

2021-2022 ANNUAL REPORT

At ESU 13, we are committed to serving, supporting, and empowering the students, educators, and communities we serve in the **Nebraska Panhandle counties of Banner, Box Butte, Cheyenne, Dawes, Deuel, Garden, Kimball, Morrill, Scotts Bluff, Sheridan, and Sioux.**

OUR MISSION

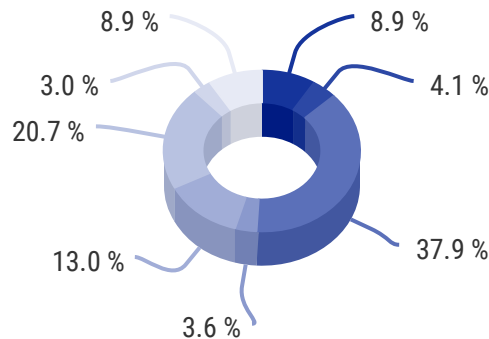
Serve, Support, Empower

OUR VISION & BELIEFS

Achieving educational excellence for all learners through strong partnerships, service, and leadership by...

- Collaborating with schools, families, and communities
- Serving with equity, efficiency, and integrity
- Communicating effectively
- Leading with innovation

8 Departments - 173 Employees



- Administration - 15
- Alternative Education - 7
- Early Childhood - 64
- Professional Learning - 6
- Psychological & Behavior Health - 22
- Special Education - 35
- Technology - 5
- Title IC Education - 15

12 Board Members

Mark Sinner, **Board President**; Kim Marx, **Vice President**; Tom Millette, **Secretary**; Tim Horn; Patricia Jones; Dr. Caroline Winchester; Ray Richards; Bill Knapper; Scott Marsh; Diane Coon; Don Egging; and Steve Diemoz

11

Counties

14,181

Square Miles

21

School Districts

+1,000

Teachers

+14,000

Students

Leadership



A Message From the Administrator

On behalf of the Educational Service Unit 13 Board Staff, it is my pleasure to provide this summary of the services provided by our team over the past school year.

Educational Service Units were established in 1965 to provide services to support local school districts as they work to meet the educational needs of their students. As challenges arise, our schools look to us to work with them to innovate and design solutions that fit their unique needs. Over the past year we have expanded several programs including our behavioral health, early childhood and

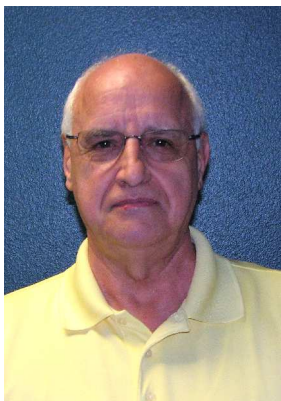
Title IC support. The expansion of these services is made possible through partnerships with local districts, community agencies, the Nebraska Department of Education, ESU Coordinating Council and many other partners.

As we look to the future, our Board of Education and ESU 13 leadership will focus on strategic priorities to enhance our vision of education excellence for all learners. These five priorities include aligning our systems and services, evaluating organizational effectiveness, increasing marketing efforts, expanding collaborative relationships with community partners, and investing in the wellbeing and potential of our staff.

Thank you for taking the time to explore this annual report and learn more about ESU 13.

Respectfully,

Laura Barrett
ESU 13 Administrator



A Message From the Board President

I have the privilege of speaking on behalf of the twelve members of the Board of Education for Educational Service Unit #13. As board members, we have the privilege of serving the school districts in the eleven counties of the panhandle and beyond; the largest geographical area for a service unit in Nebraska. Our board members come from a variety of backgrounds: active and retired educators, business managers and owners, and a few who now enjoy retirement from a career in various public service occupations. As board president, I value each and everyone for their experiences and backgrounds they bring to board discussions.

