

ESU 2 ANNUAL REPORT 2009-10



Mission Statement

To advance educational excellence. . . ESU #2, in partnership with area schools, will provide visionary leadership and quality service for schools and students

We believe. . .

- ◆ We exist to advance excellence in education
- ◆ That cooperation is essential to an effective education system
- ◆ That accountability builds trust
- ◆ Our primary focus is meeting area schools' needs
- ◆ Our leadership and expertise enhance schools' ability to manage the present and create a vision for the future
- ◆ Communication is vital for interpersonal organizational relationships
- ◆ Individuals are to be treated with dignity and respect
- ◆ Self-esteem is critical to the success of all individuals

Board and Administration

2009-10 Accomplishments

1. ESU 2 staff provided leadership and participation in statewide committees (i.e. Distance Education, Coordinating Councils, Cooperative Purchasing) designed to provide efficient delivery of State mandated and/or locally requested services.
2. The ESU 2 Improvement Process focused on the following three goals: providing resources, on-site delivery and developing LEA ownership of school improvement. Support for the Continuous Improvement Process was provided through communication with ESU 2 school leaders and committees. An external visit was held in April 2010.
3. An ESU 2 School Board Member Dinner/Information Night was held with 75 area school district administrators and school board members in attendance. The representatives from 12 of the 18 ESU 2 schools participated in a presentation by Dr. Roger Breed, NDE Commissioner of Education, entitled, "2010 Education Issues."

2010-11 Target Areas

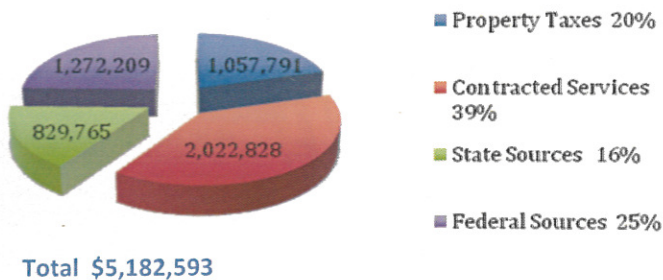
1. The ESU 2 Continuous Improvement Process will continue with a review of the External Visitation Report. Recommendations from the report will be utilized to develop goals and action plans designed for the improvement of services and support to ESU 2 schools.
2. The ESU 2 staff will continue to provide the leadership and support essential for the effective delivery of services to ESU 2 schools.
3. ESU 2 staff will coordinate professional staff development opportunities with NDE to assist ESU 2 schools.

2009-10 Board of Directors

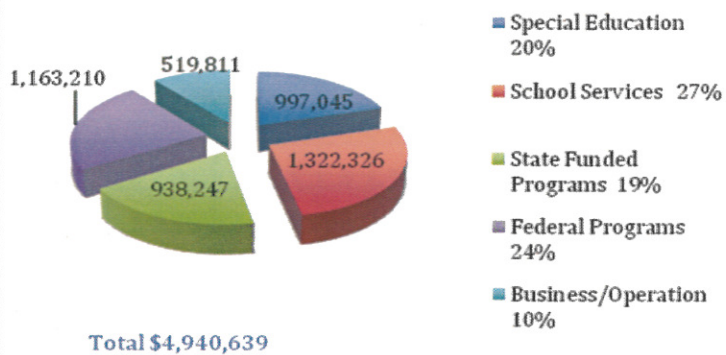
Vern Gibson—President
Dean Chase—Vice President
Harlan Schrieber—Secretary
Ron Briggs—Member
Larry Fauss—Member
Rich McGill—Member
Doug Nabb—Member
George Robertson—Member
Dr. Michael Ough—Administrator



