

Contact Information:

Office: 302 14th Street
Cloquet, MN 55720

Phone: 218-879-1283 x 6006

Fax: 218-879-1285

Email: dhagen@nlsec.k12.mn.us

Website: www.nlsec.k12.mn.us,
Member Districts

NLSEC Special Education
Director: Dena Hagen



Member Districts:

Barnum
Carlton
Cloquet
Cromwell-Wright
Esko
Hermantown
Lake Superior
McGregor
Moose Lake
Proctor
Wrenshall
Willow River

Produced by the Northern Lights
Special Education Cooperative

June 2017



Northern Lights Academy Cooperative

Information for parents and
families about Northern
Lights Academy Special Ed-
ucation Setting 4 program
offerings.

Hope, opportunity, change



Mission Statement

The Northern Lights Academy (NLA) mission is to support children and youth with significant emotional and behavioral needs, as well as those with low incidence disabilities. We provide academic, social, and functional skill development, as well as mental health services to students from the member school districts of The Northern Lights Special Education Cooperative.

Our goal is to foster learning, promote independence, cultivate social and behavioral skills, work in partnership with families, and support students to become successful learners in their least restrictive environment, as well as active, productive members of our communities.

Programming Information:

The Northern Lights Academy (NLA) is full-day special education programming for Kindergarten through 8th grade students with significant behavioral and emotional needs, unsuccessfully met in their local school district.

An Assistant Director of Special Education, School Social Worker, Family School Support Worker and a variety of other service providers are on staff to provide specialized instruction to students. Three classrooms are each staffed by a licensed special education teacher and two educational assistants. Staff receive ongoing training in non-verbal crisis prevention and developmentally appropriate intervention strategies, verbal problem solving, de-escalation, social and academic skills instruction.

Specialized Services:

- Individual programs are developed and implemented by a multidisciplinary team.
- A full range of related services including speech/language, occupational/physical therapy, nursing, assistive technology, social work, mental health and autism support

Programming:

School day services for students provide an integrated curriculum of academic, functional, and positive behavioral interventions based on the student's individualized IEP needs. These services are designed to support the improvement of academic and social functioning through research-based interventions. Student improvement is measured through continuous progress monitoring of responses to interventions. The NLA offers a highly structured academic and behavioral curriculum; extensive support services that shall include individual and/or group work, and, when appropriate, consultation from mental health, medical, or other professionals.

Transportation is provided to NLA programs by the home school district.

Referral Process:

- A referral packet, facilitated by your student's special education case manager, is completed by the student's home school IEP team and submitted to the NLA.
- The NLA Leadership team reviews the referral and makes a determination as to whether or not the program is the least restrictive learning environment to provide a free appropriate public education for the student.
- If the NLA Leadership team approves the referral, an IEP meeting will be held at the NLA with both home school and NLA staff to determine programming and services.

