Cloquet Public Schools
Regular Meeting

Monday, February 9, 2026 at 6:00 PM
Garfield Board Room
302 14th Street
Cloquet, MN 55720
302 - 14th Street, Cloquet, MN

5:30 pm ***Working Session***

NLA Facility Presentation - Barb Mackey and Billie Jo Steen
CACR Presentation - Bekki Morrison
Student Phone Use Policy - Chris Swanson, Jason & Audra Richardson

6:00 pm ***Regular Meeting***

I. **Roll Call**
II. **Pledge of Allegiance**
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d. 3 hrs./day Food Service Float District Wide (Carol Steele) 23
3. ***Extra Service Contracts***
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b. Softball Volunteer (Brooke Lee) 25
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a. 3 hrs./day District FS Float to 3.25 hrs./day at Washington Elementary (Steve Maio) 26
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1. Budget
2. Transportation Bid Opening

XII. **Consider Moving to Closed Session: Discuss Allegations Against an Employee**

XIII. **For Your Information**

1. Thank You to the Art Students and Teachers for New Artwork in the Boardroom
2. Washington Elementary's February Newsletter 48

XIV. **Upcoming Meetings/Events**

1. Tuesday, February 10, 2026 - DAC Meeting - Boardroom - 4 p.m.
2. February 20, 2026 - Special Olympics Unified Champion School Celebration - CHS Gym - 2:45 p.m. 50
3. Monday, February 23, 2026 - School Board Meeting - Boardroom
   5:30 p.m. Working Session, 6:00 p.m. Regular Meeting
4. Wednesday, February 25, 2026 - Equity Committee Meeting - Washington - 4 p.m.

XV. **Adjournment**

* If any one board member wishes to remove an item from the consent agenda for discussion, that item should be added to the board meeting agenda prior to its approval.

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January 26, 2026
Board Chair, L. Butler called the working session to order at 5:30 p.m.
Topics discussed:
Christa Zirbes, CESO, presented proposed business office changes and answered questions. Dr. Marcia Nelson, discussed the proposed trip with CAAEP leadership students in June 2026 and answered questions. Dr. Cary reviewed the agenda. He gave an update on transportation meeting and RFP and NLA facility project vote at the next meeting. There being nothing further to discuss, Board Chair, L. Butler adjourned the meeting at 5:58 p.m.

January 26, 2026
The Regular Meeting of the School Board of Independent School District No. 94, in the City of Cloquet on January 26, 2026, was called to order by Board Chair L. Butler at 6:00 p.m.

Roll Call – The following members were present on roll call:

- LeAnn Butler
- Nichole Diver
- Gary Huard
- Melissa Juntunen

Present in Person:

- Dr. Michael Cary, Superintendent
- Mary Marciniak, Exec. Asst. to Superintendent
- Brock Wilton, Buildings and Ground Director
- Candace Nelis, Business Manager
- Erin Bates, Community Ed Director
- Adrienne Strickland, District Accountant
- Kevin Huseth, EM-C Teacher Rep.
- Jana Peterson, Pine Knot Newspaper Rep.
- Macklin Caruso, Pine Journal Newspaper Rep.

Building principals, teacher representatives, AIE Director, Community Education Director, District Facilities & Grounds Director will be excused from attending Board meetings until further notice.

APPROVAL OF BOARD AGENDA

- RESOLVED by G. Huard to approve the January 26, 2026, Regular Meeting Agenda, as presented. N. Diver seconded the motion, and the resolution was approved by unanimous yea vote of all members present on roll call.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

- RESOLVED by L. Butler to approve the January 12, 2026, Organizational and Regular Meeting Minutes, as presented. G. Huard seconded the motion, and the resolution was approved by unanimous yea vote of all members present on roll call.

OPEN FORUM AND RECEPTION OF DELEGATIONS, PETITIONS, AND COMMUNICATIONS

- No public comment. Department reports were reviewed. C. Nelis, Business Manager, reviewed year end projects and 2026-2027 preliminary budget process. B. Wilton, Building & Grounds Director, gave update on projects and upcoming bids.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF CLAIMS

- RESOLVED by N. Diver to approve Claims: January 22, 2026; Wire Transfers: November 23, December 2 & 15, 2025, January 5, 15 & 21, 2026; Food Service Report: December 2025, as presented. L. Butler seconded the motion, and the resolution was approved by unanimous yea vote of all members present on roll call.

CONSENT ITEMS

- RESOLVED by L. Butler to approve the Consent Items, as presented. Discussion was held on spring coaches. AD will be asked to present budgets with business manager at February meeting.

1. Recommendations of Employment:

	NAME	POSITION/LOCATION	SALARY**	START DATE
a.	Jodi Lorenz	1.0 FTE LT Substitute 6th Grade Teacher at CMS	BA 6 after 30d	4/1/26
b.	Alexa Fischer	1.0 FTE 3rd Grade Teacher	MA 1 after 30d	Approx. 2/17/26
c.	Adriana Escamilla	6.5 hrs./day Paraprofessional at CAAEP	Step 1	1/27/26

d.	Marie Borchardt	25 hrs./week ECSE Paraprofessional	Step 1	1/27/26
e.	Sierra Setterquist	Program Assistant at Kids Corner	$16.49/hr.	1/27/26
f.	Katie Swanson	Program Assistant at Li'l Lumberjacks	$16.49/hr.	1/27/26
g.	Lindsay Smith	Homebound Teacher at CHS (6 hrs./week)	$35.55/hr.	1/20/26

2. Extra Services Contracts

a. Spring Coaches
b. Spring Activity Funded Coaches

c.	Dave Esse	Girl's Basketball Weight Room Supervision	$1,000.00
d.	Jedd Anich	Activity Paid Boys Hockey Coach	$1,500.00
e.	Andy Acers	Activity Paid Boys Hockey Coach	$1,500.00

3. Staffing Adjustment

a.	Jessica Loons	5 hrs./day to 8 hrs./day and 230 days/year to 260 days/year District Receptionist
b.	Christina Bagne	5 hrs./day to 6.75 hrs./day ECSE Paraprofessional
c.	Amy Wirtanen	3.25 hrs./day to 5 hrs./day Food Service Worker at Washington
d.	Gina Tondryk	3.5 hrs./day at CMS to 5 hrs./day Food Service at Churchill

4. Other

a. Cody Salo Rescind Asst. Wrestling Coach Contract (activity funded)

- N. Diver seconded the motion, and the resolution was approved by unanimous yea vote of all members present on roll call.

SCHOOL BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Closed Session Report from January 12, 2026, Regarding Allegations Against an Individual Subject to the Board's Authority.
- Student enrollment from January 21, 2026, was reviewed.

AGENDA ADDENDUMS

- None

NEW BUSINESS

- RESOLVED by M. Juntunen to approve the 2026-2027 ECFE and school readiness tuition changes, as presented. L. Butler seconded the motion, and the resolution was approved by unanimous yea vote of all members present on roll call.
- RESOLVED by L. Butler to approve the 2026-2027 Community Education Agreement with the City of Cloquet, as presented. G. Huard seconded the motion, and the resolution was approved by unanimous yea vote of all members present on roll call.
- RESOLVED by M. Juntunen to approve the FY'26 pay equity report, as presented. L. Butler seconded the motion, and the resolution was approved by unanimous yea vote of all members present on roll call.
- RESOLVED by L. Butler to approve the request for an out of state trip to Cumberland Island National Seashore with CAAEP leadership students in June 2026, as presented. N. Diver seconded the motion, and the resolution was approved by unanimous yea vote of all members present on roll call.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

- Dr. Cary covered most items in the working session. He brought up the option to raise activity fees to help offset costs.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

- District Wellness Policy Committee meeting summary January 13, 2026

UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS

- School Counselor Appreciation Week - February 2-6, 2026
- Monday, February 9, 2026 - School Board Meeting - Boardroom
  5:30 p.m. CACR Presentation & Working Session, 6:00 p.m. Regular Meeting
- Tuesday, February 10, 2026 - DAC Meeting - Boardroom - 4 p.m.

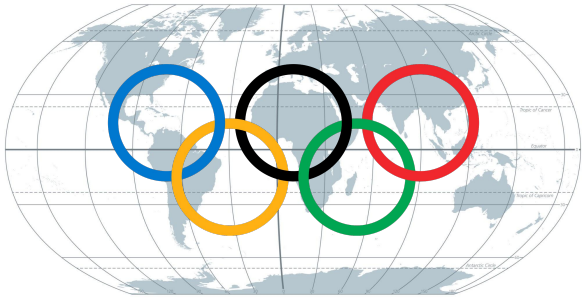
ADJOURNMENT

There being nothing further to discuss, Board Chair L. Butler adjourned the meeting at 6:28 p.m.

