cromwell & McGregor

Mindy DeLacey - Occupational Therapist
District Assignments - Proctor & Esko-2nd gr -21 years



Northern Lights

Special Education Cooperative





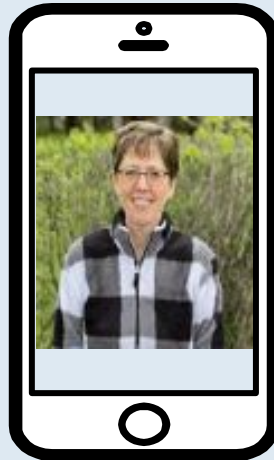
NLSEC office STAFF!

Tisha Warbalow



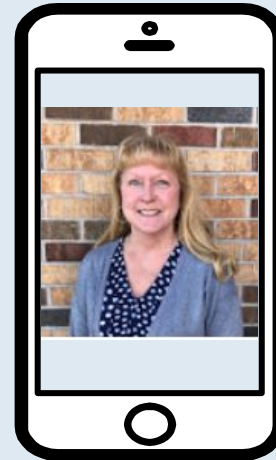
Administrative
Assistant

Dawn Hultgren



Business
Manager

Tamie Woodward



Office Assistant,
Receptionist





Your NLSEC SPECIAL EDUCATION Coordinators!

Michelle Foshay



Proctor,
Cromwell-Wright,
Carlton,
Wrenshall

Emily Martin Thompson



McGregor,
Hermantown,
Esko

Mary Margaret
Mathers



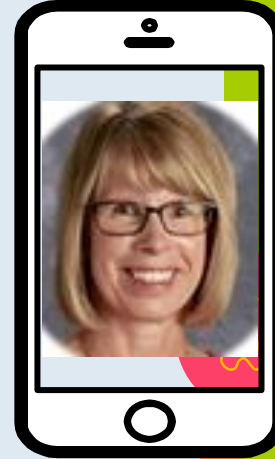
Cloquet

Laura Wieck



Lake Superior,
Moose Lake,
Barnum

Bambi Neumann



Willow
River





Your All-District Coordinators!

Jenny Bouchie



Early Childhood Special
Education (ECSE)
Coordinator

Jessica Knutsen



Secondary Transition
Coordinator

Shannon Proulx



Technology
Coordinator






Quiz ...

Do you know who your district coordinator is for the year????



**Northern
Lights**

Special Education Cooperative





Your NLSEC SPECIAL EDUCATION Coordinators!

Michelle Foshay



Proctor,
Cromwell-Wright,
Carlton,
Wrenshall

Emily Martin Thompson



McGregor,
Hermantown,
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Mary Margaret
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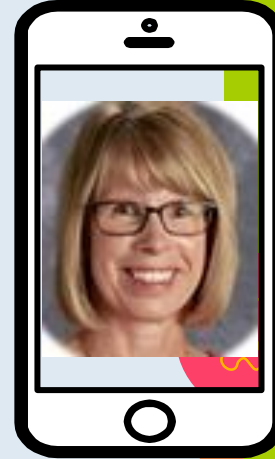
Cloquet

Laura Wieck



Lake Superior,
Moose Lake,
Barnum

Bambi Neumann



Willow
River



NLSEC - Vision & Mission

All students are provided opportunities designed to prepare students to participate independently as successful citizens in a diverse world.

Together schools and communities will educate students to become academically successful and socially responsible citizens.

[NLSEC 23-24 - Data](#)





Northern Lights Academy

The Northern Lights Academy (NLA) mission is to support children and youth with significant emotional and behavioral needs, as well as those with low incidence disabilities. We provide academic, social and functional skill development, and mental health services to students from the member school districts of The Northern Lights Special Education Cooperative. Our goal is to foster learning, promote independence, cultivate social and behavior skills, work in partnerships with families, and support students to become successful learners in their least restrictive environment, as well as active, productive members of our communities.

[Referral Process](#) (There is typically a waitlist for students)





LEGISLATIVE CHANGES

How does this impact you?

For 2023-2024 School Year ...

Four Key MN Legislative Changes & Implications for Practice



- 1.) Increased Age Limit for Students with Disabilities - from 21 to 22
- 2.) Training for Paraprofessionals
- 3.) Safe and Inclusive Schools (Restrictive Procedure & Disciplinary Removal Limitations)
- 4.) Third Party Billing for Social Workers


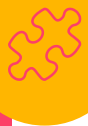


Legislative Updates

MASE (Special Education)

- [MASE Legislative Updates 2023 - HELPFUL!!!](#)
- [Examples of Non-exclusionary Discipline](#)
- (Data collection, Data collection, Data collection - what is your system to track? This will still matter for numbers toward a manifest meeting.)

There are still more questions than answers on many of these - we will work together this year to find answers as we go.



Legislative Updates Continued ...

