

# 2022-2023

## ANNUAL REPORT

Educational Service Units of Nebraska were created by the Nebraska Legislature in 1965 as a way to provide supplementary services to public school districts. At Educational Service Unit 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 AND BELIEFS

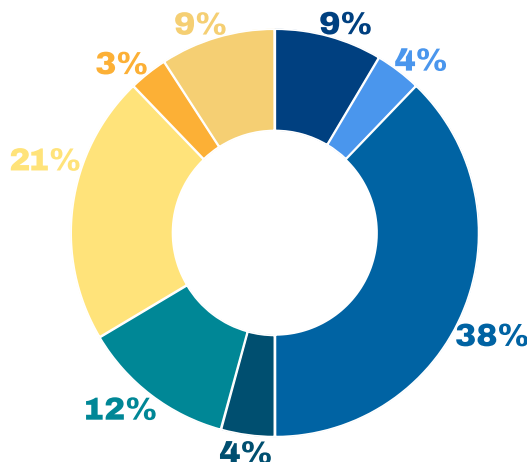
Achieving educational excellence for all learners through strong partnerships, service, and leadership by...

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



### 8 DEPARTMENTS - 164 EMPLOYEES

- 14** Administration
- 6** Alternative Education
- 62** Early Childhood
- 7** Professional Learning
- 20** Psychological and Behavior Health
- 35** Special Education
- 5** Technology
- 15** Title IC Education



### 12 BOARD MEMBERS

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



**11**  
**COUNTIES**



**14,181**  
**SQUARE MILES**



**21**  
**SCHOOL DISTRICTS**



**1,500**  
**SCHOOL STAFF**



**+14,000**  
**STUDENTS**

# LEADERSHIP THOUGHTS



## A MESSAGE FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR

On behalf of the ESU 13 staff, it is my pleasure to share a brief summary of the services provided by our outstanding team during the 2022-23 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. Here at ESU 13, we also partner with our communities to provide programming that impacts the lives and education of children and youth. The dedicated staff at ESU 13 understand the changing needs of

**“We will continue to focus on achieving our vision of educational excellence for all learners.”**

our schools and communities and ensure that our programming evolves accordingly. This work is made possible through partnerships with local districts, community agencies, the Nebraska Department of Education (NDE), ESU Coordinating Council (ESUCC), and many other partners.

As we look to the future, our Board of Education and ESU 13 leadership will continue to focus on our strategic priorities established in 2022 to achieve our vision of educational excellence for all learners. These five priorities include aligning our systems and services, evaluating our 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, EdD  
ESU 13 Administrator

## A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT

Greetings and a thank you note from the Board for ESU 13. The year goes by quickly when new and exciting things are happening within the Unit! The Board has welcomed new members and longtime members have chosen to step down after many years of great service.

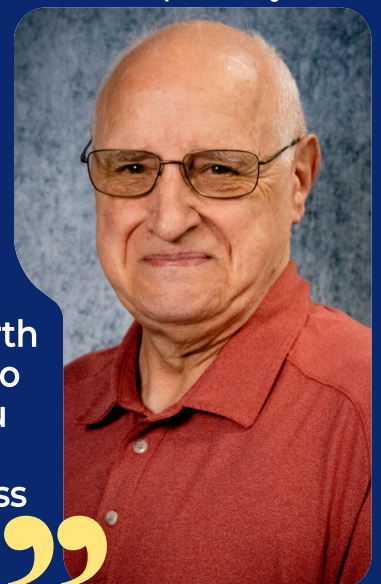
During our monthly meetings, every discussion and decision prioritizes the best interests of the Districts and Unit. As elected officials, the Board has the responsibility to be fiscally responsible in managing the funding sources received from local and state taxes, state funds, and all the grants being managed within the different departments. Also, your Board takes every opportunity to grow and improve by attending state and national conferences and workshops, which strengthens our leadership for the Unit.

