

DATE:

TO: ESU #1 Board of Directors

FROM: Bill Heimann, Administrator

RE: Tuesday, October 12, 2021 Board Meeting

There will be a meeting of the ESU #1 Board of Directors, on Tuesday, October 12, 2021, at 5:30 PM in the

ESU #1 Conference Room
211 Tenth Street
Wakefield, NE 68784-5014

Consideration, discussion and any action necessary will be taken on the following items.

- A. Notification of Open Meetings Law
- B. Roll Call*
- C. Approve Agenda*
- D. Consent Agenda*
 - 1. Previous Minutes (copy attached)
 - 2. Financial Reports*
 - a. Revenue Report/Treasurer's Report
 - b. Cash Summary/Expenditure Report
 - 3. Bills for October
 - 4. Administrator's Monthly Report
- E. Public Comment
- F. ESU #1 Continuous Improvement Process and External Team Visit
- G. ESU #1 Election Districts
- H. ESU #1 Education Association Recognition as Bargaining Agent for Certified Staff*
- I. ESUCC Cooperative Purchasing Program
- J. Nebraska Association of School Boards State Conference
- K. ESU #1 Authorized Account Signature*
- L. ESU #1 Annual Report*
- M. Personnel*
 - 1. Consider, discuss, and take necessary action on employee contracts and personnel changes.
 - a. Resignation(s)
 - b. New Hire(s)
 - c. Contract Change(s)
 - d. Termination(s)
- N. Adjournment

This agenda contains a list of subjects known at the time of its distribution on . A copy of the agenda reflecting any changes will be kept in the ESU #1 Administrative office and will be readily available for public inspection during normal office hours. Except for items of emergency nature, the agenda will not be enlarged later than twenty-four hours before the scheduled commencement of the meeting. The Board reserves the right to change the order of business discussed.

*Action Items

Nebraska Open Meetings Act

84-1407. Act, how cited. Sections 84-1407 to 84-1414 shall be known and may be cited as the Open Meetings Act.

84-1408. Declaration of intent; meetings open to public. It is hereby declared to be the policy of this state that the formation of public policy is public business and may not be conducted in secret. Every meeting of a public body shall be open to the public in order that citizens may exercise their democratic privilege of attending and speaking at meetings of public bodies, except as otherwise provided by the Constitution of Nebraska, federal statutes, and the Open Meetings Act.

84-1409. Terms, defined. For purposes of the Open Meetings Act, unless the context otherwise requires:

(1)(a) Public body means (i) governing bodies of all political subdivisions of the State of Nebraska, (ii) governing bodies of all agencies, created by the Constitution of Nebraska, statute, or otherwise pursuant to law, of the executive department of the State of Nebraska, (iii) all independent boards, commissions, bureaus, committees, councils, subunits, or any other bodies created by the Constitution of Nebraska, statute, or otherwise pursuant to law, (iv) all study or advisory committees of the executive department of the State of Nebraska whether having continuing existence or appointed as special committees with limited existence, (v) advisory committees of the bodies referred to in subdivisions (i), (ii), and (iii) of this subdivision, and (vi) instrumentalities exercising essentially public functions; and

(b) Public body does not include (i) subcommittees of such bodies unless a quorum of the public body attends a subcommittee meeting or unless such subcommittees are holding hearings, making policy, or taking formal action on behalf of their parent body, except that all meetings of any subcommittee established under section 81-15,175 are subject to the Open Meetings Act, and (ii) entities conducting judicial proceedings unless a court or other judicial body is exercising rulemaking authority, deliberating, or deciding upon the issuance of administrative orders;

(2) Meeting means all regular, special, or called meetings, formal or informal, of any public body for the purposes of briefing, discussion of public business, formation of tentative policy, or the taking of any action of the public body; and

(3) Videoconferencing means conducting a meeting involving participants at two or more locations through the use of audio-video equipment which allows participants at each location to hear and see each meeting participant at each other location, including public input. Interaction between meeting participants shall be possible at all meeting locations.

84-1410. Closed session; when; purpose; reasons listed; procedure; right to challenge; prohibited acts; chance meetings, conventions, or workshops.

(1) Any public body may hold a closed session by the affirmative vote of a majority of its voting members if a closed session is clearly necessary for the protection of the public interest or for the prevention of needless injury to the reputation of an individual and if such individual has not requested a public meeting. The subject matter and the reason necessitating the closed session shall be identified in the motion to close. Closed sessions may be held for, but shall not be limited to, such reasons as:

(a) Strategy sessions with respect to collective bargaining, real estate purchases, pending litigation, or litigation which is imminent as evidenced by communication of a claim or threat of litigation to or by the public body;

(b) Discussion regarding deployment of security personnel or devices;

(c) Investigative proceedings regarding allegations of criminal misconduct;

(d) Evaluation of the job performance of a person when necessary to prevent needless injury to the reputation of a person and if such person has not requested a public meeting;

(e) For the Community Trust created under section 81-1801.02, discussion regarding the amounts to be paid to individuals who have suffered from a tragedy of violence or natural disaster; or

(f) For public hospitals, governing board peer review activities, professional review activities, review and discussion of medical staff investigations or disciplinary actions, and any strategy session concerning transactional negotiations with any referral source that is required by federal law to be conducted at arms length.

Nothing in this section shall permit a closed meeting for discussion of the appointment or election of a new member to any public body.

(2) The vote to hold a closed session shall be taken in open session. The entire motion, the vote of each member on the question of holding a closed session, and the time when the closed session commenced and concluded shall be recorded in the minutes. If the motion to close passes, then the presiding officer immediately prior to the closed session shall restate on the record the limitation of the subject matter of the closed session. The public body holding such a closed session shall restrict its consideration of matters during the closed portions to only those purposes set forth in the motion to close as the reason for the closed session. The meeting shall be reconvened in open session before any formal action may be taken. For purposes of this section, formal action shall mean a collective decision or a collective commitment or promise to make a decision on any question, motion, proposal, resolution, order, or ordinance or formation of a position or policy but shall not include negotiating guidance given by members of the public body to legal counsel or other negotiators in closed sessions authorized under subdivision (1) (a) of this section.

(3) Any member of any public body shall have the right to challenge the continuation of a closed session if the member determines that the session has exceeded the reason stated in the original motion to hold a closed session or if the member contends that the closed session is neither clearly necessary for (a) the protection of the public interest or (b) the prevention of needless injury to the reputation of an individual. Such challenge shall be overruled only by a majority vote of the members of the public body. Such challenge and its disposition shall be recorded in the minutes.

(4) Nothing in this section shall be construed to require that any meeting be closed to the public. No person or public body shall fail to invite a portion of its members to a meeting, and no public body shall designate itself a subcommittee of the whole body for the purpose of circumventing the Open Meetings Act. No closed session, informal meeting, chance meeting, social gathering, email, fax, or other electronic communication shall be used for the purpose of circumventing the requirements of the act.

(5) The act does not apply to chance meetings or to attendance at or travel to conventions or workshops of members of a public body at which there is no meeting of the body then intentionally convened, if there is no vote or other action taken regarding any matter over which the public body has supervision, control, jurisdiction, or advisory power.

84-1411. Meetings of public body; notice; method; contents; when available; right to modify; duties concerning notice; videoconferencing or telephone conferencing authorized; emergency meeting without notice; appearance before public body.

(1)(a) Each public body shall give reasonable advance publicized notice of the time and place of each meeting as provided in this subsection. Such notice shall be transmitted to all members of the public body and to the public.