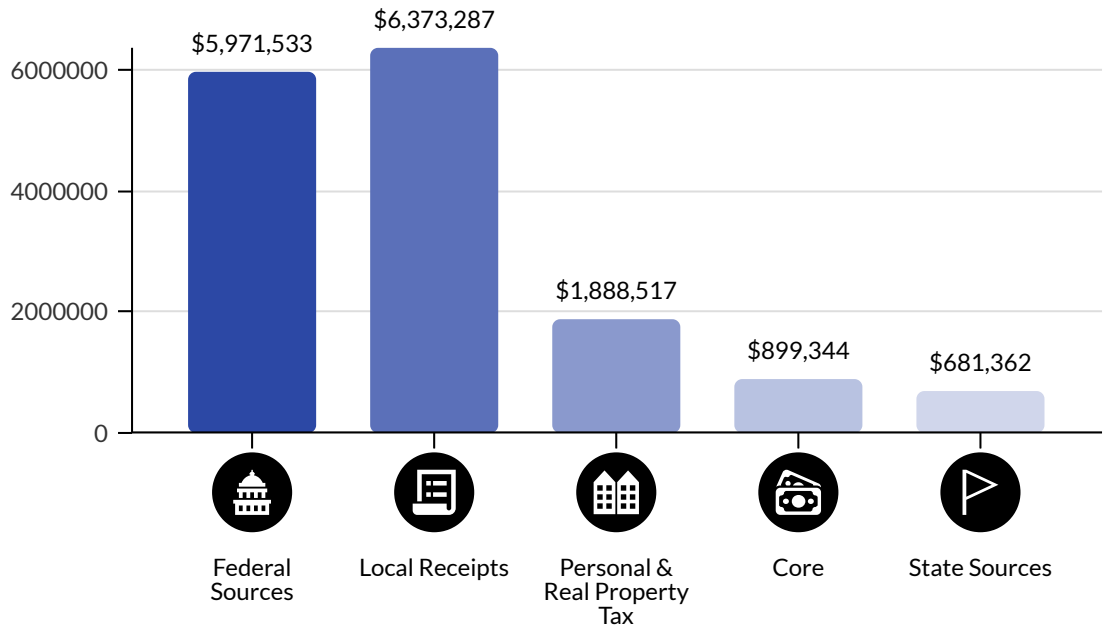
The Board of Directors work closely with our administrator as we move the service unit forward to meet the changing landscape of education. We also ensure that our staff are given the best tools and professional development opportunities needed to perform at their best.

It was a great year and we appreciate the ESU 13 staff and all of their hard work.

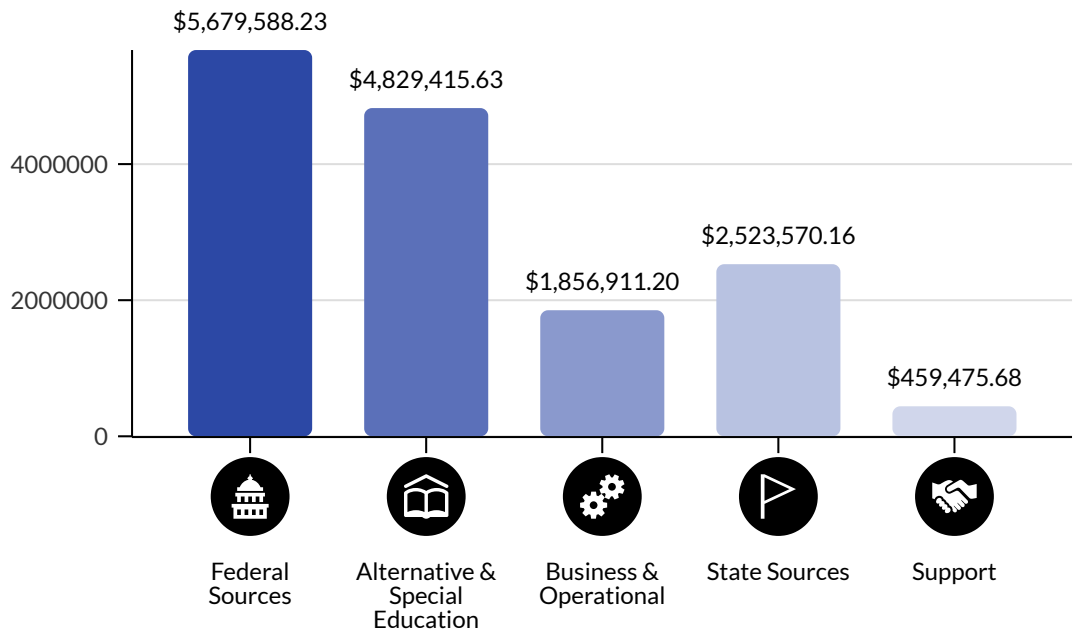
Mark Sinner
Board President

Financial Highlights

\$15,814,043.00 in Revenue



\$15,348,960.90 in Expenses



Our Services

Administration

Laura Barrett, EdD, Administrator

Our Administration Department provides administrative supports and leadership to staff and member school districts by:

- Facilitating the Superintendents' Administrative Advisory Council
- Serving as a liaison to NDE and ESUCC
- Representing ESU 13 throughout the panhandle
- Securing and Allocating Revenue Sources
- Grant Management
- Providing a safe and clean environment at ESU 13 facilities

ESU 13 member schools and partners saved \$495,361.05 through Cooperative Purchasing.



