LIND-RITZVILLE COOPERATIVE SCHOOL AGREEMENT

HISTORY

In February of 2011, the Boards of Directors of the Lind and Ritzville School Districts agreed to a joint cooperative program, which was implemented in the fall of 2012. This action was taken pursuant to Chapter 58, laws of 1985 (RCW 28A.340.020 through 28A.340.070). This law empowers the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction to approve pilot cooperative programs between small school districts and to waive regulations to remove disincentives for such cooperative efforts.

STRUCTURE

The Lind-Ritzville cooperative program consists of an elementary school (P-5) and a middle school (6-8), located in Lind, and an elementary school (P-5) and a high school (9-12), located in Ritzville. The middle school building in the Lind District is identified as Lind-Ritzville Middle School. The high school building in the Ritzville District is identified as Lind-Ritzville High School. The official name of our cooperative program is *Lind-Ritzville Cooperative Schools.*

OBJECTIVES

The Lind and Ritzville School Districts have formed this partnership for the following reasons:

- Provide the best possible educational program for the students in both districts
- Broaden and enrich the curricular offerings available to our students
- Utilize to a greater degree the strengths of our teachers and other staff members
- Utilize the facilities and resources of our districts to a greater efficiency

AGREEMENT

Both districts agree to the following programmatic, fiscal and operational understandings:

I. Staff

- Each district will maintain responsibility and authority in all matters relating to the staff it employs regardless of the location in which they serve.

- Staff employed by one district, but assigned in the other, will be bound by all negotiated agreements covering their employment within their contracted district.

- The two principals will divide evaluation responsibilities for shared employees. Each such evaluation will be discussed and approved by both principals before it is presented to the employee (by the principal taking the lead in that evaluation).

- Each district will share the cost of a full-time academic high school counselor except in years when a full-time academic middle school counselor is provided.

II. Basic and Vocational Education

A. Indirect expenditures remain the responsibility of the individual districts.

B. All students (6 - 12) shall be counted and claimed for enrollment in the district in which they reside, regardless of which school they attend. Secondary students must attend the school that serves their respective grade level. Elementary students may attend the non-resident school if space is available. Elementary students will be counted and claimed for enrollment in the district they attend.

C. At a minimum, program expenditures shall be equalized according to the inter-district equalization schedule.

III. Special Programs (Special Education, LAP, Title I, Bilingual, Migrant, enrichment programs, etc.)

A. Special Education student enrollment will be counted in the district of residence. Revenues will flow to the district of residence. High cost students will be paid for by their resident district. This may occur directly or through equalization.

B. ESD Special Education related services and applicable annual applications for Title I, LAP, Bilingual and Migrant funds will be approved and filed by the districts separately. Special Education, Title I, LAP, Bilingual and Migrant programs will be coordinated by a person designated as program administrator. The two districts will operate under separate management plans but will coordinate to meet the individual learning needs of students within the cooperative. Students will be carefully tracked to accommodate state and federal regulations and to allow for detailed program cost accounting.

IV. Student Activities and Regulations

- Graduation Activities

1. Graduation ceremonies for high school will be held at Lind-Ritzville High School on a mutually agreeable date.

2. Freshman classes are required to meet graduation requirements determined by the joint Boards of Directors.

3. Diplomas shall display the combined name of both communities (Lind-Ritzville High School) and incorporate official signatures from both school boards.

4. There will be an Eighth Grade Promotion Ceremony held at the Lind-Ritzville Middle School on a mutually agreeable date.

5. Promotion certificates shall read "Lind-Ritzville Middle School." The certificates shall incorporate official signatures from both school board chairs.

- Activity Issues

1. Student transportation shall be provided between Lind and Ritzville for practices, games and school-sponsored activities.

2. Administrative responsibility for the extra-curricular programs shall rest with the individual districts.

V. Other Programs/Special Agreements

A. Traffic Safety Education – The Ritzville School District will administer the Driver's Education program.

B. Superintendent – Both boards agree that a joint superintendent is vital to the success of the Cooperative Schools. The two districts will share equally the costs of a joint superintendent as contracted.

VI. General Operations - Section Approved January 26, 2026

- The Boards of Directors of the Lind and Ritzville School Districts are committed to the successful operation of the Cooperative Schools and understand that success depends in large part upon the goodwill and support of both communities, school board members, administration, school staff, and students.

  To build upon the trust between the two districts, the following procedures for making decisions will be followed:

  1. The boards agree that matters that are cost shared or directly affect the students of both districts are cooperative matters, and will be brought to the joint board and not acted upon independently.

  2. The boards agree that action on cooperative matters (i.e. administrators, policies, extra-curricular contracts, school calendars, and graduation requirements) shall require a separate vote of each board. Approval on a motion of cooperative interest is achieved when each board renders a majority yes vote. Approval is not achieved if one or both boards render a majority no vote.

  3. Each board will respect the confidentiality of the other board.

- Matters of appeal will be resolved in the following manner:

  1. Issues shall be handled initially by appropriate school personnel.

  2. The first level of appeal shall be the building principal, or in athletic/activities matters, to the athletic director first and then the principal.

3. The second level of appeal shall be the superintendent of schools.

4. Appeals of decisions by the superintendent shall be referred to the Board of Directors of the school involved in the dispute

- Each year, the Cooperative Agreement will be reviewed at the February board meeting. Either district may terminate participation in the cooperative program by so notifying the other district in writing. Such termination will only be effective at the beginning of a school year and notification must be received by February 15th prior to the effective date.

- In case of termination, a monetary value will be placed on all jointly purchased supplies, materials, and equipment. The supplies, materials and equipment will then be divided between the districts according to the share of the purchase cost borne by each district. The ESD #101 Superintendent shall serve as mediator.

Reviewed February 23, 2026

LIND BOARD OF DIRECTORS	RITZVILLE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
_____	_____
Chairman of the Board	Chairman of the Board
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

_____ Date: _____

Attest to: