

**DATE:**

**TO:** ESU #1 Board of Directors

**FROM:** Bill Heimann, Administrator

**RE:** Tuesday, October 10, 2023 Board Meeting

There will be a meeting of the ESU #1 Board of Directors, on Tuesday, October 10, 2023, 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. Consent Agenda\*
  - C.1. Previous Minutes (copy attached)
  - C.2. Financial Reports\*
    - C.2.a. Revenue Report/Treasurer's Report
    - C.2.b. Cash Summary/Expenditure Report
  - C.3. Bills for October
  - C.4. Administrator's Monthly Report
    - C.4.a. AESA Regional Meeting
    - C.4.b. Cybersecurity Grant
    - C.4.c. Facility Project Update
    - C.4.d. New Teacher Cadre Training
- D. Public Comment
- E. NASB Resources
- F. ESUCC Cooperative Purchasing Program
- G. Annual Report\*
- H. Nebraska Association of School Boards State Conference
- I. Discuss, consider, and take all necessary action to cancel the employment contract of Anne Ronhovde.\*
- J. Virtual Board Meeting for ESU 1\*
- K. Personnel\*
  - K.1. Consider, discuss, and take necessary action on employee contracts and personnel changes.
    - K.1.a. Resignation(s)
    - K.1.b. New Hire(s)
    - K.1.c. Contract Change(s)
    - K.1.d. Termination(s)
- L. 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, (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, and (iii) the Judicial Resources Commission or subcommittees or subgroups of the commission;

(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) Virtual conferencing means conducting or participating in a meeting electronically or telephonically with interaction among the participants subject to subsection (2) of section 84-1412.

**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; virtual conferencing authorized; requirements; 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 website. (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 website; 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) The following entities may hold a meeting by means of virtual conferencing if the requirements of subdivision (2)(b) of this section are met: (i) A state agency, state board, state commission, state council, or state committee, or an advisory committee of any such state entity; (ii) An organization, including the governing body, created under the Interlocal Cooperation Act, the Joint Public Agency Act, or the Municipal Cooperative Financing Act; (iii) The governing body of a public power district having a chartered territory of more than one county in this state; (iv) The governing body of a public power and irrigation district having a chartered territory of more than one county in this state; (v) An educational service unit; (vi) The Educational Service Unit Coordinating Council; (vii) An organization, including the governing body, of a risk management pool or its advisory committees organized in accordance with the Intergovernmental Risk Management Act; (viii) A community college board of governors; (ix) The Nebraska Brand Committee; (x) A local public health department; (xi) A metropolitan utilities district; (xii) A regional metropolitan transit authority; and (xiii) A natural resources district. (b) The requirements for holding a meeting by means of virtual conferencing are as follows: (i) Reasonable advance publicized notice is given as provided in subsection (1) of this section, including providing access to a dial-in number or link to the virtual conference; (ii) In addition to the public's right to participate by virtual conferencing, reasonable arrangements are made to accommodate the public's right to attend at a physical site and participate as provided in section 84-1412, including reasonable seating, in at least one designated site in a building open to the public and identified in the notice, with at least one member of the entity holding such meeting, or his or her designee, present at each site; a recording of the hearing by audio or visual recording devices; and a reasonable opportunity for input, such as public comment or questions, is provided to at least the same extent as would be provided if virtual conferencing was not used; (iii) At least one copy of all documents being considered at the meeting is available at any physical site open to the public where individuals may attend the virtual conference. The public body shall also provide links to an electronic copy of the agenda, all documents being considered at the meeting, and the current version of the Open Meetings Act; and (iv) Except as otherwise provided in this subdivision or subsection (4) of section 79-2204, no more than one-half of the meetings of the state entities, advisory committees, boards, councils, organizations, or governing bodies are held by virtual conferencing in a calendar year. 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, the organization may hold more than one-half of its meetings by virtual conferencing if such organization holds at least one meeting each calendar year that is not by virtual conferencing. 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 virtual conferencing if the governing body's quarterly meetings are not held by virtual conferencing.

(3) Virtual conferencing, 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 virtual conferencing. 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 to appear before the public body by means of virtual conferencing.

(7)(a) Notwithstanding subsections (2) and (5) of this section, if an emergency is declared by the Governor pursuant to the Emergency Management Act as defined in section 81-829.39, a public body the territorial jurisdiction of which is included in the emergency declaration, in whole or in part, may hold a meeting by virtual conferencing during such emergency if the public body gives reasonable advance publicized notice as described in subsection (1) of this section. The notice shall include information regarding access for the public and news media. In addition to any formal action taken pertaining to the emergency, the public body may hold such meeting for the purpose of briefing, discussion of public business, formation of tentative policy, or the taking of any action by the public body. (b) The public body shall provide access by providing a dial-in number or a link to the virtual conference. The public body shall also provide links to an electronic copy of the agenda, all documents being considered at the meeting, and the current version of the Open Meetings Act. Reasonable arrangements shall be made to accommodate the public's right to hear and speak at the meeting and record the meeting. Subsection (4) of this section shall be complied with in conducting such meetings. (c) The nature of the emergency shall be stated in the minutes. Complete minutes of such meeting specifying the nature of the emergency and any formal action taken at the meeting shall be made available for inspection as provided in subsection (5) of section 84-1413. (8) In addition to any other statutory authorization for virtual conferencing, any public body not listed in subdivision (2)(a) of this section may hold a meeting by virtual conferencing if: (a) The purpose of the virtual meeting is to discuss items that are scheduled to be discussed or acted upon at a subsequent non-virtual open meeting of the public body; (b) No action is taken by the public body at the virtual meeting; and (c) The public body complies with subdivisions (2)(b)(i) and (2)(b)(ii) of this section.

**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, a 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, including meetings held by virtual conferencing. 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 shall require any member of the public desiring to address the body to identify himself or herself, including an address and the name of any organization represented by such person unless the address requirement is waived to protect the security of the individual.

(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 virtual conferencing 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; and (f) 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) Each public body shall, upon request, make a reasonable effort to accommodate the public's right to hear the discussion and testimony presented at a meeting.

(8) Public bodies shall make available at the meeting or the instate location for virtual conferencing as required by subdivision (6)(c) of this section, 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, either in paper or electronic form. 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; agenda and minutes; required on website; 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 or kept as an electronic record and shall be 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 or keeping the minutes is absent due to a serious illness or emergency.

(6) Beginning July 31, 2022, the governing body of a natural resources district, the city council of a city of the metropolitan class, the city council of a city of the primary class, the city council of a city of the first class, the county board of a county with a population greater than twenty-five thousand inhabitants, and the school board of a school district shall make available on such entity's public website the agenda and minutes of any meeting of the governing body. The agenda shall be placed on the website at least twenty-four hours before the meeting of the governing body. Minutes shall be placed on the website at such time as the minutes are available for inspection as provided in subsection (5) of this section. This information shall be available on the public website for at least six months.

**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.

**84-1415. Open Meetings Act; requirements; waiver; validity of action.** No motion, resolution, rule, regulation, ordinance, or formal action made, adopted, passed, or taken at a meeting as defined in section 84-1409 of a public body as defined in this section shall be invalidated because such motion, resolution, rule, regulation, ordinance, or formal action was made, adopted, passed, or taken at a meeting or meetings on or after March 17, 2020, and on or before April 30, 2021, pursuant to a Governor's Executive Order which waived certain requirements of the Open Meetings Act.

Revised 4-2022

**Nebraska Open Meetings Act**



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PERRY, GUTHERY, HAASE & GESSFORD, P.C., L.L.O.  
233 South 13<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 1400, Lincoln, NE 68508  
(402) 476-9200  
[perrylawfirm.com](http://perrylawfirm.com)



**Nebraska Council  
of School Administrators**

455 South 11<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite A  
Lincoln, NE 68508  
(402) 476-8055  
[ncsa.org](http://ncsa.org)

**ESU #1 Board Meeting**  
**Tuesday, September 12, 2023**

A meeting of the ESU #1 Board of Directors convened in open and public session on Tuesday, September 12, 2023, at 5:30 PM, at ESU #1. **Present:** Josiah Boneschans, Jim Gunsolley, Mr. Tucker Hight, AJ Johnson, Sally Reinert, Julie Schamp, Susan Strahm, **Absent:** Tabitha Gilsdorf, 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 the meeting, President AJ Johnson announced and informed the public that a current copy of the Open Meetings Act is available at the meeting site and included electronically in the E-Meeting agenda.

B. Roll Call\*

Motion by Susan Strahm, seconded by Sally Reinert, to excuse the absence of members: Traci Haglund, Shannon Johnson and Tabitha Gilsdorf. After discussion and on roll call vote, the Board voted as follows:

**Motion Carried:**

Tabitha Gilsdorf: Absent, Traci Haglund: Absent, Shannon Johnson: Absent, Josiah Boneschans: For, Jim Gunsolley: For, Mr. Tucker Hight: For, AJ Johnson: For, Sally Reinert: For, Julie Schamp: For, Susan Strahm: For  
For: 7, Against: 0, Absent: 3

C. Consent Agenda\*

Motion by Sally Reinert, seconded by Mr. Tucker Hight, to approve all items on the consent agenda as provided; August 8 Minutes, August Financial Reports, September bills of \$1,091,987.20, and the Administrator's report. After discussion and on roll call vote, the Board voted as follows:

**Motion Carried:**

Tabitha Gilsdorf: Absent, Traci Haglund: Absent, Shannon Johnson: Absent, Josiah Boneschans:

For, Jim Gunsolley: For, Mr. Tucker Hight: For, AJ Johnson: For, Sally Reinert: For, Julie Schamp: For, Susan Strahm: For  
For: 7, Against: 0, Absent: 3

C.1. Previous Minutes (copy attached)

C.2. Financial Reports\*

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

C.2.b. Cash Summary/Expenditure Report

C.3. Bills for September

C.4. Administrator's Monthly Report

C.4.a. ESU1 Superintendent and Principal Meetings

Administrator Heimann reported about the upcoming Superintendent and Principal Meetings hosted by ESU1.

C.4.b. ESU1 All-Staff Day

Administrator Heimann provided a summary of the All Staff Day survey results.

C.4.c. Facility Project Update

Administrator Heimann shared an update on the Central Office remodel project.

D. Public Comment

E. Authorize Grant Expenditures in September\*

Motion by Susan Strahm, seconded by Jim Gunsolley, to approve the expenditure of additional grant funds in September not to exceed \$70,000. After discussion and on roll call vote, the Board voted as follows:

**Motion Carried:**

Tabitha Gilsdorf: Absent, Traci Haglund: Absent, Shannon Johnson: Absent, Josiah Boneschans: For, Jim Gunsolley: For, Mr. Tucker Hight: For, AJ Johnson: For, Sally Reinert: For, Julie Schamp: For, Susan Strahm: For  
For: 7, Against: 0, Absent: 3

F. Approve 2023-2024 Budget\*

Motion by Mr. Tucker Hight, seconded by Sally Reinert, to approve the 2023-24 budget as presented and published. After discussion and on roll call vote, the Board voted as follows:

**Motion Carried:**

Tabitha Gilsdorf: Absent, Traci Haglund: Absent, Shannon Johnson: Absent, Josiah Boneschans: For, Jim Gunsolley: For, Mr. Tucker Hight: For, AJ Johnson: For, Sally Reinert: For, Julie Schamp: For, Susan Strahm: For  
For: 7, Against: 0, Absent: 3

G. Property Tax Request\*

**RESOLUTION SETTING THE PROPERTY TAX REQUEST**

WHEREAS, Nebraska Revised Statute 77-1632 provides that the Governing Body of ESU # One 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 # One resolves that:

1. The 2023-2024 property tax request be set at:  
General Fund: \$ 1,946,934.58
2. The total assessed value of property differs from last year's total assessed value by 9.77 percent.
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 0.013665 per \$100 of assessed value.
4. ESU # One 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 # One will increase last year's budget by 4.25 percent.
6. A copy of this resolution will be certified and forwarded to the County Clerk on or before October 15, 2023.

Motion by Mr. Tucker Hight, seconded by Sally Reinert, to approve the resolution to set the 2023-24 property tax request. After discussion and on roll call vote, the Board voted as follows:

**Motion Carried:**

Tabitha Gilsdorf: Absent, Traci Haglund: Absent, Shannon Johnson: Absent, Josiah Boneschans: For, Jim Gunsolley: For, Mr. Tucker Hight: For, AJ Johnson: For, Sally Reinert: For, Julie Schamp: For, Susan Strahm: For  
For: 7, Against: 0, Absent: 3

**H. ESU1 Education Association Recognition as Bargaining Agent for Certified Staff\***

Motion by Josiah Boneschans, seconded by Jim Gunsolley, to approve the recognition of the Educational Service Unit #1 Education Association as the bargaining agent for certificated staff for the 2024-25 contract year. After discussion and on roll call vote, the Board voted as follows:

**Motion Carried:**

Tabitha Gilsdorf: Absent, Traci Haglund: Absent, Shannon Johnson: Absent, Josiah Boneschans: For, Jim Gunsolley: For, Mr. Tucker Hight: For, AJ Johnson: For, Sally Reinert: For, Julie Schamp: For, Susan Strahm: For  
For: 7, Against: 0, Absent: 3

I. Consider and take all necessary action regarding the contract release request by Anne Ronhovde\*

Motion by Jim Gunsolley, seconded by Mr. Tucker Hight, to deny the request by Anne Ronhovde to be released from her 2023-24 contract. After discussion and on roll call vote, the Board voted as follows:

**Motion Carried:**

Tabitha Gilsdorf: Absent, Traci Haglund: Absent, Shannon Johnson: Absent, Josiah Boneschans: For, Jim Gunsolley: For, Mr. Tucker Hight: For, AJ Johnson: For, Sally Reinert: For, Julie Schamp: For, Susan Strahm: For  
For: 7, Against: 0, Absent: 3

J. State Education Conference

Administrator Heimann informed the board when the Nebraska State School Board's Association State Education Conference is being held.

