



2025–2026 Professional Learning Calendar

The mission of the ESU 9 Professional Learning Team is to lead, inform, and provide customized professional learning experiences designed to strengthen and support continuous growth.



Professional Learning Team (left to right):

Katie Soto— Professional Learning Specialist & Instructional Coach

Shalee Lindsey— Professional Learning Specialist

Kayla Perry —Literacy Specialist

Amy Schultz— Professional Learning Director

LaRaesha Kugel — Professional Learning Specialist & Instructional Coach

Laura Ochsner — Professional Learning Coordinator

Educational Service Unit 9
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Hastings, NE 68901
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REGISTRATION GUIDELINES

Registration Instructions:

1. Go to <http://www.esu9.org>
2. Click on "Event Registration" in the Events tab on the top menu bar.
3. If you have already created a Connect account, use your email address and the password you created to log in.
4. If you have NOT created a Connect account, click "Create a New Account". Fill in your information and create a password. At the bottom of the page, click "Create My Account". Once you receive email notification that your account is activated, you can use your email address and password you created to log in.
5. Once you have logged on to the Connect system, select "Section List" from the menu on the right. This is a chronological list of the events available to register for.
6. Click on the title of the event you wish to register for. This will give you more information about the event as well as the option to "Register Me for this Section".
7. You will be asked to verify you information, including payment information. Once you have verified your registration information, click "Register for this Workshop" at the bottom of the page.
8. You will receive email confirmation of your registration.

Registration Policy:

- Register online at <https://connect.esu9.org>
- Participants will be awarded stipends, substitute costs and materials based on consortium participation.
- All districts are welcome to participate regardless of consortium participation; however, a higher registration fee may be assessed. See individual registration costs for each workshop.
- Cancellation Policy: All registrations are non—refundable but fully transferable to another participant. Caterers require us to place food orders a week in advance. As a result, if a person cancels less than one week out, the person/district will be charged a \$25.00 fee.
- "No—shows" (individuals who have not contacted ESU 9 to cancel registrations) will be responsible for their registration fee and any other materials fees incurred.
- Teachers from Title II—A Consortium Member districts who attend a summer workshop may receive a \$150 stipend.
- Title II—A Consortium Member districts may receive substitute reimbursement for teachers attending school year workshops. Substitute rates will be based on each individual district's set rate.

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING EVENTS 2025–2026

August

20th – GYO Course 3 Student Kickoff

25th – Student Art Exhibit

26th & 27th – Leadership Network

September

5th – GYO Course 1 Student Kickoff

16th – HAL Identification Workshop

23rd – Let's Get Cookin' New Teachers Day 3

24th – Future Problem Solvers #1

October

7th – Empowering Leaders Zoom Session

8th – Pitsco Robotics/STEM Day

20th – Teaching & Learning Collaboration (TLC)

29th – Media Specialists Cadre

30th – Counselor's Cadre

November

6th – PE Cadre

11th – Title I Cadre

14th – Athletic Directors Cadre

18th – GYO Course 2 Teacher Institute

19th – Future Problem Solvers #2

January

14th – Future Problem Solvers #3

15th – Empowering Leaders Day 2

21st – Social Studies Cadre

22nd – GYO Course 2 Student Kickoff

27th – ESU 9/10/11 CTE Collaboration Day

28th – Student Digital Media Teams Day

February

3rd, 4th, 5th – Quiz Bowl

11th – STEM Cadre (Math & Science)

16th – Music Cadre

24th, 26th, & 27th – District Meetings

March

2nd & 3rd – District Meetings

19th – CTE Leadership Team Meeting

23rd & 24th – Chess Tournament

April

1st – Empowering Leaders Zoom Session

3rd – Empowering Leaders Zoom Session

8th – Art Cadre

20th – State Quiz Bowl

21st – Invention Convention

29th – Leadership Network Celebration

ESU 9 PROFESSIONAL LEARNING MENU

5807 Osborne Drive West, Hastings NE, 402-463-5611, prodev@esu9.us

LARAESHA KUGEL

SHALEE LINDSEY

LAURA OCHSNER

KAYLA PERRY

AMY SCHULTZ

KATIE SOTO

CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT / MTSS

Mission/Vision

Data Analysis Facilitation: Strengths,
Challenges, & Implications
Goal Setting

Action Planning: MTSS Data-driven decision
making, team support, tiered supports
Comprehensive Needs Assessment 2.0
Nebraska MTSS Self-Assessment