(b)(i) Except as provided in subdivision (1)(b)(ii) of this section, in the case of a public body described in subdivision (1)(a)(i) of section 84-1409 or such body's advisory committee, such notice shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation within the public body's jurisdiction and, if available, on such newspaper's web site. (ii) In the case of the governing body of a city of the second class or village or such body's advisory committee, such notice shall be published by: (A) Publication in a newspaper of general circulation within the public body's jurisdiction and, if available, on such newspaper's web site; or (B) Posting written notice in three conspicuous public places in such city or village. Such notice shall be posted in the same three places for each meeting. (iii) In the case of a public body not described in subdivision (1)(b)(i) or (ii) of this section, such notice shall be given by a method designated by the public body.

(c) In addition to a method of notice required by subdivision (1)(b)(i) or (ii) of this section, such notice may also be provided by any other appropriate method designated by such public body or such advisory committee.

(d) Each public body shall record the methods and dates of such notice in its minutes.

(e) Such notice shall contain an agenda of subjects known at the time of the publicized notice or a statement that the agenda, which shall be kept continually current, shall be readily available for public inspection at the principal office of the public body during normal business hours. Agenda items shall be sufficiently descriptive to give the public reasonable notice of the matters to be considered at the meeting. Except for items of

an emergency nature, the agenda shall not be altered later than (i) twenty-four hours before the scheduled commencement of the meeting or (ii) forty-eight hours before the scheduled commencement of a meeting of a city council or village board scheduled outside the corporate limits of the municipality. The public body shall have the right to modify the agenda to include items of an emergency nature only at such public meeting.

(2) A meeting of a state agency, state board, state commission, state council, or state committee, of an advisory committee of any such state entity, of an organization created under the Interlocal Cooperation Act, the Joint Public Agency Act, or the Municipal Cooperative Financing Act, of the governing body of a public power district having a chartered territory of more than one county in this state, of the governing body of a public power and irrigation district having a chartered territory of more than one county in this state, of a board of an educational service unit, of the Educational Service Unit Coordinating Council, of the governing body of a risk management pool or its advisory committees organized in accordance with the Intergovernmental Risk Management Act, or of a community college board of governors may be held by means of videoconferencing or, in the case of the Judicial Resources Commission in those cases specified in section 24-1204, by telephone conference, if:

(a) Reasonable advance publicized notice is given as provided in subsection (1) of this section;

(b) Reasonable arrangements are made to accommodate the public's right to attend, hear, and speak at the meeting, including seating, recodation by audio or visual recording devices, and a reasonable opportunity for input such as public comment or questions to at least the same extent as would be provided if videoconferencing or telephone conferencing was not used;

(c) At least one copy of all documents being considered is available to the public at each site of the videoconference or telephone conference;

(d) At least one member of the state entity, advisory committee, board, council, or governing body is present at each site of the videoconference or telephone conference, except that a member of an organization created under the Interlocal Cooperation Act that sells electricity or natural gas at wholesale on a multistate basis, an organization created under the Municipal Cooperative Financing Act, or a governing body of a risk management pool or an advisory committee of such organization or pool may designate a nonvoting designee, who shall not be included as part of the quorum, to be present at any site; and

(e)(i) Except as provided in subdivision (2)(e)(ii) of this section, no more than one-half of the state entity's, advisory committee's, board's, council's, or governing body's meetings in a calendar year are held by videoconference or telephone conference; or (ii) In the case of an organization created under the Interlocal Cooperation Act that sells electricity or natural gas at wholesale on a multistate basis or an organization created under the Municipal Cooperative Financing Act, such organization holds at least one meeting each calendar year that is not by videoconferencing or telephone conferencing.

Videoconferencing, telephone conferencing, or conferencing by other electronic communication shall not be used to circumvent any of the public government purposes established in the Open Meetings Act.

(3) A meeting of a board of an educational service unit, of the Educational Service Unit Coordinating Council, of the governing body of an entity formed under the Interlocal Cooperation Act, the Joint Public Agency Act, or the Municipal Cooperative Financing Act, of the governing body of a risk management pool or its advisory committees organized in accordance with the Intergovernmental Risk Management Act, of a community college board of governors, of the governing body of a public power district, of the governing body of a public power and irrigation district, or of the Nebraska Brand Committee may be held by telephone conference call if:

(a) The territory represented by the educational service unit, member educational service units, community college board of governors, public power district, public power and irrigation district, Nebraska Brand Committee, or member public agencies of the entity or pool covers more than one county;

(b) Reasonable advance publicized notice is given as provided in subsection (1) of this section which identifies each telephone conference location at which there will be present: (i) A member of the educational service unit board, council, community college board of governors, governing body of a public power district, governing body of a public power and irrigation district, Nebraska Brand Committee, or entity's or pool's governing body; or (ii) A nonvoting designee designated under subdivision (3)(f) of this section;

(c) All telephone conference meeting sites identified in the notice are located within public buildings used by members of the educational service unit board, council, community college board of governors, governing body of the public power district, governing body of the public power and irrigation district, Nebraska Brand Committee, or entity or pool or at a place which will accommodate the anticipated audience;

(d) Reasonable arrangements are made to accommodate the public's right to attend, hear, and speak at the meeting, including seating, recodation by audio recording devices, and a reasonable opportunity for input such as public comment or questions to at least the same extent as would be provided if a telephone conference call was not used;

(e) At least one copy of all documents being considered is available to the public at each site of the telephone conference call;

(f) At least one member of the educational service unit board, council, community college board of governors, governing body of the public power district, governing body of the public power and irrigation district, Nebraska Brand Committee, or governing body of the entity or pool is present at each site of the telephone conference call identified in the public notice, except that a member of an organization created under the Interlocal Cooperation Act that sells electricity or natural gas at wholesale on a multistate basis, an organization created under the Municipal Cooperative Financing Act, or a governing body of a risk management pool or an advisory committee of such organization or pool may designate a nonvoting designee, who shall not be included as part of the quorum, to be present at any site;

(g) The telephone conference call lasts no more than five hours; and

(h) No more than one-half of the board's, council's, governing body's, committee's, entity's, or pool's meetings in a calendar year are held by telephone conference call, except that: (i) The governing body of a risk management pool that meets at least quarterly and the advisory committees of the governing body may each hold more than one-half of its meetings by telephone conference call if the governing body's quarterly meetings are not held by telephone conference call or videoconferencing; and (ii) An organization created under the Interlocal Cooperation Act that sells electricity or natural gas at wholesale on a multistate basis or an organization created under the Municipal Cooperative Financing Act may hold more than one-half of its meetings by telephone conference call if the organization holds at least one meeting each calendar year that is not by videoconferencing or telephone conference call.

Nothing in this subsection shall prevent the participation of consultants, members of the press, and other nonmembers of the governing body at sites not identified in the public notice. Telephone conference calls, emails, faxes, or other electronic communication shall not be used to circumvent any of the public government purposes established in the Open Meetings Act.

(4) The secretary or other designee of each public body shall maintain a list of the news media requesting notification of meetings and shall make reasonable efforts to provide advance notification to them of the time and place of each meeting and the subjects to be discussed at that meeting.

(5) When it is necessary to hold an emergency meeting without reasonable advance public notice, the nature of the emergency shall be stated in the minutes and any formal action taken in such meeting shall pertain only to the emergency. Such emergency meetings may be held by means of electronic or telecommunication equipment. The provisions of subsection (4) of this section shall be complied with in conducting emergency meetings. Complete minutes of such emergency meetings specifying the nature of the emergency and any formal action taken at the meeting shall be made available to the public by no later than the end of the next regular business day.

(6) A public body may allow a member of the public or any other witness other than a member of the public body to appear before the public body by means of video or telecommunications equipment.

84-1412. Meetings of public body; rights of public; public body; powers and duties.