K. NASB Board Leadership Visit

NASB representative requests attendance at the October meeting.

L. Personnel\*

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

L.1.a. Resignation(s)

L.1.b. New Hire(s)

L.1.c. Contract Change(s)

L.1.d. Termination(s)

M. Adjournment

As there were no additional Agenda items to discuss, President AJ Johnson declared the meeting adjourned at 6:07 p.m.

Brittney Hampl, Recording Secretary

Susan Strahm, Board Secretary

# Central Region Symposium

Wed. October 11 - Friday, October 13, 2023



[\*\*EVENT REGISTRATION \(Click Here\)\*\*](#)

Schedule below is subject to change

## **Meeting Location:**

**MADISON CONCOURSE HOTEL (Madison, WI)** - [Hotel & Reservation information \(Click Here\)](#)

- Breakfast provided each morning; lunch & dinners during the week are “pay on your own”.
- Dress code during meetings: Business Casual.

## **Wednesday Evening, October 11**

5:30 - 6:30 PM Social Hour at [Great Dane Pub - Downtown \(Map\)](#); Dress Code: Casual  
6:30 PM Dinner at Great Dane Pub - Downtown

## **Thursday, October 12**

8:00 - 9:00 Breakfast/Coffee & Networking ([Click here for breakfast info](#))  
9:00 - 9:30 Welcome & Introductions  
9:30 - 9:50 Presentation: Minnesota  
9:50 - 10:10 Presentation: Nebraska  
  
10:10 - 10:30 Break/Networking  
10:30 - 11:15 Round Table Discussion or ESA Talks (Short presentations)  
11:15 - 11:30 Guest: TBD  
  
11:45 - 1:15 Lunch at The Old Fashioned (On the Capitol Square)  
1:15 - 1:35 Presentation: Illinois  
1:35 - 1:55 Presentation: Wisconsin  
  
1:55 - 2:10 Break/Networking  
2:10 - 2:55 Round Table Discussion or ESA Talks (Short presentations)  
2:55 - 3:00 Thursday's Closing Remarks

- Dinner on your own. [Here are some suggestions.](#)

## **Friday, October 13**

8:00 - 9:00 Breakfast/Coffee & Networking  
9:00 - 9:15 Guest: TBD  
9:15 - 9:35 Presentation: North Dakota  
9:35 - 9:55 Presentation: Iowa  
  
9:55 - 10:10 Break/Networking  
10:00 - 10:55 Round Table Discussion or ESA Talks (Short presentations)  
10:55 - 11:00 Closing Remarks

### **Questions?**

Contact Jeremy Biehl at (608) 745-5410 or [biehlj@cesa5.org](mailto:biehlj@cesa5.org)





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

	<u>Member Name</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>Member Cost</u>	<u>Savings</u>
26-0070	Allen Consolidated Schools	Allen	66,308.74	20,422.93
54-0586	Bloomfield Community Schools	Bloomfield	34,315.50	12,539.63
14-0702	Cedar Catholic High School	Hartington	14,638.03	6,162.91
54-0013	Creighton Community Public Schools	Creighton	21,730.29	12,710.92
54-0096	Crofton Community Schools	Crofton	13,916.53	5,213.83
14-0704	East and West Catholic Elementary School	Hartington	2,880.69	776.49
00-0001	Educational Service Unit 01	Wakefield	9,112.30	5,176.15
26-0561	Emerson-Hubbard Community School	Emerson	94,866.30	23,260.16
14-0008	Hartington-Newcastle Public Schools	Hartington	81,822.84	27,888.02
14-0701	Holy Trinity Elementary School	Hartington	10,091.56	2,681.61
22-0031	Homer Community Schools	Homer	18,463.08	6,473.44
54-0505	Isanti Community Schools	Niobrara	9,987.64	1,786.87
14-0054	Laurel-Concord-Coleridge School	Laurel	166,697.70	45,000.03
54-0501	Niobrara Public Schools	Niobrara	70,779.74	19,640.90
87-0001	Pender Public Schools	Pender	130,298.14	31,303.66
26-0001	Ponca Public Schools	Ponca	124,243.48	44,457.50
14-0045	Randolph Public Schools	Randolph	48,843.77	12,354.94
22-0011	South Sioux City Community Schools	South Sioux	92,758.15	39,692.70
87-0701	St Augustine Indian Mission School	Winnebago	63,737.38	9,523.98
54-0701	St Ludger Elementary School	Creighton	3,146.94	995.81
90-0702	St Mary's Catholic School	Wayne	1,019.53	387.10
22-0701	St Michael's Catholic School	South Sioux	55,076.31	10,749.23
54-0702	St Rose of Lima School	Crofton	7,778.02	1,772.48
87-0016	Umo Ho Nation Public School	Macy	167,832.04	39,656.17
54-0583	Verdigre Public Schools	Verdigre	32,097.94	11,825.00
90-0560	Wakefield Community Schools	Wakefield	40,789.15	13,233.80
87-0013	Walthill Public Schools	Walthill	137,200.57	34,245.87
54-0576	Wausa Public School	Wausa	93,243.54	21,782.83



