

**HEALTH & SAFETY**

**Health & Safety Management Assistance Program**

NJPA's Management Assistance Program provides consultation and coordination of services for environmental issues that school districts face in order to be in compliance with state and federal laws. A trained professional from our staff will assist in identifying, prioritizing and gaining approval for health and safety projects, and provide support needed to review written programs.

Management Assistance assists districts with the following:

- Build and maintain an on-going and effective health and safety program
- Identify and prioritize health and safety issues
- Apply for health and safety levy monies through the Dept. of Education
- Monitor health and safety programs for effectiveness

Contact: Cheryl Husman, Low Incidence, Health & Safety  
 cheryl.husman@njpacoop.org | 218-894-5462

**SHARED SERVICES**

Upon request, NJPA may employ staff and sell this time to Member organizations that wish to share positions.

Possible examples include school nurses, counselors, psychologists, administrators, athletic trainers, curriculum coordinators, technology coordinators, student academic program coordinators, social workers, day treatment providers and behavior management assistants.

Currently, NJPA provides employment services for 14 people staffing the Crow Wing County Family Services Collaborative, plus a grant facilitator and a Youth Family Service worker (YFS).

Contact: Todd Lyscio, Executive Director  
 todd.lyscio@njpacoop.org | 218-894-5463

*...promoting the growth of shared services throughout the region.*

**WHO IS NJPA**

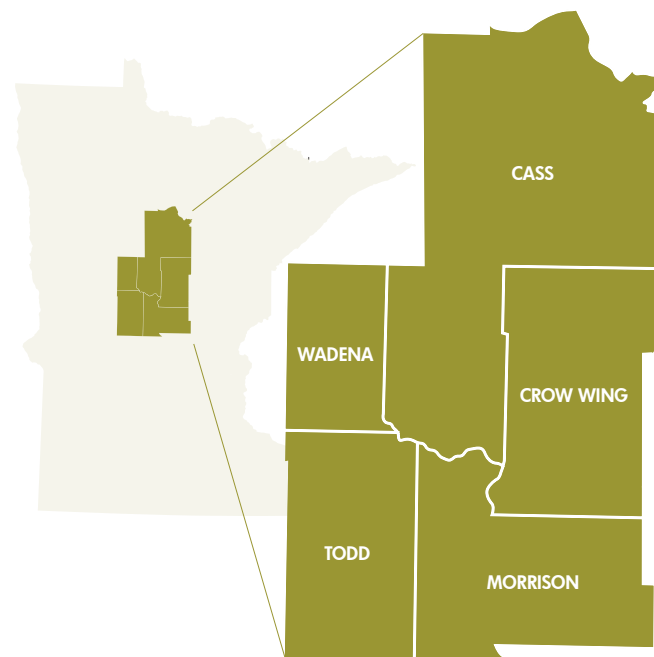
*At its core, National Joint Powers Alliance® (NJPA) is a Member-driven service cooperative with a Membership now exceeding 35,000. NJPA offers a multitude of programs, contracted products, equipment and service opportunities to education, government and other non-profit entities.*

*Locally in Minnesota, NJPA offers Regional Programs for counties, cities and schools that comprise an area known as "Region 5." We successfully aid in the planning, development and provision of services in a vast array of fields, including Spelling Bee, Knowledge Bowl, technology services, curriculum solutions, staffing, health & safety, risk management and more.*

**OUR PURPOSE STATEMENT**

At NJPA, we exist to:

- build relationships.
- create solutions.
- bring value to those we serve.



**ABOUT US**

*Dedicated to serving Region 5  
 Cass • Crow Wing • Morrison • Todd • Wadena*



**RISK MANAGEMENT**

The NJPA risk management division provides coverage programs, trainings and services that create extraordinary value for our Members. Value that is created through cooperation with our Members and business partners to produce savings through implementing best practices and volume discounts in controlling and creating stability in health, dental, life and disability insurance premiums.

We are committed to providing the best options at competitive pricing for risk management services that meet the unique needs of our Members, their employees and their taxpayers.

**Programs Available:** Self-Insured Health Pool, Life – AD&D, Long-Term Disability, Short-Term Disability, Voluntary Programs, Commercial Property & Casualty



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 david.jessop@njpacoop.org | 218-894-5461

Contact: Laura Dwyer, Risk Manager  
 laura.dwyer@njpacoop.org | 218-894-5470

**EDUCATION SERVICES**

**Making a Difference with Professional Development that is Different**

In 2011, NJPA rejuvenated our focus on educational services for the Region 5 Service Cooperative with the introduction of NJPA Education Solutions. School districts and educational entities are able to access a growing venue of educational services in professional development for teacher leaders and administration; collaborative educational opportunities; and educational contract purchasing. These opportunities for professional development are different because the options are designed to be job-embedded, provided on-site, ongoing throughout the year, evidence-based, and driven by data.

NJPA's Education Solutions is dedicated to serving education in your schools, classrooms, and professional development.

Contact: Rynell Schock, Education Specialist  
 rynell.schock@njpacoop.org | 218-894-5492

**ACADEMIC PROGRAMS**

**Knowledge Bowl**

This interdisciplinary academic competition for grades 9–12 promotes academic achievement and rewards academic excellence. During a Knowledge Bowl meet, teams of students work cooperatively to solve oral and written round questions. No team is eliminated during a meet and every team participates in every round. Questions are related to all areas of learning typical of secondary educational programs.

