

School District of Niagara - Nathaniel Burklund District Administrator

Brief information on the School District of Niagara. We have approximately 445 students 4K-12 of which about 105 open enroll in to us. We have about 60 employees that are present during a regular school day. As for administrators we have a Building Principal that is also our Athletic Director, A Director of Pupil Services, Guidance Counselor/Curriculum Director, Finance Manager, and Superintendent/Transportation Coordinator. Also a Building and Grounds Coordinator.

Since 2014 we have had a shared agreement with the Florence County School District for the position of Food Service Coordinator . In the early years of the agreement the shared coordinator would go to Florence once a week. Now that things are smooth running she goes twice a month. This is paid on a per day basis. The School District of Niagara is the Fiscal Manager of this 66.0301 Intergovernmental cooperation.

We had a shared agreement for the position of Finance Manager with the Florence County School District for 2.5 years. This was a very difficult agreement to sustain. The shared Finance Manager was at each district every other two days which made it tough to focus on one district's vision and future needs. With the planning and preparing of budgets, referendums, grants, local and federal dollars, audits, short term borrowing, special education funding, etc. This work only allowed the position to come in and do more of the calendared tasks rather than have the time to expand the district and be part of the day to day running operations, curriculum costs, staffing, etc. The individual was working 6-7 days a week with most days being 10 hour days, attending 2-4 board meetings each month. Policy, insurance plans, WRS, and other financial offerings for our staff, in a larger district, many of the things I just mentioned would be handled by a HR department, but in our small districts it often rides on the Finance Manager's shoulders. The School District of Niagara was the Fiscal Manager of this agreement.

After the 16-17 school year we discontinued our CESA purchase of Occupational Therapy and our consortium Niagara, Florence, Pembine, and Goodman had a shared agreement for the position of Occupational Therapist. Florence was the Fiscal Manager of this position.

As I stated the service originated and was shared between Niagara, Florence, Pembine, and Goodman up until this coming 2022-2023 school year as Niagara and Florence need more service time as our special education populations have grown and are demanding more OT time. The OT position is split 60% Niagara and 40% Florence.

CESA is 1.5 hours away, thus why we try to be creative in shared services with districts near us.

Other shared services that we have explored are Physical Therapy and a Director of Human Resources.

Again due to our location we have to be creative in services offered to be competitive and give our students the same opportunities as every other school district in the state.