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

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	<u>Member Name</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>Member Cost</u>	<u>Savings</u>
90-0017	Wayne Community Schools	Wayne	163,196.26	38,130.85
87-0017	Winnebago Public Schools	Winnebago	23,297.46	18,811.41
90-0595	Winside Public Schools	Winside	65,391.16	22,856.21
14-0101	Wynot Public Schools	Wynot	90,031.32	24,250.59
	<b><u>Grand Totals</u></b>		<b><u>\$1,955,592.09</u></b>	<b><u>\$565,764.05</u></b>



2022-23

## Nebraska ESUCC Cooperative Purchasing Sales & Savings By Program

### ESU # 01

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<u>Program</u>	<u>Member Cost</u>	<u>Savings</u>
AEPA	\$361,616.62	\$84,930.10
Annual Buy	\$212,233.17	\$78,497.20
Annual Buy Punch Out	\$1,311.21	\$366.42
Custodial Buy	\$136,112.37	\$80,089.98
Extended Buy	\$51.01	\$21.86
Food Buy	\$1,020,543.30	\$219,326.49
Paper Buy	\$69,811.92	\$7,756.88
Special Buy	\$153,912.49	\$94,775.12
<b><u>Grand Totals</u></b>	<b><u>\$1,955,592.09</u></b>	<b><u>\$565,764.05</u></b>

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

**ESU #1  
Annual Report  
2022-23**



# ESU #1 Annual Report 2022-23



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; and
- ▶ to provide information about ESU #1 activities to area schools, our board of directors and the public.

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. ESU #1's Tower School is a Level III program for students. Tower staff also conduct outreach for schools to support student needs. The Migrant Education Program and Early Learning Connection are located at ESU #1 and serve an area covering 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. We provide financial support for projects on behalf of all public schools, such as internet filtering, ACT preparation through OnToCollege, PowerSchool support, instructional leadership training, AIMSweb, board policy, legal updates and much more!

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.

Dr. Bill Heimann, Administrator



## about ESU #1



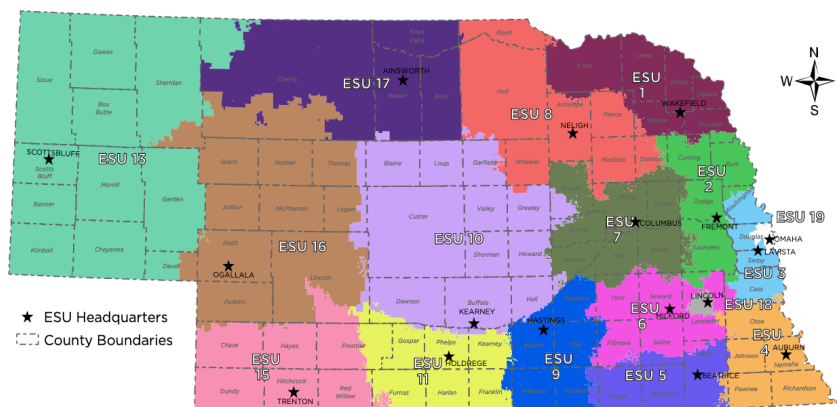
Educational Service Unit #1 provides services to the local school districts in Cedar, Dakota, Dixon, Knox, Thurston and Wayne counties in northeast Nebraska. ESU #1 is one of 17 Educational Service Units statewide.

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 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 more than 11,500 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



ESU #1 Board of Directors members are elected to four-year terms, one representative from each of the 10 election districts.

The board meets in regular session on the second Tuesday of each month at the Central Office in Wakefield. Board members during the 2022-23 school year were:

- ▶ Adrian (AJ) Johnson, president (District 8)
- ▶ Sally Reinert, vice president (District 2)
- ▶ Susan Strahm, secretary (District 5)
- ▶ Josiah Boneschans (District 1)
- ▶ Jim Gonsolley (District 3)
- ▶ Duane Krusemark (District 4)
- ▶ Traci Haglund (District 6)
- ▶ Tucker Hight (District 7)
- ▶ Tabitha Gilsdorf (District 9)
- ▶ Shannon Johnson (District 10)

**#1 ESU** *Our mission: Providing innovation, leadership and service.*

# ESU #1 Annual Report 2022-23



## advisory council

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 2022-23 school year were:

- ▶ Ashley O'Dell, chair (Dakota Co.)
- ▶ Jeremy Christiansen (Cedar Co.)
- ▶ Stacie Hardy (Thurston Co.)
- ▶ Matt Farup (Wayne Co.)
- ▶ Chris Look (Knox Co.)
- ▶ Brendan Calahan (Dixon Co.)