ATTEST:

_____
Clerk of the School Board

_____
Chair of the School Board



I Love to Read Month 2026

Go for the Gold,
Read Your World

Olympics Winter Games: Feb. 6th - 22nd
Paralympic Winter Games: March 6th - 25th

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1	2	3 Book Break (2nd-3rd)	4	5	6 Kid Heart Challenge; USA Colors Day
8	9 Read My Shirt Day	10 Favorite Book Character or Olympian Day	11 Cozy Up with a Book Day	12 Bookmark Creation Day	13 "Red" a good book lately? day
15 Read with a Buddy Week	16 No School	17 100th Day of School!	18 Book Break (K-1st)	19	20
22 Drop Everything and Read Week	23	24 Conferences; SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR	25 Book Break (4th)	26 Conferences; SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR	27 Conferences & Prof. Day; SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR

Optional Activities

- Read with a Buddy Week: Partner read with another class
- Make a poster of your favorite book - put it in the hall
- Olympics books: Library & Epic

Month Long Activities

- Read Your World: Listen to a book about a different country
- Earn a gold medal for your class goal
- Book Break - virtual author visits one for each grade level
- Kindness Book - SAT

Spirit Week Activities

- 6th - Wear read, white, & blue; Olympics start today!
- 9th - Wear a shirt with words
- 10th - Dress up as your favorite book character or Olympian
- 11th - Cozy - according to your teacher
- 12th - Create a bookmark to give away at the library checkout desk
- 13th - Wear Red, pink, or white for Valentines day and I Love to Read Month

All the Details Document Here

Department Reports

Churchill Elementary:

- Churchill celebrated many of our students who are respectful, kind, work hard, and show belonging by walking through the halls with signs and having the students in classrooms along the walls cheering them on. It was a proud moment for all involved.
- AIE Department hosted a Biboon (Winter) Carnival at Churchill on Feb. 7. Many students enjoyed the time with family and friends.
- This week in P.E. students will participate in the Kids Heart Challenge
- Third graders will take part in a sledding and skating celebration this week
- Feb. 18 all fourth grade students will participate in a Kindness Retreat. Churchill and Washington will come together off site. This is a high energy experience that will enhance self-awareness, empathy and connectedness.

Submitted by Jenny Holm, Churchill Elementary Principal

Washington Elementary:

- I Love to Read Month (attached)
- Black History Month
- Book Breaks with each grade (virtual author visits)
- Kids Heart Challenge for the American Heart Association 2/6
- Conferences coming up at the end of the month – sign-ups will open to families on 2/10
- Week the 9th – spirit/dress up days each day
- 4th grade Kindness Retreat on 2/18 (combined Washington and Churchill at the Fond du Lac Community Center and made possibly through the generosity of CEF)
- 3rd grade Planetarium field trip 2/19
- Music – we received a grant for ukuleles from CEF and are excited to integrate them into instruction. Our 4th grade recorder unit is underway as well!
- UNIFIED February focus on learning disabilities

Submitted by Robbi Mondati, Washington Elementary Principal

Cloquet Middle School:

Student Life & Outdoor Recess



With the arrival of warmer weather, it has been wonderful to see the large smiles and excitement from CMS students as they are once again able to enjoy our outdoor spaces. After a long stretch of freezing days, students were eager to burn off energy outside. It is always a challenge to decide to stay indoors when temperatures are unsafe, so it was gratifying to see how much students appreciated finally being able to head outdoors again.

Staff Professional Learning – Gathering of Great Minds

On January 26, 2026, all CMS staff attended the **Gathering of Great Minds** training in Esko. This event provided an excellent opportunity for educators across the region to connect, learn collaboratively, and strengthen district-to-district support networks.

We are thankful to be part of such a strong professional community and proud of the outstanding staff team at Cloquet Middle School and throughout ISD 94.

MathCounts Competition

We would like to wish the following students the best of luck as they represent CMS at the **MathCounts competition at UMD** on Monday, February 2:

- Dominic Mondati
- Phineas Simon
- Colton Grussendorf
- Simon Rock

We are proud of their dedication to mathematics and academic excellence.

CMS Library & Upcoming Book Fair

The CMS Library is looking forward to hosting the **Book Fair during conferences**, organized by Rachel Hill and Pam Line. This event is the largest fundraiser supporting our school library.

The CMS Library currently has approximately **14,000 books** available for student checkout. New titles are regularly added to keep selections current while maintaining beloved favorites. As many know, middle school students can be a little hard on paperback books. 😉

The library team will also be sharing the top checkout titles from last year as part of the Book Fair excitement.

Upcoming CMS Dates & Events

- **2.03.26** – Fun Afternoon (5th & 6th Grade Only), 3:30–5:00 PM
- **2.06.26** – 8th Grade Registration (CHS Media Center), All Day
- **2.07.26** – Science Fair
- **2.09.26** – 6th Grade TRIO, 8:45 AM–12:15 PM
- **2.10.26** – Regional Spelling Bee (Mt. Iron)
- **2.26.26** – 6th Grade Ski Trip (Spirit Mountain)
- **3.02.26** – Choir Concert
- **3.05.26** – Math Masters (5th & 6th Grade)
- **3.11.26** – FDL Career Fair (8th Grade)

MCA Testing Window

- **4.07–4.08.26** – MCA Reading (Grades 5–8)
- **4.21–4.22.26** – MCA Math (Grades 5–8)
- **4.28–4.29.26** – MCA Science (Grades 5 & 8 Only)

Spring Events

- **4.17.26** – 5th Grade Math Masters Competition

- **4.23.26** – Fun Afternoon (7th & 8th Grade Only), 3:30–5:00 PM
- **4.27.26** – Author Visit: Margi Preus, 1:00 PM
- **5.11.26** – Band Concert (Grades 6–8)
- **5.18.26** – Choir Concert
- **5.19.26** – 5th Grade Battle of the Books
- **5.20.26** – 6th Grade Twins Trip
- **5.21.26** – Lake Country Power Presentation (5th Grade)
- **5.26.26** – School Patrol Field Trip
- **5.27.26** – 7th Grade Duluth Day / WOW & Skyline / Awards
- **5.28.26** – 8th Grade Valley Fair Trip
- **5.28.26** – 5th Grade Premiere Theater Trip

Submitted by Thomas Brenner, Cloquet Middle School Principal

Cloquet High School:

- This week we've been getting students registered for the 26-27 school year.
- Our registration manual includes over 100 College-in-the Schools credits and numerous career pathway options.
- Winter sports are entering the last month of competition – girls hockey playoffs are up this week.
- We have 3 alpine skiers headed to state. Cross Country Skiing sections are today.
- Our choir program has grown so much that we've been working on finding a solution for our concerts – seating capacity has become an issue. We'll roll out our plan soon. This is a good problem to have!
- Our Sped and Intervention teams are doing great work around literacy screening and delivering the necessary interventions.

Submitted by Steve Battaglia, Cloquet High School Principal

Cloquet Area Alternative Education Programs:

Last week (end of January) I was able to take part in the Minnesota Association of Secondary School Principals (MASSP) Conference in Minneapolis, along with our other secondary principals, and this week, two of my teachers were able to attend the Minnesota Association of Alternative Programs Spring Conference, held in Duluth. MASSP has done a great job of highlighting alternative education at their spring and summer conferences in the past few years, and MAAP is always a great place for teachers to go to find inspiration for creative teaching and programs. It is a goal of mine to enhance the "alternative" in our alternative education program to give our students more opportunities to learn in a nontraditional fashion. Finding inspiration from other Minnesota schools is a great place to start!

Our student council is busy planning for an end of year activity for the whole school. They do not want to host a prom, but they have several ideas for activities for an all-school activity and how to raise money for it. They are talking about time at the aquarium together, or taking the pizza train up the north shore.

We are still in the early stages of the third quarter of the school year, and are hiring a few new paraprofessionals and getting things rolling. We have a new English class studying the legacy of the Olympics, and of course the Aquatics class that is ongoing throughout the year and an award-winning alternative ed course. We are planning

a second year of Ice Fishing as a credit Recovery course in February with the DNR, and hopefully some fishing pros from Striker Premium Fishing.

We are happy it's not so cold out anymore, that spring feels like it might be on its way, and that CAAEP now has hot breakfast, and school lunches are remarkably improved!

Submitted by Dr. Marcia Nelson, CAAEP Principal

Community Education

- **Early Childhood Screening** will be held **February 17–19, 2026**, supporting early identification and school readiness for young learners.
- Several of our programs, including **Early Childhood, After School Enrichment, and Adults with Disabilities**, will incorporate **heart-themed crafts, activities, and events throughout the month of February,** offering engaging and inclusive experiences for participants of all ages.
- We also have partnered with the **Cloquet Public Library** to offer **"I Love to Read" events in February**, featuring age-appropriate literacy activities, hands-on play, and opportunities for families to connect.

Submitted by Erin Bates, Community Education Director

Business Department:

The Business office has been busy with wrapping up the calendar year end reports and 1095's. I just started working on the 2026-2027 preliminary budget and have been meeting with the board subcommittee about student enrollment projections for next year. Dr. Cary and I are digging into what is happening with enrollment so we can come to the board with a good projection and a good budget to work off. I have also been working on a revised 2025-2026 budget to bring back to the board to give another update on where we are at before the end of the year. It is right around the corner.