(1) Subject to the Open Meetings Act, the public has the right to attend and the right

to speak at meetings of public bodies, and all or any part of a meeting of a public body, except for closed sessions called pursuant to section 84-1410, may be videotaped, televised, photographed, broadcast, or recorded by any person in attendance by means of a tape recorder, camera, video equipment, or any other means of pictorial or sonic reproduction or in writing.

(2) It shall not be a violation of subsection (1) of this section for any public body to make and enforce reasonable rules and regulations regarding the conduct of persons attending, speaking at, videotaping, televising, photographing, broadcasting, or recording its meetings. A body may not be required to allow citizens to speak at each meeting, but it may not forbid public participation at all meetings.

(3) No public body shall require members of the public to identify themselves as a condition for admission to the meeting nor shall such body require that the name of any member of the public be placed on the agenda prior to such meeting in order to speak about items on the agenda. The body may require any member of the public desiring to address the body to identify himself or herself.

(4) No public body shall, for the purpose of circumventing the Open Meetings Act, hold a meeting in a place known by the body to be too small to accommodate the anticipated audience.

(5) No public body shall be deemed in violation of this section if it holds its meeting in its traditional meeting place which is located in this state.

(6) No public body shall be deemed in violation of this section if it holds a meeting outside of this state if, but only if:

(a) A member entity of the public body is located outside of this state and the meeting is in that member's jurisdiction;

(b) All out-of-state locations identified in the notice are located within public buildings used by members of the entity or at a place which will accommodate the anticipated audience;

(c) Reasonable arrangements are made to accommodate the public's right to attend, hear, and speak at the meeting, including making a telephone conference call available at an instate location to members, the public, or the press, if requested twenty-four hours in advance;

(d) No more than twenty-five percent of the public body's meetings in a calendar year are held out-of-state;

(e) Out-of-state meetings are not used to circumvent any of the public government purposes established in the Open Meetings Act;

(f) Reasonable arrangements are made to provide viewing at other instate locations for a videoconference meeting if requested fourteen days in advance and if economically and reasonably available in the area; and

(g) The public body publishes notice of the out-of-state meeting at least twenty-one days before the date of the meeting in a legal newspaper of statewide circulation.

(7) The public body shall, upon request, make a reasonable effort to accommodate the public's right to hear the discussion and testimony presented at the meeting.

(8) Public bodies shall make available at the meeting or the instate location for a telephone conference call or videoconference, for examination and copying by members of the public, at least one copy of all reproducible written material to be discussed at an open meeting. Public bodies shall make available at least one current copy of the Open Meetings Act posted in the meeting room at a location accessible to members of the public. At the beginning of the meeting, the public shall be informed about the location of the posted information.

84-1413. Meetings; minutes; roll call vote; secret ballot; when.

(1) Each public body shall keep minutes of all meetings showing the time, place, members present and absent, and the substance of all matters discussed.

(2) Any action taken on any question or motion duly moved and seconded shall be by roll call vote of the public body in open session, and the record shall state how each member voted or if the member was absent or not voting. The requirements of a roll call or viva voce vote shall be satisfied by a public body which utilizes an electronic voting device which allows the yeas and nays of each member of such public body to be readily seen by the public.

(3) The vote to elect leadership within a public body may be taken by secret ballot, but the total number of votes for each candidate shall be recorded in the minutes.

(4) The minutes of all meetings and evidence and documentation received or disclosed in open session shall be public records and open to public inspection during normal business hours.

(5) Minutes shall be written, except as provided in subsection (6) of this section, and available for inspection within ten working days or prior to the next convened meeting, whichever occurs earlier, except that cities of the second class and villages may have an additional ten working days if the employee responsible for writing the minutes is absent due to a serious illness or emergency.

(6) Minutes of the meetings of the board of a school district or educational service unit may be kept as an electronic record.

84-1414. Unlawful action by public body; declared void or voidable by district court; when; duty to enforce open meeting laws; citizen's suit; procedure; violations; penalties.

(1) Any motion, resolution, rule, regulation, ordinance, or formal action of a public body made or taken in violation of the Open Meetings Act shall be declared void by the district court if the suit is commenced within one hundred twenty days of the meeting of the public body at which the alleged violation occurred. Any motion, resolution, rule, regulation, ordinance, or formal action of a public body made or taken in substantial violation of the Open Meetings Act shall be voidable by the district court if the suit is commenced more than one hundred twenty days after but within one year of the meeting of the public body in which the alleged violation occurred. A suit to void any final action shall be commenced within one year of the action.

(2) The Attorney General and the county attorney of the county in which the public body ordinarily meets shall enforce the Open Meetings Act.

(3) Any citizen of this state may commence a suit in the district court of the county in which the public body ordinarily meets or in which the plaintiff resides for the purpose of requiring compliance with or preventing violations of the Open Meetings Act, for the purpose of declaring an action of a public body void, or for the purpose of determining the applicability of the act to discussions or decisions of the public body. It shall not be a defense that the citizen attended the meeting and failed to object at such time. The court may order payment of reasonable attorney's fees and court costs to a successful plaintiff in a suit brought under this section.

(4) Any member of a public body who knowingly violates or conspires to violate or who attends or remains at a meeting knowing that the public body is in violation of any provision of the Open Meetings Act shall be guilty of a Class IV misdemeanor for a first offense and a Class III misdemeanor for a second or subsequent offense.

Revised
10/2020



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ESU #1 Board Meeting
Tuesday, September 14, 2021

A meeting of the ESU #1 Board of Directors convened in open and public session on Tuesday, September 14, 2021, at 5:34 PM at ESU #1 in ESU #1 Conference Room, 211 Tenth Street, Wakefield, NE 68784-5014. **Present:** Tucker Hight, AJ Johnson, Lana Oswald, Sally Reinert, Benjamin Schultz, Helen Sorensen, Susan Strahm, Grant Torpin, Josh Weber, **Absent:** Traci Haglund, Shannon Johnson.

Notice of the meeting was given in advance by publication and/or posting, as shown below, in accordance with the Board approved method for giving notice of meetings. Notice of this meeting was given in advance to all members of the Board of Directors. The Recording Secretary maintains a list of news media requesting notification of meetings and advance notification to the listed media of the time and place of the meeting and the subjects to be discussed at this meeting was provided. Availability of the agenda was communicated in the publicized notice and current copy of the Agenda was maintained as stated in the publicized notice. All proceedings of the Board of Directors, except as may be hereinafter noted, were taken while the convened meeting was open to the attendance of the public.

Published and/or Posted Locations:

- Wayne Herald (Thursday before meeting date)
- Central Office Front Door (Friday before meeting date)
- Sparq (Friday before meeting date)

A. Notification of Open Meetings Law

At the beginning of this meeting, President AJ Johnson announced and informed the public that a current copy of the Open Meetings Act is available at the meeting site.