Ashley O'Dell



Jeremy Christiansen



Stacie Hardy



Matt Farup



Chris Look



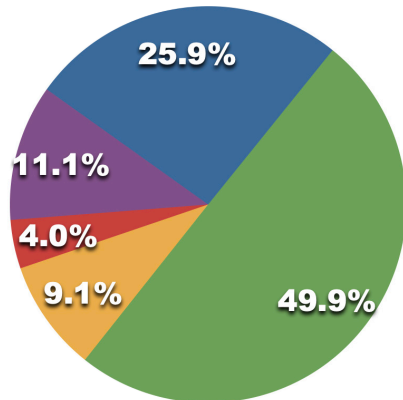
Brendan Calahan



## 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.

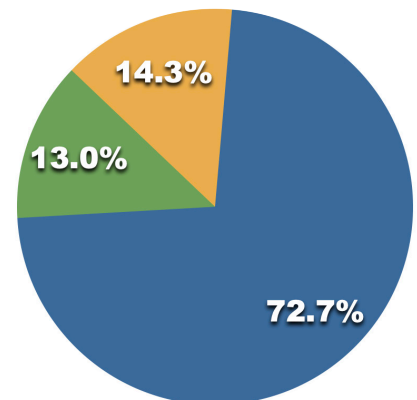


### Budgeted revenue

▶ General fund/carryover...	\$5,000,000
▶ Local receipts .....	\$9,611,286
▶ Property tax.....	\$1,756,059
▶ State receipts.....	\$765,781
▶ Federal funds .....	\$2,141,200
<b>TOTAL .....</b>	<b>\$19,274,326</b>

### Budgeted expenditures

▶ Local .....	\$14,015,826
▶ State/federal/local .....	\$2,508,500
▶ Cash reserve.....	\$2,750,000
<b>TOTAL.....</b>	<b>\$19,274,326</b>



## early learning connection professional development system grant



### **Northern Early Learning Connection Partnership**

The Northern Early Learning Connection (ELC) grant is designed to ensure that educators who work with children birth to age 8 have access to high quality professional development opportunities. According to the Nebraska Early Childhood Record System, there were 2,394 participants who attended more than 300 professional development events in the Northern Region from July 2022 to March 2023. A majority of these events were offered at no cost to the participants. The Northern Region events were attended by participants from 62 counties across the state. Our web presence, including the ELC Facebook page and a monthly newsletter, impacts approximately 1,600 early childhood professionals in the Northern region.

### **PreK-2 Professional Development Specialist**

Kary Pfeil, the PreK-2 Professional Development Specialist, offers support for school districts and their partners to improve early childhood practice, instructional quality and transitions for young children. Through professional development and coaching, support is available in the following areas: appropriate teaching practices, curricular support, formative assessment and observational assessment, Pyramid Model practices, transition practices, school and out-of-school time continuation, and family engagement. The PreK-2 Professional Development Specialist also assists with the New Teacher Cadre training provided by ESU #1.

As of September 2023, 11 districts or programs have received support including administrators, teachers, paraprofessionals, service providers, and childcare directors. In total, 96 participants have participated in training or services being offered. These supports were offered through professional development opportunities, coaching, leadership meetings, informational meetings, and classroom observations for a total of 286 hours of services.

### **Early Childhood MTSS Facilitation**

The Early Childhood MTSS (Multi-Tiered System of Supports) Implementation Facilitator for region 3 is Meagan Rodriguez. She supports leadership teams at a systems level (childcare programs, school districts, Head Start programs, and state and local agencies/organizations within the region) to implement the Pyramid Model Framework to ensure that a comprehensive array of early childhood supports that contribute to positive outcomes for programs, children and families.

As of January 2023, Meagan has added two districts that have begun implementation, facilitated four Leadership Team meetings and provided four additional districts with an Early Childhood MTSS overview. Of the four overviews, two of the districts have committed to beginning the Early Childhood MTSS process.

### **Early Childhood Coach Consultation**

The ESU #1 Early Learning Connection Coach Consultant works collaboratively within ESUs 1, 7 and 8 to ensure an equitable comprehensive array of support that is responsive to the needs of coaches who serve early childhood educators and parents caring for children (birth through age 8) within family childcare homes, centers and preschool programs. Services provided include one-on-one coaching sessions, small group coaching sessions and large group coach cadres meetings.

During the 2022-23 school year, the coach consultant provided 44 one-on-one coaching sessions, 21 small group coaching sessions and two large group coach cadre meetings.



## title IC migrant education 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 provides supplemental educational and support services to help reduce disruptions to learning and other concerns that result from repeated moves and/or the migratory lifestyle.