Submitted by Candace Nelis, Business Manager

American Indian Education Department:
Greetings School Board Members,

The American Indian Education (AIE) Program hosts three seasonal family events throughout the school year. In Dagwaagin (Fall), we held our Pie Bingo at CHS, and in Ziigwan (Spring) we will host our Powwow. Our third event, the Biboon (Winter) Carnival, was held at Churchill on Thursday, February 5. Families enjoyed sledding, skating, and storytelling, along with a shared meal. Face painting, hot cocoa, and musical chairs added to an evening full of fun and connection.

Makoons Club is returning to two days a week. January's back-to-back Monday PD days left Makoons programing without servicing our Washington participants since the 12th. We are happy to bring them back this week full of hands-on activities and a new book that was just released called "The Little People and the water of Life" by Ronda J. Snow, a member of Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Ojibwe.

Upcoming in February is our AIPAC meeting Feb. 18th with the MDE Compliance Documents on the Agenda & regular JOM/LIEC meetings scheduled for Feb. 25th. Times and locations will be listed on the AIE website.

Submitted by Teresa Angell, American Indian Education
Building and Grounds:

Brock Wilton, Director of Building and Grounds, will be attending in person.

Cloquet Public Schools
Detail Payment Register By Check
Fund Summary

Fund	Description	Total
01	General	$7,596.25
03	Transportation	$144,994.96
12	Activities	$150.00
Report Total		**$152,741.21**

Cloquet Public Schools

Check Register by Bank and Check

Check Number: 0-2147483647 Payment Date: 1/28/2026-1/31/2026 Period: 0-99999999

Batch	Bank	Pymt No	Check No	Pay Type	Grp	Code	Rcd	Vendor	Print	Recon	Void	Pmt/Void Date	Amount
	2	109621	29397	Check	1	11138		BCH LANDSCAPING LLC	Yes	No	No	01/28/2026	2,610.00
		109625	29398	Check	1	9452		CARY, MICHAEL	Yes	No	No	01/28/2026	29.00
		109620	29399	Check	1	11051		CLOQUET TRANSIT CO	Yes	No	No	01/28/2026	144,994.96
		109623	29400	Check	1	11550		COMMUNITY PRINTING	Yes	No	No	01/28/2026	2,007.25
		109622	29401	Check	1	11435		NORTHERN EXPOSURE ART LLC	Yes	No	No	01/28/2026	600.00
		109619	29402	Check	1	10302		PETTY CASH ATTN: CANDACE NELIS	Yes	No	No	01/28/2026	150.00
		109626	29403	Check	1	9816		REGION 7A	Yes	No	No	01/28/2026	400.00
		109624	29404	Check	1	2960		STEVENS, CRAIG	Yes	No	No	01/28/2026	1,950.00
								Bank Total: 2					$152,741.21
								Report Total:					$152,741.21

Cloquet School District
Treasurer's Report
8/31/2025

General Ledger Cash Balance

Beginning Balance	**7/31/2025**	**($565,056.39)**
Vouchers Paid:		($1,617,580.85) (A)
Deposits:		$5,558,513.56 (B)
Journal Entries:		($495,298.17) (C)
Payroll:		($2,241,393.83) (D)
Ending Balance	**8/31/2025**	**$639,184.32**

Bank Balances (Accounts that tie to Cash in the GL)

MSDLAF	CHS	$670,405.57
US Bank Clearing Account	CHS	$0.00
MSDLAF	CMS	$119,403.98
US Bank Clearing Account	CMS	$0.00
MSDLAF	Flex	$16,701.25
US Bank Clearing Account	Flex	$0.00
MSDLAF Liquid Asset	General	$556,117.20
US Bank Disbursements	General	$0.00
US Bank Clearing Account	General	$35,148.09
Total of Accounts that Close to Cash		**$1,397,776.09**

Bank Reconciliation

Bank Balance	$1,397,776.09
Deposits Outstanding	$1,226.50
Accounts Payable Checks Outstanding	($236,889.38)
Accounts Payable Wires Outstanding	$0.00
Payroll Checks Outstanding	($2,225.82)
Third Party Payroll Wires Outstanding	($17,685.37)
Adjustments at the Bank but not in SMART	$50.00
Adjustments in SMART but not at the Bank	($503,067.70)
Adjustment for Clearing Differences	$0.00
General Ledger Cash Balance 8/31/2025	**$639,184.32**

INVESTMENTS
2025-2026 - FISCAL YEAR

DATE: AUGUST 2025

INVESTMENT	INTEREST RATE	BANK	MATURITY DATE	INTEREST TO BE EARNED	MONTHLY INTEREST
$ 2,904.78	0.00%	Ehler's Investment Partners-Debt Servi		$ -	$ -
$ 1,743,682.78		Ehler's Investment Partners		$ -	$ 259.12
$ 7,834,057.62	2.14%	MSD MAX		DAILY	$ 24,766.41
	SUB TOTAL LIQUID ASSET FUNDS & AMERITRADE				
$ 722,164.97	1.85%	MN TRUST			$ 7.75
$ 10,302,810.15	- TOTAL INVESTMENT VALUE				$ 25,033.28
		CHECKING ACCOUNT/MSDLAF LIQUID CLASS INTEREST & FEES			$ 913.34
		TOTAL MONTHLY INTEREST			$ 25,946.62

YTD TOTAL INTEREST AS OF 8/31/25 $ 54,690.37

$ 67,100.00 2025-2026 BUDGET

2024-2025 - FISCAL YEAR

$ 13,694,457.53 - TOTAL INVESTMENT VALUE 8/31/2024

$ 69,872.34 - TOTAL INTEREST EARNED LAST YEAR THRU THIS MONTH

$ 230,846.07 - TOTAL INTEREST EARNED FOR FISCAL YR 2024-2025

INVESTMENTS: FUND 06 CONSTRUCTION
2025-2026 - FISCAL YEAR

DATE: AUGUST 2025

INVESTMENT	INTEREST RATE	BANK		MATURITY DATE	INTEREST TO BE EARNED	MONTHLY INTEREST
$ -	0.00%	MN TRUST	CD		$ -	$ -
$ -	0.00%	MN TRUST	CD		$ -	
$ -	0.00%	MN TRUST	TS		$ -	$ -
$ -	0.00%	MN TRUST	TS		$ -	$ -
$ -		MN TRUST	SDA			$ -
$ -	0.00%	MN TRUST	SEC/DTC			
$ 41,532.66	0.07%	MN TRUST		Dividend Reinvest / Bank Fee		$ 147.65
		MN TRUST		Trade Int-Security Sale/DTC Maturity		$ -
$ 5,843,799.26		EHLERS / Ameritrade				$ 20,993.86

$ 5,885,331.92 - TOTAL CONSTRUCITON FUND INVESTMENT VALUE

TOTAL MONTHLY INTEREST $ 21,141.51

YTD TOTAL INTEREST AS OF 8/31/24 $ 37,473.50

$ 2,500.00 2025-2026 BUDGET

2024-2025 - FISCAL YEAR

$ 938,367.15 - TOTAL INVESTMENT VALUE 8/31/2024

$ 15,226.41 - TOTAL INTEREST EARNED LAST YEAR THRU THIS MONTH

$ 46,406.18 - TOTAL INTEREST EARNED FOR FISCAL YR 2024-2025

INVESTMENTS: FUND 45 OPEB
2025-2026 - FISCAL YEAR

DATE: **AUGUST 2025**

INVESTMENT	INTEREST RATE	BANK		MATURITY DATE	INTEREST TO BE EARNED	MONTHLY INTEREST
$ 1,674,196.60	0.07%	MN TRUST	CD	8/31/2020	$ 9,178.54	$ -
$ -	2.75%	MN TRUST	CD	9/28/2020	$ 23,382.45	$ -
$ 379,016.84	2.74%	MN TRUST	CD	9/28/2020	$ 8,906.01	$ -
$ -	1.98%	MN TRUST	CD	10/1/2020	$ 10,480.15	$ -
$ -	2.28%	MN TRUST	CD	10/1/2020	$ 8,245.83	$ -
$ -	1.86%	MN TRUST	CD	10/16/2020	$ 26,217.16	$ -
$ -	3.36%	MN TRUST	CD	12/7/2020	$ 13,351.61	$ -
$ -	3.04%	MN TRUST	CD	1/28/2021	$ 15,762.88	$ -
		MN TRUST		Dividend Reinvest / Bank Fee		$ 5,565.53
		MN TRUST		Trade Interest-Security Sale / DTC		$ -
$ 2,771,042.72		ASSOCIATED BANK		Dividend / BankFee / Interest		$ 4,086.58

$ 4,824,256.16 - TOTAL INVESTMENT VALUE

TOTAL MONTHLY INTEREST $ 9,652.11

YTD TOTAL INTEREST AS OF 8/31/25 $ 45,178.64

$ 2,500.00 2025-2026 BUDGET

2024-2025 - FISCAL YEAR

$ 4,062,855.74 - TOTAL INVESTMENT VALUE 8/31/2024

$ 4,914.33 - TOTAL INTEREST EARNED LAST YEAR THRU THIS MONTH

$ 224,305.49 - TOTAL INTEREST EARNED FOR FISCAL YR 2024-2025

Marcia A. Bauman
Mathematics Teacher
4220 Lake Road 2, 780
Moose Lake, MN 55767
marciabaumanbhh@gmail.com
(763) 439-2050

Mr. Steve Battaglia
Principal
Cloquet High School
1000 18th Street
Cloquet, MN 55720
(218) 879-3393

January 28, 2026

Dear Mr. Battaglia,

Please accept this letter as my formal notice of resignation from the position of teaching high school mathematics. My last day of work will be June 3rd, 2026, the end of the 2025-2026 school year.