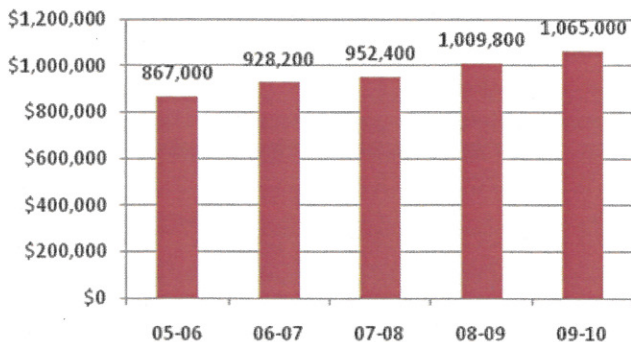
2009-10 REVENUES



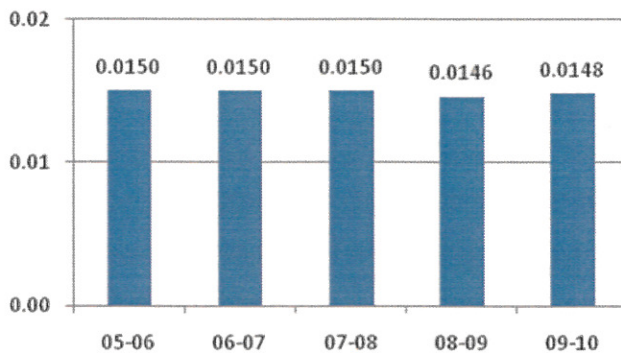
2009-10 EXPENDITURES



Local Tax Request



Local Tax Levy





Counseling Services

During 2009-10, ESU 2 provided four counselors whose services were shared by four school districts. The role of the counselor at the elementary level is one of early intervention, while the role of the counselor at the secondary level is directed to help students who have problems with self-discipline and coping with daily challenges.

Professional Development Center



Our Mission: Provide the bridge to assist educators in meeting the challenges of guiding all students to achieving their highest potential.

The Professional Development Center's services include staff development training, consultation with school administrative staff for professional development and school improvement, and support for schools with compliance for state and federal mandates.

2009-10 Highlights

- ◆ Supported continuous school improvement: planning, data analysis
- ◆ Grant Writing & Management (SCIP, Title I, Perkins)
- ◆ Annual Spring Professional Development visits to each district to plan for professional development needs
- ◆ Response to Intervention (RtI) support and development
- ◆ Staff development opportunities for improving Curriculum, Instruction, & Assessment
- ◆ Support of Nebraska's state-wide math grant
- ◆ Training & support on DIBELS & AIMSweb for all ESU 2 districts
- ◆ Trainings on supplementary interventions for reading instruction
- ◆ Instructional Strategies for elementary reading teachers in the "Big-5" areas
- ◆ Evaluating Core Reading Program in order to select replacement programs or supplemental programs
- ◆ Continuation of "New Teacher Academy" and follow up training sessions
- ◆ Training & support of the Boys Town Teaching Model & differentiated instruction
- ◆ Year 3 of Title I Professional Learning Community/Book Study
- ◆ L to J overview for administrators and graphing/charting process for analyzing state tests
- ◆ Education students from Midland University participated in training on Sound Partners and Rewards

2010-11 Target Areas

- ◆ Provide districts with the necessary support & resources (school improvement, curriculum, instruction, assessment, technology, leadership) to enhance learning
- ◆ Increase effective school-based delivery of services
- ◆ Increase the collective capacity of all staff to enhance learning
- ◆ Expand Response to Intervention (RtI) reading to middle/high schools



Title I Services

The ESU 2 Title I Cooperative served 12 schools in 2009-10; the total approved Title I budget was \$504,243. Eighteen certified teachers and three paraprofessionals provided services to Title I students as follows:

- ◆ Grades 1-3 Reading—2 schools
- ◆ Grades 1-4 Reading—1 school
- ◆ Grades K-3 Reading & Math—1 school
- ◆ Grades K-4 Reading & Math—2 schools
- ◆ Grades K-6 Reading & Math—1 school
- ◆ School-wide—5 schools

Special Education

The ESU 2 Special Education Department provides area schools with needed services in:

- ◆ Special Education Administrative Services
- ◆ Early Development Network (EDN) – Services Coordination
- ◆ Improving Learning for Children with Disabilities (ILCD)
- ◆ Program Consultation for 3 to 5 Year Olds
- ◆ Medicaid in the Public Schools (MIPS)
- ◆ Planning Region Grant #225
- ◆ Facilitate meetings with non-public schools
- ◆ Special Education Continuous Improvement Plan Grant (SCIP)
- ◆ Completion of Special Education State Forms
 - Final Financials
 - IDEA Applications
 - ARRA Application

Services provided by the Special Education Department include Rule 51 compliance, workshops for Special Education, consultation with districts on out-of-district student placements, assistance with new program planning, facilitate Multidisciplinary Team (MDT) meetings upon district's request, attend Individual Education Plan (IEP) and Individual Family Service Plans (IFSP), and supervision of ESU 2 staff in area districts.