B. Roll Call*

Motion by Tucker Hight, seconded by Benjamin Schultz, to excuse the absence of members: Shannon Johnson and Traci Haglund. After discussion and on roll call vote, the Board voted as follows:

Motion Carried:

Traci Haglund: Absent, Shannon Johnson: Absent, Tucker Hight: For, AJ Johnson: For, Lana Oswald: For, Sally Reinert: For, Benjamin Schultz: For, Helen Sorensen: For, Susan Strahm: For, Grant Torpin: For, Josh Weber: For
For: 9, Against: 0, Absent: 2

C. Approve Agenda*

Motion by Sally Reinert, seconded by Helen Sorensen, to approve the September 14, 2021 agenda as presented. After discussion and on roll call vote, the Board voted as follows:

Motion Carried:

Traci Haglund: Absent, Shannon Johnson: Absent, Tucker Hight: For, AJ Johnson: For, Lana Oswald: For, Sally Reinert: For, Benjamin Schultz: For, Helen Sorensen: For, Susan Strahm: For, Grant Torpin: For, Josh Weber: For

For: 9, Against: 0, Absent: 2

D. Consent Agenda*

D.1. Previous Minutes (copy attached)

D.2. Financial Reports*

D.2.a. Revenue Report/Treasurer's Report

D.2.b. Cash Summary/Expenditure Report

D.3. Bills for September

D.4. Administrator's Monthly Report

D.4.a. ESU #1 Superintendent and Principal Meeting

D.4.b. ESU #1 Accreditation Visit

D.4.c. Nebraska Legislature Special Session

D.4.d. All-Staff Day 2021

D.4.e. Federal GEERS Funds

E. Public Comment

F. Approve 2021-2022 Budget*

Motion by Helen Sorensen, seconded by Tucker Hight, to adopt the 2021-2022 Budget as presented and published. After discussion and on roll call vote, the Board voted as follows:

Motion Carried:

Traci Haglund: Absent, Shannon Johnson: Absent, Tucker Hight: For, AJ Johnson: For, Lana Oswald: For, Sally Reinert: For, Benjamin Schultz: For, Helen Sorensen: For, Susan Strahm: For, Grant Torpin: For, Josh Weber: For
For: 9, Against: 0, Absent: 2

G. Property Tax Request*

RESOLUTION SETTING THE ESU #1 PROPERTY TAX REQUEST

WHEREAS, Nebraska Revised Statute 77-1601.02 provides that the Governing Body of ESU #1 passes by a majority vote a resolution or ordinance setting the tax request; and

WHEREAS, a special public hearing was held as required by law to hear and consider comments concerning the property tax request;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Governing Body of ESU #1 resolves that:

1. The 2021-2022 property tax request be set at:

General Fund: \$1,676,831.29
Bond Fund: \$ -----

2. The total assessed value of property differs from last year's total assessed value by 1.66%.

3. The tax rate which would levy the same amount of property taxes as last year, when multiplied by the new total assessed value of property would be 0.014754 per \$100 of assessed value.
4. ESU #1 proposes to adopt a property tax request that will cause its tax rate to be 0.015 per \$100 of assessed value.
5. Based on the proposed property tax request and changes in other revenue, the total operating budget of ESU #1 will increase last year's budget by 6.56%.
6. A copy of this resolution is to be certified and forwarded to the County Clerk on or before October 13, 2021.

Motion by Sally Reinert, seconded by Susan Strahm, to adopt the Resolution Setting the ESU #1 Property Tax Request as presented and shown within. After discussion and on roll call vote, the Board voted as follows:

Motion Carried:

Traci Haglund: Absent, Shannon Johnson: Absent, Tucker Hight: For, AJ Johnson: For, Lana Oswald: For, Sally Reinert: For, Benjamin Schultz: For, Helen Sorensen: For, Susan Strahm: For, Grant Torpin: For, Josh Weber: For
For: 9, Against: 0, Absent: 2

H. NDE MTSS Grants

Special Education Director Stuart Clark provided a brief overview of the MTSS (multi-tiered systems of support) grants through NDE that allow ESU #1 to hire staff that support area schools, as well as the northeast region.

I. ESU #1 Election Districts

Administrator Heimann presented the results of the study from University of Nebraska at Omaha Center for Public Affairs Research related to the ESU #1 election district boundaries using 2020 population counts.

J. Personnel*

J.1. Consider, discuss, and take necessary action on employee contracts and personnel changes.

J.1.a. Resignation(s)

J.1.b. New Hire(s)

Classified Staff:

Director of Business Services Brittney Hampl, effective October 18, 2021

Migrant Education Data Clerk effective August 23, 2021

J.1.c. Contract Change(s)

J.1.d. Termination(s)

K. Adjournment

As there were no additional Agenda items to discuss, President AJ Johnson declared the meeting adjourned at 6:34 p.m.

Lisa Salmon, Recording Secretary

Helen Sorensen, Board Secretary



**ESUCC Cooperative Purchasing
Sales & Savings By School
ESU # 01**

	<u>Customer Name</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>Member Cost</u>	<u>Savings</u>
26-0070	Allen Consolidated Schools	Allen	55,993.25	19,534.32
54-0586	Bloomfield Community Schools	Bloomfield	26,044.55	12,511.30
14-0702	Cedar Catholic High School	Hartington	7,326.70	2,835.31
54-0013	Creighton Community Public Schools	Creighton	23,322.83	11,617.50
54-0096	Crofton Community Schools	Crofton	11,132.87	6,186.51
14-0704	East and West Catholic Elementary School	Hartington	2,733.56	1,020.50
00-0001	Educational Service Unit 01	Wakefield	23,832.05	9,732.31
26-0561	Emerson-Hubbard Community School	Emerson	69,579.29	23,514.15
14-0008	Hartington-Newcastle Public Schools	Hartington	70,948.18	25,812.22
14-0701	Holy Trinity Elementary School	Hartington	5,422.09	1,929.56
22-0031	Homer Community Schools	Homer	27,210.29	11,749.32
14-0054	Laurel-Concord-Coleridge School	Laurel	129,234.45	33,035.09
54-0501	Niobrara Public Schools	Niobrara	78,300.12	20,408.99
87-0001	Pender Public Schools	Pender	94,568.68	19,660.06
26-0001	Ponca Public Schools	Ponca	115,636.02	44,644.54
14-0045	Randolph Public Schools	Randolph	47,596.16	13,116.93
54-0505	Santee Community Schools	Niobrara	22,901.00	5,638.73
22-0011	South Sioux City Community Schools	South Sioux	82,561.79	52,498.11
87-0701	St Augustine Indian Mission School	Winnebago	20,092.49	2,516.40
54-0701	St Ludger Elementary School	Creighton	5,297.48	1,325.66
90-0702	St Mary's Catholic School	Wayne	1,042.76	452.19
22-0701	St Michael's Catholic School	South Sioux	30,230.05	5,279.98
54-0702	St Rose of Lima School	Crofton	3,670.90	1,181.13
87-0016	Umo Ho Nation Public School	Macy	80,660.16	15,987.82
54-0583	Verdigre Public Schools	Verdigre	12,085.51	7,869.36
90-0560	Wakefield Community Schools	Wakefield	109,854.29	24,716.02
87-0013	Walthill Public Schools	Walthill	227,905.25	35,112.89
54-0576	Wausa Public School	Wausa	108,689.07	21,000.74



ESUCC Cooperative Purchasing
Sales & Savings By School
ESU # 01

	<u>Customer Name</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>Member Cost</u>	<u>Savings</u>
90-0017	Wayne Community Schools	Wayne	170,504.67	34,482.77
14-0703	West Catholic Elementary School	Fordyce	322.06	141.89
87-0017	Winnebago Public Schools	Winnebago	40,732.73	20,511.91
90-0595	Winside Public Schools	Winside	49,619.52	14,087.28
14-0101	Wynot Public Schools	Wynot	76,192.62	20,874.88
	<u>Grand Totals</u>		<u>\$1,831,243.44</u>	<u>\$520,986.38</u>



