NORTHLAND LEARNING CENTER COOPERATIVE
SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL

Member districts: Cook County, Chisholm, Ely, International Falls, Mesabi East, Mountain Iron-Buhl, Nett Lake, Northland Learning Center, St. Louis County, and non-public school St. Thomas Aquinas School-International Falls.

Minnesota Statute 125A.24 Parent Advisory Councils

In order to increase the involvement of parents of children with disabilities in district policy making and decision making, school districts must have a special education advisory council that is incorporated into the district's special education system plan.

(1) This advisory council may be established either for individual districts or in cooperation with other districts who are members of the same special education cooperative.

(2) A district may set up this council as a subgroup of an existing board, council, or committee.

(3) At least half of the designated council members must be parents of students with a disability. When a nonpublic school is located in the district, the council must include at least one member who is a parent of a nonpublic school student with a disability, or an employee of a nonpublic school if no parent of a nonpublic school student with a disability is available to serve. Each local council must meet no less than once each year. The number of members, frequency of meetings, and operational procedures are to be locally determined.

Purpose:

- Build collaborative relationships between the Special education team, which includes parents, general education and special education professionals, and the community.
- Advise the special education department on behalf of students receiving special education services.
- Provide opportunities for parents, staff, students, and the community to share information and resources.
- Serve as an advocate for high-quality special education programs.

By-laws:

Members of the NLCC SEAC are volunteers to serve as representatives. The council consists of around 8 individuals with at least 50 percent of the members being parents of students. There will be one member from each district and one member will be the parent of a parentally placed private school student with disabilities.

August 11, 2026