



**Board of Education - Special Meeting
Northwood Middle School
945 North Ave.
Highland Park, IL 60035**

Thursday, June 26, 2025 7:00 PM

Mission

North Shore School District 112 is a transformative learning organization where curiosity inspires minds, innovation shapes the future, and students, staff, and families engage to create a kind and connected community that is committed to excellence.

Agenda

LIVE STREAMING - To watch the live stream or the recorded Board Meeting, please visit our Vimeo page at <https://vimeo.com/user133899354>

1. Call to Order/Roll Call (7:00 pm)
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Pledge of Allegiance
4. Public Comments (Policy 2:230)
The Board welcomes comments and gives them serious consideration. Comments are limited to 3 minutes for each person, and comments will become part of the public record. Individual topics will have a limit of 30 minutes.
5. Action Items
 - a. Vote on Consolidation of Dual Language Program (Policy 4:150 & 6:160)
 - b. Vote on Resolution 250626 NSSD112 Notice of Intent to Withdraw from TrueNorth Educational Cooperative 804 (Policy 1:20)
6. Board/Superintendent Other
7. Adjournment



Date: June 26, 2025
To: Members of the Board of Education
From: Dr. Michael Lubelfeld & Dr. Monica Schroeder
Subject: Recommendation to Approve Consolidation of the K-5 Dual Language Program
Policy Alignment: Policy 4:150 Facility Management & 6:160 English Learners
Disposition: Action

Executive Summary:

For more than 30 years, North Shore School District 112 has been deeply committed to dual language education. Launched at Oak Terrace School in the 1990s, the program has enriched thousands of students' lives. However, we are now facing significant and sustained enrollment declines, particularly among Spanish-dominant English learners (ELs) — the core population for our 50/50 two-way immersion model.

In 2018, 54 Spanish-speaking English learners enrolled in kindergarten districtwide. By 2024, that number dropped to 38, a 30% decline. In the 2018-2019 school year, there were 729 total students enrolled in K-5 dual language (per the 6th day enrollment). In the 2024-2025 school year, there were 522 students enrolled (per the 6th day enrollment); this reflects a 29% drop in enrollment.

A strong two-way dual language program relies on balanced, full cohorts of Spanish- and English-speaking students. Declining enrollment threatens that balance. After years of close monitoring and internal analysis, we believe that consolidating the K-5 program into a single site is necessary to preserve quality, equity, and long-term sustainability. We continue to forecast fewer English learner students in the district, and we want to be prepared in advance with a two-year transition plan.

We recognize that this recommendation has a profound impact on Red Oak families, who will be asked to leave a school community they value deeply. While we believe this consolidation will strengthen the future of dual language in District 112, we fully acknowledge the disruption and emotion involved.

At the June 10 Board of Education meeting, we shared [details about the Superintendent's Task Force for Dual Language Consolidation](#), which will launch in August 2025, pending Board approval. The Task Force will include Red Oak and Oak Terrace parents, staff members, and administrators, and it will help ensure a thoughtful and well-supported transition from two school sites to one for K-5 dual language. It will include three focused committees:

- Student Success (district staff, administrators, and external program evaluators)
- Family Engagement (parents, staff, and administrators)
- Facilities and Operations (parents, administrators, and staff)

Oak Terrace was selected as the consolidated site based on several key factors:

- It has the physical capacity to house the entire K-5 program.
- It is geographically closer to a larger concentration of Spanish-speaking families.
- It received substantial upgrades in Phase 1 of our Long-Range Facility Plan, including new mechanical systems, enhanced security, renovated main offices and entry, and additional classroom restrooms.

The recommended transition timeline that the Board will be voting on is as follows:

- 2025-2026: Superintendent's Task Force convenes to guide the transition and develop recommendations for a successful move to a single-site program.
- 2026-2027: All dual language kindergarten students attend Oak Terrace.
- 2027-2028: All K-5 dual language students attend Oak Terrace.
 - Additionally, the Early Childhood program returns to Green Bay School, where it operated successfully for nearly a decade.

As we move forward together, it's important to revisit the foundation of our dual language program and the values that guide it. It is designed to provide a comprehensive educational experience for students around the three pillars of dual language:

- Bilingualism and Biliteracy: This pillar focuses on students developing proficiency in both the target language and their home language, including the ability to read, write, and speak in both languages.
- High Academic Achievement: This pillar focuses on students achieving academic success in all subject areas, not just in language learning.
- Socio-Cultural Competence: This pillar emphasizes the importance of students developing an understanding and appreciation of different cultures and perspectives. It

encourages students to become globally aware, culturally sensitive, and able to engage effectively with diverse communities.

We remain committed to our belief that the dual language program must evolve to meet changing realities, while maintaining our core mission. We believe we can best address the three pillars in a consolidated program at one school site.

Recommendation:

Roll call vote to approve the consolidation of the K–5 Dual Language program into a single site at Oak Terrace School, effective in the 2027–28 school year, and to direct the administration to implement the necessary planning and transition processes.