2020-21

Nebraska ESUCC Cooperative Purchasing Sales & Savings By Vendor

<u>Vendor</u>	<u>List Price</u>	<u>Member Cost</u>	<u>Savings</u>
ACCO Brands USA LLC	\$6,586.80	\$4,705.44	\$1,881.36
Aluminum Athletic Equipment	\$908.45	\$645.00	\$263.45
AmTab Manf Corp (Annual	\$2,236.18	\$1,587.69	\$648.49
Best Plumbing	\$12.51	\$10.01	\$2.50
Blick Art Materials	\$5,099.98	\$4,118.67	\$981.31
Blick Art Materials (Annual	\$6,947.51	\$4,932.73	\$2,014.78
BSN Sports LLC (Annual Buy)	\$16,116.02	\$11,450.71	\$4,665.31
Cascade School Supplies	\$3,800.41	\$2,698.29	\$1,102.12
CDI Technologies (Troxell	\$5,933.42	\$3,324.70	\$2,608.72
CDW-G	\$243,697.27	\$214,233.09	\$29,194.19
Computers Etc (Annual Buy)	\$1,860.93	\$1,321.26	\$539.67
Dude Solutions	\$11,218.32	\$9,759.94	\$1,458.38
Egan Supply Company	\$3,450.35	\$2,449.75	\$1,000.60
FSG Lighting	\$18,555.00	\$14,000.01	\$4,554.99
Infobase Learning	\$1,028.55	\$757.13	\$271.42
Innovative Office Solutions	\$6,629.04	\$5,634.68	\$994.36
Innovative Office Solutions	\$79,720.72	\$56,636.76	\$23,083.96
JourneyEd	\$77,828.18	\$25,112.61	\$52,715.57
Mackin	\$4,756.91	\$4,066.04	\$690.87
Midwest Technology Products	\$3,130.62	\$2,817.66	\$312.96
Midwest Technology Products	\$1,801.77	\$1,279.26	\$522.51
MityLite (Annual Buy)	\$609.30	\$432.60	\$176.70
MNJ Technologies	\$1,135.02	\$959.03	\$130.58

For questions or additional information contact Colleen Lentz at clentz@esucc.org
Cost savings may vary based on vendor reporting methods.



2020-21

Nebraska ESUCC Cooperative Purchasing Sales & Savings By Vendor

<u>Vendor</u>	<u>List Price</u>	<u>Member Cost</u>	<u>Savings</u>
Movie Licensing USA	\$17,148.21	\$9,603.00	\$7,545.21
National Art & School Supplies	\$25,088.04	\$17,812.51	\$7,275.53
National Business Furniture	\$31,551.15	\$25,898.11	\$5,653.04
Paper 101	\$64,930.48	\$50,928.27	\$14,002.21
Parco Scientific Company	\$1,961.24	\$1,392.48	\$568.76
Pitsco Education	\$499.13	\$418.38	\$80.75
Pyramid School Products	\$37,943.42	\$26,976.06	\$10,967.36
Quill	\$142,680.85	\$80,957.09	\$58,895.59
Rapids Wholesale	\$300.08	\$261.07	\$39.01
Rapids Wholesale (Annual	\$919.93	\$653.15	\$266.78
Really Good Stuff	\$6,602.44	\$6,404.37	\$198.07
Riddell / All American (Annual	\$1,090.83	\$774.49	\$316.34
S&S Worldwide (Annual Buy)	\$6,350.01	\$4,508.51	\$1,841.50
Scholastic Library Publishing	\$4,097.00	\$2,027.00	\$2,070.00
School Health	\$5,718.14	\$4,461.93	\$1,256.21
School Health Corporation	\$1,719.14	\$1,220.59	\$498.55
School Specialty	\$66,284.08	\$46,841.34	\$22,464.56
School Specialty (Annual Buy)	\$13,824.07	\$9,815.09	\$4,008.98
Scott Electric (Annual Buy)	\$386.97	\$274.75	\$112.22
Softchoice	\$5,525.54	\$4,928.20	\$597.34
Staples	\$26,810.56	\$18,178.86	\$6,136.70
Staples (Annual Buy)	\$5,428.27	\$3,854.07	\$1,574.20
State Industrial Products	\$231.00	\$203.40	\$27.60

For questions or additional information contact Colleen Lentz at clentz@esucc.org
Cost savings may vary based on vendor reporting methods.



2020-21

Nebraska ESUCC Cooperative Purchasing Sales & Savings By Vendor

<u>Vendor</u>	<u>List Price</u>	<u>Member Cost</u>	<u>Savings</u>
Sysco Foods	\$1,061,881.30	\$906,560.87	\$155,359.23
Sysco Lincoln (Annual Buy)	\$11,153.56	\$7,919.03	\$3,234.53
The Home Depot Pro	\$258,748.10	\$188,868.82	\$71,760.10
Trox Inc (Annual Buy)	\$8,399.65	\$5,963.75	\$2,435.90
Virco Inc (Annual Buy)	\$29,165.77	\$20,707.70	\$8,458.07
Voss Lighting	\$7,733.08	\$6,084.11	\$1,648.97
World Book	\$5,691.61	\$3,813.38	\$1,878.23
<u>Grand Totals</u>	<u>\$2,352,926.94</u>	<u>\$1,831,243.44</u>	<u>\$520,986.38</u>

*Our mission: Providing
innovation, leadership and service*

ESU #1 Annual Report 2020-21



*Our vision: ESU #1 will model
excellence by helping schools increase
educators' effectiveness and student
learning as a result of expert services.*

**Educational Service Unit #1
211 Tenth Street
Wakefield, NE 68784
Phone: (402) 287-2061
Fax: (402) 287-2065
www.esu1.org**



Bill Heimann

a note from the administrator

This annual report serves the following purposes:

- ▶ to provide an overview of the services offered by Educational Service Unit #1;
- ▶ to meet legal requirements as set forth by state statute;
- ▶ to provide information about ESU #1 activities to area schools, our board of directors and the public;

The 2020-21 school year was filled with challenges for Nebraska schools (and ESUs) due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Through planning, partnerships and perseverance, our schools implemented safety protocols to educate students in person for most of the school year. Our staff partnered with schools to provide technology connectivity, software and training to allow virtual connections when necessary. This past year, more than ever, our services were critical for districts to meet the educational needs of students. ESU #1 and our area schools should be proud of their efforts to support families, communities and each other during this global health pandemic.

ESU #1 provides assistance to local school districts through core services, which include staff development, technology and media services. We provide the educational programming and services necessary for area school districts to reach their goals of improving student learning and enhancing the capacity and skills of their staff. We respond to the requests of the 23 public K-12 school districts in ESU #1, and our highly qualified staff partner with them to deliver services efficiently and effectively.

In addition, contracted special educational services are provided to schools, as well as grant activities and cooperative purchasing programs. The Migrant Education Program and Early Learning Connection are located at ESU #1 and serve an area in multiple ESUs to give support to schools, students and their families.

Nebraska Department of Education (NDE) Rule 84 establishes a level of performance for ESU accreditation.



On behalf of the ESU #1 Board of Directors, I am pleased to present this annual report that highlights the efforts of our staff in assisting area schools to make a difference in the lives of both students and educators. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

about ESU #1



Educational Service Unit #1 provides services to the local school districts in Cedar, Dakota, Dixon, Knox, Thurston and Wayne counties in northeast Nebraska. ESU #1 is one of 17 Educational Service Units statewide.

The service units were created by the state Legislature in 1965 and later placed under the jurisdiction of the Nebraska Department of Education.

Historically, the purpose of the ESUs has been to provide services that individual school districts can't economically or efficiently provide for themselves. As the school districts identified new needs, the diversity of services offered by the ESUs evolved.

ESU #1 is headquartered in Wakefield and provides a variety of special education, staff development, technology and media services to the 23 school districts in its six-county area. ESU #1 also operates the Level III program at the Tower School in Wayne.

The ESU #1 service area covers 2,926 square miles and includes 12,421 students and approximately 1,200 teachers. Moreover, the ESU #1 service area includes three Native American reservations: the Santee, Winnebago and Omaha.



board of directors



Board

ESU #1 Board of Directors members are elected to four-year terms, one representative from each of the 11 election districts.