The 2023 legislature invested \$30 million over the biennium in scholarships, stipends and programmatic assistance to support Tier 1 or 2 special education teachers, paraprofessionals or other employees to obtain a Tier 3 special education teacher license...

- NLSEC will be applying for the Special Education Teacher Pipeline Program Grant ...
- What it means: If we are awarded grant funds, we will have opportunities for staff to have tuition reimbursement to move Tiers. This does not apply for Tier 3 or 4 teachers going back to get SPED license.

IEP Service Grid Items


- Make sure teachers update their license numbers in the service grid at the beginning of the year.
- Must have a provider licensed in the area of disability on the IEP if the case manager is not licensed (indirect services)..



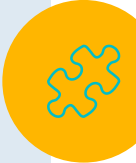



Licensure Items

- Developmental Disability License is DCD.
- Developmental Delay criteria is for ECSE.
- Both referred to as “DD”
- Refresh on ABS license coverage.



How do we define “parent” and who can sign the IEP?


- “For the purposes of both Part C and Part B, ‘parent’ is not limited to a biological or adoptive parent but also includes a foster parent, guardian, a person the child is living with who is acting in place of the parent, a person who is legally responsible for the child’s welfare, or a surrogate.”
 - [Due Process Rights, Data Privacy and Other.](#)
- 
- 



Resident District

Remember to confirm student's resident district, especially in situations where a foster/out of home placement is involved.

Tuition agreements are based on this info!



SpEd Forms

The screenshot displays the SpEd Forms application interface. On the left, there is a sidebar with navigation options: 'Educator dashboard', 'Educator reports', 'Educator setup', 'Educator guide', 'Monitor students', and 'Monitor report logs'. The main area shows a table titled 'SpEd dashboard' with columns for Name, Plan, School, Grade, Birth date, End date, and Meeting date. The table lists four rows of data, each with a gear icon for settings and a status icon (checkmark, warning, or error).

Name	Plan	School	Grade	Birth date	End date	Meeting date
Conrad Clark [Error]	EE	Conrad Clark Alternative Education Program	11	2002/02/01	2020/02/01	2020/02/01
Wally Moore	SP	Conrad Clark Alternative Education Program	11	2002/02/01	2020/02/01	2020/02/01
Springdale Spanglers	SP	Conrad Clark Alternative Education Program	11	2002/02/01	2020/02/01	2020/02/01
Patricia Taylor	SP	Conrad Clark Alternative Education Program	11	2002/02/01	2020/02/01	2020/02/01

Update on 2.0





Timelines

- IEP timelines need to be met regardless of family issues.
- Start a few weeks ahead
 - You must make 2 attempts, then meet. This way the timeline will be met even if parent does not participate.
- OF COURSE - you want to make all attempts to involve parents...BUT... parents are not a reason for late timelines.
- Please plan way ahead!
- Google Calendar is a great way to set reminders.



SpEd Forms and Record Keeping:

→ Medical Records

- ◆ Do not upload medical records into SpEd Forms History - this goes in the health file with the school health office.
- ◆ This information can be summarized within the ER.

→ Finalizing Documents

- ◆ Be sure to finalize all SpEd Forms documents.
- ◆ Note if draft proposed to parent or signed, etc.
- ◆ Make sure hard copies are printed and filed! In the event of a complaint, the hard file will be used, not SpEd Forms.

→ Confidentiality of Information

- ◆ ALWAYS double/triple check due process to make sure that only the student's information is contained in that paperwork!





Special Transportation

- ❖ *Related Service*: needed to allow the student to benefit from special education services or to allow “access” to services
- ❖ *IEP Team decision* and signed parental consent required prior to implementing
- ❖ Documented on the *IEP services page*
- ❖ Consider Least Restrictive Environment (*LRE*) when discussing transportation options
- ❖ Behavior Intervention Plans apply to transportation
- ❖ Fade or discontinue special transportation if/when the need is no longer present



Beep Beep!

Communicate with Bus Drivers!

- ❖ Tell them about your students and share their behavior plans with them.
- ❖ Help them help your students to be successful. .





Extended School Year (ESY)

Tell a partner ... 3 criteria for eligibility for ESY ...


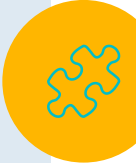
Regression/Recoupment

Self-Sufficiency

Unique Need

Eligibility Determination: The decision to provide ESY services is based on the individual needs of the student. Determined through the IEP process and including the entire team. Use The Flowchart!

Must be a TEAM DECISION and
discussed at the IEP Team
Meeting!





Fostering Independence Using AT



- ❖ Science of reading shows that students of any age can still learn to read
- ❖ Compensatory strategies and AT used to access grade level content
- ❖ Special education works on the underlying skill deficit
- ❖ Use of AT promotes LRE
- ❖ AT available for reading, writing, math
- ❖ [MDE AT Manual](#)
- ❖ [AT resources video](#)





The secondary transition requirements **challenge** educators to **improve the post-school results of students with disabilities by improving the method through which they *plan and prepare*** students and families for the challenges of transitioning into the adult world in the areas of employment, post-secondary education/training and if appropriate, independent living.