Being a teacher at Cloquet High School for the past four years has been a privilege and I am grateful for the opportunity. The staff, especially the math department, are exceptional. They are both professional and extremely supportive. Your administration provides ample opportunity for planning and professional growth, which is greatly appreciated. Filling the role as an intervention teacher this last year has been particularly rewarding. It was an excellent way to end my teaching career.

I can be reached at my personal phone number, or email address, should you need to contact me after the conclusion of the school year.

Sincerely,

Marcia A. Bauman

Marcia A. Bauman
Mathematics Teacher

CLOQUET PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Independent School District No. 94
Cloquet, Minnesota 55720

Central Administration
302 14th Street • 218-879-6721 • FAX-879-6724
Cloquet Senior High School
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Cloquet Middle School
2001 Washington Avenue • 218-879-3328 • FAX-879-4175
Churchill Elementary School
515 Granite Street • 218-879-3308 • FAX-879-7034
Washington Elementary School
801 12th Street • 218-879-3369 • FAX-879-3360
Community Education
2001 Washington Avenue • 218-879-1261 • FAX-878-3013
Cloquet Area Alternative Education Programs
302 14th Street • 218-879-0115 • FAX-879-6941
http://www.isd94.org

MEMORANDUM

TO: Dr. Michael Cary, Superintendent

FROM: Dr. Marcia Nelson, Principal

DATE: 2/3/2026

RE: Recommended Employment: Homebound Teacher(s)

I recommend that we hire the following applicants to split the workload for the 6hr/per week Homebound Teacher Position

NAME	Hours	Pay Rate
Dr. Marcia Nelson	2.5 +.5 prep	$35.55 per hour
Rod Syck	2.5 +.5 prep	$35.55 per hour

MN/aj

Linking school and community to provide life-long learning and success for all.

CLOQUET PUBLIC SCHOOLS
ISD 94 • Cloquet, MN 55720 • www.isd94.org

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Cloquet Area Alternative Education	302 14th St	218.879.0115
Community Education	2001 Washington Ave	218.879.1261

MEMORANDUM

TO: Dr. Michael Cary, Superintendent

FROM: Steve Battaglia, Principal Cloquet Senior High

DATE: February 2, 2026

RE: **ACT Prep Advisory**

I am recommending the employment Rodrick Syck to assist and administer the ACT Prep at the Cloquet High School for the 2025-2026 school year. There will be three (3) days from 9:00am to 4:00pm each day (24/hours).

RATE OF PAY: $38.04

HOURS TO BE WORKED: 24 total hours

STARTING DATE: 03/15/2026

LENGTH OF CONTRACT: 2025-2026 School Year

POSTED: Yes

REASON FOR HIRE: Advisory for ACT Prep – Annual Expense

(Employment is contingent upon Cloquet School Board approval)

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Dr. Michael Cary, Superintendent

FROM: Adam Wooster, Food Service Director

DATE: 1/27/2026

RE: Recommendation for Employment

I am recommending the employment of Hollie Cobb for the 3.5 hour/day Food Service Worker at Cloquet Middle School.

RATE OF PAY:	$19.24 per hour – 3.5 hrs./day
HOURS TO BE WORKED:	3.5 Hours/Day (Monday –Friday)
START DATE:	February 10th, 2026
LENGTH OF CONTRACT:	Ongoing
BUDGETED CURRENT YEAR:	Yes
POSTED:	Posted, internally and externally
RATIONALE FOR HIRE:	Hollie has food service experience and will be a great addition to our team.

(Employment is contingent upon Cloquet School Board approval.)

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http://www.isd94.org

MEMORANDUM

TO: Dr. Michael Cary, Superintendent

FROM: Adam Wooster, Food Service Director

DATE: 2-3-2026

RE: Recommendation for Employment

I am recommending the employment of Carol Steele for the 3.0 hour/day Food Service Worker Float

RATE OF PAY:	$19.24 per hour – 3.0 hrs./day
HOURS TO BE WORKED:	3.0 Hours/Day (Monday –Friday)
START DATE:	2/10/2026
LENGTH OF CONTRACT:	Ongoing
BUDGETED CURRENT YEAR:	Yes
POSTED:	Posted, internally and externally
RATIONALE FOR HIRE:	Carol is a reliable person who is eager to learn new skills and will be a great addition to our team.

(Employment is contingent upon Cloquet School Board approval.)

From the Desk of:

Paul Riess
Activities Director
Cloquet Senior High School
1000 18th Street
Cloquet, MN 55720
Phone: 218-879-3393
Fax: 218-879-6494

To: Mary Marciniak, Superintendent Cary, School Board
From: Paul Riess- Activities Director
Re: Stipend for Trap shooting assistant

Please approve the stipend listed below. This is for an individual who will help with our trap shooting program. With the growing number of students in the trap shooting program the last few years, an assistant seems necessary and beneficial to make sure all safety requirements are met. This stipend in addition to any taxes and benefits are paid out of the activity account so there is no cost to the school district.

Trap Shooting

- James Cotner- $1500.

If anyone has any questions regarding this recommendation, please feel free to call me.

PR

From the Desk of:

Paul Riess
Activities Director
Cloquet Senior High School
1000 18th Street
Cloquet, MN 55720
Phone: 218-879-3393
Fax: 218-879-6494

To: Mary Marciniak, Superintendent Cary, School Board
From: Paul Riess- Activities Director
Re: Softball Volunteer

Please approve the individual listed below. This is for an individual who will help with the softball team

Brooke Lee- volunteer

If anyone has any questions regarding this recommendation, please feel free to call me.

PR

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Dr. Michael Cary, Superintendent

FROM: Adam Wooster, Food Service Director

DATE: January 27, 2026

RE: Staff Adjustment/Transfer

I am requesting to make the following staffing adjustments and transfers effective 2/10/26:

Steve Maio from 3 hrs./day District Floater to 3.25 hrs./day Food Service Worker at Washington Elementary School.

We will be posting for the open 3 hrs./day floater position.

CLOQUET PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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http://www.isd94.org

MEMORANDUM

TO: Cloquet School Board

FROM: Dr. Michael Cary, Superintendent

DATE: February 2, 2026

RE: Staffing Adjustment

It has come to our attention that Sharon Timmerman has been serving in the same paraprofessional position for more than 67 days at Churchill Elementary School. Under PELRA rules, if an employee works more than 67 days in the same position, they become part of that bargaining unit and are entitled to the benefits under that contract. Sharon will be put on the paraprofessional seniority list effective 12/22/25 and will be back paid to that date at the step one rate under contract of $20.01/hour.

(Employment is contingent upon Cloquet School Board approval.)

Cloquet, Minnesota
February 9, 2026

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING DONATIONS

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statutes 123B.02, Subd. 6 provides: "The board may receive, for the benefit of the district, bequests, donations, or gifts for any proper purpose and apply the same to the purpose designated. In that behalf, the board may act as trustee of any trust created for the benefit of the district, or for the benefit of pupils thereof, including trusts created to provide pupils of the district with advanced education after completion of high school, in the advancement of education."; and

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statutes 465.03 provides: "Any city, county, school district or town may accept a grant or devise of real or personal property and maintain such property for the benefit of its citizens in accordance with the terms prescribed by the donor. Nothing herein shall authorize such acceptance or use for religious or sectarian purposes. Every such acceptance shall be by resolution of the governing body adopted by a two-thirds majority of its members, expressing such terms in full."; and

WHEREAS, every such acceptance shall be by resolution of the governing body adopted by a two-thirds majority of its members, expressing such terms in full;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the School Board of Cloquet Schools ISD 94, gratefully accepts the donation of $1,000.00 from Cloquet Moose Club for the purchase of AED.

From: Sarah Ellena
To: Candace Nelis; Brock Wilton; Mary Marciniak
Subject: Donation
Date: Tuesday, January 27, 2026 12:32:54 PM
Attachments: Outlook-y3bnmvfn.png

Hello,

I just received a $1,000 check from the Cloquet Moose Club for AED's. I will interschool the check to Candace and also send a Thank you note. What a wonderful community donation! Is this also something that is listed in the board information? IT would be nice for them to be recognized.

Sarah

Sarah Ellena, RN, PHN, LSN

Cloquet Public Schools District Nurse

Office Phone 218-878-3025

From: Sarah Ellena
To: Brock Wilton; Candace Nelis; Mary Marciniak
Subject: Re: donation
Date: Thursday, January 29, 2026 10:41:51 AM

This donation is from the Eagles club in town. Very generous!