2009-10 Highlights

- ◆ Grant writing and management (Planning Region, Collaborative Grant, SCIP grant, Autism grant)
- ◆ Collaborated with Professional Development Center on Response to Intervention
- ◆ Business Managers' Question/Answer Day
- ◆ SAT Roundtable Discussion
- ◆ Speech Language Pathologist Technology Training
- ◆ Special Education Roundtable Discussion

2010-11 Target Areas

- ◆ ILCD facilitator will assist school districts with merging their School Improvement Process and ILCD processes into one seamless improvement strategy.
- ◆ Special Education Department will continue to work with the ESU 2 Professional Development Center on the Response to Intervention Process.
- ◆ To keep ESU 2 schools in compliance with Rule 51 regulations

Improving Learning For Children with Disabilities

- ◆ ESU 2 provides ILCD facilitator for all school districts in the 4-county area
- ◆ 7 of the 18 school districts completed a file review and wrote a corrective action plan (if necessary)
- ◆ 5 of the 18 school districts began the 4-Phase process
- ◆ 3 school districts prepared to complete the Data Analysis for the 10-11 school year
- ◆ 3 school districts worked on implementing their corrective action plan

Special Education 3-5 Year Olds

- ◆ 191 children were served at the end of the 09-10 school year in our 4-county area
- ◆ 144 new children were referred for potential services in our 4-county area
- ◆ Sources of referrals include parents, doctors, preschool teachers and daycare providers
- ◆ Held Quarterly Preschool Teacher meetings at the ESU 2 for preschool teachers in our 4-county area for professional development, networking, and collaboration.
- ◆ Nine school districts have district operated, public preschools (some working with HeadStart)
- ◆ Four district preschools have Early Childhood Grant-funded programs
- ◆ Assist with Results Matter and the curriculum requirements
- ◆ Two districts are considering application for the Early Childhood Grant

Early Development Network (EDN) – Birth to Three Program

- ◆ ESU 2 serves all schools in Burt, Cuming, Dodge and Saunders counties
- ◆ Four full-time Service Coordinators serve 4 counties; two of which serve the Fremont Public Schools' families
- ◆ 185 families were processed through EDN services in 09-10
- ◆ 32 Child Abuse Protection and Treatment Act (CAPTA) referrals were processed. CAPTA is a program with Health & Human Services that requires any child below age 3 determined to have a substantiated case of abuse or neglect, to be referred (mandated) to the Early Development Network program

Perkins Grant

Over the past five years the Perkins Grant has evolved from only working with Career teachers to enhance their programs, to expanding and working with community colleges and providing career opportunities for students. While the number of schools working with our consortium has varied, it is currently eleven schools. We have working agreements with Northeast Community College and Metro Community College.

History Grants

The fourth and final year of the Constitution In American History (CIAH) began in July 2009. Historians Ken Stevens of Texas Christian University and Mike Klarman of Harvard led teachers through the Civil Rights movement. Both professors provided workshops in Nebraska for participant teachers as well as being featured guest speakers at Wayne State College. Teachers used the on-line Angel software to participate in weekly on-line book discussions as well as a weekly real-time chat session. In June, teachers traveled by bus to Memphis, TN, Little Rock, AK, and Topeka, KS to visit historic locations. The grant officially ended July 31.

Learning Web

Every year, one school is chosen to send five teachers to a state-wide technology conference and a two day summer workshop to develop a project to integrate technology and their school's goals. The grant pays for registration for two years of the conference (NETA) and the two-day conference in June. Schools must have a poster session at NETA to explain how their project worked towards their school's goals.

EETT—Enhancing Education Through Technology

The EETT grant involves one or two school districts and the ESU as we pilot different technology in the schools. In the 2008-2009 school year, five ESUs with a total of over 85 school districts piloted electronic physical fitness equipment for the regular and special education classrooms.

Technology Services

2009-2010 Year Accomplishments

1. ESU 2, as a participant in IMAT, secured digital rights to approximately 200 new instructional video titles. In addition, ESU 2 schools gained access to PowerMedia Plus, an on-line video-streaming product.
2. Within ESU 2 Schools, over 5,500 distance learning sessions were transmitted for a total of over 5,000 hours of instruction, meetings, trainings, and discussions.
3. Within the final year of the Constitution In American History (CIAH) grant, Historians Ken Stevens, Texas Christian University, and Mike Klarman, Harvard University, led teachers through the Civil Rights movement. Teachers participated in weekly on-line book discussion and real-time chat sessions.