Our focus areas are school readiness, math and English language arts instruction, and graduation or services to out-of-school youth. 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 most recent reporting year, our team achieved a number of successes for our program and the students we serve.

- ▶ Increased child count from 338 in the previous reporting year to 440.
- ▶ Increased the number of instructional services from 203 in the previous reporting year to 305.
- ▶ Increased the number of support services from 622 in the previous reporting year to 732.
- ▶ Met or exceeded all but one of our measurable program outcomes (program goals). We fell short by 1 percentage point in the MPO that was not met.
- ▶ 69% of children 3-5 years old who received instructional services were considered proficient on post assessments.
- ▶ 80% of kindergarten through 12th grade students that received instructional services were considered proficient on post assessments.

Services provided to our students included, but were not limited to, assistance with obtaining health services; translation and interpretation services; in-home instruction to pre-K students, school-aged students and out-of-school youth; purchase and supply of learning materials; purchase of clothing; parent training related to math and reading at home; and referral services from agencies and organizations all over northeast Nebraska.





Amy Mundil

Kellen Conroy

Derek Lahm

Sheri Fillipi



Andrew Contreras

Jesse Titiml

Scott McIntosh

William David

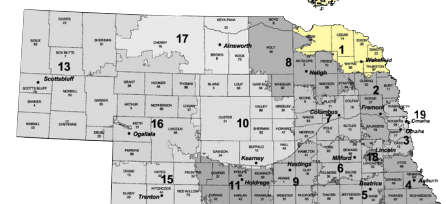
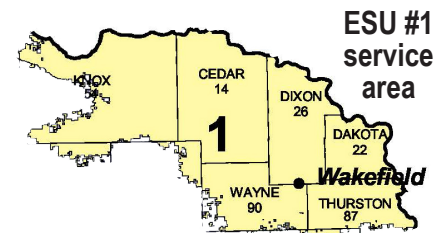
ESU #1 core services includes the Professional Services Team. The team collaborates to provide integrated support for partner districts and includes Teaching and Learning, Technology, Communications and Media. Core services provide the following:

- ▶ 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.

## Teaching and Learning Team

Our Teaching and Learning Specialists make a concerted effort to assist districts at ESU #1, in local school buildings and virtually. They've hosted more than 3,600 total participants, including teachers and administrators, through 307 virtual and/or district on-site training events during the 2022-23 school year.

- ▶ **NSCAS Growth (Nebraska Student Centered Assessment System)** — As Nebraska continues to transition to the NSCAS Growth Assessment Model, which combines NWEA MAP Growth (Northwest Evaluation Association Measures of Academic Progress) and Nebraska's Statewide Summative Assessments, the ESU #1 Teaching and Learning Team provides support to area schools. Support includes assisting schools in reading and analyzing reports, providing schools with considerations on using reports for instructional planning and participating in training in order to meet the needs of area schools.
- ▶ **Principal Instructional Leadership Series** — Phil Warrick facilitated a two-day Principal Leadership Training in June 2022. In the 2022-23 school year, ESU #1 partnered with Phil Warrick to provide principals with support relating to instructional walkthroughs focusing on high-quality teacher feedback. In addition, Principal Zoom Groups, consisting of small groups of administrators, met monthly via Zoom for focused conversation supporting instructional leadership.
- ▶ **OnToCollege (John Baylor)** — ESU #1-area districts participated in OnToCollege during 2022-23. OnToCollege is an online resource that prepares juniors and seniors for the ACT Test. 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 26 schools. Multi-Tiered System of Supports is a systematic framework of providing high-quality instruction using evidence-based practices tailored to meet the academic, behavioral and social-emotional needs of all students across three tiers of support. Data-based decision making and problem solving assist in identifying supports, and classroom coaching ensures fidelity of implementation. An MTSS Google Site contains training resources, and reading intervention training and support is provided. LETRS professional development focuses on the science of reading and quality reading instruction at the elementary level.



# ESU #1 Annual Report 2022-23

## Instructional 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

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 special education department inventory and equipment, as well as Real Care Baby checkout to area districts. The Media Center also fills individual orders of binding and laminating for administrators, teachers and staff at schools in the ESU #1 service area.

## Technology infrastructure

The Technology Department has helped with technology and infrastructure at our schools by supporting a streamlined deployment of firewall, filtering and other security and technology tools. During the past year, we have expanded our technology support services for all ESU #1 districts.

Collaboration is a big part of what we do at ESU #1 and in the Technology Department. During the 2022-23 school year, ESU #1 conducted nine LAN (Local Area Network) manager meetings. These meetings are valuable because they allow area districts to communicate and plan for new technologies and security threats.

We also continue to help most of our schools with their E-rate needs. This funding request year, we helped schools save up to \$240,661.