From: Brock Wilton <bwilton@isd94.org>
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2026 10:38 AM
To: Sarah Ellena <sellena@isd94.org>; Candace Nelis <cnelis@isd94.org>; Mary Marciniak <mmarciniak@isd94.org>
Subject: RE: donation

That's awesome!

Brock Wilton
Director of Facilities & Grounds
Cloquet Public Schools
302 14th Street
Cloquet, MN 55720
P: 218-721-7912

From: Sarah Ellena <sellena@isd94.org>
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2026 9:55 AM
To: Brock Wilton <bwilton@isd94.org>; Candace Nelis <cnelis@isd94.org>; Mary Marciniak <mmarciniak@isd94.org>
Subject: Fw: donation

Our community is so amazing!
Another donation ~
Will forward to Candace when received and will send a thank you!

From: Brenda Niemi <bniemi@isd94.org>
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2026 9:50 AM
To: Sarah Ellena <sellena@isd94.org>
Subject: donation

Hi Sarah,

I have a check for $2500 for your donation request. I will send it through school mail. Please sign the form attached to the check and send it back to me through school mail.

Thanks Sarah!

Brenda Niemi
First Grade Teacher
Churchill Elementary
(218)-879-3308 Ext. 4101

Cloquet, Minnesota
February 9, 2026

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING DONATIONS

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statutes 123B.02, Subd. 6 provides: "The board may receive, for the benefit of the district, bequests, donations, or gifts for any proper purpose and apply the same to the purpose designated. In that behalf, the board may act as trustee of any trust created for the benefit of the district, or for the benefit of pupils thereof, including trusts created to provide pupils of the district with advanced education after completion of high school, in the advancement of education."; and

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statutes 465.03 provides: "Any city, county, school district or town may accept a grant or devise of real or personal property and maintain such property for the benefit of its citizens in accordance with the terms prescribed by the donor. Nothing herein shall authorize such acceptance or use for religious or sectarian purposes. Every such acceptance shall be by resolution of the governing body adopted by a two-thirds majority of its members, expressing such terms in full."; and

WHEREAS, every such acceptance shall be by resolution of the governing body adopted by a two-thirds majority of its members, expressing such terms in full;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the School Board of Cloquet Schools ISD 94, gratefully accepts the donation of $2,500.00 from Cloquet Eagles Club for the purchase of AED.

Cloquet, Minnesota
February 9, 2026

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING DONATIONS

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statutes 123B.02, Subd. 6 provides: “The board may receive, for the benefit of the district, bequests, donations, or gifts for any proper purpose and apply the same to the purpose designated. In that behalf, the board may act as trustee of any trust created for the benefit of the district, or for the benefit of pupils thereof, including trusts created to provide pupils of the district with advanced education after completion of high school, in the advancement of education.”; and

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statutes 465.03 provides: “Any city, county, school district or town may accept a grant or devise of real or personal property and maintain such property for the benefit of its citizens in accordance with the terms prescribed by the donor. Nothing herein shall authorize such acceptance or use for religious or sectarian purposes. Every such acceptance shall be by resolution of the governing body adopted by a two-thirds majority of its members, expressing such terms in full.”; and

WHEREAS, every such acceptance shall be by resolution of the governing body adopted by a two-thirds majority of its members, expressing such terms in full;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the School Board of Cloquet Schools ISD 94, gratefully accepts the donation of $2,115.00 to help offset activity fees for students who need financial assistance and $2,490 for health and safety projects from MSHSL Foundation.

CLOQUET
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

From the Desk of:

Paul Riess
Activities Director
Cloquet Senior High School
1000 18th Street
Cloquet, MN 55720
Phone: 218-879-3393
Fax: 218-879-6494

To: Mary Marciniak, Superintendent Cary, School Board
From: Paul Riess- Activities Director
Re: Donation from MSHSL Foundation

Please accept a donation of $2115 from the MSHSL Foundation to be used to help offset activity fees for students who need financial assistance. Please also accept a donation of $2490 from the MSHSL Foundation to be used towards health and safety projects.

If there are any questions, please contact me

PR

CLOQUET PUBLIC SCHOOLS ISD94

2025-2026 Student Enrollment Report

5/30/2025	Dates	9/4	9/18	10/8	10/22	11/5	11/19	12/3	1/7	1/21	2/4									
	CHURCHILL																			
19	Early Five/Dev Kindgarten	11	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12									
61	Kindergarten - All Day	65	61	61	61	61	61	61	61	61	62									
67	First Grade	61	61	61	61	61	61	61	65	64	63									
65	Second Grade	73	73	73	73	72	72	72	72	72	73									
79	Third Grade	72	72	72	71	71	71	71	71	71	71									
55	Fourth Grade	81	81	81	80	80	80	80	81	81	80									
346	**TOTAL CHURCHILL**	363	360	360	358	357	357	357	362	361	361	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	WASHINGTON																			
95	Kindergarten - All Day	88	86	84	83	83	83	83	83	83	82									
102	First Grade	92	91	91	89	87	87	88	88	87	86									
107	Second Grade	99	98	96	95	95	95	94	94	94	94									
105	Third Grade	104	103	102	102	102	101	101	101	101	101									
84	Fourth Grade	108	107	106	105	105	105	105	105	105	107									
493	**TOTAL WASHINGTON**	491	485	479	474	472	471	471	471	470	470	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
839	**TOTAL ELEMENTARY**	**854**	**845**	**839**	**832**	**829**	**828**	**828**	**833**	**831**	**831**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	
	Open Enrollment-Elementary																			
	MIDDLE SCHOOL																			
186	Fifth Grade	145	143	142	141	141	141	141	143	143	143									
181	Sixth Grade	194	194	192	191	191	189	189	187	188	188									
174	Seventh Grade	188	186	184	183	184	184	184	184	183	182									
193	Eighth Grade	183	183	182	182	181	181	182	181	181	181									
734	**TOTAL MIDDLE SCHOOL**	**710**	**706**	**700**	**697**	**697**	**695**	**696**	**695**	**695**	**694**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**
	Open Enrollment-CMS																			
	HIGH SCHOOL																			
184	Ninth Grade	208	208	204	204	193	195	193	194	193	191									
196	Tenth Grade	182	184	182	182	181	181	182	180	182	175									
175	Eleventh Grade	197	198	196	194	191	191	189	188	189	186									
173	Twelfth Grade	179	179	179	178	176	176	176	176	176	171									
728	**TOTAL HIGH SCHOOL**	**766**	**769**	**761**	**758**	**741**	**743**	**740**	**738**	**740**	**723**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**
	Open Enrollment-CHS																			
2301	**TOTAL HK-12**	**2330**	**2320**	**2300**	**2287**	**2267**	**2266**	**2264**	**2266**	**2266**	**2248**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**
	TOTAL OPEN ENROLLMENT	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	CAAEP- FULL-TIME																			
61	High School (grades 9-12)	75	74	70	68	77	75	73	67	71	71									
10	Junior High (grades 6-8)	3	4	4	4	5	6	6	5	7	7									
71	**TOTAL CAAEP-Full-Time**	**78**	**78**	**74**	**72**	**82**	**81**	**79**	**72**	**78**	**78**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**
	**** CAAEP - PART-TIME**																			
	EDHS																			
	Extended Programming																			
	Targeted Services																			
2372	**GRAND TOTAL**	**2408**	**2398**	**2374**	**2359**	**2349**	**2347**	**2343**	**2338**	**2344**	**2326**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**

***12th grade reflects their last day of school**

**** NOT included in totals.**

Member _____ introduced the following:

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING USE OF COOPERATIVE FACILITIES LEVY TO PURSUE STATE MATCHING DOLLARS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF NEW NORTHERN LIGHTS ACADEMY FACILITY

WHEREAS, the School District is a member of the Northern Lights Special Education Cooperative ("NLSEC");

WHEREAS, NLSEC leadership is currently working to secure funding for a planned Northern Lights Academy ("NLA") facility that will serve students with significant needs that cannot be met in the traditional school setting;

WHEREAS, NLA currently operates out of two old buildings which are located five miles apart and were not designed to serve students with significant needs;

WHEREAS, there is insufficient funding available to construct the proposed NLA facility without assistance from the State of Minnesota;

WHEREAS, the School District is willing to consider exercising its authority to levy for lease costs pursuant to Minnesota Statutes section 126C.40, subdivision 1(h) if necessary to enable NLSEC to pursue any financial assistance from the State of Minnesota.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the School Board of Independent School District No. 94 as follows:

1. The School Board is open to exercising its lease levy authority under Minnesota Statutes section 126C.40, subdivision 1(h) in an amount not to exceed $65 times the adjusted pupil units of the District if necessary to assist with pursuing State funding for the construction of the new proposed NLA facility.

2. This Resolution is intended only to be an expression of the School Board's willingness to consider using its lease levy authority under Minnesota Statutes section 126C.40, subdivision 1(h) to assist with the construction of the proposed NLA facility to the extent such a commitment will be helpful in securing any State funding.

3. Nothing in this Resolution shall be construed as a final decision on the School Board's use of its lease levy authority. The School Board reserves the right to reconsider its position on the potential use of its lease levy authority under Minnesota Statutes section 126C.40, subdivision 1(h).

