

*LADSE serves sixteen member school districts,
thirteen elementary and three high school districts,
in Western Cook and Eastern Du Page Counties.*

COOK COUNTY MEMBER DISTRICTS

Westchester District 92 ½	Westchester
Komarek District 94	North Riverside
Brookfield/LaGrange Park District 95	Brookfield/LaGrange Park
Riverside District 96	Riverside
Western Springs District 101	Western Springs
Elementary School District 102	LaGrange Park/LaGrange/Brookfield
Lyons District 103	Lyons/Stickney/Brookfield/McCook
LaGrange School District 105	LaGrange/Hodgkins/Countryside
LaGrange Highlands District 106	LaGrange Highlands/Indian Head Park
Pleasantdale District 107	Countryside/Willow Springs/Burr Ridge/ Indian Head Park
Lyons Township High School District 204	LaGrange/LaGrange Park/Brookfield/ Lyons/Stickney/McCook/Hodgkins/ Countryside/LaGrange Highlands/ Indian Head Park/Willow Springs/ Burr Ridge
Riverside/Brookfield High School Township District 208	Riverside/Brookfield

DU PAGE COUNTY MEMBER DISTRICTS

Butler District 53	Oak Brook
Darien District 61	Darien
Gower District 62	Burr Ridge/Willowbrook
Hinsdale Township High School District 86	Hinsdale/Clarendon Hills/Darien/ Burr Ridge/Willowbrook/Oak Brook

LADSE

In 1957 LADSE was established as the first special education joint agreement cooperative in Illinois. C. Lewis Martin, the Assistant Superintendent of LaGrange/LaGrange Park District 102, recognized the need for more organized and appropriate services for students with special needs, and successfully worked to modify the Illinois School code to allow for the formation of special education joint agreements. C. Lewis Martin became the first Director of LADSE.

LADSE has sixteen member districts...Butler District 53, Darien District 61, Gower District 62, Westchester District 92 ½, Komarek District 94, Brookfield/LaGrange Park District 95, Riverside District 96, Western Springs District 101, LaGrange/LaGrange Park District 102, Lyons District 103, LaGrange South District 105, LaGrange Highlands District 106, Pleasantdale District 107, Hinsdale Township High School District 86, Lyons Township High School District 204, Riverside-Brookfield Township High School District 208.

LADSE'S MISSION

VISION

LADSE is a special education cooperative that collaborates with its member districts to provide high-quality, evidence-based programs and services that result in positive outcomes for students.

BELIEFS

We believe that...

- All students are entitled to a safe, inclusive learning environment where they are respected and valued for their unique talents, experiences, and needs, where appropriate programs and supports result in successful, fulfilling school and life experiences.
- Evidence-based practices and data-based decisions made through a formal problem-solving process improve student learning and achievement.
- Timely intervention to address identified needs maximizes the opportunity for student success.
- Collaborative partnerships among home, school, and community result in positive outcomes.
- Employing highly-qualified, dedicated staff is essential to achieving positive student outcomes.
- Quality professional development related to evidence-based practices is necessary to keep the organization fluid and moving toward positive outcomes.

MISSION

LADSE will serve its member districts, responding to their collective needs, by...

- providing vision-driven leadership in educating diverse learners
- offering a continuum of quality programs and services to ensure positive outcomes for students
- offering high-quality and timely professional development to LADSE and district staff
- managing available fiscal and personnel resources to ensure the highest value for all concerned

TAGLINE - Committed to Excellence...Improving Outcomes for all Students

LADSE'S LONG-RANGE GOALS

In October of 2002, approximately 50 stakeholders (LADSE staff, superintendents, principals, key communicators, general and special education teachers, parents, and a student) participated in an all-day session to develop long-range staff development goals for LADSE. These goals are the basis for LADSE's ongoing operations and new initiatives.

1. Improving outcomes for all students.
2. Developing prevention and early intervention competencies.
3. Increasing parent involvement as informed and involved partners.
4. Improving participation for all students in the general education program.

LADSE'S GOVERNANCE – THE DIRECTING BOARD

Board Membership

The Superintendents of LADSE's 16 districts are members of the LADSE Directing Board. Each Superintendent/district has an equal voice in the decisions of the Board. The Board meets five times during the school year, with other meetings called when needed. At the first meeting of the year, the Board elects officers and forms committees as needed for that year.

Board Duties/Responsibilities

The Directing Board is the ultimate decision-making body for the cooperative. It hires an Executive Director to serve as chief Executive Director of the cooperative. The Board sets policy, and reviews and approves budgets, expenditures, personnel decisions, and LADSE programs/services as presented to it by the Executive Director.

Administrative District

LADSE is not a legal entity, therefore, consistent with Illinois School Code, Lyons Township High School District 204 serves as LADSE's administrative district. The administrative district's board of education ratifies the fiscal decisions/actions of LADSE's Directing Board, i.e. the annual budget, staffing, and monthly expenditures.

LADSE ADMINISTRATION

- **Executive Council**
- **Program/Services Coordinators**

THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

The Executive Director, Administrative Assistant to the Director, Director of Business Services, Director of Human Resources, and the Administrators for Professional Development and Programs/Related Services make up the Director's Executive Council and are responsible for agency-wide oversight, development, implementation, and evaluation of programs and services and staff who work in them, policy, budget, long-range planning, and other agency management issues as assigned by the Executive Director and the Directing Board. Members of the Executive Council report directly to the Executive Director.