CURRICULUM

Adoption and Implementation of High
Quality Instructional Materials (HQIM)
Design & Development: Standards
Alignment, Implementation, Prioritization,
Learning Targets & Success Criteria

INSTRUCTIONAL FRAMEWORK

Framework Prioritization
Professional Goal Setting
Collaborative Groups
Reflection Practices: Learning Walks,
Instructional Rounds, and Video Recording

LEADERSHIP

Principal Support & Effective Feedback
High Reliability Schools Facilitation
Adaptive Schools
Principal/Teacher Evaluation
PLC's: What and How
Leadership Learning Walks (Leadership Network)

ASSESSMENT LITERACY

Equitable Grading Practices
Formative/ Summative
NSCAS Growth
NWEA MAP Growth and Reading Fluency
Acadience Reading

TECHNOLOGY INTEGRATION

Canvas LMS
Google
Canva for EDU
Instructional Technology Tools
Artificial Intelligence (AI)

INSTRUCTION BEST PRACTICE

Content Specific Support (i.e. core, fine
arts, and CTE)
Explicit Instruction
Vocabulary
Social/ Emotional Learning

YOUTH EVENTS

Quiz Bowl
Future Problem Solvers
Chess Tournament
Invention Convention
Digital Media Teams
Student Art Exhibit
Science Olympiad

CONTRACTED SERVICES

DATA STEWARD

Data Collection and Analysis,
Dashboards & Infographics
Data-Driven Decisions
Synergy

INCLUSION

Creating a model, coaching
and co-planning

INSTRUCTIONAL COACHING

Collaborative planning, observational
feedback, modeling, analysis of
student work, sharing of resources
Cognitive Coaching
Crucial Conversations
Restorative Practices

EDUCATION & TRAINING PROGRAM OF STUDY

Grow Your Own Educators
with a 3 course program
of study with Work Based
Learning embedded.

INVEST IN YOUR STAFF - INVEST IN OUR SUPPORT

Empowering Leaders Series

The Empowering Leaders Series is designed for principals, curriculum directors and teacher leaders. Possible topics include:

- Featured Speakers
- Professional Learning Updates
- NDE Updates
- Teacher/Principal Evaluation
- Instructional Models
- Leadership Development
- Continuous Improvement



EMPOWERING LEADERS *25-26 Schedule*

OCTOBER

7

Zoom

JANUARY

15

In Person

APRIL

1

Zoom

Content Area Cadres

2025–2026 Schedule

Ideas

Collaborations include time to share ideas, strategies and research about what is working in classrooms across the region. Sharing about success allows for professional growth, shared leadership and co–collaboration to make what works even more powerful.

Opportunity

Featured Speakers will provide the opportunity to experience new information and practices and the chance to infuse new understanding into a range of “best practice” tools.

Outcomes

Put it all together. Participate in ongoing conversations regarding the work of developing an engaged and enriched learning environment.

October 29 – Media Specialists Cadre

October 30 – Counselors Cadre

November 6 – PE Cadre

November 11 – Title I Cadre

November 14 – Athletic Directors Cadre

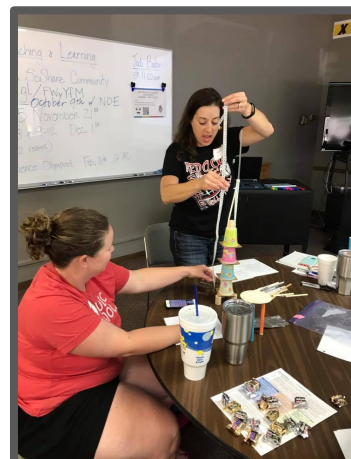
January 21 – Social Studies Cadre

February 11 – STEM Cadre (Math & Science)

February 16 – Music Cadre

March 19 – CTE Leadership Meeting

April 8 – Art Cadre



Youth Events

Future Problem Solvers

September 24
November 19
January 14

Digital Media Teams

January 28

Quiz Bowl

February 3 – Elementary
February 4 – High School
February 5 – Junior High

**Snow dates – February 17 & 18

***State High School Quiz Bowl – April 20

Chess Tournament

March 23 – Elementary
March 24 – Middle School

Invention Convention

April 21



Additional Information

On–Site Support

The Professional Learning Team is committed to supporting the individual needs of each district; therefore, we are scheduling on–going, on–site support for districts. These projects are designed to target specific needs of the many learners served by a school. Contact the PL Team (prodev@esu9.us) to schedule targeted professional learning events, technology integration, customized support and more for your classroom, program or district today.

