

Educational Service Unit

# Annual Report

2011  2012

## ADMINISTRATOR MESSAGE

Nebraska's Educational Service Unit system began with the passage of LB 301 by the Nebraska Legislature in 1965. Educational Service Unit 2 became fully operational in 1982. Since that time the educational service unit system has expanded and improved service delivery.

In 1998 the Nebraska Legislature established Core Services and cast ESUs in a significant supporting role to the school improvement process. Core services were prioritized into three categories, each aimed at the improvement of teaching and student learning: staff development, technology, and instructional materials.

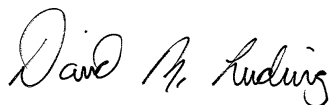
Additionally, the Legislature outlined an advisory and approval process that requires ESUs to annually prepare a core service plan, which must be approved by 2/3 of the public school districts being served whose student population represents more than 50% of the total student population of the unit.

Nebraska Department of Education Rule 84 supports educational service units in effectively and efficiently supporting school systems and establishes a minimum level of performance for ESU accreditation. One of the requirements of Rule 84 is that each ESU conduct a comprehensive evaluation of its programs and services at least once every five years, using an NDE-approved strategic improvement process model.

There exists, however, an alternative, voluntary accreditation option through the prestigious, nongovernmental organization now known as AdvancEd (a merging of North Central and Southern regional accreditation and school improvement entities that have been in existence since 1895). Currently, ESU 2 is preparing for evaluation and continued accreditation via AdvancEd.

The ESU 2 Commitment to Quality Service mission now compasses 16 public school districts in the counties of Burt, Cuming, Dodge, and Saunders; and integrates delivery of Core Services, along with special education services and other requests for teacher and staff support services.

Staff, along with the Board, strive to exemplify in the character and conduct of working relationships a core belief in communication, education, leadership, and collaboration with a constant vision to developing effective partnerships while providing leadership and learning for all.



David M. Ludwig, Administrator

Vern Gibson, President  
Dean Chase, Vice President  
Harlan Schrieber, Secretary  
Ron Briggs  
Rich McGill  
Ed Rastovski  
George Robertson

# PROGRAM OF SERVICES

## 1. STATE CORE PROGRAMS

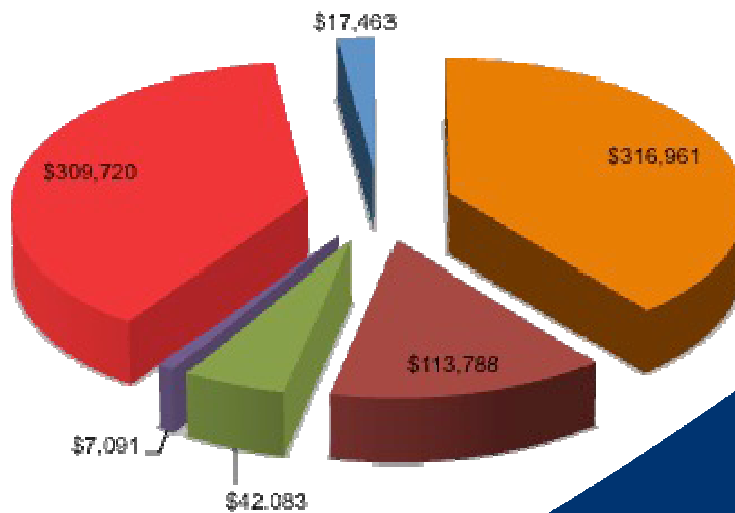
State Law requires that ESU Core Funds be used for staff development, technology training, instructional media, and Internet connectivity. The May 16, 2012 Certification of Core funding for 2012-2013 was \$429,980. ESU 2 core funding during 2011-2012 was \$421,588 and during 2010-2011 was \$511,775.

During the 2010-11 year, Core Funds were reduced \$271,900 because LB 1071 removed the hold harmless from Distance Education costs. In addition, Core Funds for the 2011-12 year were reduced \$90,588. As a result of the combined decreases in 2010-11 and 2011-12 (a total of \$366,488), local levy dollars were needed to fund all of internet infrastructure/connectivity costs, instructional media costs, and most of technology training during the 2011-12 year.

