



Understanding ASEC and the Proposed Setting IV Educational Learning Center

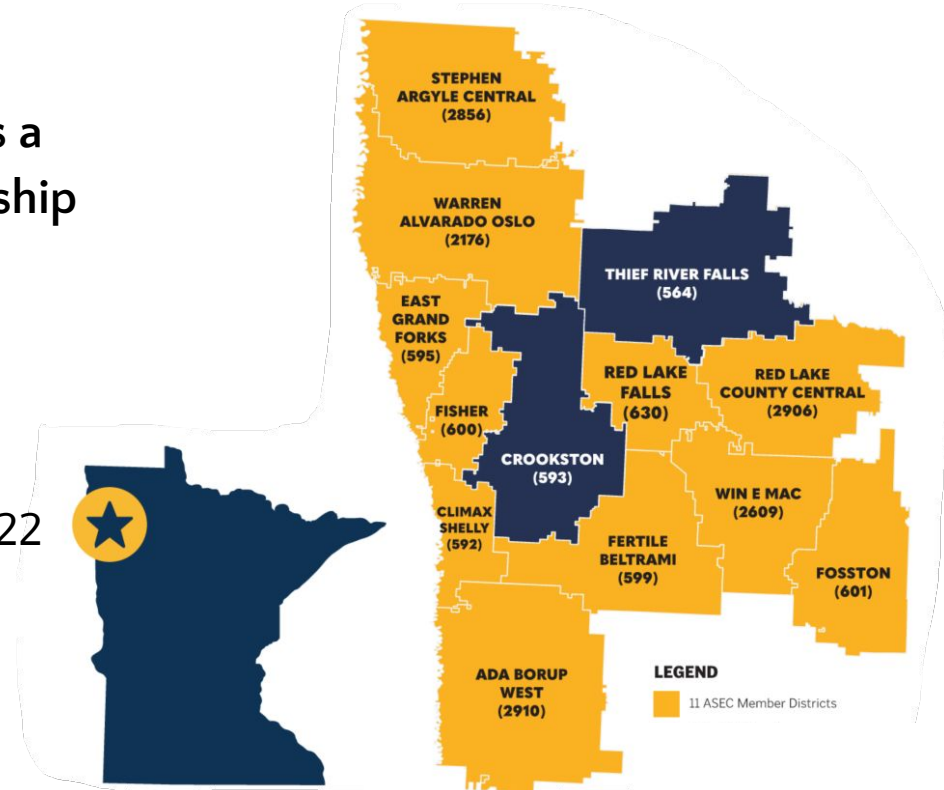
Equity, Safety, and Opportunity for Rural Students

What is ASEC?



The Area Special Education Cooperative is a shared-services public education partnership of 11 rural districts.

- Serving NW Minnesota since 1969
- Covering a 3,300 sq mile service area
- A team of specialized staff
- Supporting students from birth to age 22



11 DISTRICTS. ONE COOPERATIVE.

Ada-Borup-West

Climax-Shelly

Fisher

East Grand Forks

Fertile-Beltrami

Fosston

Red Lake County Central

Red Lake Falls

Stephen-Argyle Central

Warren-Alvarado-Oslo

Win-E-Mac

*Serving communities across
approximately 3,300 square miles.*

Different communities. Shared resources.

Shared expertise.

Shared commitment to students.



Why ASEC Exists

Together, our districts can provide more than any one district could provide alone.

Share Resources

- Pool resources to meet low-incidence and high-need student needs.

Access Expertise

- Access specialized staff and expertise across the cooperative.

Expand Opportunities

- Provide regional programs, services, training, and support.

The cooperative model turns individual district resources into shared regional capacity.

ASEC's Mission & Services

Mission: Resources Invested in Children

ASEC provides shared special education support through:

- **Specialized Staff**

School psychologists, speech-language pathologists, occupational and physical therapists, interpreters, autism consultants, behavior support specialists, and other specialists

- **Student Services & Programs**

Evaluation & assessment, IEP support, early childhood services, low-incidence services, assistive technology, behavior support, and specialized programming

- **District Support**

Training, consultation, program planning, new teacher support, technical assistance, due process guidance, and compliance support

ASEC helps districts meet student needs through shared staff, shared expertise, and shared responsibility.

Who ASEC Serves

ASEC supports students from birth through age 22, including students who need support with:

- Learning
- Communication
- Autism-related needs
- Developmental needs
- Emotional or behavioral regulation
- Physical, sensory, or health-related needs
- Transition to adulthood

Special education is individualized. Students receive different supports based on their needs.

Student Needs Are Growing

National trends and ASEC data show increasing need for a stronger continuum of support.

NATIONAL CONTEXT



1 in 31

8-year-old children
identified with autism



21%

of children ages 3–17 have
had a diagnosed mental,
emotional, or behavioral
health condition



7.5 MILLION

students ages 3–21 received
special education services
under IDEA in 2022–23

15% of all public school students

ASEC'S CURRENT REALITY



1,300+

students served across
ASEC member districts



18%

special education enrollment
growth in the last five years



Growing student need and increasing complexity strengthen the urgency for the ELC and a stronger regional continuum of support.