District Meetings February 24th, 26th, & 27th March 2nd & 3rd

Attention: Superintendents, Principals, and Curriculum Directors

These meetings will provide the opportunity for districts to collaborate with the Professional Learning staff in conducting a district–specific needs assessment regarding professional learning needs for the upcoming year. By collaborating with the PL Team, districts will have the opportunity to plan professional learning days and request specific on–site trainings.

Districts will have the opportunity to sign up for a specific time to meet with the PL Team over the course of these four days. Meetings will last approximately 75 minutes.

Contracted Services

Invest in your staff - Invest in our services



Instructional Coaching

- Collaborative planning, observational feedback, modeling, analysis of student work, sharing of resources
- Cognitive Coaching
- Crucial Conversations
- Restorative Practices



Data Steward

- Data Collection and Analysis,
- Dashboards & Infographics
- Data-Driven Decisions
- Synergy



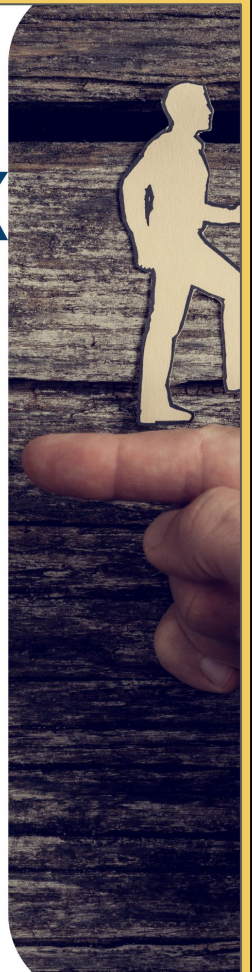
Inclusion

- Creating a model, coaching and co-planning



Education & Training Program of Study

- Grow Your Own Educators with a 3 course program of study with Work Based Learning embedded.





Ignite Innovation: STEAM & Robotics

OCTOBER 8, 2025

PITSCO
EDUCATION



Join ESU 9 staff and Preston Frazier, Pitsco Education Advisor for a fun day of exploring all things STEAM, Robotics and Coding that Pitsco has to offer!

This one day workshop is designed to spark creativity and innovation in the classroom! Educators will be immersed in interactive activities like straw rockets, air-powered racers, and STEAM builder bins while exploring cutting-edge tools like drone maker kits and robotics resources. Participants will also review coding and robotics information from last year's workshop. Leave with practical strategies to inspire students through real-world problem-solving and inquiry-based learning. Get ready to explore, create, and collaborate!



bit.ly/ESU9ignite



9:00 - 2:30



ESU 9, 5807 Osborne Drive
West, Hastings, NE 68901

REGISTER NOW!

Regional Continuous Improvement Workshops

Fall 2025

Choose the location and date that works for you or your CIP Team.

ESU 3

La Vista
Wednesday, September 24th

9am-3pm
6949 S. 110th St., La Vista, NE 68128

Register [here](#).

ESU 5

Beatrice
Thursday, September 25th

9am-3pm
900 W. Court, Beatrice, NE 68310

Register [here](#).

ESU 8

Neligh @ Norfolk
Wednesday, October 1st

9am-3pm
Lifelong Learning Center on the Northeast Community College Campus
601 E. Benjamin Ave., Norfolk, NE 68701

Register [here](#).

ESU 15

Trenton @ McCook
Tuesday, October 21st

9am-3pm
McCook Community College East Campus
905 E. 7th St., McCook, NE 69001

Register [here](#).

ESU 13

Sidney
Wednesday, October 22nd

9am-3pm
361 College Drive, Sidney, NE 69162

Register [here](#).



Teaching & Learning
Collaboration



Keynote Speaker: Dwayne Reed

October 20, 2025



Mr. Reed is an author, rapper, proud husband, father, and public school teacher in Chicago, IL. He is particularly recognized for his dynamic, high-energy, human-centered approach to teaching. In 2016, he released his viral music video, “Welcome to the 4th Grade,” which garnered millions of views, and catapulted him into an educational spotlight.

Reed believes relationships mean everything in education, and that every child, no matter their race or social status, deserves a fair chance at a quality education. His presence on social media continues to grow as he shares about his passions including his family, work, and faith.

