

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 Scott Boyles
Danna Wolford Beth Kohmetscher
Deb Adams

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

14 Public School Districts 766 Teachers 9,589 Students

- | | |
|---------------------|-------------------------|
| • Adams Central | • Hastings |
| • Aurora | • Kenesaw |
| • Blue Hill | • Red Cloud |
| • Doniphan-Trumbull | • Silver Lake |
| • Giltner | • So Central NE Unified |
| • Hampton | • Superior |
| • Harvard | • Sutton |

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

NDE Accredited Spring 2024

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.

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



FROM OUR ADMINISTRATOR DREW HARRIS

In the spring of 2024, ESU 9 hosted their Continuous Improvement Process (CIP) accreditation visit. While a few look at these visits as a hoop that they have to jump through every five years, ESU 9 looked at this as an opportunity to showcase—to ourselves and our patrons—just how far our organization has come in the last five years. In all, it was the most positive accreditation visit I've had the pleasure of participating in during my 40 years in education. Based on feedback from multiple sources, the external team gave commendations for our efforts for involving staff and providing shared leadership as well as for communicating and prioritizing our improvement goal. Their recommendations were to make those systems ongoing and basically to keep doing what we are doing. The Unit received "Exemplary" ratings on several of the domain indicators. In all, the visit exemplified the quality and dedication of the ESU 9 staff in their efforts to serve the needs of our member school districts and their staff members and students. I appreciate the hard work our staff has put into elevating our effectiveness and impact.

In the coming year, we will develop our plan for our next five year cycle to continue to evolve to best meet the needs of our member schools. We will do our best to serve our 15 districts, 800+ staff members, and nearly 10,000 students.

Annual Report 2023 - 2024



**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
- Materials and resources check-out
- Migrant Education Program
- Special education trainings
- Supervision
- Transition
- Autism Team



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
- 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 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 with schools, select network security solutions support, 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:

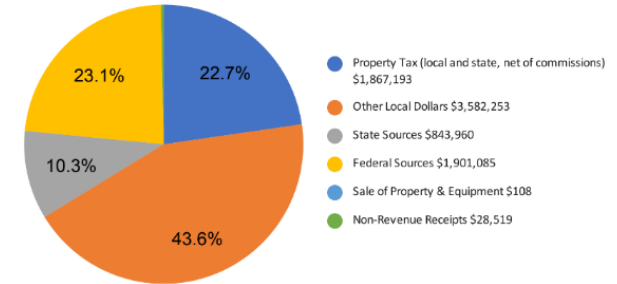
- Zoom video conferencing software is licensed for teachers and administrators as a core service. For distance learning courses, consulting is provided to help schools improve the remote teaching and learning environment.
- Online subscription services are provided at group discounts to enhance media 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.
- Our Print Center offers 3-D printing, poster printing, and lamination.

FINANCIAL

EMILY BURR, BUSINESS OFFICE MANAGER

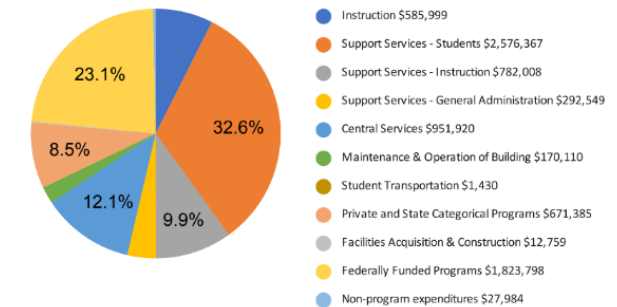
General Fund Receipts

Modified Cash Basis: \$8,223,119



General Fund Expenditures

\$7,896,309



Grant Consortium and Coordination

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