DISTRICT CHILD COUNT

DISABILITY	EGF		TOTAL
	RESIDENT	SERVED	SERVED
Speech/language Impaired	105	111	228
Physically impaired	2	3	17
Deaf-hard of hearing	5	5	16
Visual Impaired	1	1	4
Specific learning disabilities	154	160	438
Deaf-Blind	-	-	1
Developmental delay	36	35	145
Traumatic Brain Injury	-	-	1
DCD: Mild-moderate	13	13	43
DCD: Severe-profound	6	7	14
Emotional/behavior disorders	19	19	64
Other health disabilities	64	77	171
Autism spectrum disorder	53	54	156
Severely multiply impaired	5	6	10
TOTAL	463	491	1,308
Estimated ELC Count by District		18	46
Enrollment of Total Population			3.50%

- Cost for 1 student in a Level 3 Program developed within the district (Teacher/Para) based on EGF contract:

Cost to keep student in District	
Average Teacher w/ Benefits	\$86,400
Average Para w/ Benefits	\$31,000
Total Staffing per Student	\$117,400

- Cost for 1 student to be placed outside of district in a care and treatment facility:

Cost to send a student out of District			
	Cost Per Month	# of Months	Total Annual Expense
Low Need	\$15,000	9	\$135,000
High Need	\$25,000	9	\$225,000
Average			\$180,000
* based on Prairie St. John's and North Homes Family Services			

- **DELTA: \$62,600**

What is a Setting IV Educational Learning Center (ELC)?

SETTING IV IS:

- A public separate school setting
- For students needing the most intensive daily support
- Focused on safety, learning, regulation, and progress
- A placement decision made by the IEP team, with parent participation

SETTING IV IS NOT:

- Discipline
- Punishment
- A placement for every student with an IEP
- A replacement for district-based services
- A loss of district responsibility

Setting IV is for a small number of students who need intensive support throughout the school day.



The Missing Level in the Regional Continuum

A continuum is a range of options, not a path every student travels.



General Education with Supports

High-quality instruction and universal supports in the general education setting.



Resource / Pull-Out Services

Targeted support in or outside the classroom with some individualized instruction.



Separate Classroom / Setting III

Specialized instruction in a separate classroom with increased structure and support.



Setting IV Public Separate School

Intensive, specialized instruction in a separate public school setting for students with significant needs.



Residential

24-hour care and intensive support in a residential setting when needed.



ASEC gap:
no local regional option



Our goal is to strengthen the continuum with local options that meet students' needs close to home.

Why the ELC is Needed Now

Our districts already have the responsibility to:

- Provide FAPE to eligible students
- Maintain access to a continuum of placements
- Implement each student's IEP
- Make individualized placement decisions
- Serve students in the least restrictive appropriate environment

The ELC provides regional capacity to help member districts meet those responsibilities.

The ELC does not create the obligation. It helps us meet the obligation we already have.

What the ASEC ELC Will Provide

An ASEC center for specialized programming, shared expertise, and coordinated support



Setting IV Specialized Instruction

A public school option for students with the most intensive daily support needs



Autism Program

Structured routines, sensory supports, communication support, and regulation-focused instruction



Transition Program

Employment skills, independent living, community access, and life skills for ages 18–22



Early Intervention / Home Visiting

Family-centered developmental support for young learners and families



ASEC Staff + Service Hub

Shared staff, training, consultation, and coordination for member districts



The ELC strengthens the full regional continuum, not just one program area.

COSTS

Assumes: Build New and No Dollars Set Aside For Land Purchase										
Maximum \$65/APU Project Allocated Based on District Enrollment										
29-Year \$5,977,293 Project Using Lease Levy COP										
District #	District Name	% Allocation Based on District APU	COP Payment	Average Home Value	Annual Tax Impact from Lease Levy	Ag HMSTD Value	Annual Tax Impact from Lease Levy	Payments Made From Lease Levy (\$65 /APU)	Payments Made From Lease Levy (\$212 /APU)	Net Available Lease Levy (\$65/APU)
		10.42%	44,892.19	154,727	2.37	960,000	9.31	44,892.19	0.00	620.81
		2.62%	11,271.13	129,034	2.31	960,000	11.81	11,271.13	0.00	155.87
595	EAST GRAND FORKS	33.64%	144,934.70	285,552	20.79	960,000	37.68	144,934.70	0.00	2,004.30
		7.29%	31,402.73	262,996	7.18	960,000	14.35	31,402.73	0.00	434.27
		3.46%	14,925.59	221,065	4.59	960,000	11.33	14,925.59	0.00	206.41
		9.07%	39,054.66	187,281	7.88	960,000	24.00	39,054.66	0.00	540.09
		4.86%	20,952.25	141,916	1.75	960,000	7.78	20,952.25	0.00	289.75
		6.63%	28,568.92	175,922	9.79	960,000	32.35	28,568.92	0.00	395.08
		4.70%	20,247.00	160,120	1.61	960,000	6.05	20,247.00	0.00	280.00
		9.67%	41,673.70	163,822	3.27	960,000	11.90	41,673.70	0.00	576.30
		7.64%	32,893.37	248,210	7.17	960,000	15.36	32,893.37	0.00	454.88
TOTAL / AVERAGE		100.00%	430,816.25	193,695	5.40	960,000	16.54	430,816.25	0.00	5,957.75

MMB: \$6,500,000
 Financing: \$5,977,293
 Total Construction: \$12,477,293



#WeAreASEC

Mission: Resources Invested in Children

