



Lakes Country Service Cooperative

Jeremy Kovash, Executive Director

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June 29, 2016

Dear Member,

Enclosed is your annual membership agreement for fiscal year 2017. We've filled in the student count for your district from the Department of Education's data center. If the number is not correct, please feel free to correct it and adjust the total accordingly.

After much reflection, the LCSC Board has voted to raise the base fee and cap for general membership. It has been many years since membership fees have changed and rising costs are forcing an adjustment this year. We appreciate your support and guidance and pledge to continue to provide strong programs and services that help make all of you, our members, successful.

Here are few highlights of what we achieved together this past year.

- ✓ The Legislature appropriated \$3 million dollars to fund the creation of a graduate program for high school teachers to obtain the required 18 subject area credits to teach concurrent enrollment classes. LCSC saw the need and spearheaded a partnership between LCSC, NWSC and MSUM to design and offer an affordable, online program to help teachers and districts alike.
- ✓ The LCSC Education Services program, through a generous grant from West Central Initiative (WCI), is piloting a new model of teacher professional development that emphasizes direct experience with industry as a catalyst for developing project-based curriculum for students.
- ✓ LCSC helped make the case for a \$900,000 appropriation for a western Minnesota mobile labs program to bring manufacturing and welding labs to high schools to create interest in, and knowledge of, manufacturing careers.
- ✓ Our Technology group continues to add staff to support a growing number of members who use our multi-level technology services. Data backup services and iPad repair services continue to grow.
- ✓ The Express Marketplace, a one-stop online purchasing site with guaranteed savings from multiple vendors has grown by over 60% this year! The volume of purchases flowing through the purchasing contracts has helped attract important new vendors, such as Lakeshore Learning and Kajeet Mobile Broadband. Your savings from cooperative purchasing equals more money for your classrooms!
- ✓ LCSC's purchasing program worked with the national Association of Educational Service Agencies to negotiate deep discounts on filtered mobile broadband services from Kajeet, a national broadband provider.
- ✓ LCSC continues to organize the statewide Charting the C's Special Programs Conference where attendance hit 640 educators across the state. The Paraprofessional Conference attracts over 300 attendees from our region.
- ✓ The Fresh Connect Food Hub sourced and delivered close to 100,000 pounds of fresh, local produce to school district cafeterias in the region, garnering state and national attention for creating deep support for Farm to Cafeteria initiatives.

These are just a few of the successes we have achieved with your support. When you use LCSC services or purchase from LCSC vendors, your dollars stay local and are re-invested into the cooperative to come back to you in direct service over and over again. When you think service, think of your cooperative first.

Jeremy Kovash, Executive Director

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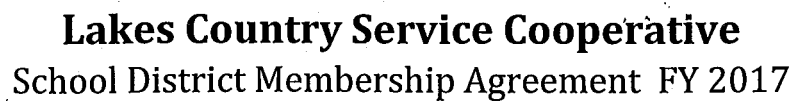
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To provide and promote the development of quality services that are sensitive and responsive to customers' needs



**Student count was taken from the MDE website. Please update if necessary.*

- Access to health insurance pools, Life, Long Term Disability, Vision, and Dental.
- Access to pooled Special Programs services: R-CSPD, ECSE, Audiology Services, Autism Program Mentor, Physical Health Disability, BVI and DHH Consultants, Special Ed/Low Incidence Lending Library
- Access to over 45 bid or negotiated purchasing contracts from food service to vehicles.
- Access to a variety of grant programs, Technology Grants and others as written and awarded.
- Staff Development.
- Professional networking opportunities.
- Representation in regional services decisions.
- Coordination with State agencies.
- Regional communication through newsletters, eMail lists & web services
- Shared Services.

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Questions? Contact Jane Eastes at 218-737-6531 or jeastes@lcsc.org