The board meets in regular session on the second Tuesday of each month at the Central Office in Wakefield. Current board members are:



- ▶ Adrian (AJ) Johnson, president (District 9)
- ▶ Sally Reinert, vice president (District 2)
- ▶ Helen Sorensen, secretary (District 1)
- ▶ Susan Strahm (District 4)
- ▶ Lana Oswald (District 6)
- ▶ Traci Haglund (District 5)
- ▶ Tucker Hight (District 8)
- ▶ Robby Thompson (District 11)
- ▶ Grant Torpin (District 7)
- ▶ Shannon Johnson (District 10)
- ▶ Ben Schultz (District 3)



Council

advisory council

ESU #1 is accredited by the Nebraska Department of Education and is assisted by an advisory council composed of area superintendents, one each from the six counties we serve, representing both large and small school districts.

The council reviews, recommends and supports the services offered by ESU #1. Advisory council members during the 2020-21 school year were:

- ▶ Gregg Cruickshank, chair (Dakota Co.)
- ▶ Jeff Messersmith (Cedar Co.)
- ▶ Kirk Ahrends (Thurston Co.)
- ▶ Brad Hoelsing (Knox Co.)
- ▶ Duane Krusemark (Dixon Co.)
- ▶ Andrew Offner (Wayne Co.)



Gregg Cruickshank



Kirk Ahrends



Jeff Messersmith



Brad Hoelsing



Duane Krusemark



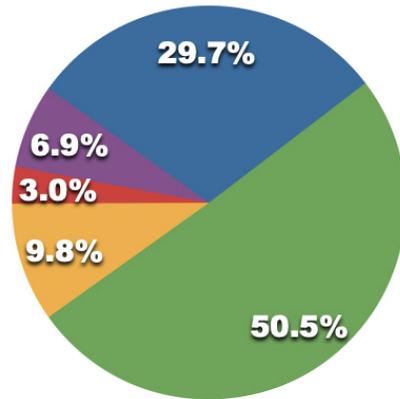
Andrew Offner



Budget

budget

Each ESU is financed through a combination of property tax funds, state funds and service contracts with individual school districts. Because the ESU #1 service area includes several counties, the modest contribution by taxpayers provides a base from which the unit functions.



Budgeted revenue

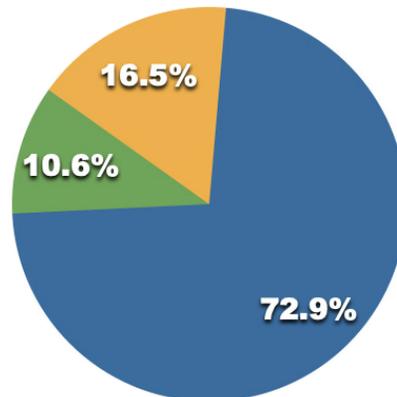
- ▶ General fund/carryover... \$4,750,000
- ▶ Local receipts \$8,244,239
- ▶ Property tax..... \$1,633,054
- ▶ State receipts..... \$482,692
- ▶ Federal funds \$1,452,000

TOTAL.....\$16,561,985

Budgeted expenditures

- ▶ Local \$12,066,985
- ▶ State/federal/local \$1,995,000
- ▶ Cash reserve..... \$2,500,000

TOTAL.....\$16,561,985



early learning connection professional development system grant



Northern Early Learning Connection Partnership

The Northern Early Learning Connection (ELC) partnership for the Nebraska Department of Education, Office of Early Childhood, supports ESUs #1, 8 and 17, with a home office at ESU #1 in Wakefield.



NORTHERN PARTNERSHIP

The ELC Coordinator for the Northern Region is Erika Fink. She works collaboratively with all early childhood programs in the 16 county Northern region to ensure that educators who work with children ages birth to age 8 have access to high quality professional development opportunities. These professional experiences are aligned with specific content areas in *Nebraska's Core Competencies for Early Childhood Professionals* and *Nebraska's Birth to 5 Learning and Development Standards*.

All partners are welcome to participate and engage in the planning and implementation of key events in the Northern region. Professional development opportunities reflect state priorities and best practices with a focus on addressing local needs. Developing partnerships, connecting with state systems, collaborating with early childhood initiatives and communicating with local coalitions are critical components of the Early Learning Connection work. Our web presence, including the ELC Facebook page and listserv communications, impacts approximately 1,600 early childhood professionals in northern Nebraska.

*This publication was made possible by Grant Number 93.575 Child Care and Development Block Grant from the Office of Child Care, Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

education of migratory children grant



Migrant Education Program

The ESU #1 Migrant Education Program (MEP) works to ensure that migrant children fully benefit from the same free public education provided to other children. To achieve this, the MEP supports educational programs for migrant children to help reduce disruptions to learning and other problems that result from repeated moves. Our focus areas are school readiness, math and English language arts instruction, and graduation or services to out-of-school youth.

One of the MEP's purposes is to ensure that the special educational needs of migrant children are identified and addressed. The MEP provides migrant students with the opportunity to meet the same challenging state academic content standards all children are expected to meet. Our program promotes interstate and intrastate coordination of services for migrant children, providing for educational continuity through the timely transfer of pertinent school records.



In addition to providing educational and support services, the MEP sponsors family literacy services for migrant children and their families through Family Engagement Meetings.

During the 2020-21 school year, our program provided several educational and support services to migrant students. We assisted with obtaining health services; provided translation and interpretation services; delivered in-home instruction to Pre-K students, school-aged students and out-of-school youth; purchased and supplied learning materials to migrant families; purchased clothing; provided parents with training related to math and reading at home; and issued referral services from agencies and organizations all over northeast Nebraska.



Core

core services

ESU #1 core services includes the Professional Services Team. The team collaborates to provide integrated support for partner districts and includes Teaching and Learning, Technology, Communications and Media. Core services provide the following:

- ▶ instructional training for administrators and teachers to ensure student learning and success;
- ▶ technology training and support for districts, administrators and teachers; and
- ▶ the provision of ancillary resources through the media center.



Rhonda Jindra



Amy Mundil



Andrew Contreras



Chris Good



Kellen Conroy



Scott McIntosh

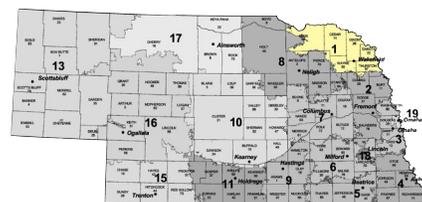
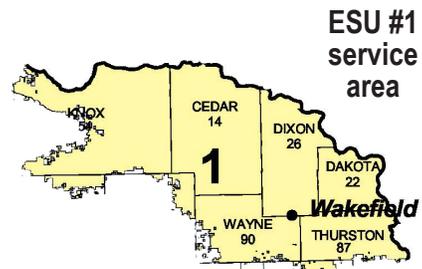
Teaching and Learning Team



T&L Team

Teaching and Learning Specialists make a concerted effort to assist districts at ESU #1, in local school buildings, and virtually. Support has reached more than 3,716 teachers and administrators through 325 virtual and/or district on-site training events during the 2020-21 school year.

- ▶ NWEA MAP (Northwest Evaluation Association Measures of Academic Progress) — MAP assessments are used by ESU #1-area schools up to three times a year to measure growth in reading, language, math and science. Teachers analyze class and student data to set goals, differentiate instruction and prepare for statewide testing.
- ▶ Principal Instructional Leadership Series — Due to COVID-19 the June 2020 Principal Leadership Administrative workshop was postponed until June 2021. ESU #1 provides Marzano resources to administrators via Canvas. These resources consist of previous webinar trainings and supporting documents from Phil Warrick. Principal Zoom Groups, consisting of small groups of administrators, continued to meet monthly via Zoom for focused conversation supporting instructional leadership.
- ▶ OnToCollege (John Baylor) — ESU #1-area districts participated in OnToCollege during 2020-21. OnToCollege is an online resource that prepares juniors and seniors for the ACT. All participating districts have access to instructional videos, quizzes, sample tests, test-taking strategies and individual and aggregate results data.
- ▶ MTSS — ESU #1 provides training and coaching support to more than 30 schools. MTSS (Multi-Tiered System of Supports) is a systematic framework of providing high-quality instruction using evidence-based practices tailored to meet the needs of all students across three tiers of support. Data-based decision making and problem solving assist in identifying additional supports, and classroom coaching ensures fidelity of implementation. An MTSS Google site was created for training resources and support.
- ▶ Virtual Support — Instructional support was provided remotely to assist administrators and teachers during COVID-19. A variety of activities and training were provided including content-area teacher Zoom sessions, Canvas and Zoom virtual training, and digital tool resources to support teachers' ongoing professional growth.





