



Board of Education

TO: Board of Education
FROM: Sherri Massa, Director of Student Services
DATE: November 7, 2024
RE: Participation in SASSED Coop

This memo is:

- Information only.
- Information with a recommendation, and a request for Board approval by vote.

Date by which a Board decision is needed: November 21, 2024

Previous memos on this topic can be found:

- in previous Board packet(s) dated.
- or attached to this memo

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| Basic Information: |
| Recently a board member requested information about our participation in SASSED and whether or not we have considered other coops. This information is to open the discussion about SASSED and consider a full evaluation of surrounding co-ops. |
| Background/Historical Context: |
| West Chicago District 33 is a member of SASSED, School Association for Special Education in Dupage County. We have been a member of SASSED for at least 40 years. SASSED was incorporated in 1981, records show that District 33 was part of SASSED as early as 1982. It looks SASSED has 18 member districts across DuPage County and includes elementary and high school districts. Special education cooperatives provide a variety of services to its member districts and their communities. These services range from shared personnel between districts, access to specialized equipment or therapies, coordination with outside service providers, and assisting districts by developing professional development. Additionally, the cooperative assists member districts in providing resources to support the social-emotional needs of their students by providing training on positive behavior interventions and supports (PBIS), engaging in mental health initiatives, and addressing social issues in the community. Special education joint agreements are established by multiple Illinois school districts in order to provide optimal special education services. These agreements, mandated by the 105 ILCS 5/10-22.31 and the Illinois School Code, 2012, p.297, cover all aspects of special education, ranging from necessary facilities to professional staff members and more. |
| Considerations related to this topic: |
| How we access SASSED supports (The Pros of SASSED) |

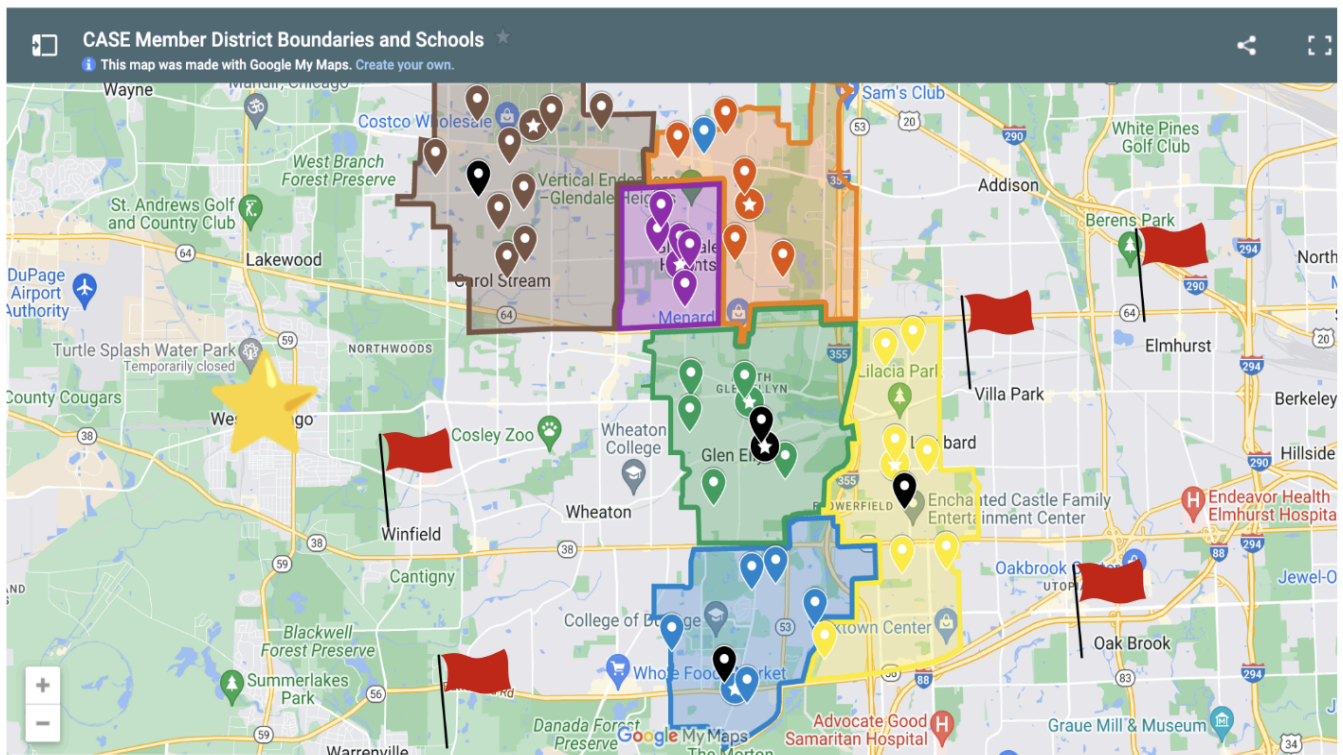
We contract with SASED to provide

- Occupational and Physical Therapy
- Hearing and Vision services
- Assistive Technology evaluations
- Occupational and Mobility services
- Professional Development for related services
- School Improvement support planning and professional development
- SASED also serves as our external coach for PBIS and attends our monthly Assistant Principal meetings
- We currently have 10 district students in SASED programs
 - Deaf and Hard of Hearing
 - Multi-Needs/Medically Fragile students
 - Significant Autism
 - Emotional supports

Difficulties with SASED (The Cons of SASED):

- Our students who attend SASED programs travel 45-60 minutes each way to get to school each day
- SASED is split by another co-op, CASE
- We drive through CASE districts to get to SASED schools
- SASED is too large to find systems (online IEP management) that work for all districts
- No support for Adaptive Physical Education
- No resources for Music Therapy
- Expensive and charge for upkeep and renovation of SASED buildings

In the map below you will see the Yellow Star (District 33) the colored spaces in the middle are the districts that at part of CASE. The Red Flags indicate the districts/communities that are part of SASED.



Recommendations:

SASED continues to be a great resource for D33. We utilize SASED for many of our low-incident populations and we have a good relationship with member districts. Feeder schools to WCCHS are members of SASED. With the exception of our feeder schools, CASE is a closer Co-op. They do not offer alternative schools, however, they do offer some of the other supports we are looking for such as music therapy and Adapted PE. The recommendation to the board is to further investigate the CASE co-op and bring more information in January comparing SASED and CASE.