

MINNESOTA SPECIAL EDUCATION GOVERNANCE MODELS

District Type	Governance	Personnel Supervision	Funding	Service Delivery Model
Local School District Type 01, 02, 03	Elected Board of Education	District Director of Special Education, Building Administrators	State Special Education Revenue, Excess Cost Aid, Cross Subsidy Reduction Aid Federal Aids General Education Revenue 3rd Party Revenue	On-Site Local Buildings, Placement Out of District
Intermediate School District (916, 917, 287) Type 06	One Representative Appointed By Boards of Member School Districts.	Intermediate Director of Special Education. Building Administrators	Bills Actual Costs To School Districts 3rd Party Revenue Allocates Special Education Base Revenue For The Regular Formula And Expenditures For The Excess Cost Formula To Participating Districts	On-Site Local Classrooms Consult With Schools And Itinerant Services
Education Districts Type 61	Board Consists of One Representative Appointed By The School Board of Each Member District.	Director of Special Education Supervisors Building Administrators	Bills Actual Costs To School Districts 3rd Party Revenue Allocates Special Education Base Revenue For The Regular Formula And Expenditures For The Excess Cost Formula To Participating Districts	On-Site Local Classrooms Consult With Schools And Itinerant Services
Joint Powers & Cooperatives Type 50, 51, 53, 62	Board Comprised According To By-Laws Usually Superintendents From Member Districts.	Director of Special Education Supervisors Building Administrators	Bills Actual Costs To School Districts 3rd Party Revenue Allocates Special Education Base Revenue For The Regular Formula And Expenditures For The Excess Cost Formula To Participating Districts	Consultative Services To Member Districts Itinerant Services Direct Services On-Site
Special Education Cooperative (Host District) Type 01	Board Comprised According To By-Laws Usually Superintendents From Member Districts	Director of Special Education Supervisors Building Administrators	Bills Actual Costs To School Districts 3rd Party Revenue Allocates Special Education Base Revenue For The Regular Formula And Expenditures For The Excess Cost Formula To Participating Districts	Consultative Services To Member Districts Itinerant Services Direct Services On-Site
Charter Schools Type 07	Teachers And Parents Make Up The Board. Sponsor	Charter School Administrator Director of Special Education	State Special Education Revenue Federal Funds General Education Revenue 3rd Party Revenue	Direct Services On-Site Contract With Public Or Private Agencies
Service Cooperatives (SCs) Type 83	6-15 Members Comprised of Board Members of Member Districts And Other Participating Agencies.	Director of Special Education Supervisors Building Administrators	State Special Education Revenue Federal Funds General Education Revenue 3rd Party Revenue	Consultative Services To Member Districts Itinerant Services Director Services On-Site
State Academies Deaf And Blind Type 60		Building Administrators Director of Special Education	General Education Revenue From Resident Districts. State Sped Aid For Paraprofessionals 3rd Party Revenue	On-Site At Academies And Local Public School System
State Operated Corrections (Thistledeew Camp) Fee For Service	Local Education Agencies Commissioner of Corrections	Director of Special Education For DOC Education Director, LEA	Bill Resident School Districts State Special Ed Aid DOC Education Appropriation	Correctional Facility
State Operated Corrections (Red Wing, St. Cloud, Shakopee, Lino Lakes) Type 60	Commissioner of Corrections	Director of Special Education For DOC Education Director	State Department of Corrections Federal Funds	Correctional Facility

Major Regional and Cooperative Education Services in Minnesota

Service Cooperatives – called Educational Cooperative Service Units, or ECSUs, until 1995 (Minnesota Statutes 2003, Sections 123A.21 and 123A.24). The regional unit concept began taking shape in 1968 (“ERDC”), a pilot “ESA” in 1973 law, and full implementation of ECSUs in 1975-76. There are currently nine service cooperatives (SC). According to statute, “the primary purpose... of a SC is to perform planning on a regional basis and to assist in meeting specific needs of clients in participating governmental units which could be better provided by a SC than by the members themselves.” A board governs each SC, with a majority of members from participating public school districts. Services are provided to public and nonpublic schools serving 825,000 students. Also, services are provided to 155 municipalities, 46 counties, and 89 other governmental and nonprofit entities. SC revenues are derived from member fees as well as various grants. Examples of programs offered: administrative services; staff development; curriculum and instruction; cooperative purchasing; risk management programs; and distance learning and other telecommunications services.

Regional Management Information Centers (RMICs) (Minnesota Statutes 2003, Section 123A.23). Any group of two or more school districts may create a center (pursuant to Minnesota Statutes 2003, Section 123A.21, Service Cooperatives, or 471.59, Joint Exercise of Powers) to provide services to school districts, including student financial accounting and reporting support and training, UFARS and MARSS reporting to the state, and technology support. They may also provide financial management information services to cities, counties, towns, or other governmental units at negotiated prices. Each center may charge fees to affiliated districts for the cost of services.