Thank you to the Program Directors and their staff who are in the ‘trenches’ working daily with the students and teachers throughout the service area. You serve as examples to and for all the Service Units. The Board sees the value and importance of developing growth and providing the tools to do so. Finally, all of this, under the superior guidance of our Administrator, who makes our job as Board members easier with the changing landscape of education. I have said this in the past and it’s worth repeating, “We get to brag about all of you; the programs, projects and progress that is being made for the Unit.” - All of you are leaders at all levels.

Be great, do well, and have fun knowing that you are making a difference.

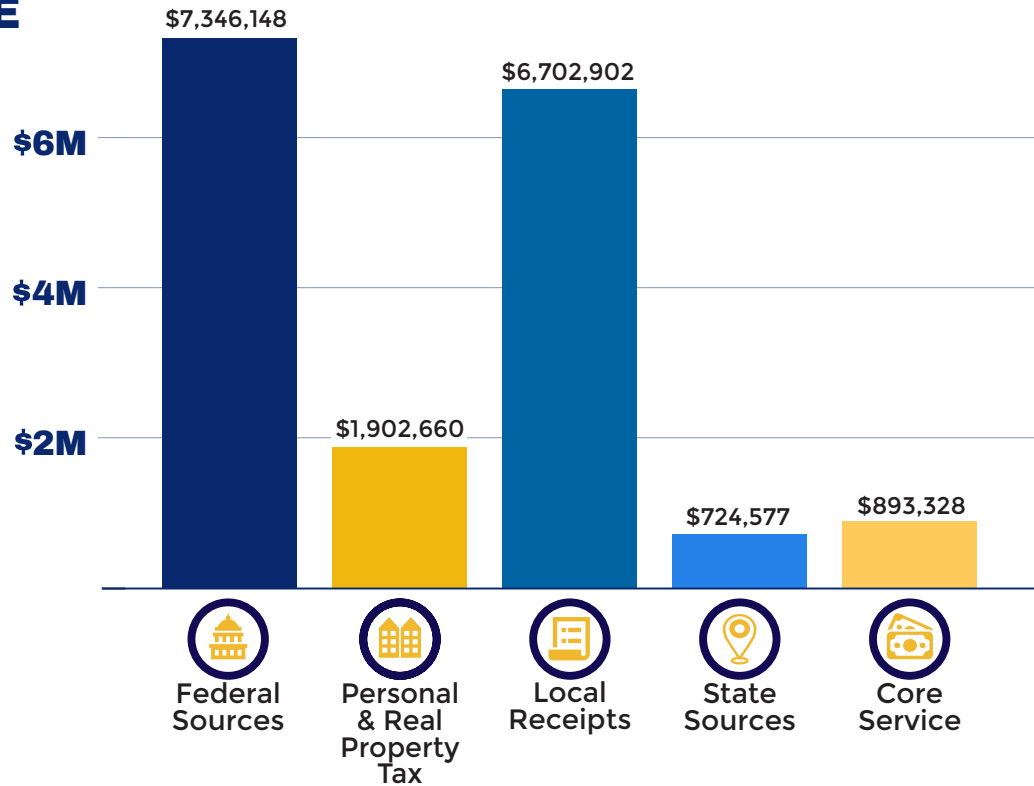
Board President,  
Mark Sinner

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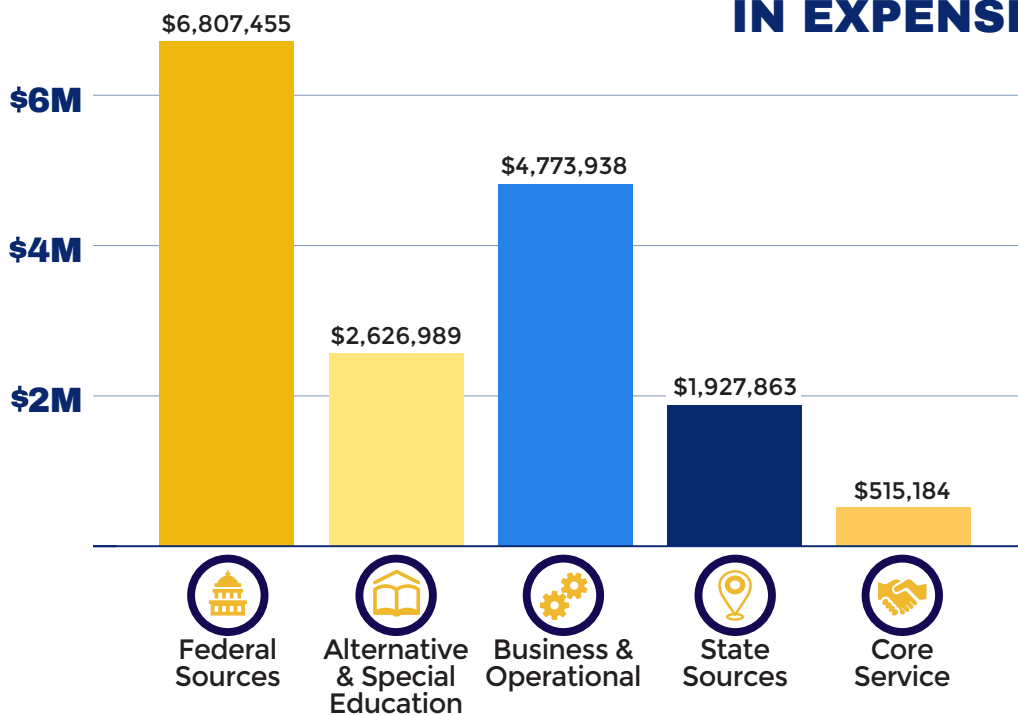


# FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

**\$17,569,614.00**  
**IN REVENUE**



**\$16,651,431.00**  
**IN EXPENSES**





# OUR SERVICES

## ADMINISTRATION

Laura Barrett, EdD, Administrator