State Core Programs	2010-11 Budget	2011-12 Budget	2012-13 Budget
Staff Development	429,800	413,546	316,971
Technology Training	117,000	116,181	113,788
Instructional Media	96,800	105,929	49,175
Internet Infrastructure	377,600	362,311	387,120
Internet Connectivity	65,400	47,884	45,200
<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>	<b>\$ 1,086,600</b>	<b>\$ 1,045,851</b>	<b>\$ 912,254</b>
Core Certification	\$511,775	\$421,588	\$429,980

2012-13 State Core Programs

- By CORE / Levy Funds
- Staff Development  
CORE Funds 39%
- Tech Training  
CORE Funds 14%
- Instructional Media  
CORE Funds 5%
- Instructional Media  
Local Levy Funds 1%
- Internet Connectivity  
Local Levy Funds 38%
- Distance Education  
Local Levy Funds 2%

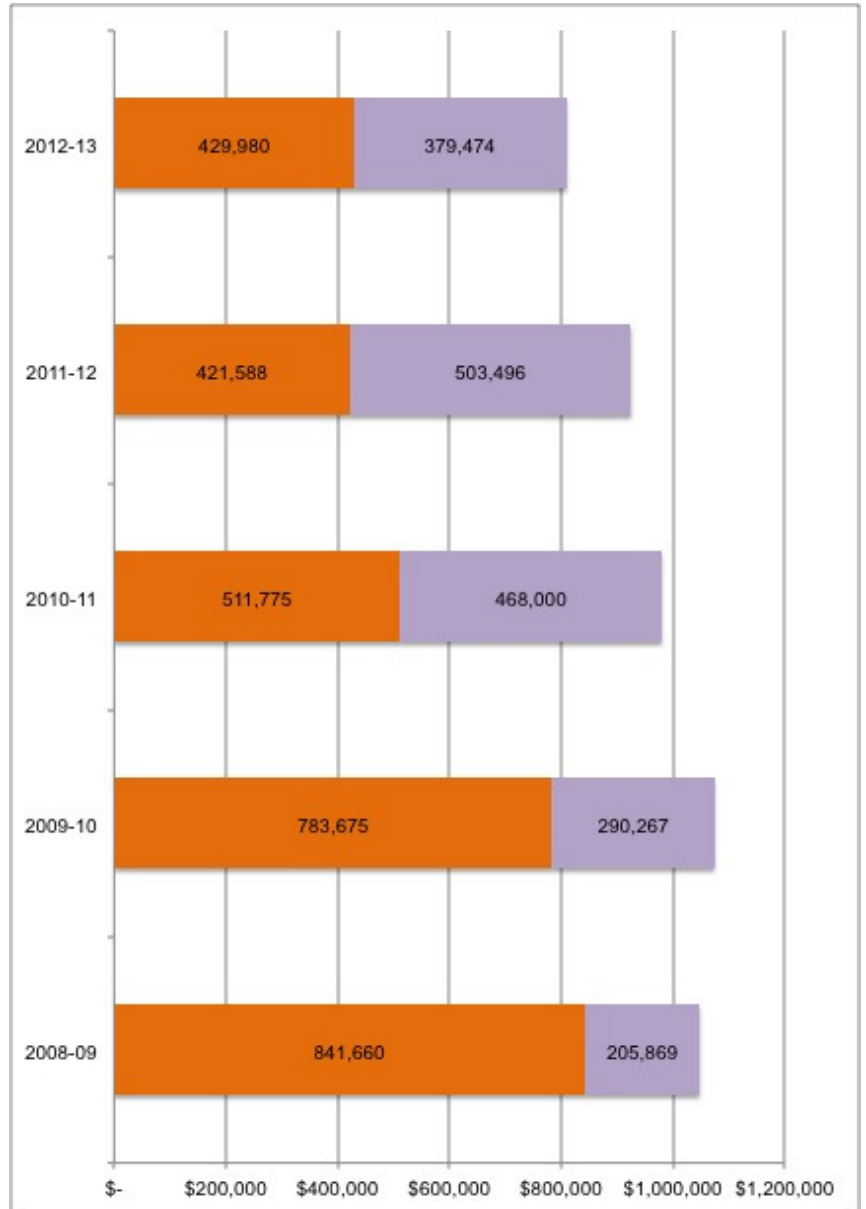




The bar graph, at right, illustrates reduction in State Core Funding for Core Services over a five-year period from 2008-09 to the current 2012-13 fiscal year.

