

**August 11, 2025**

## **Letter of Cooperation**

### **Between Rock Ridge Public Schools and Hibbing Public Schools**

For State-Approved Alternative Programming

This Letter of Cooperation is entered into by and between Rock Ridge Public Schools, ISD #2909 and Hibbing Public Schools, ISD #701 to establish a collaborative arrangement for the creation and operation of an Area Learning Center (ALC) under Minnesota Statutes, sections 123A.05 and 123A.06 starting in the 26-27 school year.

### **Purpose**

The purpose of this agreement is to provide eligible students from both districts with access to State-Approved Alternative Program (SAAP) services consistent with Minnesota law, ensuring that no student who meets the statutory eligibility criteria under Minnesota Statutes, section 124D.68 (Graduation Incentives Program) will be denied access to either district's program.

### **Independent Operations**

Both districts agree to:

1. Operate independent ALC programs that are educationally and financially separate, in accordance with Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) approval requirements.
2. Maintain independent budgets, staffing, curriculum, and program oversight while coordinating on enrollment procedures to ensure student access.
3. Meet all requirements for SAAPs, including year-round programming, appropriately licensed instructional staff, and an annually updated Continual Learning Plan (CLP) for each enrolled student, as outlined in Minnesota Statutes, section 124D.128.

### **Mutual Access to Services**

- Students from either district who meet the statutory eligibility criteria for ALC services will be allowed to enroll in the other district's ALC program if it meets their academic needs and/or if space or services are not available in their resident district.
- Admission will follow Minnesota's student choice provisions for SAAPs, ensuring equitable access for qualifying students, including those receiving special education or English learner services, as required by Minnesota Statutes, section 123A.06, subdivision 2.

**Transportation**

- Each district will be responsible for its own student transportation within its boundaries.
- Transportation will not be provided between districts for students attending the other district's ALC program under this agreement. Families will be responsible for arranging transportation in such cases.

**Compliance**


Both districts agree to:

- Comply with all applicable Minnesota statutes, MDE SAAP program requirements, and reporting procedures.
- Ensure that each program meets the definition and operational requirements of an ALC under Minnesota Statutes, section 123A.05, including serving secondary students during the core school day and providing programming throughout the calendar year.

**Term of Agreement**

This agreement shall remain in effect from the date of execution and shall automatically renew unless either party provides written notice of termination by October 1st of for the following year. Program administrators will meet twice a year to ensure compliance and continued program improvement.

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Superintendent  
Dr. Noel Schmidt  
Rock Ridge Public Schools, ISD #2909  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Superintendent  
Richard B. Aldrich  
Hibbing Public Schools, ISD #701  
Date: 9/10/25