Knowledge Bowl competitions test students' recall and problem solving abilities, critical thinking and teamwork skills. Students compete in Round Robin competitions in January, February, and March. Sub-Regions and Regions are held in March. The top teams from Regions advance to MSC State Knowledge Bowl competitions.

**Junior High Level Knowledge Bowl**

Similar to Knowledge Bowl but for grades 7, 8 and 9. Regional competitions are held each spring.

**LAKES BEE Regional Spelling Bee**

The Spelling Bee is designed to help students improve their spelling and increase vocabulary development. Each year, NJPA sponsors a Regional Spelling Bee for Member schools. The winner of the Regional Bee advances to the National Spelling Bee to represent our region.

Contact: Carol Jackson, Academic Programs  
carol.jackson@njpacoop.org | 218-894-5481

**STUDENT RECOGNITION BANQUET**

Annually, NJPA honors students with a Student Recognition Banquet. Nominated students and their families are invited to attend the banquet and awards program. NJPA recognizes students who would not otherwise be honored at a local or regional level. Each school district is invited to select two students to attend the Student Recognition Banquet.

District staff nominate deserving students for the regional honor. Student nominees, their families, as well as their nominators, are invited to attend our Banquet and Program.

The program for this event features the picture of each winner and a story about why they won. Each recognized student is eligible for scholarships and/or door prize drawings, donated by local area businesses. Our Student Recognition Program is the "venue" for our annual meeting of the NJPA Representative Assembly.

Contact: Susan Nanik, Director of Administration  
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**THE REGIONAL LOW INCIDENCE PROJECT**

NJPA is the fiscal host for the Regional Low Incidence Project for Economic Development Regions 5 & 7. Low Incidence (LI) covers eight disability areas – those disabilities that occur in low numbers compared to the total student population.

The Low Incidence Project provides free, appropriate public education (FAPE) in the least restrictive environment (LRE), along with equitable services for students with low incidence disabilities throughout the Regions. The LI Project was initiated to increase availability of indirect services (e.g. consultation, training, etc.) to better meet low incidence needs, especially in greater Minnesota.

**Early Childhood Centers of Excellence**

The goal of the early childhood professional development project "Centers of Excellence" is to design a system of professional development which incorporates input from the field. Its purpose is to provide early childhood professionals with technical assistance, support, mentorship and coaching sufficient to improve practice. Specific topics across disciplines benefit not only Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE) teachers but also other early childhood educators (i.e., Headstart, Day Care Providers) by enhancing child find efforts and supporting inclusion.

**Regional Comprehensive System for Personnel Development (RCSPD)**

The RCSPD project, which funds training activities throughout Regions 5 & 7, allows a larger audience the opportunity to participate in necessary training to enhance the knowledge and skills of the districts' staff. This project offers training opportunities for educators, parents, administrators and other interested people who live or work with a child (or children) with a disability in our Regions.

Contact: Mary Ruprecht, Regional Low Incidence Facilitator  
mary.ruprecht@njpacoop.org | 763-689-1616

**CONTRACT PURCHASING**

NJPA's Contract Purchasing program creates a national business alliance between our Members and contracted suppliers under the authority established through Minnesota State laws. Since 1978, we have been helping regional Members save staff time and budget dollars through our cooperative programs.

Our nationally leveraged, competitively bid contracts are able to provide our local Members the opportunity to benefit from volume discounts resulting in exceptional pricing and overall value. All of our Members, local and nationwide, enjoy the benefits of purchasing contracted products and services from industry-leading Vendors.

Contact: Duff Erholtz, Membership Manager  
duff.erholtz@njpacoop.org | 218-894-5490

**How can we serve you better?**

Let us know what services you would like to see NJPA provide or how we can serve you better.

Take our online survey at [www.njpacoop.org/survey](http://www.njpacoop.org/survey). Or, send us an email at [info@njpacoop.org](mailto:info@njpacoop.org); or call 888-894-1930.



ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

REGIONAL PROJECTS

CONTRACT PURCHASING

**HISTORY OF NJPA**

- State Legislature allows for Educational Cooperative Service Units (ECSU) throughout Minnesota.
- NJPA is created (then known as Educational Cooperative Service Unit-5).

- Dr. Duane Lund encourages enough schools in Region 5 to sign a petition allowing for the formation of ECSU-5.

- ECSU-5's original By-laws are adopted and NJPA is now one of 10 Minnesota Service Cooperatives.
- Richard Hegre is hired as NJPA's first Executive Director.
- Funding provided by State programs; projects and grants.

- Minnesota Department of Education initiates the Low Incidence Program.

- Gary Nytes is hired as NJPA's Executive Director.
- Risk Management Pool was formed.
- ECSU-5 no longer receives as much State funding and is notified that funds will be discontinued.

- Minnesota State Statute was revised to allow NJPA to expand its services to cities, counties and non-profits.
- NJPA, which was then called Educational Cooperative Service Unit-5, changes its name to North Central Service Cooperative (NCSC).

- NJPA, which was then called North Central Service Cooperative (NCSC), changes its name to National Joint Powers Alliance (NJPA).

- Todd Iyscio is hired as NJPA's Executive Director.

- NJPA builds new headquarters in Staples, MN.
- NJPA launches new Education Solutions program.

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