Intermediate Districts (Minnesota Statutes 2003, Chapter 136D). There are three intermediate districts (287, 916, and 917) serving 32 school districts, all in the twin cities metro area. They offer “...integrated services for secondary, postsecondary, and adult students in areas of vocational education, special education, and other authorized services.” Each district is governed by a school board consisting of at least one appointed member from each school district within the special intermediate district. They can access health and safety revenue through member school districts. Also, tuition may be charged for attendance at an intermediate district.

Education Districts (Minnesota Statutes 2003, Sections 123A.15-123A.18). Established in 1987, the purpose of an education district is to increase opportunities for students by promoting cooperation and coordination among school districts, other governmental units, and postsecondary schools. School boards that meet the following requirements may establish an education district: 1) at least five districts; 2) at least four districts with a total of at least 5,000 pupils in average daily membership; or at least four districts with a total of at least 2,000 square miles. Once established, cities, counties, and other governmental units may become members. Education Districts have components that provide the same services as special education cooperatives and vocational cooperatives – see below. There are currently 18 education districts registered with MDE.

Special Education Cooperatives (Minnesota Statutes 2003, Section 125A.05). There are thirteen special education cooperatives and one special education-secondary vocational group registered with MDE, although several other less formal arrangements also exist. These cooperatives receive federal special education funds generated by member districts, which turn the funds over to the cooperatives in exchange for agreed upon services. Services include special education director administration, related services, and low incidence services. Cooperatives may charge member districts additional amounts in some cases. When a special education cooperative operates a program, it will bill members

for tuition. In addition to the state-registered cooperatives, school districts may form other agreements to provide special education services through cooperative arrangements – generally these involve one host district with a licensed special education director (e.g. Rum River and Northern Lights). Members determine specific services.

Cooperative Centers for Vocational Education (Minnesota Statutes 2003, Section 123A.22).

Two or more school districts may enter into an agreement to establish a cooperative center to provide vocational education and other educational services. Membership may also be offered to cities, counties, and other governmental units. Each center is governed by a board of at least five members, consisting of those appointed from boards of participating school districts and member cities, counties, and other governmental units. A center may furnish vocational offerings, special education, and other educational programs defined in the Service Cooperative law (123A.21, subds. 7-8). There are currently eight vocational cooperatives registered with MDE and one combined vocational and special education cooperative. Participating districts may issue bonds for acquisition and betterment of center facilities. Also, a center board may assess each district its proportionate share required for conduct of educational programs, payment of indebtedness, and other expenses.

Agreements for Secondary Education (Minnesota Statutes 2003, Section 123A.30). Applicable to districts with fewer than 375 pupils enrolled in grades 7-12. A school board may enter into one or more agreements providing for instruction of its secondary students in one or more districts.

Joint Exercise of Powers (Minnesota Statutes 2003, Section 471.59). Two or more governmental units may jointly or cooperatively exercise any power common to the contracting parties or any similar powers. Governmental units include school districts, cities, counties, towns, other political subdivisions, another state, the University of Minnesota, nonprofit hospitals, and any agency of the state or the United States, and includes any instrumentality of a governmental unit. Services provided include "...any service or function which the governmental unit providing the service or function is authorized to provide for itself." The joint powers board may issue bonds or obligations under any law by which any of the governmental units establishing the joint board may independently issue bonds or obligations.

Some Other Regional Arrangements:

- Five Integration Districts (formed under "joint powers"— see above); Metropolitan Magnet School Grants (Minn. Stat. Sec. 124D.88)
- Perkins Consortia and Tech Prep Consortia (career and technical education)
- Seven telecommunications access clusters provide cooperative purchasing and E-rate discounts
- Family Services Collaboratives (Minn. Stat. Sec. 124D.23)
- Coordinated Interagency Services (Minn. Stat. Sec. 125A.023); Local Children's Mental Health Collaboratives (Minn. Stat. Sec. 245.493); Community Transition Interagency Committees (Minn. Stat. Sec. 125A.22)
- Cooperative Secondary Facilities Grant Act (Minn. Stat. Sec. 123A.441-446)
- Cooperation and Combination (Minn. Stat. Sec. 123A.35-123A.43) and Consolidation Transition Revenue (123A.485)
- Area Learning Centers (Minn. Stat. Sec. 123A.05-08) – many established by two or more districts
- Superintendents serving more than one district – nine serve two districts, one has three districts, and one has four districts

Barry Sullivan 11-16-03
(651) 582-8663