2010-2011 Year Target Areas

1. Seek funding sources to expand learning opportunities for ESU 2 schools
2. Expand the integration of video conferencing enrichment opportunities with ESU 2 schools
3. Explore and expand the use of desktop video conferencing to ESU 2 Schools; as well as, ESU 2 staff assigned in area schools

Technology Training

2009-2010 Year Accomplishments

- ◆ School personnel were trained for a state-reporting program that expanded to electronically send data to the State. Nebraska Students and Staff Reporting System (NSSRS) required all public and non-public schools to create a unique student ID and turn in selected state reports.
- ◆ Five ESUs (1, 2, 6, 7 & 16) received additional equipment for an EETT grant for student fitness. Schools in the grant focused on monitoring heart rates and increasing the interest in physical fitness with middle-school aged students. Special education students with limited mobility benefited from hardware that was purchased.
- ◆ A school in our ESU each year volunteers and becomes involved in the Learning Web program that combines Marzano's research and innovative technology programs. Staff attends a two-day conference in the summer and a state-wide technology conference in the spring. They demonstrate how the project they choose uses technology to enhance their school goals.
- ◆ Schools continue their work with Angel that requires staff training.
- ◆ Multiple sessions on podcasting and digital storytelling were held and staff and students created podcasts and stories that have been shared with their community. By engaging students in their learning, a higher level of understanding and increased retention develops.
- ◆ The Perkins' schools have an emphasis in working with community colleges and developing learning academies for their students. Steps were taken toward coordinating curriculum between the high schools and community colleges so more students can earn college credit in high school.
- ◆ We planned and participated in a two-day summer NNNC Summer Technology workshop that focused on ways technology could help teachers and students.
- ◆ Schools have individually requested programs on 21st Century Skills, iLife skills, Digital Storytelling, Photoshop Elements, Google, Cameras and Microsoft Office elements.



Instructional Media Services

ESU 2 participated in the state affiliate group IMAT. As a participant of IMAT, ESU 2 secured digital rights to close to 200 new instructional video titles. In addition, schools in the ESU 2 area have access to PowerMedia Plus, an on-line video-streaming product. All new Nebraska titles purchased through IMAT are available through video streaming, DVD duplication, or VHS duplication.

The 2009-10 school year is the last year that ESU 2 will be making VHS duplications. As technology has progressed, VHS format has been changing over to DVD. In addition, the availability of video streaming allows for downloads of the most recent Nebraska titles.

Also new in 2009-10 is a new color copier. The purchase of this new high performance machine has brought the cost of color copies down for our schools. Color copies are now more affordable than ever. In addition, a new hard cover book binding machine offers schools the ability to create memory books. Currently in stock are several sizes of black stock photo window covers to meet the needs of small memory book orders. Custom covers can be ordered for schools wishing to produce larger runs of books. In addition, color copies can be printed on high gloss premium paper at a slightly higher price. The purchase of this equipment will allow schools to self promote special projects, events, and activities.

Distance Education

Distance learning continues in the ESU 2 service area. According to the state scheduling site, over 5,500 distance learning sessions were transmitted for a total of over 5,000 hours of instruction, meetings, trainings, and discussions.

Schools continue to expand course offerings to students while staff and administration are reaping the benefits of not having to drive for meetings. With the upgrade of network resources to the western part of the state, more state meetings are being conducted through the network.

ESU 2 continues to assist schools with the e-rate program to aid them in securing discount of up to 90% off their annual telecommunications expenses. In addition to serving ESU 2 schools, workshops are held in ESU 1, 7, and 8 to support all NNNC schools in securing e-rate discounts. Schools in Nebraska were granted approximately \$7.7 million in e-rate discounts for the 2009-2010 school year.

2010-11 Target Areas

1. Seek funding sources to expand learning opportunities for ESU 2 schools
2. Expand the utilization of video conferencing enrichment opportunities with ESU 2 schools
3. Explore and expand the use of desktop video conferencing to ESU 2 schools as well as ESU 2 staff assigned in area schools.

Cooperative Purchasing

In 2009-10, the schools in ESU 2 purchased supplies and equipment totaling \$252,277, and \$54,225 in paper through this program. Total purchases for the



