

Message from the Executive Director & Friends of NEC President

Dear Northshore Education Consortium Friends,

People often ask for a story that captures the heart of NEC's mission. Not long ago, during a student-led animal science presentation, a high school student from our Northshore Academy Upper School—who once struggled to speak in public—stood confidently before an audience of students from our Kevin O'Grady School, many of whom he had never met, teaching them about an animal he helps care for. Designed to be interactive, the presentation culminated in a powerful moment when he invited some of our more medically fragile students to share in the experience by not only touching the animal, but holding it as well. Moments like these are possible because of your generosity.



As we celebrate our 50th year, we are deeply grateful for your continued support. Despite ongoing challenges—including constrained district budgets and workforce shortages—your philanthropy helped NEC provide a safe, stable, and enriching environment for students with special needs.

Fifty years ago, students with disabilities did not have a guaranteed right to a public education. Since the passage of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), we have seen remarkable advances in our understanding of the brain, trauma, and mental health; in the inclusion of people with disabilities in our communities; and in technologies that support learning and independence. Throughout these decades, NEC has remained at the forefront, delivering evidence-based treatment, innovative pedagogy, rigorous curriculum, and adaptive technology to our students.

Over the past year, we completed major capital improvements at our Sohier Road campus, including a new roof and modernized HVAC systems that are critical for medically fragile students. We also strengthened our workforce through a new collective bargaining agreement and expanded services to member districts through regional transportation and professional consultation.

Most importantly, your support allowed us to invest directly in students. NEC learners participated in hands-on academic, enrichment, and pre-vocational experiences—from culinary arts and animal science to music, athletics, and Special Olympics. They built skills, confidence, and friendships while exploring their communities and discovering new possibilities for their futures.

Beyond our day schools, NEC served hundreds more students through district-based programs, professional development for educators, and advocacy for stronger special education services statewide.

Because of you, NEC remains at the forefront of evidence-based education, innovation, and inclusion. Thank you for believing in our students and for partnering with us to make a lasting difference in their lives.

With heartfelt appreciation,

Francine Rosenberg, M.Ed.
Executive Director
Northshore Education Consortium

Cynthia Johnson
President
Friends of NEC



Governance & Leadership 2024-2025

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Larry Fleming | Chief Financial Officer

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Tracy Farraher | Northshore Academy Lower

Michelle Lipinski | Northshore Recovery High School

Ellen Heald | Transition Programs (Embark & SOAR)

Lynsey Page | Topsfield Vocational Academy

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Ann Noyes | Grants Coordinator

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Learn more on
our website



Friends of the Northshore Education Consortium is a tax exempt 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization (EIN# 61-1479553)



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Annual Report 2025



www.nsedu.org

2025 FAST FACTS

As the Northshore Education Consortium (NEC) celebrates its 50th year of service, we reflect on a legacy rooted in collaboration, innovation, and opportunity. Founded in 1974 with a single program and five member districts, NEC has grown into a vital regional resource, now serving nearly 500 students annually across six schools and programs.

Two decades ago, the Friends of the Northshore Education Consortium was established to further strengthen this mission by providing critical philanthropic support to NEC. Over the years, the Friends of NEC has become an essential partner in NEC's success, helping to sustain and enhance high-quality programming. While NEC's core mission is to offer cost-effective tuition to its member districts, the Friends of NEC works to bridge the gap between affordable tuition and the true cost of exceptional educational services.

Every dollar raised helps keep tuition rates lower, enabling districts to direct more resources back to their own elementary, middle, and high schools. Led by a dedicated volunteer board of individuals and businesses committed to NEC's future, the Friends of NEC proudly supports an organization that has been changing lives for 50 years—and counting.

FAST FACTS

- 50 years of service
- 32.3 million dollar operating budget
- 22 member districts (local cities and towns)
- 20 NEC Governing Board Members
- 380 NEC staff
- 6 NEC Schools/Programs served 473 students from over 60 districts (20 member and 43 non-member districts)

In addition, NEC provided:

- Vision, orientation and mobility services to 86 students from 18 districts
- Mental health support services to 57 students from 14 districts through our Connections Wraparound Program
- Free or grant subsidized district and community training and consultation
- Free regional job-alike groups
- Regional collaboration with the YMCA of the North Shore and Children's Friends and Family Services/JRI
- NEC Family Center support and community engagement opportunities to families

The cost savings impact of NEC tuition vs. private school tuition:

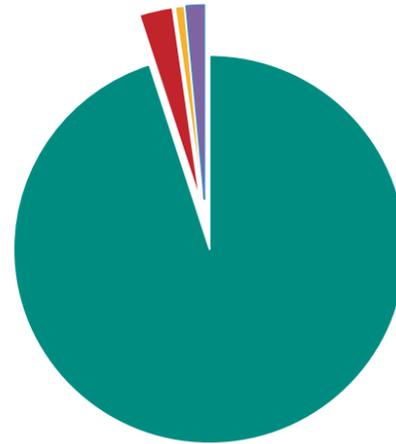
Based on an analysis of private schools serving similar populations, member districts can save over \$100-\$500 per day (\$18,000-\$90,000 per 180 school year, not including transportation costs) by sending a student to an NEC program. NEC tuition rates include all therapy and nursing services.

View NEC's FY25 Annual Report



FY 2025 REVENUE

\$ 32,323,944



- Tuition and Fee for Service / 95%
- Commonwealth of MA, Recovery High School / 2.75%
- Membership Fees and Interest / .75%
- Philanthropy / 1.5%

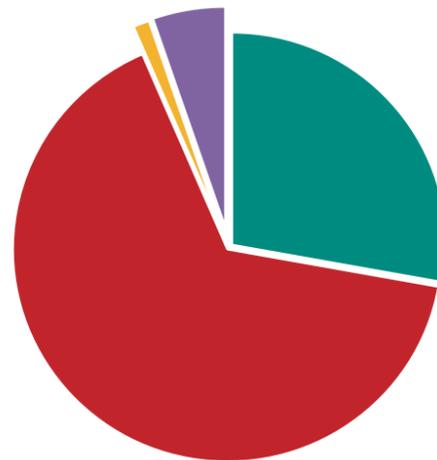
FY 2025 EXPENSES

\$ 34,651,535



- Program Payroll, Tax, and Benefits / 82%
- Occupancy / 6%
- Administrative Services / 8%
- Program Expense / 4%

FY 2025 PHILANTHROPY BREAKOUT



Source	Dollars	Percent
Individual	\$152,423	28%
Foundation	\$359,900	66%
Organization	\$6,672	1%
Corporation	\$28,873	5%
Total:	\$547,868	100%

All data reflective of fiscal year 2025 (July 1, 2024-June 30, 2025)

2025 HIGHLIGHTS



PHILANTHROPIC DEVELOPMENT

Philanthropy plays a vital role in transforming the lives of NEC students with special needs by opening doors to opportunities they might not otherwise have. Through the generosity of donors, NEC is able to deliver individualized educational programs, advanced therapeutic services, and essential resources that empower students to reach their full potential. Charitable gifts and grant support not only address immediate needs, but also invest in a stronger, more hopeful future for every student we serve.

In FY 2025, we proudly launched the celebration of the Northshore Education Consortium's 50th anniversary. The year began with the extraordinary leadership of longtime supporters Mollie Byrnes and the Rockland Trust Charitable Foundation, our 50th Year Partners, who initiated a generous \$50,000 Challenge Match in support of NEC students. Their commitment to match all new or increased gifts made through June 30, 2026 served as a powerful catalyst, inspiring additional companies and individuals to join as 50th Anniversary Sponsors. Together, the goal is to raise \$100,000 to support NEC's Vocational and Enrichment Programs—providing students with critical life skills, hands-on learning experiences, and tools for future success.

Each day, we are reminded that the impact of philanthropy extends far beyond the classroom. Your generosity fosters inclusion, resilience, and a strong sense of community, while inspiring hope for students and their families. Every gift creates a ripple effect—changing lives and helping to build a more compassionate and equitable world. **Thank you!**

- Revenue of \$547,868
- \$15,308 donated to our Tribute Program
- \$274,00 received from grants
- \$42,000 donated through our annual appeal
- \$33,000 in proceeds generated through the 13th running of our annual road race, the Festivus 5K for Autism, went to support educational and enrichment opportunities for our students; **our highest year ever**
- Kevin O' Grady School had another successful Walk & Roll Event, raising over \$6,850

PHILANTHROPIC CONTRIBUTIONS