Increasingly, local levy dollars, as well as other funding sources, are necessary to adequately fulfill State Core Services directives.

- State Core Service & Telecommunications Funding
- Local ESU 2 Levy Dollars



The focus of Core Services continues to be school improvement. Instructional Media & Technology department personnel work closely with Professional Development and Special Education personnel to provide technical assistance for staff development offerings and assessment support.

### *1.1 Professional Development*

Core Services Personnel:	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	Funding Source
Director	1.00	1.00	0.00	Core
Consultants w/Fed. Programs (205-215 days)	4.00	4.00	4.00	Core/Grant
Department Assistant Federal Programs	1.00	0.50	0.46	Core/Grant
<b>TOTAL FTE</b>	<b>6.00</b>	<b>5.50</b>	<b>4.46</b>	

Due to Core Funds reductions during both 2010-2011 and 2011-2012, the ESU 2 Superintendent's Advisory Council suggested during the March 2012 meeting to reduce 1.00 FTE within the Professional Development Department. As a result, one FTE (Director) was reduced.

### *1.2 Technology / Network*

Core Services Personnel:	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	Funding Source
Director/Systems Engineer	1.00	1.00	1.00	Levy
Technicians: Internet & Web	3.00	2.50	2.50	Levy
<b>TOTAL FTE</b>	<b>4.00</b>	<b>3.50</b>	<b>3.50</b>	

### *1.3 Instructional Media*

Core Services Personnel:	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	Funding Source
Director/Distance Ed/Grant Projects	1.00	1.00	1.00	Grant/User
Media Shipping/Coop Purchasing Clerk	0.90	NA	NA	Core/Self
Video Booking Clerk/Production Tech.	1.00	NA	NA	Core/Self
Media/Production/Coop Purchasing Clerk	NA	1.00	1.00	User/Levy
Grant Coordinator	NA	0.50	0.50	Grant
Van Delivery Driver	0.40	NA	NA	Core
<b>TOTAL FTE</b>	<b>3.30</b>	<b>2.50</b>	<b>2.50</b>	

The Media Shipping/Coop Purchasing Clerk and the Video Booking Clerk/Production Technician have been combined within 1.00 FTE beginning the 2011-12 year. The combined position is currently the Media/Production/Coop Purchasing Clerk. In addition, it was recommended the van delivery be discontinued beginning the 2011-12 year.

*2. SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES COOPERATIVE*

School districts contract with ESU 2 through a cooperative for special education program services for students and for administrative services pursuant to Federal requirements. Service rates are based on the specific needs of each school district participating in the cooperative, with schools making five (5) payments annually.

<b>Special Education</b>	<b>2010-11</b>	<b>2011-12</b>	<b>2012-13</b>	<b>Funding Source</b>
Director	1.00	1.00	1.00	User
Consultants (205 days)	2.00	2.00	2.00	User/Fed
Department Assistant	1.00	1.00	1.00	User/Fed
Service Coordinators	3.60	4.00	4.00	Fed/Grant
Psychologists (195 days)	4.00	4.00	4.00	User
Speech Language Pathologists (185 days)	8.40	7.80	8.60	User
Speech Language Technician (185 days)	NA	NA	1.00	User
Occupational Therapist (185 days)	NA	1.00	1.00	User
<b>TOTAL FTE</b>	<b>20.0</b>	<b>20.80</b>	<b>22.60</b>	

*3. ADMINISTRATION SERVICES*

The governance of ESU 2 includes the administration and financial support of all programs.