- Reframing mindsets on programming and meeting student's post secondary goals.
 - [Charting the Life Course Tools](#)
 - [NLSEC Agenda](#)
- Team identifies the most appropriate pathway for the student to graduate with necessary skills to meet their postsecondary goals.
 - District requirements with or w/o accom/modif.
 - Course substitutions are okay!
 - IEP driven -students goals/objectives dictate requirements to be met.



Typical Graduation Pathways

• HS Credit Requirements:

- Meet all credit requirements.
- Special ed. Services may replace electives.
- College bound students.
- Focus on access to gen ed curriculum if needing core content spec. instruction.

Credit Driven:

- Credit substitutions or excusals
- **Must** ensure admin is a part of conversation.
- Can be employment bound and 2 yr. College bound students.
- Typically can earn required credits with small # of substitutions.

IEP Driven:

- Very small % of students.
 - S/P, DCD, 18-22
- Based on completion of IEP goals/objectives and transition services/activities.







**BREAKING
NEWS**

Legislative Update Pertaining to the Provision of Special Education Instruction for Children with a Disability

Effective July 1, 2023, Minnesota Statutes, section 125A.03(b) is amended to continue the provision of special instruction and services from birth until the child with a disability becomes 22 years old.



Work Based Learning



Coordinators:

Dee LeBlanc - Lake Superior, Proctor, McGregor, Cromwell-Wright, Moose Lake

Laura Birman -Carlton, Wrenshall, Cloquet, Esko, Barnum, Willow River

Jessica Knutsen -Hermantown

Importance of VRS

(pic is a link)

VRS Student Career Services:

..... Two Levels of Support

Introductory Career Services
"Pre-ETS Only"

Which VRS Staff Coordinates These Services?

Your school's Pre-ETS Representative is:

Vocational Rehabilitation (VR)
Career Services "Pre-ETS Plus"

Which VRS Staff Coordinates These Services?

Your school's VR Counselor is:

Which Students Should be Referred?

- ★ Students with IEPs, 504 plans, or other medical/mental health documentation
- ★ Students ages 14-21 can apply to either program at any time

When you are involving VRS or JET, please contact your WBL Coordinator to assist the team.

[Brochure](#)
[Outside Agency Support](#)
[WBL Application](#)



Transition Assessments (pic is linked)



Requirements

- **During grade 9**, the plan **must** address the student's needs for transition from secondary services to postsecondary education and training, employment, community participation, recreation, and leisure and home living. Therefore, students must have secondary transition assessed.
- **TWO INFORMAL** transition assessments must be completed as part of student's special education evaluation or re-evaluation. Preferably starting in 7th grade. **You can use formal assessments if you prefer but it is no longer required.

Age Appropriate Transition Assessments:

Assessments Can Include: (but are not limited to)



Upcoming
Trainings
(pic is linked to
register)



REGISTER HERE!

2023-24

Upcoming Events for MS/HS Spec. Ed. Teachers

20
SEPT

**How to Lead a Secondary Transition
Focused IEP Meeting**

8:00 PM-12:00 PM

13
OCT

**How to Lead a Secondary Transition
Focused IEP Meeting**

8:00 AM - 12:00 PM



Transition Tidbits



- Seniors- check credits and are they on track to graduate.
- Move up IEP meetings if they are in the spring.

****Don't forget to invite VRS or county to meetings**

[Resource Booklet](#)

[Planning Checklist](#) (electronic)

- AWESOME ACTIVITY for all your students!!!
 - [What's Important to Me](#)



PWN



What changes require a PWN?

Only Identification, Placement or Evaluation items needs notice according to Rachel at MDE and Section [300.503](#) of the Federal code.

When is a PWN NOT required?

An LRE change to say what class the student will be missing **does not** need a PWN. This is considered a clerical change. Notify parents, document, and send home copy. File new copy of IEP.





Progress Monitoring

Progress reports will not look the same for all districts or sometimes for teams within your own district!

Here is why:

[MN Statute on IEP Progress Reports - Subpart 1 \(A\)\(9\)](#)

- 2023-20204 is a state file review year!
- Need to include data and not only a narrative
 - Example: ___ has increased their reading fluency from 30 words per minute to 50 words per minute (data is specific and measurable) rather than ___ is making expected progress toward their IEP goals (too general).
- Completed when it is time for report cards - same as when gen ed students receive information about progress/grades.





Paraprofessionals

Master Teacher

[MasterTeacher Website](#)

- Replacement for parapro test and removes barriers
- Can take assessment as many times as needed - study guides are provided
- Training / Videos similar to Infinitec. Can be assigned (Elearning days) or part of Professional Development or time with case managers
- **Already approved by NLSEC board - heading your way this fall**
- Brand new for us - training out will take time - we will welcome your input throughout the year for resources



Thank You!!

Have a great school year!!