Technology infrastructure



Technology

The Technology Department has helped with technology and infrastructure at our schools by supporting a streamlined deployment of firewall, filtering and other security tools. We continue to work with districts on taking a proactive approach to new technology solutions.

Collaboration is a big part of what we do at ESU #1 and in the Technology Department. During the 2020-21 school year, ESU #1 conducted 11 LAN manager meetings. These meetings are valuable because they allow area districts to communicate and plan for new technologies and security threats.

In 2020-21, ESU #1 took over direct support of E-Rate for many area school districts. This will allow us to work more closely with our area districts on planning for use of E-Rate funds. We have helped schools save up to \$438,000 by completing E-Rate funding requests this year.

Technology Integration Specialist



Integration

The ESU #1 Technology Integration Specialist provides assistance for students, teachers, support staff and administrators through instruction in the areas of technology integration and digital resources.

During the 2020-21 school year, the technology integration specialist provided virtual workshops on Canvas to K-12 instructors across ESU #1. Other technology projects facilitated by the technology integration specialist included working with the Carl Perkins III project, Blended Learning book study, Clarity BrightBytes implementation, GoLIVE and PD4Me Canvas course, data analysis and assisting schools with student data organization and analysis for external reviews.

The NNNC Summer Technology Institute was provided virtually in May 2021. The conference reached educators across five ESU regions and was the 13th offering of the NNNC Summer Technology Institute.

Instructional materials



Materials

ESU #1 provides a variety of instructional materials to school districts in Cedar, Dakota, Dixon, Knox, Thurston and Wayne counties. As a participant in IMat (a subgroup of Nebraska's Teaching & Learning with Technology affiliate group), ESU #1 secures digital rights to instructional video titles and services to benefit students. Other services include access to online content such as World Book Online.

Media center



Media

The ESU #1 Media Center provides instructional assistance for schools in northeast Nebraska by supplying professional development resource materials, programs and inventory distribution for assistive technology and SPED department inventory and equipment. The Media Center also fills individual orders of binding and laminating for administrators, teachers and staff at schools in the ESU #1 service area.



special education services

ESU #1 Special Education staff are committed to meeting the diverse needs of the families, students and schools in our service area. Our expert service is focused on increasing student achievement through collaborative problem solving and relationship building. It is a privilege to serve the districts and families in the ESU #1 service area.

Program supervision



Supervision

The primary function of the Special Education Director is to recruit qualified personnel to fulfill the requirements of contracting districts, in addition to the assignment, supervision and support of staff. A secondary function is to provide consultation to area districts on matters that include budget assistance, student placement, federal and state mandates and other related issues.

Audiology



Audiology

The ESU #1 Audiology Department, consisting of one full-time certified/licensed audiologist and assisted by the speech/language pathologists, serves children with audiological screening, testing and follow-ups in their homes, schools and in a sound-proof testing suite at the Wakefield office.

More than 10,000 screenings and follow-up tests were completed during the 2020-21 school year. In addition, the ESU #1 audiologist serves students involved in the Northeast Regional Program for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing.

Speech/language



Speech

The ESU #1 Speech and Language Department consists of 24 speech and language pathologists (SLPs). The department focuses on a team approach, working together to provide assessment and intervention services to students from birth to 21 years of age. The SLPs serve students in areas that adversely affect student's education, such as articulation, language, phonology, apraxia, voice, fluency, literacy readiness, hearing, social skills, autism and other disorders.

Assisted by the audiologist, they also participate in providing hearing screenings to all students in ESU #1 districts. They work as a team with local school districts in providing direct and consultative services, as well as advocate for families and children with speech, language and hearing disorders.

During the 2020-21 school year, the ESU #1 SLPs served 1,078 children.

Deaf education



Deaf Ed

The ESU #1 Deaf Education Program provides direct and consultative services to students from birth to 21 years of age who have a verified hearing loss. The program offers in-services to staff; provides input at Individual Education Program (IEP), Multi-disciplinary Team (MDT) and Student Assistance Team (SAT) meetings; assists schools with equipment needs students; and advocates for families and children who have a hearing loss.

During the 2020-21 school year, the ESU #1 Deaf Education Program consulted on and served 48 children.



SPED

School psychology



Psychology

The ESU #1 School Psychology Program provides services in consultation, assessment and intervention to assist educators, parents and other professionals in understanding the learning, social-emotional and behavioral needs of students, and in identifying effective strategies to help children be successful learners.

During the 2020-21 school year, ESU #1 school psychologists conducted nearly 500 academic and behavioral evaluations, provided individual and group counseling sessions to over 100 children and adolescents, completed over 100 behavioral intervention plans and/or functional behavioral assessments and collected data on over 3,500 students in the area of reading fluency, reading comprehension and math to help guide instructional decisions and changes.

ESU #1 psychologists continue to implement and encourage the Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) and the development of mental health supports. Current data supports this movement with a reduction in evaluations and an increase in pre-referral interventions.

Physical and occupational therapy



PT/OT

Three physical therapists and five occupational therapists served 506 school-aged students and completed 91 evaluations during the 2020-21 school year. Through consultations with students and their families, as well as school personnel, therapists work to enhance learning and participation, achieve physical milestones and to foster independence. PTs and OTs completed 100 early childhood evaluations using the Primary Service Provider model and provided services for 94 families.

Transition



Transition

The ESU#1 Transition Program is designed to help students 16 or older with disabilities bridge the gap between school experiences and adult life, and helps students function as productively and independently as possible within an integrated adult environment.

Our transition specialist made 169 in-person visits to ESU #1 districts during the 2020-21 school year. These visits included coaching teachers to assist students, parents and general education teachers in completing formal and informal transition assessments to have data-based post-secondary transition goals, plans and activities. Additionally, ESU #1 hosted a Quality IEP training with Amy Slama, the Region 7 transition specialist, with 19 of 23 districts in attendance.

More than 140 students also received transition services during the 2020-21 school year, either through Zoom or in-person visits. Transition assessments, job shadows and informational interviews, information about college programs and outside agency programing. The goal is to assist students in finding a career that fits with their strengths, preferences, interests and needs.

Visual/orientation & mobility services



Vision

The ESU #1 Vision Program provides individualized learning environments, working to meet the unique and individual needs of students with verified visual impairments.

Services provided include direct teaching in the areas of braille instruction, low vision devices, orientation & mobility, technology access, and services in areas of the expanded core curriculum for the blind and visually impaired. Consultation, material preparation/adaptation, braille and large print textbook sourcing, functional vision assessments and orientation & mobility evaluations were also provided.

During the 2020-21 school year, two teachers of the visually impaired provided direct or consultative vision services and evaluated 41 students in 16 different school districts in ESU #1. Orientation & mobility services were provided to 4 students in 4 districts within the ESU #1 area, as well as to 3 students from ESU #8.



special education services

Tower School Level III Program



Tower

Tower School in Wayne, Nebraska, was built during the fiscal year of 1992-93 and provides contracted services to school districts in an alternative setting and on an outreach basis. The Tower School program consists of two specialized classrooms with students placed in classrooms based on individual needs.