<b>Program</b>	<b>2010-11</b>	<b>2011-12</b>	<b>2012-13</b>	<b>Funding Source</b>
Administrator	1.00	1.00	1.00	Levy
Business Manager	1.00	1.00	1.00	Levy/Grant
Administrative Assistant	1.00	0.50	0.50	Levy
Teacher Center Clerk	0.50	NA	NA	Self
Elementary School Counselors	2.25	1.6	1.80	User
<b>TOTAL FTE</b>	<b>5.75</b>	<b>4.10</b>	<b>4.30</b>	

Services within the Teacher Center were discontinued beginning the 2011-12 year.

*3.1 CONSORTIUMS, COOPERATIVES & FEDERAL GRANTS:*






ESU 2 manages consortium and cooperative programs (i.e. Title I, Perkins, Special Education Cooperative, Distance Education, etc.) for schools that choose to participate. If management expenses exceed approved costs under Federal guidelines, the districts involved determine how expenses will be covered.

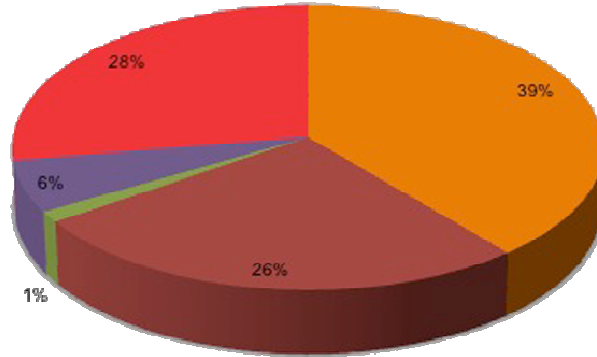
*4. SERVICE CREDIT*

For the 2011-2012 year, levy funds in the amount of \$339,000 were used to provide services to districts for identified needs. Core Funds, during the 2010-11 year, were reduced 35 % (\$ 271,900) and 17.6 % during the 2011-12 year (\$ 90,588). As per the Superintendent’s Advisory Council, Service Credit Funds were reduced 17.6 % during the 2011-12 year.

Service Credits, generated from local levy funds in the amount of \$ 333,000 for 2012-13, will be used to provide a variety of school services as determined locally. Individual school district service credit amounts are calculated on 50% student enrollment and 50% district valuation based on grades of instruction listed in the NDE Directory. Districts may “carry over” their unused ’11-12 Service Credit for use in ’12-13.