The motion for the adoption of this Resolution was duly seconded by School Board Member _____ and upon a vote being taken, this Resolution was declared duly passed and adopted.

Northern Lights Special Education Cooperative

16 E Hwy. 61 ~ Esko, MN 55733
ph: 218-655-5018 www.nlsec.org

Billie Jo Steen ~ Executive Director

Northern Lights Special Education Cooperative (NLSEC)
Shared Services Among Member Districts

NLSEC districts share the following educational services:

- Positions FTE
  - ➢ Special Education Director 1.0
  - ➢ Business manager 1.0
  - ➢ Administrative assistant 1.0
  - ➢ Secondary transition planning coordinator 1.0
  - ➢ Early childhood coordinator/Child find 1.0
  - ➢ Special education due process coordinators 4.0
  - ➢ Vision teacher 1.0
  - ➢ Autism consultants 2.0
  - ➢ Deaf/hard of hearing teachers 2.0
  - ➢ Educational Audiologist .9
  - ➢ Physical health disability teacher 1.0
  - ➢ SpEd Forms Administrator/MA Coordinator 1.0
  - ➢ Occupational therapists 5.6
  - ➢ Physical therapists 2.6
  - ➢ Work Experience coordinators 2.0

- Services to address goals of the priorities and indicators in the Minnesota Special Education Performance Plan.
- Implementation of federal and state special education mandates.
- Technical assistance to educators, families and community agencies.
- IEP development, assistive technology and Universal Design for Learning support to district staff.
- Comprehensive interagency planning services for children and youth ages 0-21.
- Staff development for special and general education staff, administrators and county personnel as it pertains to special education.
- Systems that provide students with successful transition experiences from 0 to preschool, from preschool to elementary school, from elementary to middle school, from middle school to high school and high school to adult living.
- Work experiences coordination for eligible high school students with disabilities.
- Educational occupational and physical therapy services.
- Low incidence disability services: vision, deaf/hard of hearing, autism, physical impaired.

- Birth through 2 child find.
- Data collection and reporting support.
- Special education finance and budget.

Data Collection

- Monitor student IEP and evaluation data for accuracy.
- Provide districts with information on caseloads, disabilities, amount of service provided and student enrollment projections.
- Complete and submit required state reports. Compile child count composite by district.
- Verify MARSS data and follow-up on discrepancies.
- Collect data, as directed by the Northern Lights Special Education Cooperative Agreement and Board members.

Communication Services

- Director meets formally with the following groups to update, disseminate and receive information related to special education:
  - ➢ Cooperative Board - four times per year
  - ➢ Interagency Council - four times per year
  - ➢ Work Based Learning staff – four times per year
  - ➢ Cooperative Social Workers – twice per year
  - ➢ Cooperative Principals - at least twice per year
  - ➢ Cooperative District Psychologists – five times per year
  - ➢ Cooperative District Coordinators – 2nd & 4th Thursday of the month
  - ➢ Cooperative District Counselors – twice per year
  - ➢ Cooperative District Nurses – three times per year.
  - ➢ Cooperative District wide Business Managers – two times per year.
  - ➢ NLSEC itinerant staff - four times per year.
  - ➢ NLSEC Parent Advisory Committee – four times per year.
- Publish Interagency Special Connections newsletter and Annual Report
- Maintain Cooperative web page.
- Process student service agreements for all nonresident students attending

Cooperative districts.

- Coordinate with district MARSS coordinators to assure special education reporting accuracy.

Finance and Tuition Billing

- Track and report federal and state expenditures for each district and enter into SEDRA and SERVS.
- Provide state and federal NLSEC budget information to districts three times each year.
- Process contracts for service and monitor expenses and licenses of providers.
- Maintain a record of teacher license expiration dates. Notify district administration and teachers as needed.

- Complete and file yearly state Special Education Application for state and federal aid.
- Review all state reports for accuracy and follow up with discrepancies.

Legal Issues

- Coordinate and facilitate the MDE Special Education Assistance and Compliance monitoring process.
- Conduct yearly compliance reviews in each district.
- Assist Cooperative districts with dispute resolution.
- Attend meetings to resolve legal conflicts.
- Investigate and process all formal complaints involving NLSEC districts and The Minnesota Department of Education Division of Assistance and Compliance.
- Maintain current knowledge of special education law and report updates/changes to district personnel and NLSEC Parent Advisory Committee.
- Maintain/monitor the NLSEC Total Special Education Systems (TSES) Policies and Procedures Manual.
- Interpret special education rules and regulations for district staff and parents.

Medical Assistance Billing

- Assist Cooperative districts to maximize reimbursement of MA funds for health related IEP services.
- Process and monitor all district medical assistance claims.
- Provide superintendents and business managers with quarterly medical assistance revenue statements.
- Monitor consent forms and obtain private insurance denials, process third party.
- Train special education staff on the medical assistance billing process.

Interagency Planning and Implementation

- Coordinate interagency planning and implementation efforts with the twelve districts and five counties within the Special Education Cooperative.
- Participate with Interagency Council members to train disability stakeholders on the interagency planning process.

Other Services

- Assist Cooperative districts with the hiring of special education staff.
- Prepare and present reports to school boards as requested by Cooperative superintendents.
- Type and process vacancy notices and advertise for vacant positions.
- Assist districts with application to PELSB for unlicensed special education teachers.
- Assist districts to comply with statute provisions as related to special education.
- Prepare special education workload studies and staff recommendations upon request from districts.

REIMAGINE THE POSSIBILITIES

A Comprehensive Facilities Proposal to Impact Special Education Students Served by Northern Lights Academy and Northern Lights Special Education Cooperative

WHAT IS NORTHERN LIGHTS ACADEMY (NLA)?

NLA is a cooperative public school district operated through a joint powers agreement between 12 member districts of Northern Lights Special Education Cooperative (NLSEC) that operates in two facilities – one in Cloquet and one in Carlton.

WHAT IS THE NORTHERN LIGHTS SPECIAL EDUCATION COOPERATIVE (NLSEC)?

The NLSEC has a total of 29 Special Education staff, including administrative, coordinators, low-incidence teachers, and therapists. These staff members provide various services that are too costly for member districts to provide on their own.

WHAT SERVICES DO WE PROVIDE?

- **Setting 4:** Our two sites serve students in grades K-12 that require Setting 4 Special Education services. These students have severe-profound disability needs that are best served outside of a traditional K-12 school building. Students requiring these intensive services have exceeded their serving/resident district's capacity due to significant verbal or physical aggression and lagging skills. NLA's primary goal is to teach students the skills they need to successfully transition them back to their serving/resident district. The current capacity is approximately 50 students across both facilities.





WHAT SERVICES ARE STILL NEEDED?

- **Day Treatment:** Within our 12 districts, an additional option is needed for students who need Day Treatment services for those who require daily, intensive mental health services. Unfortunately, there is no space in either location to add these services.
- **Preschool**
- **Transition services for 18-22-year olds**

WHERE ARE WE PROVIDING THESE SERVICES?

- Approximately 4,300 square feet in the lower level of Cloquet Schools' Garfield Building provides two classrooms that serve students in grades K-5 with emotional and behavioral disorders and other disabilities.
- Approximately 4,200 square feet in Carlton High School provides two classrooms that serve students in grades 3-12 with emotional and behavioral disorders and two classrooms that serve students in grades 3-12 with autism.
- Approximately 5,400 square feet in the Esko Education Center Building provides offices and workspace for 29 NLSEC staff members.

2,400 STUDENTS

receive Special Education services across our member districts. NLA is available to any students who are unable to be successful in their serving/resident district. However, enrollment capacity is limited by our current facilities.

WHY IS THE NLA/NLSEC FACILITY PROJECT NECESSARY?

- NLA cannot offer Day Treatment services for our member districts due to a lack of space.
- In a typical school year, all grade levels are at maximum capacity and have an active wait list. There is not enough space to add classrooms to serve additional students.
- Providing these services in a single facility would be the most effective option to 1) increase collaboration among staff and 2) eliminate frequent travel between our current sites.
- Member districts express a desire for students to receive local assistance instead of traveling to other districts where most have wait lists up to one year.
- Member districts have other Setting 4 programming needs such as preschool, Developmental Coordination Disorder (DCD), and transitional services for 18-22-year olds that cannot be provided due to a lack of space.
- Rural cooperative students with special needs deserve quality educational spaces. Beyond the classroom, there is a lack of greenspace, playgrounds, and additional spaces that best support students.
- Before NLA, the only learning option for students with needs was homeschool. Students are still learning at home due to a lack of space.

HOW HAS THE NLA REACHED THIS POINT?

Working cooperatively with our member districts to provide Special Education services is the most effective, efficient, and cost-effective way to provide quality programming.

Currently, the team is solutioning whether building a new facility or renovating an existing facility is the best option for NLA, NLSEC, and our member districts.

The NLA is working with an experienced project team to determine physical facility needs, identify potential funding options, and prioritize potential solutions to meet our most critical facility needs. Our team includes ICS (a K-12 planning and construction firm), Wold Architects and Engineers (a K-12 architecture and engineering firm), and Ehlers (a K-12 financial advisor).