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NORTH SHORE

SCHOOL DISTRICT 112

Date: June 26, 2025
To: Members of the Board of Education
From: Dr. Michael Lubelfeld & Dr. Monica Schroeder
Subject: Vote on Resolution 250626 - NSSD112 Intent to Withdraw from TrueNorth Educational Cooperative 804

Policy Alignment: Policy 1:20 District Organizations and Cooperative Agreements
Policy 6:120 Education of Students With Disabilities

Disposition: Action

Executive Summary:

North Shore School District 112 is proud to provide robust and comprehensive special education services that support students with Individualized Education Plans (IEPs) across our schools and in outplacement settings if appropriate. These services represent a significant investment in our students and reflect the dedication, expertise, and commitment of our staff.

As part of our efforts to meet the diverse needs of our learners, we have participated in the TrueNorth Educational Cooperative #804—formerly the Northern Suburban Special Education District (NSSED)—which serves 18 school districts in Cook and Lake Counties. This cooperative has been one of many resources used to provide high-quality services to a small number of our students. We have been members of this cooperative since its inception in 1960.

The future of the cooperative is uncertain. Glenview Community Consolidated School District 34 and Glenbrook High School District 225 have formally announced their intention to withdraw from TrueNorth. District 34 will withdraw effective June 30, 2026 (already approved), and District 225 is seeking to withdraw effective June 30, 2026, through a different process. These decisions and intentions to withdraw have prompted broader discussions among all remaining member districts, several of which have already brought forward board action to initiate withdrawals. Concerns include the ability to serve students more effectively through local programming and the anticipated increase in costs as more districts depart, including the potential absorption of liabilities, assets, and staff. Concerns with the overall leadership of the cooperative have also been mentioned by districts.

Currently, twelve students from North Shore School District 112 are served directly through TrueNorth programs: three at North Shore Academy, seven at North Shore Academy Elementary, and two at Arbor (all located in Highland Park). Over the years, our district has developed a strong and responsive continuum of special education services within our own schools and partnerships with other therapeutic schools, positioning us well to meet the evolving needs of our students. That said, years ago, D112 issued an intent to withdraw and later rescinded that intention.

Given these recent developments, including 17 districts' intent to withdraw, we have been actively engaged in discussion and review with other districts and legal counsel for D112. Due to the "crisis", the administration will recommend that the Board adopt a resolution declaring its intent to withdraw from the cooperative. Concurrently, with other member districts, we will begin planning to ensure a smooth transition for the students currently supported through the cooperative educational programming. At this time, the administration intends to recommend that North Shore School District 112 join the remaining member districts in seeking to withdraw from TrueNorth, effective June 30, 2028.

Under guidance from legal counsel to the Board, and in communication with other current member districts of TrueNorth, this recommendation to withdraw will be accompanied by thoughtful planning to ensure continuity of services and a continued commitment to excellence in meeting the needs of every learner. In addition, with legal counsel and the 11 other districts in our team, we are seeking ideas for shared services and the potential for re-imagining True North following the withdrawal of other districts.

Recommendation:

Roll call vote to approve Resolution 250626 North Shore School District 112 Notice of Intent To Withdraw From Truenorth Educational Cooperative 804, as presented.

RESOLUTION # 250626
NORTH SHORE SCHOOL DISTRICT 112 NOTICE OF INTENT TO WITHDRAW
FROM TRUENORTH EDUCATIONAL COOPERATIVE 804

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of North Shore School District 112 (“Board of Education”) currently is a member of the TrueNorth Educational Cooperative 804 (“TrueNorth”);

WHEREAS, the Board of Education has strengthened the services and support within its special education department through intentional efforts to enhance the School District’s capacity in this area and needs to rethink its shared services needs going forward;

WHEREAS, the School District has, over the years, relied less on the services of TrueNorth, and the Board of Education has approved programs that will cause the District to require even fewer services from TrueNorth in future years;

WHEREAS, the School District’s use of TrueNorth services is limited, but it continues to incur substantial membership costs because of its participation in the cooperative and expects those costs to increase dramatically in future years, particularly in light of the likely withdrawal of all districts from the cooperative;

WHEREAS, the Board of Education has determined that withdrawing from TrueNorth is in the best interest of the School District, including for students who receive special education services;

WHEREAS, the Board of Education has engaged with the parents of students enrolled in the True North program to apprise them of its tentative plans. The Board will continue to consider suggestions and concerns from these stakeholders throughout the withdrawal process..

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Education, as follows:

1. That the recitals set forth above are incorporated herein.
2. That on or before July 1, 2025, the Superintendent or designee provide such written notice to TrueNorth of the School District’s intent to withdraw from the cooperative and written notice of its intent to engage in an evaluation of its special education program, to the extent provided by law and the Articles of Agreement. And further that the Superintendent or designee intends to take all necessary steps to effectuate a lawful withdrawal from TrueNorth.
3. This Resolution shall be in full force and effect immediately upon its adoption.

ADOPTED this 26th day of June, 2025, by a roll call vote of the Board as follows:

YAY: _____

NAY: _____

ABSENT: _____

Art Kessler, Board President

Jenny Butler, Board Secretary