1.

Early Childhood

Nici Johnson, Director

Our Early Childhood Department provides quality experiences for children birth to age eight through the following programs:

- Early Development Network (EDN)
- Head Start & Early Head Start
- Panhandle Early Learning Connections
- Rooted in Relationships
- Sixpence Sprouting Success
- Early Childhood MTSS
- Early Learning Connections Coach Consulting



2.

The department has rapidly grown and now staffs nearly 80 employees.

Alternative Education

Tom Peacock, Director

Our Alternative Education Department provides alternative education opportunities to high school students in the panhandle through the following programs:

- Valley Alternative Learning Transitioning School (VALTS) - Scottsbluff & Sidney Campuses
- Nebraska Education Virtual Academy (NEVA)

The VALTS Program graduated 22 high school students throughout the year.



3.

1. Business Office preparing annual budget
2. Head Start student enjoying creative play
3. VALTS Graduation

Our Services

Psychological & Behavioral Health Dr. Katie Carrizales, Director

Our Psychological & Behavioral Health Department provides comprehensive services through collaborative partnerships that include:

- Child Specific Therapeutic Consultation/Intervention
- Psychological Assessment
- Counseling
- Mobile Youth Intensive Outpatient Program
- Doctoral Psychology Internship Site
- Counseling Cadre
- Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) Title IV-A Consortium
- Ecological In-Home Family Treatment
- Education and Training for schools, youth, and families (Non-violent intervention, CPI, QPR, Circle of Security Parenting)
- Panhandle Beginnings Day Treatment School

In the program's third year at ESU 13, the Ecological In-Home Family Treatment Program provided services to seven counties in the panhandle.

Technology

BJ Peters, Director

Our Technology Department provides technology, distance learning, media support, and training to ESU 13 staff and member school districts through:

- Network Support
- Digital Resources
- Technology Training and Support
- Regular LAN Manager and Media Specialist Meetings

The Technology Team provided a variety of services to nearly 1,000 staff in our member districts, and over 1,100 total contact hours of training and support.

Title IC Education

Danielle Cole, Director

Our Title IC Education Department identifies eligible students and provides the following educational and support services:

- Academic Instruction
- Bilingual and Multicultural Supports
- Post Secondary and Vocational Guidance
- Leadership Development
- Counseling Services
- Health and Wellness Supports
- Preschool Services
- Family Advocacy

The Title IC Education Program provided services to 387 students.



1. Dr. Katie Carrizales training local educators at the Psychological & Behavioral Health Department's Mental Health Institute

2. IT Specialist, Craig Hicks, training Crawford Public Schools on the Swivl

3. Title IC Program 'Disney Days' Summer Camp

Our Services

Professional Learning

Deirdre Amundsen, Director

Our Professional Learning Department delivers collaborative learning opportunities to increase district, teacher, and student engagement through:

- Assessment and Data implementation
- Administrator Support
- CSC Student-Teacher Training Collaboration
- New Teacher Academy
- High Quality Instruction Coaching Support
- MTSS Support
- Paraprofessional Training
- Tier I Behavior Support
- Title III English Learners Consortium

There were 7,581 total registrations for professional development opportunities.



1. Professional Learning Coordinator, Kristin Kasten, presenting on ELA Standards and Instructional Shifts

Special Education

Dr. Pam Brezenski, Director

Our Special Education Department contracts with member school districts to provide the following:

- Nebraska Autism Network
- Teachers of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
- Early Childhood Special Education
- LifeLink-Nebraska
- Meridian School
- Occupational Therapy
- Post-Secondary Transition Support
- Special Education Supervision
- Speech-Language Pathology
- Teacher of the Visually Impaired
- Targeted Improvement Plan/ILCD Focused Supports
- Inclusive Practices Coaching

The department supported teachers and students across the panhandle through 13 different specialties combining over 500 years of expertise and experience within their field.



2. LifLink student being accepted into Western Nebraska Community College's international honor society