Established 1960

TrueNorth was established in 1960, and over the course of its history, has helped to shape the delivery of educational services to diverse learners in the region, and on the state and national levels.

In Illinois there are 852 public school districts¹, 87% of which belong to one of the 66 special education cooperatives in the state.²

Our member districts

TrueNorth Educational Cooperative 804 provides special education and related services, coaching and consultation to 18 member districts. Until July 1, 2021, the cooperative was called Northern Suburban Special Education District (NSSED). TrueNorth has 18 member districts, 14 are elementary districts and four are high school districts.

Northbrook School District 27
Northbrook School District 28
Sunset Ridge School District 29
Northbrook/Glenview School District 30
West Northfield School District 31
Glenview School District 34
Glencoe School District 35
Winnetka School District 36
Kenilworth School District 38
Lake Bluff School District 65
Lake Forest School District 67
Bannockburn School District 106
Deerfield Public School District 109
North Shore School District 112
Towsnhip High School District 113
Lake Forest High School District 115
New Trier High School District 203
Glenbrook High School District 225

There are 36,038 students in the TrueNorth member districts³. Of those students, 5,402 (15%) have Individualized Education Plans and receive services under the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. Although data is not available at a regional or state level, additional students receive services under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

TrueNorth's Fiscal Year 2024 total operating revenue is budgeted at $41.9 million:

- $39.0 million
  93.1% from local school districts

- $2.8 million
  6.7% from the State of Illinois

- $0.1 million
  0.2% from the federal government

² Directory Listing of Special Education Service Administrators 2022-2023. Illinois State Board of Education, Division of Special Education Services, updated as of June 14, 2023