## 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.

### **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 soundproof testing suite at the Wakefield office.

More than 13,750 screenings and follow-up tests were completed during the 2022-23 school year. In addition, the ESU #1 audiologist serves students involved in the Northeast Regional Program for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing.

### **Deaf education**

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 2022-23 school year, the ESU #1 Deaf Education Program consulted on and served 48 children.

### **Early Childhood (ECSE) and Early Development Network (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 consist 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 the 2022-23 school year, ECSE/EDN served 194 children by providing evaluations, consultations and/or direct services. Of the children served, 85 were birth-2 years old and 109 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.

## Physical and occupational therapy

Three physical therapists and eight occupational therapists served approximately 300 school-aged students and completed dozens of evaluations during the 2022-23 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 more than 50 early childhood evaluations using the Primary Service Provider model and provided services for more than 150 families.

## Program 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.

## School 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 2022-23 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.

## Speech/language

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 2022-23 school year, the ESU #1 SLPs served 1,141 children.



## Tower School Level III Program

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 and transition skills and ultimately prepares students to be contributing members of society and experience success in a variety of settings.

During the 2022-23 school year, four certified teachers, along with other itinerant service providers and paraeducators, served a total of 24 students from 12 area school districts in-person at Tower School. In addition, Tower School staff provided outreach supports and services to 13 area school districts.



## Transition

The ESU#1 Transition Program helps students with disabilities, 14 or older, bridge the gap between school experiences and adult life, and helps students function as productively and independently as possible. More than 120 area students received transition services during the 2022-23 school year, either through Zoom or in-person visits, using transition assessments, mock and informational interviews, information about college programs and outside agency programming.

Our transition specialist made 164 in-person or Zoom visits to ESU #1 districts this school year, coaching teachers to assist students, parents and general ed teachers in completing formal and informal transition assessments to have data-based post-secondary transition goals, plans and activities.

ESU #1 hosted an Indicator 13 workday in February to assist districts with reviewing student transition plans.

## Visual/orientation & mobility services

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 2022-23 school year, two teachers of the visually impaired provided direct or consultative vision services and evaluated 33 students in 14 different school districts in ESU #1. Orientation & mobility services were provided to 2 students in 2 districts within the ESU #1 area, as well as to 2 students from ESU #8.



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

## special education teams



### Improving Learning for Children with Disabilities (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

The goal of the ESU #1 Assistive Technology Team is to provide assistance to districts in the determination of a student's need for assistive technology.

During the 2022-23 school year, team members provided services that included assistive technology consultations within individual districts they serve and short-term equipment loans.

### Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) Team

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. This year, the ESU #1's ADOS team, administered the assessment seven times this year, five of which occurred in South Sioux City school district.

ESU #1 has also worked to increase local capacity by encouraging other staff members to receive training in the administration of the ADOS-2, as well as other autism screening assessments. Further, the ASD team regularly convened regarding information of state updates and professional development. ASD team members continued to provide supports (i.e., evaluation and programming) to ESU #1 schools for those students who were demonstrating characteristics of autism.



Speech/Language Pathologists

## Brain Injury Regional School Support Team (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 2022-23 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/](http://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 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.



## Implementing an early intervention approach

ESU #1 provides early intervention and special education 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 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, migrant education 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.

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.

**RESOLUTION**

**WHEREAS**, Anne Ronhovde was given written notice of the possible cancellation of her employment contract on September 18, 2023;

**WHEREAS**, Ms. Ronhovde was notified of her right to request a hearing within seven (7) days from the date of such notification and was notified that in the event no request for hearing was made, the Board may proceed to take action to cancel her employment contract with Educational Service Unit Number 1 without further notice;

**WHEREAS**, Ms. Ronhovde did not request a hearing within the time required by law; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Board, being duly advised of the facts of the matter, finds there is just cause to cancel Ms. Ronhovde’s employment contract, effective immediately.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the employment contract of Anne Ronhovde should be and is hereby cancelled, effective immediately, on this 10th day of October, 2023.

The foregoing Resolution having been read in its entirety, Member \_\_\_\_\_ moved for their passage and adoption. Member \_\_\_\_\_ seconded same. After discussion and on roll call vote the following members voted in favor of passage and adoption of the above Resolution:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.

The following members voted against the same: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_.

The following members were absent or not voting: \_\_\_\_\_.

The above Resolution having been consented to by a majority of the members of the Board of Educational Service Unit Number 1 was declared as passed and adopted by the President at a duly held and lawfully convened meeting in full compliance with the Nebraska Open Meetings laws.

**DATED** this 10th day of October, 2023.

**EDUCATIONAL SERVICE UNIT NUMBER 1**

**BY:** \_\_\_\_\_  
President

**ATTEST:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary