

## OUR VISION

Serving our school communities by providing excellence, inspiration, and innovation.

## LEADERSHIP/ GOVERNANCE BOARD

Drew Harris, Chief Administrator  
Ken Spray, President  
Mary Yilk, Vice-President  
Julie Jensen, Secretary

### Members:

Rhonda Fleischer  
Danna Wolford Scott Boyles  
Deb Adams Beth Kohmetscher

Regular Board Meetings: Third Monday of each month

## WHAT WE OFFER

- Special Services
- Special Projects
- Professional Development Services
- Grant Management
- Media and Technology Services
- Leadership Support

## WE SERVE

15 Public School Districts

766 Teachers

9,589 Students

- |                     |                   |               |
|---------------------|-------------------|---------------|
| • Adams Central     | • Hampton         | • Red Cloud   |
| • Aurora            | • Havard          | • Sandy Creek |
| • Blue Hill         | • Hastings        | • Silver Lake |
| • Doniphan-Trumbull | • Kenesaw         | • Superior    |
| • Giltner           | • Lawrence Nelson | • Sutton      |

*Serving Adams, Clay, Southern Hall, Hamilton, Nuckolls, and Webster  
Counties in South Central Nebraska*

## PURPOSE OF ANNUAL REPORT

This annual report serves the following purposes:

- To provide an overview of the services offered by the Educational Service Unit 9
- To meet the legal requirements set forth by state statute
- To provide information about ESU 9 activities to our member schools and the public

NOTICE OF NON-DISCRIMINATION: It is the policy of ESU 9 not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, age, handicap, religion, or marital status in its educational programs, activities, or employment policies. ESU 9 is an equal opportunity employer.



## FROM OUR ADMINISTRATOR DREW HARRIS

The mission statement of ESU 9 is Educate, Empower, and Support. As an organization, ESU 9 employs a very wide variety of personnel, but everyone on our staff has a role in providing Support to our school districts or the unit in some fashion. We also provide Education in a variety of formats—sometimes directly to students, other times to instructors or administrators— but the effort to Empower is my favorite. To empower someone means to give them the means to achieve something on their own, to become stronger or more successful. It reminds me of the old Chinese Proverb: “Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day. Teach him how to fish and you feed him for a lifetime.” We want to empower the people we serve in school districts to become stronger and more successful in completing their mission within the local school districts by helping them improve skills and develop abilities to perform to a higher level—what an appropriate mission for our organization.

In the spring of 2024, ESU 9 completed their previous accreditation cycle, so this year marked the start of our next round. In year one of that process, the organization reviewed the findings of the last accreditation visit and gathered input at a strategic planning session, with board and staff, to formula this goal for the 2024-29 cycle: ESU 9 will develop and strengthen systems that promote innovation, enhance operational efficiencies, and support the recruitment, growth, and retention of high-quality staff in order to provide dynamic and effective services to our schools. I like the use of the word dynamic in this goal. Dynamic is defined as: characterized by constant change, activity, or progress. That certainly fits our ESU. We are constantly evolving to meet the changing needs of our districts to help them progress towards their desired goals. We are here to serve!

**NDE Accredited Spring 2024**

# Annual Report 2024-2025



**EDUCATE, EMPOWER,  
AND SUPPORT**



**5807 Osborne Drive West  
Hastings, NE 68901-9158  
Phone: (402) 463-5611 | FAX: (402) 463-9555  
<https://esu9.org>**

## SPECIAL SERVICES

JOE HANEY, DIRECTOR

**Deaf and Hard of Hearing:** Teachers of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing and Sign Language Interpreters/Language Facilitators work with students with a hearing loss from birth to 21 years, and their families, to better connect and learn in the classroom.

**Early Childhood Education:** Early Childhood Special Education Teachers educate children and families from birth to 5 years, supporting students with a variety of needs to increase developmental skills and support transition into the students' school.

**Licensed Mental Health Practitioner:** An LMHP is a state-certified Mental Health Practitioner that can assess and treat students with mild to severe mental health issues that may impact their education.

**School Psychologist:** School Psychologists identify, diagnose, and verify students with disabilities. In addition to qualifying students for special education, this service provides information about students' abilities as well as offering recommendations for teaching strategies.

**Behavioral Specialist:** The Behavior Specialists assess, train/coach, advise, and develop programs to provide systems of care for students with social/emotional/behavioral needs in the schools.

**Speech Language Pathology:** Speech Language Pathologists provide assessment and intervention or instruction to students with communicative disorders from birth through 21 years of age.

**Blind/Visually Impaired:** The Teacher of the Blind/Visually Impaired provides vision education and instruction in Braille, assistive technology, expanded core curriculum, and compensatory techniques for students with vision needs in the school setting.

**18+ Program:** This program is designed to assist students in the transition to adulthood by providing opportunities for the students to experience various career/work possibilities that are appropriate for each student's unique needs. Students also participate in community activities that help promote independence.

## Other Support Services

- Central Western Nebraska Partnership
- Nebraska Regional Program
- Materials and resources check-out
- Migrant Education Program
- Special education trainings
- Supervision
- Transition
- Autism Team
- School Special Education Consultant



## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

AMY SCHULTZ, DIRECTOR

- Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment Support
- Principal Leadership
- Curriculum Design and Development
- Content area Workshops/Cadres
- Explicit Instruction
- MTSS and PBIS Support
- Acadience Reading
- High Quality Instructional Material (HQIM) Selection and Implementation Support
- High Ability Learning (HAL) Support
- Hastings College Students Substitute Teacher Training
- Data Steward
- Synergy SIS Support
- New Teacher Training Series
- Instructional Frameworks (Danielson, Marzano, NEE, S.E.E.D)
- NWEA and NSCAS Support
- Instructional Coaching
- Gallup Strengthsfinder Coaching
- Continuous Improvement Process Support
- Inclusion Support
- Teaching and Learning Conference each fall for ESU 9 Districts
- Instructional Technology Support
- Canvas LMS Support
- Comprehensive Literacy State Development (CLSD)

### Youth Events

- Quiz Bowl
- Chess Tournament
- Invention Convention
- Youth Leadership
- Science Olympiad
- Future Problem Solvers
- Student Art Exhibit
- Social Media Teams Day

**ESU9 partners with Hastings College to offer graduate credit to area educators each summer**

## TECHNOLOGY SERVICES

GARY NEEDHAM, DIRECTOR

**Infrastructure Services** ensure smooth operation of technology within the schools. Reliable network infrastructure is a central mission. Special emphasis is by way of core, tax-supported services is placed on network security, Internet connectivity, wireless networking, and utilizing e-rate funding. Additional services include a repair center with Apple certification, individualized consulting with schools, FTE-based tech services to schools, automated device management, assistance with cloud-based services, and facilitated events for school technology staff.

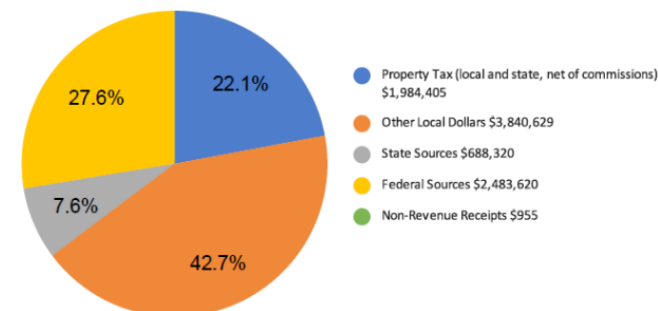
**Educational Materials Services** offer materials and services in these main categories:

- Zoom video conferencing software is licensed for teachers and administrators as a core service. For distance learning courses, consulting is provided to help schools improve the remote teaching and learning environment.
- Online subscription services are provided at group discounts to enhance media center materials and digital citizenship education. Subscriptions provided student access to age-appropriate encyclopedia, an e-book library, and staff training on email security.
- Maker space kits were checked out by participating schools.

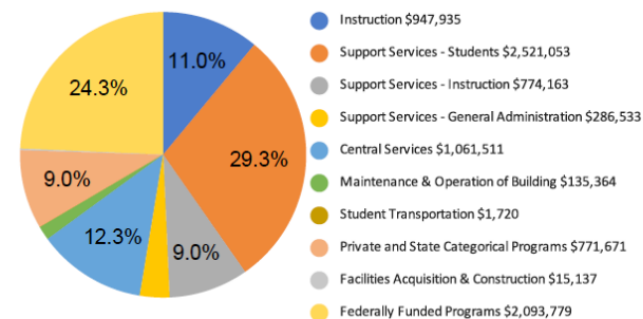
## FINANCIAL

EMILY BURR, BUSINESS OFFICE MANAGER

### General Fund Receipts Modified Cash Basis: \$8,997,929



### General Fund Expenditures \$8,608,866



### Grant Consortium and Coordination

- Title IIA
- Carl Perkins V
- HAL Consortium
- NDE Grow Your Own Grant
- PeAK
- Comp