

National Joint Powers Alliance® (NJPA) Quick Facts

National Joint Powers Alliance® (NJPA) is a self-supporting government organization, partnering with education, government, and nonprofits to boost student and community success. Created in 1978 as one of Minnesota's nine service cooperatives, we offer training and shared services to our central Minnesota members, and cooperative purchasing solutions throughout North America. We are driven by service and the ability to strategically reinvest in member communities.

History

- In 1976, the Minnesota State Legislature allowed for the formation of Educational Cooperative Service Units (ECSU). Each region needed 80% of its school districts to “sign on” and agree to support and be part of an ECSU.
- In 1977, Staples School District Superintendent, Dr. Duane Lund, encouraged enough schools in Region 5 (Cass, Crow Wing, Morrison, Todd, and Wadena counties) to sign a petition allowing for the formation of ECSU-5.
- The following year ECSU-5 bylaws were adopted and NJPA was officially established as one of nine Minnesota Service Cooperatives (then known as Educational Cooperative Service Unit-5). There was funding provided by state programs, projects, and grants. The office was in the former Freshwater Education building in Staples, now owned by Roach Properties.
- In 1980, the Minnesota Department of Education initiated the Low Incidence Program. The Risk Management pool was formed in 1985 and the ECSU-5 no longer received state funding. They were notified that funds will be discontinued.
- In 1995, Minnesota State Statute was revised to allow NJPA to expand its services to cities, counties, and non-profit entities. This also brought on a name change to North Central Service Cooperative (NCSC). The offices moved to what once was Donovan's Bowling Alley and Supper Club after a total remodel in June 1997.
- In 2004, another name change to National Joint Powers Alliance (NJPA).
- In 2011, NJPA moved to present “Carter Ringer Manufacturing Plant” site and built a 22,000-square foot facility. Education Solutions was also launched in the same year.
- City and County Solutions Program was created in 2014. This is the same year that NJPA hit 50,000 members.
- In 2016, a south expansion/addition project was complete, adding another 32,000-square feet to our facility.

Building/Expansion

- The south expansion/addition project has been designed to accommodate the tremendous growth we are experiencing. The expansion included the addition of a fitness facility for employees, promoting overall wellness.
- As of March 9, 2018, we have approximately 140 employees at NJPA (with that number anticipated to grow before July 1!).

- Our facility can house approximately 150 employees. Many of our staff work in Region 5 schools or communities most days of the week. Some opt to telecommute a few days a week. This allows staff that work full-time to have permanent offices or cubicles, while we provide “landing spots” for Regional and telecommuter staff.

Departments & Services

Cooperative Purchasing Solutions

- Through its joint powers and statutory authority, NJPA awards cooperative purchasing contracts through a competitive solicitation process on behalf of its members.
- NJPA members, in accordance with their own laws, rules, and regulations may purchase from these awarded contracts to streamline their procurement processes and create cost efficiencies.

Education Solutions

- NJPA’s Education Solutions Department provides training and consulting services for Region 5 administrators, teachers, and staff. The NJPA IT Department also offers support to Region 5 schools.
- Training sessions focus on leadership, professional learning, assessment, curriculum, and effective instruction.
- Education Solutions facilitates the regional Spelling Bee, Knowledge Bowl, and shared online courses.

Regional Low Incidence Project & Collaborative Service Workers

- NJPA supports two programs to assist regional students who have a wide variety of learning and social needs.
 - The Low Incidence Project is designed to provide accessible and appropriate public education in the least restrictive environment for students with disabilities.
 - NJPA also employs a team of Collaborative Service Workers who serve youth (birth to 18) and families in Crow Wing County with research-based interventions opening doors to other services to help with student and family success.

City/County Solutions

- NJPA provides access to services to help cities and counties meet their ever-growing needs.
- Example areas include: professional development, emergency services, health and safety, planning and zoning, financial reporting, economic development, executive recruitment, grant writing, shared services, legal services, information technology services, and cooperative purchasing.

Risk Management Solutions

- NJPA creates efficiencies for its members by operating a “Risk Management Pool” that serves government and education entities with insurance-related products. These offerings focus on overall employee wellness. Product offerings continue to expand on the national level, including the recent addition of a Cyber Attack Insurance Solution.