**2012-2013 Levy Funds by Usage**

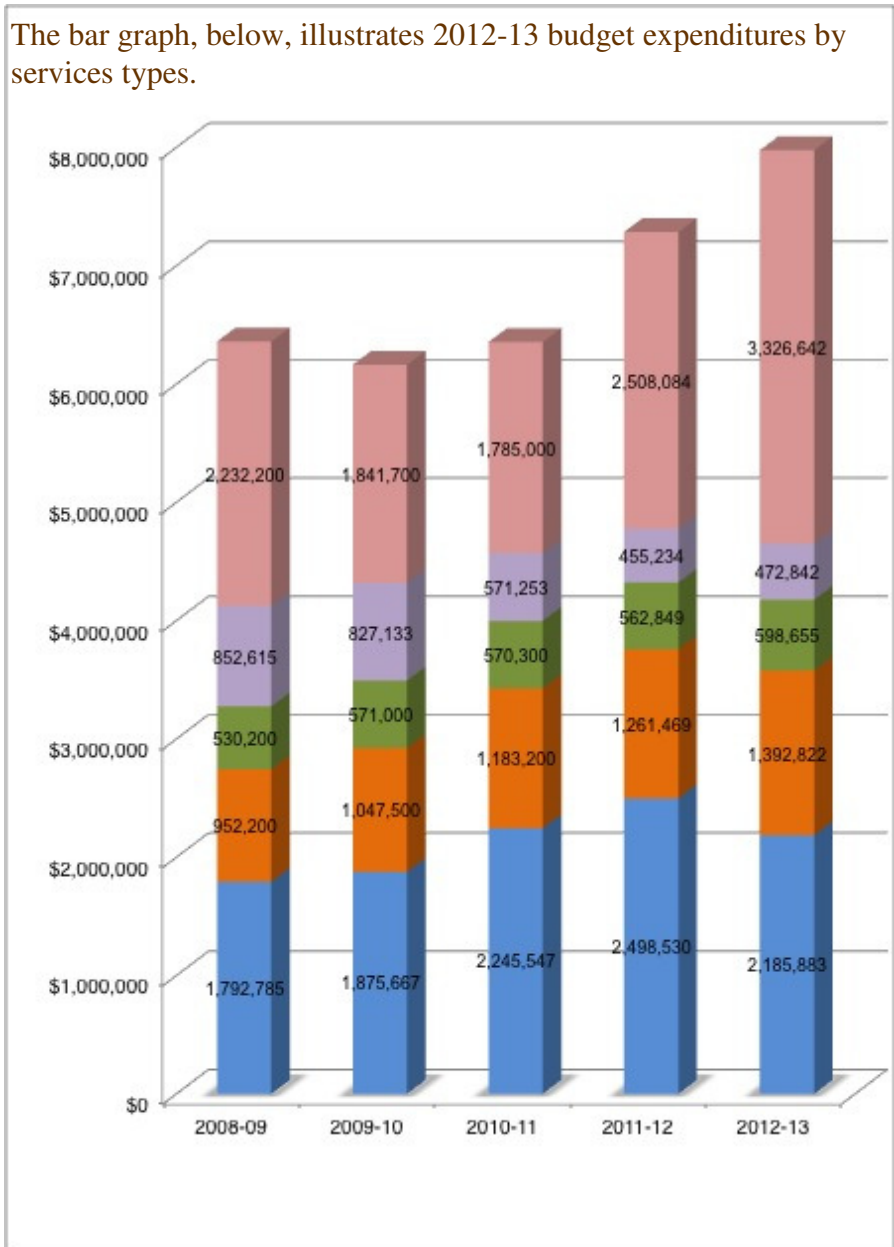
-  ESU 2 Governance & Operation  
39% (\$561,655)
-  Infrastructure & Distance Education  
—Extra Support 26% (\$379,474)
-  Teacher & Staff Support Services  
1% (\$18,106)
-  Service Credit—Elementary Counselors  
6% (\$83,250)
-  Service Credit—School Services  
28% (\$398,750)





The bar graph, below, illustrates 2012-13 budget expenditures by services types.

- School District Contracted Services  
\$2,185,883 (27%)
  - Special Education Cooperative  
\$1,392,822 (17%)
  - Business Operations  
\$598,655 (8%)
  - State Core Programs  
\$472,842 (6%)
  - Federal & Grant Programs  
\$3,326,642 (42%)
- (total \$7,7976,844)**





## Stellar Staff Development ...

Stellar Ph.D. educational researchers and authors Robert Marzano and Anita Archer offered opportunities for school district teams (administrators and teachers) to develop a common professional language and hone their professional crafts.

Five school teams are committed to multiple days of learning, collaborating, and planning for implementation based on Marzano’s model of instruction, with ongoing support from ESU 2’s professional development team. Dr. Marzano personally kicked off the MRL academy with a June 5 public presentation to over 200 educators from across the state.



**Robert Marzano**      **Anita Archer**

Dr. Archer spent three days with over 160 ESU 2 administrators and teachers who attended her workshops on explicit instruction, design and delivery of instruction, behavior management, and literacy instruction. Archer shared practical strategies that can be immediately implemented with students. In response to positive evaluations, an ESU 2 online book study gives an additional second semester opportunity for attendees to further network and practice Archer’s strategies.

## Media

## Off the Shelf and Into the Cloud...

Teachers and learners are on cloud nine over new online instructional media resources from Discovery Education.

