

Cooperative Arrangements

The NJSBA believes that the current variety of cooperative and regional service delivery arrangements support local boards of education in their mission to provide a thorough and efficient education to their students. These cooperative arrangements do not diminish the local board responsibility to provide for the needs and rights of students and parents. [Authority: DA 12/85-CR ESC Study, DA 11/95-CR Shared Services, DA 5/01-SR, DA 5/06-SR, DA 5/11-SR, DA 5/16-SR]

Intermediate Units

- A. **The NJSBA believes** that each school district should have access to an intermediate unit (educational services commission or jointure commission) that provides coordination of services to all districts in an area without regard to county boundaries. The State Department of Education should ensure that all services offered by intermediate units are efficient, cost effective and provide the broadest range of services possible to districts within their area. [Authority: DA 11/95-CR Shared Services]

- B. **The NJSBA believes** there should be reasonable and practical requirements for the governance of intermediate units that fairly and equitably represent the interests and participation of all its members. The State Board of Education should establish intermediate units as Limited Purpose Local Education Agencies (LPLEAs) that are responsible to the State Department of Education and Executive County Superintendent of Schools to the same extent as all public school districts. [Authority: DA 11/95-CR Shared Services, DA 12/85-CR ESC Study, DA 6/88-CR Designation of Intermediate Units as LEA's, DA 10/79-CR Regionalization, DA 6/81-24, DA 6/83-A, DA 6/84-A, DA 5/01-SR, DA 5/06-SR, DA 5/11-SR]

- C. **The NJSBA believes** that the use of Intermediate units should be encouraged by the State and the Executive County Superintendent where the Intermediate unit can provide cost-effective, quality services that meet the needs of the student. [Authority: DA 5/14 (Special Education Task Force)]

- D. **The NJSBA believes** that local districts should look to the Intermediate units as a primary resource when seeking services for special needs students. [Authority: DA 5/14 (Special Education Task Force), DA 5/16-SR]

NJSBA Relations with County Offices

- A. **The NJSBA believes** that the county offices of the State Department of Education provide needed services and support to local districts and should be entirely funded by the state.

- B. **The NJSBA believes** that the county offices should expand their responsibilities to districts to include offering expertise and technical assistance in the areas of budget review (as related to the educational program), program review, special education, vocational education and adult, continuing community education. [Authority: BD 11/74, DA 6/78-12, DA 6/93-SR, DA 11/95-CR Shared Services]

- C. **The NJSBA believes** that the county offices should maintain a special education data bank that would provide information to local child study teams on available services in the county. [Authority: DA 6/78-12, DA 6/93-SR, DA 11/95-CR Shared Services, DA 5/01-SR, DA 5/06-SR, DA 5/11-SR, DA 5/16-SR]

Cross References: 1500 Relations between area, county, state, regional and national associations and the district
6142.12 Career education
6171.4 Special education

Key Words: cooperative arrangements, intermediate units, county offices, budget, special education