

What the Cabinet Mountain Special Education Cooperative is?

- A comprehensive way to provide the legally required services that our students in special education deserve to have access to on a weekly basis as part of their Individualized Education Programs (IEPs)...this is just not possible for small stand-alone districts to do without outside support. Consult is not service.
- A collaborative, multi-disciplinary approach to developing comprehensive IEPs and support services for staff. Our collaborative discussions and approach ensure the best, most up to date evidence-based practices are being fostered and utilized.
- Extensive professional development for paraprofessionals, special education teachers, administrators, and regular education teachers.
- We have a MANDT certified trainer to ensure all special education staff and administration is able to stay legally compliant and up to date with their MANDT certification. Not sure what Plains currently uses...these trainings require recertification every year.

Misconceptions currently held about the Cabinet Mountain Special Education Cooperative?

- **Myth:** The cooperative is a more expensive way to provide services
 - **Fact:** The complete opposite is true it is significantly more affordable and saves districts a substantial amount of money if comprehensive services are being offered. The cost per service is significantly less in a cooperative than if a district employed all the required comprehensive services independently.
- **Myth:** The cooperative wants to control
 - **Fact:** The cooperative does not believe in micromanaging districts...all efforts are done in a collaborative, student-centered way. Occasionally, as is the cooperative director's job, the director will have to advise a district that what is occurring is not best practice or setting them up for a litigious situation, however, the decision is still the districts.
- **Myth:** The cooperative will take district employees jobs.
 - **Fact:** The cooperative does not supplant district employees or resources, we are here to supplement and support not replace. No district employee's job would be lost when districts join the cooperative, we bring services, we don't take them away. We would absorb the cost of your current speech language pathologist.

History of the Cooperative

May 13, 1980 Cooperative is Formed: Plains (Host), T Falls, Heron, Trout Creek, Paradise, Noxon, and Hot Springs

Jan 1986 Hot Springs, Plains, and Paradise Leave Cooperative

April 21, 1994 Hot Springs enters the cooperative again

1996 St Regis Joins the Cooperative

2020 McCormick, Yaak, Troy, and Libby Join the Cooperative

What Our Districts Say

"Being a part of the Co-Op has been beneficial to the Hot Springs School District. The level of leadership you provide and the expertise of your staff have made it possible for us to serve all of our students receiving Special education and 504 services. I hold the Cabinet Mountain Cooperative in the highest regard. The professionalism and efficiency in which the Cabinet

Mountain Cooperative operates provides great value to our school community allowing us to offer services and accommodations that would otherwise be burdensome to a small district. It has been a pleasure working with all of you over the past two years and I would recommend your services to all schools looking to join a cooperative.” – Byron Woods, Hot Springs Schools, Principal

“Cabinet Mountain Coop is instrumental in working with the Libby School District. Providing valuable Professional Development for all staff and guidance with many of our Special Education Services needs.” – Scott Beagle, Libby Public Schools, Special Education Director

“I honestly appreciate the “best practices” feedback and guidelines. I appreciate legal support with the program kiddos, testing/evaluation support with consistency in testing presentation and having an “unbiased” test proctor to assist in determination of student needs.” – Darcy Farlan, Special Education Teacher, Thompson Falls

“Leaving the classroom and embarking on a new journey in education was at first overwhelming, however with the support from the coop faculty it has been a rewarding and positive experience. I have enjoyed my new position in education and that is because the coop staff have been supporting me throughout the process. I appreciate the time they have provided to help support me emotionally and professionally. I felt comfortable reaching out for support when needed and I appreciated the constructive feedback given as well as consistent encouragement.” – Chris Kelly, Special Education Teacher, Thompson Falls

“The cooperative has been very supportive in meeting the needs of our special education students and staff. Without their services, it would be very difficult to meet our IEP requirements. Besides Taylor, the staff is very friendly and knowledgeable. They are a pleasure to work with. Just teasing Taylor. You are awesome too!” – Shaun Ball, Principal, St. Regis

“The cooperative has been very helpful to me in learning the ropes of special education these last couple of years! I have received a lot of guidance and clarity in different situations and appreciate it very much! Thank you!” -Taylor Etienne, Special Education, Noxon

Plains Information Sheet

Cost to Join Fully

IDEA B- \$122,181

IDEA B Preschool-\$3,284

Related Service Block Grant- \$22,466.36

Match- \$7,413.90

Grand Total: \$155,345.26

Important to note that total is not the budget difference, because most of that would be used to cover services you are already paying for. It would include your current SLP costs, OT costs, PT costs, and school psychologist costs. Current Plains Expenditures to show budget difference:

Cost to Join	\$155,345.26
Less Cost of SLP	-\$101,049.80
Less Cost of Contract for OT/PT	-????? \$90/hr contract
Less Previous School Psych Cost	-\$6500.00
Budget Difference	~\$47,795.46

What That Includes

Personnel:

- Special Education Director*
- School Psychologist*
- Speech Language Pathologist
- Sped. Ed. Business Manager*
- Occupational Therapist*
- Physical Therapist (as needed)*
- Audiologist (as needed)*

*indicates a position not fully employed currently by district

Services:

- Conduct Evaluations
- All Related Services
- Legal Advice and Guidance
- Child Find Activities and Coordination
- Extra Layer of Collaboration
- **FastBridge Assessment Tool for 100% of Students**
- Completion of All Special Education Data Requirements
- Specialized Equipment
- Medicaid Billing
- Threat Assessments
- Support with 504s
- Support with MTSS
- Tuition Fund Calculation
- Many Other Fringe Benefits, including curriculum/programs for spec. ed.