In May 2021, the ICS team conducted listening sessions with all stakeholders to identify how our existing facility challenges impact education. Stakeholders included NLA students, parents, staff, administration, school board members, and the NLSEC staff.

OUR ASK: HELP FROM THE STATE

Our member school districts understand our need and are unified to turn our vision into a reality. However, there are very limited funding options to build cooperative facilities under current legislation.

HF 568 and SF 113 are asking for approximately $6 million in state bonding assistance to pay for half of our project. This ultimately reduces the financial burden on our member districts.

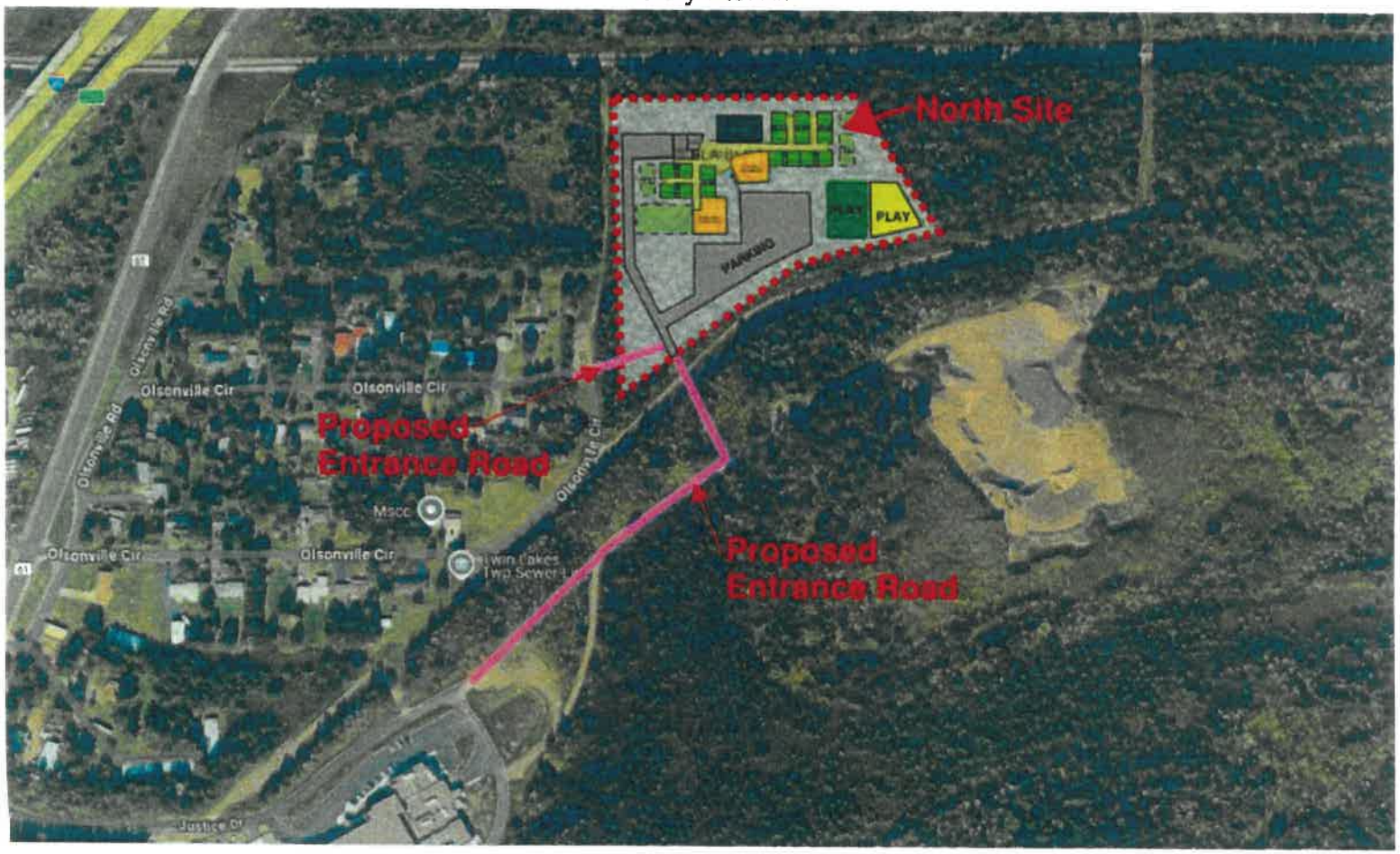
We appreciate the state's consideration of our funding request that ultimately will positively impact students, staff, and our communities as a whole.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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New Facility Test Fit



New Facility Concept Plan
All Phases / Masterplan



Northern Lights Special Education Cooperative

November 5, 2025

Pay 2026 Lease Levy Capacity

Payments Allocated Based on 2027 Pupil Unit Enrollment

Lease Purchase (COP)

15 year term

District	ISD No.	FY 2027 Adjusted Pupil Units*	Enrollment Based Payment Share	Annual Lease Payment Allocation	Co-op Lease Levy Limit $65 per pupil	Current Approved Joint Leases	Available Co-op Authority	Use of Regular Lease Levy Authority	Remaining Regular Lease Levy Authority	General Fund Subsidy
McGregor	4	433.75	3.4%	$20,957.15	$28,194	$8,695	$19,499	$1,458	$90,497	-
Barnum	91	667.40	5.2%	32,246.23	43,381	9,269	34,112	0	141,489	-
Carlton	93	278.60	2.2%	13,460.89	18,109	8,326	9,783	3,678	51,385	-
Cloquet	94	2,653.10	20.8%	128,187.71	172,452	129,003	43,449	84,739	394,158	-
Cromwell	95	292.20	2.3%	14,117.99	18,993	1,812	17,181	0	61,946	-
Moose Lake	97	619.80	4.9%	29,946.38	40,287	29,248	11,039	18,907	108,990	-
Esko	99	1,362.40	10.7%	65,825.99	88,556	77,642	10,914	24,229	0	30,683
Wrenshall	100	350.40	2.8%	16,930.00	22,776	2,664	20,112	0	74,285	-
Lake Superior	381	1,407.80	11.1%	68,019.55	91,507	9,485	82,022	0	258,454	-
Willow River	577	453.80	3.6%	21,925.89	29,497	11,788	17,709	4,217	88,852	-
Hermantown	700	2,269.80	17.8%	109,668.11	147,537	10,991	136,546	0	156,798	-
Proctor	704	1,939.60	15.2%	93,714.10	126,074	18,523	107,551	0	249,215	-
		12,728.65	100.0%	$615,000	$827,362	$317,446	$509,917	$137,229	$1,676,068	

Note: Pupil unit estimates and lease levy capacity as of the taxes payable 2026 levy certification worksheets

PRELIMINARY INFORMATION - FOR DISCUSSION ONLY

Northern Lights Special Education Cooperative

Analysis of Tax Impact, 15 year term
Project Funding: $6,500,000

November 5, 2025

	McGregor	Barnum	Carlton	Cloquet	Cromwell	Moose Lake	Esko	Wrenshall	Lake Superior	Willow River	Hermantown	Proctor
General Fund Contribution							$30,683					

Type of Property	Estimated Market Value	Estimated Impact on ANNUAL Taxes Beginning in Taxes Payable 2027											
Residential Homestead	$100,000	$1	$3	$1	$5	$3	$2	$2	$2	$1	$2	$3	$3
	150,000	1	6	2	9	5	4	4	3	2	4	5	6
	175,000	2	8	2	11	6	5	5	4	3	5	6	7
	200,000	2	9	3	14	7	6	6	5	3	5	8	8
	300,000	3	16	4	22	12	10	10	8	5	9	12	14
	400,000	5	22	6	31	17	14	14	11	7	12	17	19
	500,000	6	28	7	40	21	18	18	14	9	16	22	24
Commercial/ Industrial	$50,000	$1	$4	$1	$6	$3	$3	$3	$2	$1	$2	$3	$4
	100,000	2	8	2	12	6	5	6	4	3	5	7	7
	250,000	5	24	6	34	18	15	16	12	7	13	19	21
	500,000	11	51	14	73	40	34	34	26	16	29	41	45
Agricultural Homestead** (average value per acre of land & buildings)	$1,000	$0.01	$0.03	$0.01	$0.04	$0.02	$0.02	$0.02	$0.01	$0.01	$0.02	$0.02	$0.02
	2,000	0.01	0.06	0.01	0.08	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.03	0.02	0.03	0.04	0.05
	3,000	0.02	0.08	0.02	0.12	0.06	0.05	0.06	0.04	0.03	0.05	0.07	0.07
	4,000	0.02	0.11	0.03	0.16	0.09	0.07	0.07	0.06	0.03	0.06	0.09	0.10
	5,000	0.03	0.14	0.04	0.20	0.11	0.09	0.09	0.07	0.04	0.08	0.11	0.12
	6,000	0.03	0.17	0.04	0.24	0.13	0.11	0.11	0.08	0.05	0.10	0.13	0.15
Agricultural Non-Homestead** (average value per acre of land & buildings)	$1,000	$0.01	$0.06	$0.01	$0.08	$0.04	$0.04	$0.04	$0.03	$0.02	$0.03	$0.04	$0.05
	2,000	0.02	0.11	0.03	0.16	0.09	0.07	0.07	0.06	0.03	0.06	0.09	0.10
	3,000	0.03	0.17	0.04	0.24	0.13	0.11	0.11	0.08	0.05	0.10	0.13	0.15
	4,000	0.05	0.22	0.06	0.32	0.17	0.15	0.15	0.11	0.07	0.13	0.18	0.19
	5,000	0.06	0.28	0.07	0.40	0.21	0.18	0.18	0.14	0.09	0.16	0.22	0.24
	6,000	0.07	0.33	0.09	0.48	0.26	0.22	0.22	0.17	0.10	0.19	0.26	0.29
Seasonal Recreational Residential	$100,000	$1	$6	$1	$8	$4	$4	$4	$3	$2	$3	$4	$5
	200,000	2	11	3	16	9	7	7	6	3	6	9	10
	300,000	3	17	4	24	13	11	11	8	5	10	13	15
	400,000	5	22	6	32	17	15	15	11	7	13	18	19
	500,000	6	28	7	40	21	18	18	14	9	16	22	24
	750,000	9	45	12	64	35	30	30	23	14	26	36	39

