

Regional Centers of Excellence

Position Title: **Special Education Specialist and School Advocate**

Regional Centers of Excellence Overview	The Regional Centers of Excellence (RCEs), in partnership with districts, schools and charters, focuses school improvement and turnaround efforts on equity and underserved student groups so that schools can meet the needs of each student and ensure that each student benefits from a high-quality school.
Position description	The Special Education Specialist and School Advocate builds the capacity of districts, schools, and charters to engage in continuous improvement, to implement the World's Best Workforce legislation and the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). The ultimate goal of this position is to close achievement gaps, while increasing achievement and graduation rates for all student groups. This is a year-round, full-time position.

Core Competencies	Ideal candidates demonstrate knowledge, skills and willingness to:
Equity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● engage educators in conversations and action planning to ensure high levels of learning for all students and staff without exception ● identify and eliminate structural and institutional barriers to educational opportunities resulting in improved conditions for teaching and learning
Effective Instruction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● support systems and educators in becoming standards-based and standards-aligned in curriculum design, instruction, and assessment ● support systems and educators in establishing high-functioning Professional Learning Communities
Coaching / Facilitation / Mentoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● model and develop effective team facilitation processes and protocols ● design activities and resources to effectively deliver and evaluate professional development ● increase the quality and effectiveness of teams in data analysis, decision making, and collaborative implementation of instructional strategies utilizing the principles of adult learning

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> engage in focused conversations with district and school leaders to build capacity for school turnaround and improvement
Evidence / Data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> use evidence and data in system and educator improvement, including the use of MDE secure reports, multiple types of education data, and comprehensive needs assessment to support the Continuous Improvement Process
Active Implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> assist systems and educators in identifying and implementing evidence based practices using the Active Implementation Framework AIHub

Special Education Specialist Competencies

- identify work with school leadership teams to change instructional practices and characteristics of school culture that fully supports engagement of exceptional learners
- model and support professional development using evidence-based best practices in core instruction, and implementation fidelity measures
- identify school practices and critical program issues in special education needing research, analysis, evaluation and/or policy development to eliminate barriers that prevent access to rigorous instruction
- assist leadership teams in evaluating and implementing models that ensure access to academic standards through core instruction for exceptional learners

Position Requirements

- foster positive, productive, and collaborative relationships with Regional Centers of Excellence colleagues, schools, districts, service cooperatives, and the Minnesota Department of Education
- make appropriate and effective use of time, technology, and resources
- complete all operational reports within a timely manner and
- be flexible in a variety of working environments in schools, virtual or home office settings
- be required to travel to perform the duties of the job; travel costs are reimbursed

Desired Education, Licensure and Experience

- experience in working with diverse groups, addressing equity issues and supporting systems in closing achievement gaps
- licensed in one or more areas of special education with a minimum of five years' experience in the field.
- dual licensure is preferred in a general education field or hold an administrative licensure
- knowledge of Minnesota Academic Standards and development of standards-based individual education programs
- comprehensive and technically-accurate knowledge of federal laws, including the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), and state statutes and rules regarding students with disabilities
- current understanding of educational equity for exceptional learners

Additional Service Cooperative Information

The Northwest Service Cooperative-Northern Sky Regional Center of Excellence is accepting applications for full time, year-round School Advocate/Special Education Specialist. The School Advocate/Special Education Specialist provides general school improvement planning and technical assistance in schools across northern Minnesota and works with school leadership teams to coordinate improvement efforts for all students.

Position qualifications include licensure and/or a minimum of five years' experience in various schools and districts, and/or multiple age levels, along with knowledge and skills in the following areas:

- Special Education
- Active Implementation
- Equity
- Primary and Secondary school leadership and improvement and data driven decision making
- Specific Job Descriptions may be found at the Northwest Service Cooperative website:

Application Link:

Contact Information:

Rebecca Neal, Regional Center of Excellence Director
Northwest Service Cooperative
114 1st Street West Thief River Falls, MN 56701
218.686.9719
bneal@mnce.org