The services Tower School provides focus on applied behavior analysis, social skills, functional skills, daily living skills, job skills, transition skills and ultimately prepares students to be contributing members of society and experience success in a variety of settings.

During the 2020-21 school year, three certified teachers, along with other itinerant service providers and paraeducators, served a total of 34 students from 13 area school districts virtually or in-person at Tower School. In addition, Tower School staff provided outreach supports and services to 32 students from 14 area school districts.



Early Childhood (ECSE) and Early Development Network (EDN)



ECSE



EDN

The Early Childhood Special Education Program (ECSE) provides services to children with disabilities from birth through age 5 using a Primary Service Provider (PSP) approach.

Families receive support from one of four geographically based teams that minimally consists of an early childhood special education teacher, occupational therapist, physical therapist, services coordinator and a speech language pathologist. In addition, the teams have access to a vision consultant, deaf educator, audiologist and school psychologist as needed. One team member is selected as a primary provider to work closely with each family while receiving support from an entire team of experts.

Together, the child's parents and the PSP develop child and family outcomes and goals. The PSP uses evidence-based intervention practices to work toward achieving those outcomes and goals. This approach focuses on relationships with families, building the capacity of the child's parents, caregivers, and/or preschool teachers and increasing opportunities for growth within the context of everyday routines and activities.

The Early Development Network (EDN) provides services and supports specifically for children birth to age 3 and their families. The goal of the EDN is to provide coordinated services for families as conveniently as possible. EDN Services Coordinators are instrumental in working with agencies in the community that provide services to make sure the child and family get the help they need.

During 2020-21, ECSE/EDN served 212 children by providing evaluations, consultations and/or direct services. Of the children served, 85 were birth-2 years old and 127 were 3-5 years old.

ECSE and EDN also assisted with early childhood screenings, kindergarten roundups, teacher trainings, and pre-service presentations at local colleges, community nights, school registration nights and pre-natal/post-natal health fairs.



Improving Learning for Children with Disabilities (ILCD)



ILCD

According to 92 NAC 51 004.13, all districts must participate in an ongoing review of their special education programs using the Improving Learning for Children with Disabilities (ILCD) process. This process involves analyzing data, identifying a focus area for improvement, developing a Targeted Improvement Plan (TIP) and implementing the TIP. This matches the general education school accreditation process to emphasize the importance of ILCD being a part of — not separate from — overall school improvement.

ESU #1 takes a collaborative approach to supporting district teams in every stage of the TIP process to ultimately have a positive impact on outcomes for students with disabilities.

Assistive Technology Team



Assistive Tech

The ESU #1 Assistive Technology Team aids districts in the determination of a student's need for assistive technology devices, equipment and software that enables students to be able to access their educational curriculum and instructional materials. Services provided by the assistive technology team include evaluations, consultations and short-term equipment loans through an equipment lending library.

During the 2020-21 school year, the ESU #1 Assistive Technology Team members provided support and informal technology consultations in districts they served. No formal evaluations or formal consultations were conducted.

Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) Team



ASD

Autism is a behaviorally defined disorder that is generally recognized by disturbances in communication, social interaction and perceptual organization or patterns of behavior. Diagnosed individuals may exhibit a variety of symptoms, ranging from mild to severe, and may display a wide range of skills and deficits.

The ASD team is composed of the region's ASD Coordinator, School Psychologists, Speech and Language Pathologists, Occupational Therapists, Early Childhood Specialists, and Special Education teachers. While ESU #1's ASD Team typically administers the ADOS-2 (Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule, Second Edition) to assist in the eligibility of Autism, due to COVID-19, this was halted during the 2020-21 school year. Still, the ASD team regularly convened to stay informed of state updates and for professional development. Additionally, the ASD members continued to provide supports in ESU #1 schools for those students who were demonstrating characteristics of Autism.

Brain Injury Regional School Support Team (BIRSST)



BIRSST

Nebraska is divided into five regional Brain Injury School Support Teams (BIRSST). The Northeast Region BIRSST team includes members representing ESU's #1, 7 and 8. BIRSST teams provide support to schools that teach students who have sustained mild (e.g., concussion) or severe traumatic brain injuries. The teams also assist Nebraska educators, parents and Concussion Management Teams (CMT) by providing consultation, trainings and resource materials.

During the 2020-21 school year, the Northeast Region BIRSST team provided education to schools by promoting the use of NDE's Return to Learn-Bridging the Gap from Concussion to the Classroom 2nd edition and NSAA endorsed REAP manual. The BIRSST team also collaborated with NDE to promote the new Teacher Acute Concussion Tool (TACT) which assists teachers in providing individualized educational services to students in the classroom setting. Additionally, BIRSST grant funded resources including the document "Brain Injury in Children and Youth: A Manual for Educators" and the assessment tool "Wide Range Assessment of Memory and Learning-2nd Edition" were utilized by school based professionals to assist students with brain injury.

A BIRSST webpage (www.esu1.org/birsst/) assists area schools in navigating Return to Learn and Return to Play protocols, concussion management and concussion law. A comprehensive list of brain injury related resources are also included.

Usher Syndrome Team



Usher

Usher syndrome is an inherited condition that affects both hearing and vision. Currently, there is no cure, which makes early identification paramount in providing appropriate educational programs. The main purpose of the team is to screen those children and youths who are hearing impaired and who fit the profile for Usher's for visual acuity difficulties.



SPED

special education services

Implementing an early intervention approach

ESU #1 provides early intervention services according to what research indicates as best practice for children birth through age 5. Specifically, ESU #1:

- ▶ collaborates with area school districts to ensure that children who are eligible for early intervention services or children with disabilities and in need of special education and related services are identified and located;
- ▶ connects with families to share information about available services/resources and initiates a relationships with families;
- ▶ seeks to understand child and family priorities by conducting an assessment called the Routines Based Interview (RBI);
- ▶ evaluates children’s needs to determine eligibility for Early Intervention (age 0-2) or Special Education (age 3-5) services;
- ▶ develops and implements Individual Family Service Plans (IFSPs) and Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) focused on child and family outcomes/goals;
- ▶ gives all eligible children and families a primary point of contact for support while also providing access to all disciplines utilizing a Primary Service Provider (PSP) approach to teaming;
- ▶ builds capacity of the adults interacting with the child most frequently by using coaching as the primary style of interaction; and
- ▶ provides evidence-based intervention, supports and services in natural learning environments (those places where children and their families live, learn, play and interact) to positively impact child growth, development and progress toward outcomes/goals.

ESU #1’s approach to early intervention aligns with the Nebraska Department of Education’s plan to address the federal initiative, Results Driven Accountability (RDA). The goal of RDA is to improve educational results, functional outcomes and overall demonstration of growth over time for all infants and toddlers with disabilities.



Improvement

agency improvement process

Our mission: Providing innovation, leadership and service

Our Professional Services Team (PST) and LEaD as 1 team (Lead, Explore, and Develop as 1) meet monthly to facilitate the agency improvement process and activities for ESU #1. The teams consist of administration, teaching and learning specialists, special education department coordinators and technology personnel. These teams provide guidance, leadership and facilitation to keep continuous improvement activities moving forward.

During the monthly meetings, the teams review ESU, district and other stakeholder data, organize and plan all-staff days, and participate in annual data-retreat activities. This past year, ESU #1 has especially focused on preparing for the external accreditation visit which will occur during the 2021-22 school year.

All ESU #1 employees support the continuous improvement process through department goal-setting, participation in all-staff days and data-retreat activities.

Our vision — *ESU #1 will model excellence by helping schools increase educators’ effectiveness and student learning as a result of expert services* — and our mission — *Providing innovation, leadership and service* — guide our agency improvement efforts and keep our focus on the needs of our partner districts.