Northland
LEARNING CENTER

Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC)

Northland Learning Center

March 14, 2023 ▪ 3:30 pm to 4:30 pm

What is the Northland Learning Center (NLC)?

Special education cooperative is made up of 10 school districts in northeastern MN

- Cook County (Grand Marais)
- International Falls
- Chisholm
- Ely
- Rock Ridge
- Nett Lake
- Mt. Iron/Buhl
- St. Louis County Schools
- Mesabi East
- Northland Learning Center

COOK COUNTY ISD 166
Home of the Vikings

CHISHOLM PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Committed to High Expectations

INTERNATIONAL FALLS
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT 361

ELY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Home of the Timberwolves

ROCK RIDGE

Nett Lake Elementary School
Soaring to Excellence

MOUNTAIN IRON-BUHL PUBLIC SCHOOL

GIANTS
MESABI EAST

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT 2142
ST. LOUIS COUNTY SCHOOLS

Northland Learning Center

What is the Northland Learning Center (NLC)? Continued…

Sharing of services

- Vision, deaf/hard of hearing, occupational therapy, adaptive physical education, physical therapy, physical impairment, speech/language, special education director, supervisors and coordinators, school psychologists, office staff
- The school (NLC) – students come from 7 of the districts
  - Focus program – Pre-K through grade 12 Level IV special education classes
  - Alternative Learning Center (ALC) – grades 7 through 12 – "at risk" learners
  - Bridge to Independence program – students 18 to 21 years old needing additional support for life skills and transition to employment
  - Targeted Services/Credit Recovery – in local districts

What is SEAC?

- Minnesota State Law 125A.24 requires each school district to have a SEAC. SEAC is a group that provides input on special education issues to its local school district. Its purpose is to advise and advocate on local special education topics. Minnesota law requires each school district in the state to have a SEAC.

Purpose

- Support the NLC mission to ensure the provision of comprehensive special education and alternative learning services for northeastern MN schools.
- Advocates for the high quality programs and services necessary to effectively and efficiently meet the needs of all children with disabilities and their families.
- Assists NLC and its member districts in identifying needs and proactively supporting the development and implementation of programs and services to meet those needs.
- Encourages and facilitates communication and mutual support among students, parents, school personnel, and persons in the greater community.

Membership

- The committee can include representatives from
  - Parent(s) from each member district, representing children from various ages/grades and disability areas
  - member district special education teachers representing a variety of disability areas
  - general education teachers
  - member district administrators
  - current/former students with disabilities (age 14+)
  - community members
  - Director of Special Education and Special Ed. Asst. Directors/Coordinators

Responsibilities

- Prepare for and attend scheduled meetings by reading SEAC agendas, minutes, reports, and related materials; providing requested input prior to meetings; and coming prepared to discuss agenda items using relevant examples or supporting information.

- Encourage parent involvement and participation by participating in community awareness activities and sharing information with families in their member district.

Responsibilities Continued…

- Participate in meetings by: providing requested feedback, contributing ideas for solutions, identifying barriers or challenges experienced by families, representing family or school concerns, focusing on student need as a group rather than on individual student concerns, sharing personal experiences as they relate to decisions regarding policies and procedures, and asking clarifying questions.

- Work collaboratively with the school district, special education director, school personnel, and SEAC parent and community members to fulfill the SEAC's purpose and mission.

Meetings

- The NLC SEAC will meet one - four times per year. The SEAC meetings shall also be accessible remotely via available technology including virtual links and recordings posted afterward on the NLC website.
- For this school year: 2022-2023, meetings will be held at 3:30 pm in-person and virtually
  - March 14, 2023
    - Join Zoom Meeting
    - https://us05web.zoom.us/j/83088746981?pwd=OEFpMG81YjhQSmJwMVFvcWRhTmRUQT09
    - Meeting ID: 830 8874 6981 Passcode: yS5W8V
  - May 2, 2023
    - Join Zoom Meeting
    - https://us05web.zoom.us/j/83564204691?pwd=OC9sREFqRVJjTUU1b0xzRHZwbXBJUT09
    - Meeting ID: 835 6420 4691 Passcode: 0eeE9K
- Agendas will be set by the Director in consultation with committee members.

Examples of things going well.
Areas of Improvement across the schools.
How to increase membership?

Please fill out the NLC SEAC Meeting Feedback Form

- We want to hear from you!

Thank you for taking the time to attend the SEAC meeting.
We hope to see you again!

Resource availability to parents/staff

- Handouts on the back table
- For virtual copies email Hannah Helander: hhelander@northlandsped.org
- Recordings and applicable resources will be posted on the NLC website after the meetings