Dwayne Reed is an author of several novels for children (Simon B. Rhymin'), a picture book (All Good in the Hood), and a book written specifically for teachers called, Be THAT Teacher. His message to all is one of grace, love, and equity, and his aim is to rehumanize the learning experience for every scholar, everywhere. Mr. Reed is in love with his wife and junior-high sweetheart, Simone', and lives happily on the Southside of Chicago.

Time: 8:30 - 3:30

Location: Adams Central Jr-Sr High School

Register online at:
<https://connect.esu9.org/>

If you are interested in sending your entire staff, contact Laura Ochsner (laura.ochsner@esu9.us).

TLC will also feature breakout sessions from area educators!

2025-26 TRAINING EVENTS

Join the NeMTSS team for a series of workshops designed to expand educators' knowledge of multi-tiered systems of support (MTSS). All events are presented via Zoom unless otherwise noted.

SEPTEMBER

30

Tier 1 School-wide, Part 1

Learn about the school-wide essential practices to create positive behavior supports within your schools.

9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. CDT (8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. MDT)

OCTOBER

9-10

2025 NeMTSS Summit

Roadtrip! Navigating Literacy on the MTSS Highway

Younes Conference Center – Kearney

Don't forget!

NOVEMBER

12

Tier 1 School-wide, Part 2

A continuation of Tier 1 School-wide, Part 1.

9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. CST (8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. MST)

19

Coffee Connect

What Do Restorative Practices Have to Do With It?

8:00 – 9:00 a.m. CST (7:00 – 8:00 a.m. MST)

DECEMBER

10

Tier 1 Classroom

Learn to establish safe and predictable environments within the classroom.

9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. CST (8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. MST)

JANUARY

27

Tier 2 Overview

An introduction to Tier 2 data, systems and practices.

9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. CST (8:00 – 11:00 a.m. MST)

FEBRUARY

18

Coffee Connect

Literacy Skills within Academic Circles

8:00 – 9:00 a.m. CST (7:00 – 8:00 a.m. MST)

MARCH

17

Check-In/Check Out (CICO)

An introduction to Check-In/Check-Out as a Tier 2 support.

9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. CDT (8:00 – 11:00 a.m. MDT)

APRIL

28

Tier 2 Beyond CICO

Installing and layering up additional Tier 2 supports.

9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. CDT (8:00 – 11:00 a.m. MDT)

MAY

12

FBA/BIP

An introduction to best practices for Functional Behavior Assessment and Behavior Intervention Plans.

9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. CDT (8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. MDT)

13

Coffee Connect

Feedback Fuels Growth

8:00 – 9:00 a.m. CDT (7:00 – 8:00 a.m. MDT)

AUGUST

19

Coffee Connect

Holding High Expectations and "Doing With" Students

8:00 – 9:00 a.m. CDT (7:00 – 8:00 a.m. MDT)

For more information, visit: nemtss.unl.edu/news

[Click Here to Register](#)

TARGETED IMPROVEMENT PLAN WORKDAY

**MONDAY,
JANUARY 29, 2026**
9:00 AM-3:00 PM

Join the ESU, Office of Special Education, NeMTSS, and Technical Assistance Partners **at ESU 9** for a day filled with learning and planning.

In building capacity for the scale-up of the MTSS framework and to support districts in an environment of strong local control, each district is required to review their student data and establish a Targeted Improvement Plan (TIP) that focuses on literacy.

Participants will:

- Review the purpose of NECounts and Federal Determinations.
- Determine guiding factors of inclusive practices at federal, state, and local levels.
- Access and explore ILCD 4.0
- Reflect on what did and did not work within the current TIP.
- Identify factual data points, strengths, and areas for growth.
- Analyze root causes with intentional focus on literacy.
- Plan how to eliminate the root causes while concentrating on inclusive practices and implementing an evidence-based strategy with fidelity.
- Implement action steps considering ESU, NDE, and TA Support.
- Recognize opportunities to connect additional action plans and district initiatives.



Who needs to attend?

- **District Leadership Teams with membership including individuals who have:**
 - Knowledge about district goals and initiatives (e.g. TIP, Corrective Action Plans, Title I, Continuous Improvement Plan, etc.)
 - Access to ILCD
 - Access to data
 - Administrative decision-making responsibility
 - General education background
 - Special education background

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

KEEPING YOU

connected

Evaluation

bit.ly/evalESU925-26

OR



Wifi



Network: ESU9 Guest

Password: esuguest

Professional Learning Team

Email



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Questions regarding workshops, services or resources? Contact us:



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