Our Administration Department provides administrative support 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



**\$472,109 Saved**  
by member schools and  
partners through ESU 13  
Cooperative Purchasing.

ESU 13 coordinated **\$8.6 Million** through 30 grants and projects for supplemental services, at no cost, to students, families, school staff and childcare providers.

A Early Childhood Multi-Tiered System of Support position was filled for our region.



## EARLY CHILDHOOD

Nici Johnson, Director

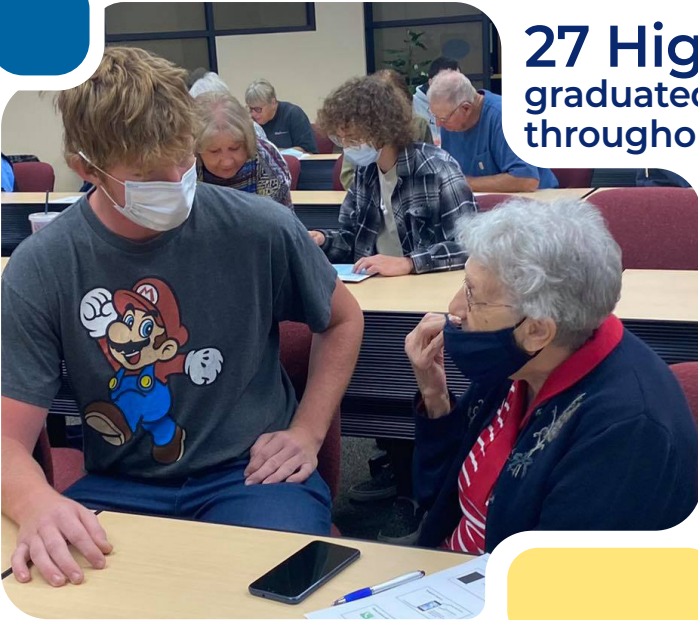
Our Early Childhood Department provides quality experiences for children birth to age eight through the following programs:

- Early Development Network (EDN)
- Head Start & Early Head Start
- Panhandle Early Learning Connections
- Rooted in Relationships
- Sixpence Sprouting Success
- Early Childhood Multi-Tiered System of Supports
- Early Learning Connections coach consulting

**14 New  
Child Care  
Providers**  
joined Rooted in  
Relationships.

A Early Learning  
Connections Coach  
Consultant was  
hired for the region.

