

**TRI-COUNTY SPECIAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION
BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS
STATEMENT OF PURPOSE
2008**

Tri-County Special Education Association is a joint agreement, or cooperative, formed in 1967 for the purpose of supporting member districts in the provision of effective special education and related services for students with disabilities. It is widely recognized that a comprehensive set of student services includes making varied types and levels of support available to all learners, implementing accountability systems and fostering collaboration among educators and with parents. The services offered by the joint agreement are designed to do just that by supplementing the instructional programs and intervention services offered by member districts. In brief, school districts offer all instructional programs while Tri-County offers the support services needed to make instruction most effective for all learners. By doing so, all districts have access to the most comprehensive set of services possible. When effective, services for non-disabled learners resolve learning problems before those problems have a severe impact on school performance and disabled learners have access to the most individualized and most intense services because they have the most unique, long-term and intense needs.

It remains a priority of this joint agreement to provide the most intensive support for students who have, or are suspected of having, disabilities. Service options for these students are the most comprehensive: problem-solving consultation and intervention, evaluation, individual or small group counseling, social skills instruction, functional assessment and behavior management planning, access to community services, family services, assistive technology, data collection and reporting, administrative support and access to a wide array of specialized related services that are individualized for each learner in accordance with his or her own individualized educational plan (i.e., IEP). In addition, the joint agreement offers many administrative and programmatic services to support district programs for students with special education needs. Examples of services for districts include, but are not limited to, professional development for teachers and parents, program evaluation or supervision, data collection and reporting, financial management, program innovation, and grant writing.

While Tri-County's primary mission is to facilitate the education of students with disabilities, the joint agreement can also help districts implement services for non-disabled students. Services designed to support all struggling learners include collaborative problem-solving, consultation, intervention, data collection related to student performance, functional assessment and behavior management planning, social skills instruction and other types of direct services provided to families or students as resources allow.