* Estimated tax impact includes principal and interest payments. The amounts in the table are based on school district taxes for this project only, and do not include tax levies for other purposes. Tax increases shown above are gross increases, not including the impact of the homeowner's Homestead Credit Refund ("Circuit Breaker") program. Owners of homestead property may qualify for a refund, based on their income and total property taxes. This will change the net effect of the proposed bond issue for those property owners.

** For all agricultural property, average value per acre is the total estimated market value of all land & buildings divided by total acres. If the property includes a home, then the tax impact on the house, garage, and one acre of land will be calculated in addition to the taxes per acre, on the same basis as a residential homestead or non-homestead property. If the same property owner owns more than approximately $3.8 million of agricultural homestead land and buildings, a portion of the property will be taxed at the higher non-homestead rate.

EHLERS
PUBLIC FINANCE ADVISORS

Cloquet Historical Enrollment Data					
Year	# Resident Students referred	# of Resident District students referred by another NLSEC district	# Referred Non-resident Students	# Transitioned Back to District	# Graduated, predicted graduations this year
2017-2018	18	0	3	3	0
2018-2019	19	1 Wrenshall	0	9	0
2019-2020	17	0	0	4	0
2020-2021	16	0	0	5	0
2021-2022	26	0	0	6	0
2022-2023	28	0	1	8	3
2023-2024	28	1 Esko	1	5	0
2024-2025	19	0	0	1	0
2025-2026	20	5	2	1	2

Setting IV Comparison FY24

Setting IV	Expense w/o Leases	ADM	Cost per Student
NLA	1,675,151.17	45.5	36,816.51
Rum River	5,095,063.00	110	46,318.75
NLC	1,871,721.00	70	26,738.87
Duluth	1,200,000.00	9	133,333.33

Washington News
February 2026



News & Notes:

- February is **"I Love to Read"** month! We have lots of fun things planned and ask that you join us by encouraging your child to read or by reading with him/her!
- 2/2 February Birthday Lunch
- 2/4 Book Break (2nd & 3rd Grades)
- 2/6 Dress in USA Colors (for the start of the Winter Olympics)
- 2/6 Kids' Heart Challenge during PE classes
- 2/9 "Read My Shirt" - wear a shirt with words
- 2/10 Conferences Links go live on the **Washington Webpage News link**
- 2/10 Dress as your favorite book character or Olympian
- 2/10 PIE Meeting, 6:30-7:30 pm in the Media Center–childcare and pizza provided
- 2/11 Cozy up with a Book (wear cozy clothes or pjs)
- 2/12 Bookmark Creation Day
- 2/13 Dress in your Valentine colors: red, white, pink or hearts
- 2/16 President's Day, **No School** for Staff & Students
- 2/17-20 is Read with a Buddy Week
- 2/17 100th Day of School
- 2/18 Conferences Links close
- 2/18 Kindness Retreat (4th Grade)
- 2/18 Book Break (Kindergarten & 1st Grade)
- 2/20 June Birthday Lunch
- 2/25 Book Break (4th Grade)
- 2/24 Conferences & Book Fair 3:20-7:20 pm
- 2/26 Conferences & Book Fair 3:20-7:20 pm
- 2/27 **No School** for students
- 2/27 Conferences & Book Fair 8:00 am–12:00 pm and Staff Professional Day 12:00–3:30



I Love to Read Month 2026
Go for the Gold,
Read Your World

PBIS Scoop! (Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports)

Welcome to February Washington families!! We just finished our January Character Education trait of **Trustworthiness**. Throughout the month of February, we will shift our focus to a new character trait, **Caring,** and for our 7 Grandfather Teachings, we focus on **Love**. When we show love (and caring), we choose to show kindness and concern for others, and to care about them in our heart — an important characteristic we promote throughout our school! Teachers will be looking for students who are showing this trait around our school throughout the month.

In January, our students participated in cultural presentations led by Ms. Angell, focusing on traditional storytelling, with a connection to the sky.

February is "I Love to Read Month" and many fun events are planned. Ask your children to share some of their fun experiences with you at home!

Keep working hard, students, by showing your Purple PRIDE every day!





Conferences and Book Fair

Tuesday, February 24 3:20pm–7:20pm
Thursday, February 26 3:20pm–7:20pm
Friday, February 27 8:00am–12:00 pm

School conference links will be open on the website February 10 after school through February 18. Please sign up for a time to meet with your child's teacher.
https://www.isd94.org/o/we
(scroll down and click link.)



Our January Spirit Day theme was chosen by our 4th graders, and they chose "Students Dress Like a Teacher and Teachers Dress Like a Student!"



















The **28th Annual Kids' Heart Challenge** is Friday, February 6th during physical education classes. Teachers receive a $25 gift card if 50% of the class joins Team Washington and another $25 gift card if 5 students complete Finn's Mission! Our goal is to have 140 students complete the mission! We are 40 students away from completing the Principal's Challenge! The Physical Education department will receive a $500 gift card to update our equipment if we reach our goal, and Mrs. Mondati completes Finn's Mission.

The UNIFIED Focus for February is Learning Disabilities.



February Unified Focus:

As a Unified Champion School, we highlight a different disability each month to raise awareness and support for an inclusive community. This month, our focus will be on **Learning Disabilities** and how they affect the way people process information. By learning and understanding together, we help make our school a kind and welcoming place for all.

Attendance:

- Please contact our 24-hour attendance line at 218-879-3369 if your student will be missing school.
- Remember: **please be courteous to our Washington neighbors**, and make sure you are not blocking driveways or restricting residents from coming or going during pick-up/drop-off times. Thank you!
- **Attendance matters!** If there are any challenges or barriers impacting your child's attendance, please let us know so we can help.
  We are here to support you and your child.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Cloquet High School to Receive National Recognition from Special Olympics for Achievements with Inclusion

Cloquet, MN, January 26, 2026 – Special Olympics Minnesota has announced that Cloquet High School, a Special Olympics Unified Champion School®, is receiving national banner recognition for its efforts to provide inclusive sports and activities for students with and without intellectual disabilities. Cloquet High School is receiving this distinguished status as a result of meeting 10 national standards of excellence in the areas of inclusion, advocacy, and respect. These standards were developed by a national panel of leaders from Special Olympics and the education community.

The primary activities within these standards include Special Olympics Unified Sports® where students with and without disabilities train and compete as teammates, inclusive youth leadership, and whole school engagement. National banner schools should also demonstrate they are self-sustainable or have a plan in place to sustain these activities into the future.

Cloquet High School has been a Special Olympics Minnesota Unified Champion School since the 2019-2020 school year. Cloquet High School has two Unified Physical Education classes that are offered each semester along with a Unified Club that creates unified events inside and outside of school. Cloquet High School currently has three students on the Special Olympics Minnesota Student Board of Directors. Cloquet High School will be celebrating their national banner recognition the week of February 17-20, 2026 including a Unified Dance on Tuesday, February 17 from 10:00 AM-12:00 PM and a pep fest on Friday, February 20 from 2:45 PM-3:30 PM. Both events are in the Cloquet High School gymnasium.

Unified Champion Schools is a strategy for schools Pre-K through university that intentionally promotes meaningful social inclusion by bringing together students with and without intellectual disabilities to create accepting school environments, utilizing three interconnected components: Unified Sports, inclusive youth leadership, and whole school engagement. As many as 19.5 million young people are taking part in inclusive experiences through Special Olympics.

More than 375 schools are currently participating in Unified Champion Schools programming in Minnesota, as part of over 10,000 schools across the country engaged in the program.

Unified Champion Schools model is supported by the Office of Special Education Programs at the U.S. Department of Education. This model has been proven, through research, to be an effective and replicable means to providing students with and without disabilities the opportunity to form positive social relationships and promote a socially inclusive school climate.