# OUR SERVICES



**27 High School Students** graduated from the VALTS program throughout the year.

## **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 and Sidney campuses
- Nebraska Education Virtual Academy (NEVA)

## **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

**Two interns graduated with School Psychology doctoral degrees.**

**The Western Nebraska School Mental Health Conference was held last spring in Chadron.**  
(in partnership with CSC and AWARE).

**Panhandle Beginnings Day Treatment completed its third year and Ecological In Home Family Treatment completed its fourth year.**





## A teacher with glasses and a floral shirt is sitting at a table, pointing to a colorful alphabet book. A young student with long dark hair is looking at the book. The book features various illustrations for each letter, including a shell for 'S', a sheep for 'S', and a snake for 'S'. The teacher is wearing a lanyard and the student is holding a green pencil.

## Danielle Cole, Director

- Academic instruction
- Bilingual and multicultural supports
- Post secondary and vocational guidance
- Leadership development
- Counseling services
- Health and wellness supports
- Preschool services
- Family advocacy

Title IC Education Program provided support services to **537 Students.**

**Jessica Broderick, Director**

**2 Students**  
graduated from  
Meridian School.

- 2 Students**  
graduated  
from LifeLink-  
Nebraska.

**Two Speech-Language Pathology Graduate Students were hosted and one student teacher for student teaching and internship experiences.**



# OUR SERVICES

## PROFESSIONAL LEARNING

Deirdre Amundsen, Director

Professional Learning delivers collaborative learning opportunities through professional development and support of teachers, staff and administrators. We address the needs of districts in the following ways:

- Assessment analysis and application of diagnostic, formative, interim and summative data
- Guidance through Continuous Improvement Processes through the lens of Multi-tiered System of Support Practices
- High quality instructional materials selection and implementation assistance
- Instructional guidance in specific content areas
- Provides leadership opportunities for superintendents and principals
- New Teacher Academy
- Specialist reinforcement, networking reinforcement (administrative assistants, high ability learners leaders, English learners instructors, paraprofessionals)
- Student events coordination



**6,208 Total** registrations from administrators, principals, and support personnel participating in ESU 13 learning opportunities.

Professional Learning improves student outcomes, guides schools through improvement processes, coordinates student events, and helps schools meet the requirements and understand guidance from state and national initiatives.

## TECHNOLOGY

BJ Peters, Director

Our Technology Department provides a wide variety of technology services and support to ESU 13 staff and member school districts through:

- Network support
- Digital resources
- Distance learning
- Digital citizenship
- E-Rate guidance
- Technology training and support
- LAN manager and media specialist meetings

**1,500 Total** Contact Hours of training and support.

Nearly **1,000 Staff** in our member districts utilized a variety of IT services.





NEBRASKA  
**esu13**  
 serving the panhandle

Headquarters  
 4215 Avenue I  
 Scottsbluff, NE 69361

(308) 635-3696  
[www.esu13.org](http://www.esu13.org)



Sidney Location  
 361 College Drive  
 Sidney, NE 69162



Chadron Location  
 Burkhiser Complex  
 Chadron State College  
 1000 Main Street  
 Chadron, NE 69337



VALTS and LifeLink  
 WNCC Harms Center  
 2620 College Park  
 Scottsbluff, NE 69361



Panhandle Beginnings  
 Day Treatment  
 116 Terry Blvd  
 Gering, NE 69341



Early Childhood Offices  
 4502 Avenue I  
 Scottsbluff, NE 69361



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