Executive Director

The 23 Illinois Administrative Code Part 226 states that the cooperative entity shall employ a full-time Director of Special Education who shall be the chief administrative officer of the special education programs and services of the cooperative. The Executive Director of LADSE is the sole state-approved Director of Special Education for LADSE's 16 member districts. Member districts can employ individuals to coordinate special education services within a district, but those individuals are not recognized by the state as special education directors. They are district-level administrators. The Executive Director of LADSE is the ONLY state-approved Director of Special Education for the LADSE districts.

The Executive Director of LADSE is responsible for the implementation of policies adopted by the Directing Board, assuring compliance with state and federal regulations, providing a full continuum of special education services and self-contained and multi-district programs for the LADSE districts, maintaining a standard of excellence of programs and services, and for the employment and training of qualified LADSE staff.

Administrative Assistant to the Executive Director

The Administrative Assistant to the Executive Director works in all capacities of support and functioning of the Director's office, is the LADSE general Office Manager, and is the Recording Secretary to the Directing Board.

Director of Business Services

The Director of Business Services is responsible for day-to-day implementation and operation of LADSE's fiscal policies and operations. The Director of Business Services is responsible for submitting reimbursement claims to the state and federal governments, the student accounting system, student transportation, technology infrastructure, and maintenance of the building and grounds. The Director of Business Services also provides supports to LADSE member districts on fiscal matters.

Director of Human Resources

The Director of Human Resources, in consultation with LADSE administrators, determines staffing needs. The Director is responsible for recruiting, interviewing, and hiring of all staff. The Director is also responsible for maintaining and implementing all employment policies and practices and compliance with legal, state, and federal rules and regulations. Member districts can request the HR Director's assistance to recruit and interview district candidates. The HR Director is also a resource for districts on employment issues.

Administrator - Professional Development

The Administrator for Professional Development, in consultation with LADSE and district administrators, determines and implements professional development activities for LADSE and district staff. This Administrator is also responsible for coordinating and implementing LADSE Institute Day programs, LADSE Strands, and other similar agency activities and initiatives.

Administrator – Programs and Related Services

The Administrator of a program or related service is responsible for budget development; supervision, evaluation, and professional development for LADSE staff; research, development, and evaluation of curriculum and services; student management; and all other aspects of administering a specific program and/or service.

PROGRAM/RELATED SERVICES COORDINATORS

The Program and Related Services Coordinators are responsible for the day-to-day operation of a specific multi-district program or of a related service. They supervise teachers and related services staff, have direct contact with students, parents, and district personnel. They work with their Program Administrators on staff evaluation, professional development, curriculum/program development, budget development, and any other issues related to their programs/services. The Coordinators report to the Program Administrators (Executive Council).

LADSE'S FUNDING SOURCES

Local Funds

State Funds

Federal Funds

Discretionary Grants

- **Local** – 1) Each member district is assessed yearly based on its total enrollment. 2) Districts pay tuition for students enrolled in LADSE multi-district programs. 3) Districts are able to contract with LADSE for related services through the purchased services option. 4) Interest income.
- **State** – Special education state revenue is based upon categorical funding formulas which are prorated by the legislature each year. The major state funding source for LADSE is personnel reimbursement. The districts receive state 702a funds.
- **Federal** – Federal revenue comes to LADSE from the IDEA Grant (Individuals with Disability Act) and IDEA-Preschool Grant which are entitlement grants. The level of funding is determined annually on a per-student basis.
- **Discretionary Grants** – LADSE can apply for discretionary grants offered by state and local sources, such as WIA (Work Force Investment Act), DRS/STEP (Department of Rehabilitation Services/Secondary Transition and Employment Program), Aspire, Pre-School-For-All, which are awarded for specific purposes.

These revenues are incorporated into the LADSE budget which is approved by the Directing Board and ratified by the administrative district's board of education.

LADSE PROGRAMS/SERVICES

Base Services – Provided to all districts

Purchased Services – Purchased as needed

Multi-District Tuition Programs - Accessed as needed

Base Services

Base Services as approved by the Directing Board are provided to districts as needed; there are no individual charges for these services. IDEA funds and personnel reimbursement are used to fund these services.

- Adaptive PE
- Assistive Technology
- District Autism Supports
- District Emotional Disorders supports
- ECE Evaluation
- RtI Supports (Response to Intervention)
- Nursing Services
- Vocational Services
- Student Accounting
- Transportation Coordination
- State/Federal Compliance Information
- School Psychologist **

Purchased Services

The Purchased Services option was created to accommodate districts who require less than a full-time related services position to serve the needs of their students. These partial FTEs can be purchased from LADSE. The total compensation for all staff in a particular job category, e.g. all OTs, is averaged to determine the cost per FTE to the districts. The exceptions to this are purchased service requests received after the mid-March deadline for P.S. requests. After the March deadline, if it is necessary for LADSE to contract with an outside agency for a service, a district will be charged the actual cost of the service. The district would have the option of contracting directly with an agency.

**Districts pay for School Psychology services. However, LADSE determines the district's FTE of psych services, generally based a ratio of psych to the number of general education students in a district. Contact the program coordinator for current ratio. Districts may purchase additional psychology services.

Multi-District Tuition Programs

LADSE is committed to providing a full-continuum of programs for students. Based on needs of the districts and the approval of the Directing Board, LADSE provides multi-district programs to serve the low-incidence student population. These programs are supported by student tuition. Historically, LADSE has operated Early Childhood Education (ECE), Communication Disorder (CD), Emotional Disability (ED), Phonological, and Multi-Need Programs. These programs are housed in member district schools.