What is NW BOCES?

Northwest Colorado Board of Cooperative Educational Services (NW BOCES) is a cooperative service agency providing special education, professional learning, grant coordination, alternative teacher licensure, induction program, and other services to its member school districts.

Mission Statement

Through the cooperative efforts and services of NW BOCES, school districts will improve student achievement and maximize resources.
Our Services

Professional Learning

NW BOCES is committed to offering ongoing professional learning that is meaningful, flexible, personalized, and effective to meet the needs of the educators in our member districts. NW BOCES believes that high-quality professional learning directly impacts student growth.

NW BOCES supports Professional Learning by:

- Designing and offering courses and conferences
- Facilitating professional learning communities
- Curating an online professional learning resource library
- Providing license recertification and continuing education graduate credit
- Coordinating a teacher leadership program
- Staffing a professional learning team including instructional coaches
- Organizing an online registration and credit tracking system

Special Education

Did you know?

NW BOCES provides mandated special education services to over 650 students with disabilities in Northwest Colorado, at no cost to parents. We are responsible for special education in our member school districts, and we provide oversight to ensure compliance with state and federal laws and regulations.

Our special education director and assistant special education director supervise NW BOCES special services providers working in all of the schools in our member school districts, from preschool to 12th grade. Together, our special education team provides the following services:

- Child Find - identification of special education students through early screenings, referrals and evaluations
- Occupational Therapy
- Physical Therapy
- School Psychology
- Speech Language Pathology
- Services for low-incidence disabilities, including vision or hearing impairment
- Extended School Year Program - summer services for eligible special education students
- Transition - services for eligible young adults with special needs, ages 18-21
- Support for parents of special education students
- Advice and assistance for district principals and superintendents in special education matters
- Review of IEPs (Individualized Education Plans)
- Maintenance of IEP records and support of the IEP process
- Support for district special education teachers

Please contact your local school district if you have questions as to whether your child is eligible for Special Education services.

Induction Program

The Induction Program is intended to support teachers in their first three years of teaching to become successful educators. In the state of Colorado, educators with an initial license must complete an approved induction program in order to apply for a professional license. NW BOCES is the approved induction program provider for teachers in East Grand, Hayden, North Park, South Routt and West Grand School Districts as well as the NW BOCES special services providers.

Gifted Education

NW BOCES supports Gifted Education programming by:

- Providing a BOCES-wide Gifted Coordinator
- Hosting Gifted Coordinator meetings with representatives from every school district
- Organizing a middle-school Colorado Model United Nations

Alternative Licensure

The Alternative Teacher Licensure Program is a state approved non-traditional teacher licensure program offered by NW BOCES to eligible candidates only. This program is designed for the individual who would like to become a licensed teacher in Colorado, but has not completed a traditional teacher licensure program through a college or university. The program is a one-year “on-the-job” teacher preparation training experience. The goal of the NW BOCES alternative teacher licensure program is to increase access to effective teachers for all students in the NW BOCES region.

For more information, please contact NW BOCES at 970-879-0391.