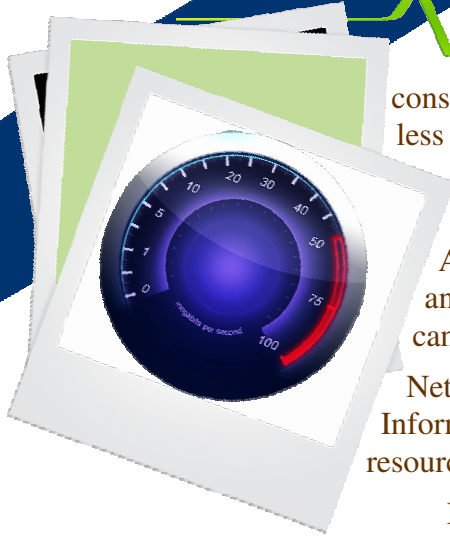
The decision to subscribe to Discovery’s Streaming Media site wasn’t only about an efficient way to provide teachers with digital video for classroom use. It was about giving curious students and engaged families direct access to superior-quality contemporary media and other digital learning assets —from any computer, 24/7 !

Video consumption (views and downloads) skyrocketed during pilot year 2011-12, going from about 4,000 to over 50,000. Discovery Education also provides a user-managed learning environment in which teachers and students can keep and share favorite content —a cloud library, if you will.

Districts cooperate to achieve mutually affordable subscription rates. ESU 2 provides supplemental funding, technology training and account management services.



### *More Bandwidth for the Buck ...*



More megabits per second—from 500 to 1,000 mb at the consortium level and from 40 to 100 mb at the school level—for substantially less bucks, proportionally, was the net gain of a statewide initiative to provide ESUs and their schools faster Internet via a collective, competitive bidding process lead by the State of Nebraska and Network Nebraska.

A competitive bidding process is a formal process to identify the products and services you need (RFP) so that telecommunications Internet providers can review requests and submit bids, which are, then, evaluated and awarded.

Network Nebraska is a collaborative effort under the auspices of the Nebraska Information Technology Commission (NITC) to share telecommunications resources, network services, and applications among eligible participants.

Network Operations Manager Mike Danahy helped develop the RFP, evaluate bids, and coordinate complex, layered connectivity details during service transitions within a Northeast Nebraska ESUs/schools consortium.

### *Triumphant Student Transitions ...*



A new quarterly transition newsletter and an advocacy workshop targeted triumphant transitions for young adults and their families as special education students graduated from school to work or college.

Distributed electronically to education professionals in ESUs 2, 3 and 19, the newsletter received verbal praise from teachers, principals and special education directors. Each issue spotlighted an agency and offered beneficial information about disabilities, cultural and linguistic diversity, websites/apps, and trainings and workshops.

The self-advocacy workshop brought 15 students in their junior or senior years of high school and their teachers/mentors together during April 2012 to explore expectations after graduation, budget, develop interview skills, examine personal learning styles, complete interest inventories, and create portfolios.

Both projects were funded by the Nebraska Department of Education Metro Regional Transition Grant, written by Kristi Arlt, ESU 2 Transition Consultant.

■ Service provided

Program Services by Schools	Ashland Greenwood	Bancroft Rosalie	Cedar Bluffs	Fremont	Logan View	Lyons Decatur NE	Mead	North Bend Central	Oakland Craig	Raymond Central	Scribner Central	Tekamah Snyder	West Point Herman	Wahoo	Wisner Pilger	Yutan
Autism Grant																
Cooperative Purchasing																
Distance Education- Video Conferencing & Learning Management Technologies																
Early Development Services Coordination (birth-3)																
Elementary School Counselors																
Email Exchange Service																
Special Education Collaboration Grant - Improving Learning for Children with Disabilities																
Instructional Media - Online Content																
Internet Filtering																
Local Area Network (LAN) Consultation & Services																
Metro Regional Transition Grant																
Perkins Grant Consortium																
Planning Region 225 Grant (birth-5)																
Professional Development Training & Consultation																
Service Credit for Identified Needs																
Special Education Continuous Improvement Project Grant (SCIP)																
Student Services Special Education Cooperative																
Teaching American History Grant																
Technology Training																
Title I Consortium																
USF-SLD (E-Rate) Consultation																
Wide Area Network (WAN) Traffic Management																

The matrix, above, illustrates the delivery of Core, as well as identified approved programs of service (inclusive of applicable administrative management services) by school districts.  
 Visit [www.esu2.org](http://www.esu2.org) to learn more about specific services.





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**Commitment to Quality Service**

*developing effective partnerships*  *while providing leadership and learning for all*  
**Collaboration Education Leadership Communication**

