

E d u c a t i o n a l S e r v i c e U n i t 1 6

Profile of Services

2019-20

ESU 16 Central Office
314 West 1st
Ogallala, NE 69153

North Platte Special
Services Center
1221 West 17th
North Platte, NE 69101

Belief and Value Statements:

All Learners & Positive Learning Environments
Partnerships & Relationships
Collaboration & Communication
Responsiveness & Responsibility
Leadership & Accountability

ESU 16 provides visionary leadership and equitable access to services for all learners

ESUs Statewide



Recognizing inequities, which have long produced problems for both children and school districts, the Nebraska legislature passed a special bill, LB 301, in August of 1965, creating 19 educational service units. Their express purpose, according to that law, was to “provide supplementary educational services to local districts.” Educational service units act primarily as service agencies in providing core services and services identified and requested by member school districts.

As per LB 603, beginning January 1, 2009 ESU election districts were developed based on three factors: substantially equal population, compact and contiguous boundaries. Each ESU is governed by an elected board consisting of 5-12 members with one official elected from each election district. Election district boundaries are to be redrawn every 10 years based upon census information.

The units are a political subdivision of the State of Nebraska and are partially financed by a tax levy that cannot, by statute exceed one and one-half cents per \$100 actual valuation for the general fund. Additional funding comes from contracts with local school districts for services provided; State aid for Telecomputing and Core Services; and Federal & State grants.

ESU 16 provides visionary leadership and equitable access to services for all learners

Leadership & Governance



ESU 16 Board

- District 1 - **Julie Boettcher** - Hershey, Maxwell, North Platte, Wallace Schools
- District 2 - **Rod Rayburn** - Brady, Maxwell, North Platte, Stapleton Schools
- District 3 - **Bill McGahan** - North Platte Schools
- District 4 - **Robert Jones** - Hershey, Maxwell, McPherson Co, North Platte, Stapleton, Sutherland, Thedford Schools
- District 5 - **Nikki Bergeron** - North Platte Schools
- District 6 - **Judy Thompson** - North Platte Schools
- District 7 - **Mel McNea** - North Platte Schools
- District 8 - **Sooky Marks** - Hershey, McPherson Co., Mullen, North Platte, Sutherland Schools
- District 9 - **Judy Seger** - Ogallala, Paxton, Perkins Co., Wallace Schools
- District 10 - **Dave Lawler** - Hershey, Ogallala, Paxton, Sutherland Schools
- District 11 - **John Frates** - Ogallala, Perkins County, South Platte Schools
- District 12 - **Claudia Melvin** - Arthur, Hyannis, Ogallala Schools

Partnerships

Arthur County Schools
 Brady Public Schools
 Hershey Public Schools
 Hyannis Area Schools
 Maxwell Public Schools
 McPherson County Schools
 Mullen Public Schools
 North Platte Public Schools

Ogallala Public Schools
 Paxton Consolidated Schools
 Perkins County Schools
 South Platte Public Schools
 Stapleton Public Schools
 Sutherland Public Schools
 Thedford Schools
 Wallace Public Schools

Four non-public schools

NE  **PS**
 nebraska loves public schools



Educational Service Unit 16 Board

Function

The Board's responsibilities include the establishment of educational policies and administrative regulations governing the service unit, approval of programs and services recommended in response to needs as determined by the ESU 16 Advisory Council, adoption of an annual budget for the administration and operation of the service unit and the hiring and establishment of a procedure for the evaluation of the Unit Administrator and staff.

Meetings

Board meetings are usually scheduled on the third Tuesday of each month at 12:30 p.m. MT in the ESU 16 administrative offices in Ogallala except the month of July. No meeting is held in July. The meeting dates and times are subject to change. A list of meeting dates may be acquired by contacting the administrative assistant. Members of the public are always welcome to attend.

Legal notice of the regular board meetings are published in the North Platte Telegraph and the agenda is posted at the ESU 16 Administrative Offices, the US Post Office, the City Hall and the Keith County Courthouse, all in Ogallala.

Agenda

A copy of the agenda is sent to board members before the meetings so they can study the materials and come prepared to question, discuss and take action.

Board materials are also available to the public in the Board Recording Secretary's office and at the meeting itself.

Seven board members must be in attendance to conduct business.

The meetings regularly include the flag salute, recognition of the Open Meetings Law, approval of minutes and bills, a financial report, action and discussion items, reports from program directors, and the administrator.



ESU 16 Board Meetings 2019-2020

August 20, 2019

11:45 a.m. MT Lunch
12:30 p.m. MT Meeting
Central Office Ogallala

September 17, 2019

6:00 p.m. MT Dinner
7:00 p.m. MT Budget Hearing
7:30 p.m. MT Meeting
Central Office Ogallala

October 15, 2019

11:45 a.m. CT Lunch
12:30 p.m. CT Meeting
ESU 16 North Platte Special Services Center (NPSSC)

November 18, 2019 (Monday)

11:45 a.m. MT Lunch
12:30 p.m. MT Meeting
Central Office Ogallala

December 17, 2019

11:45 a.m. MT Lunch
12:30 p.m. MT Meeting
Central Office Ogallala

January 21, 2020

11:45 a.m. MT Lunch
12:30 p.m. MT Meeting
Central Office Ogallala

February 18, 2020

11:45 a.m. MT Lunch
12:30 p.m. MT Meeting
Central Office Ogallala

March 17, 2020

11:45 a.m. MT Lunch
12:30 p.m. MT Meeting
Central Office Ogallala

April 21, 2020

11:45 a.m. MT Lunch
12:30 p.m. MT Meeting
Central Office Ogallala

May 19, 2020

11:45 a.m. MT Lunch
12:30 p.m. MT Meeting
Central Office Ogallala

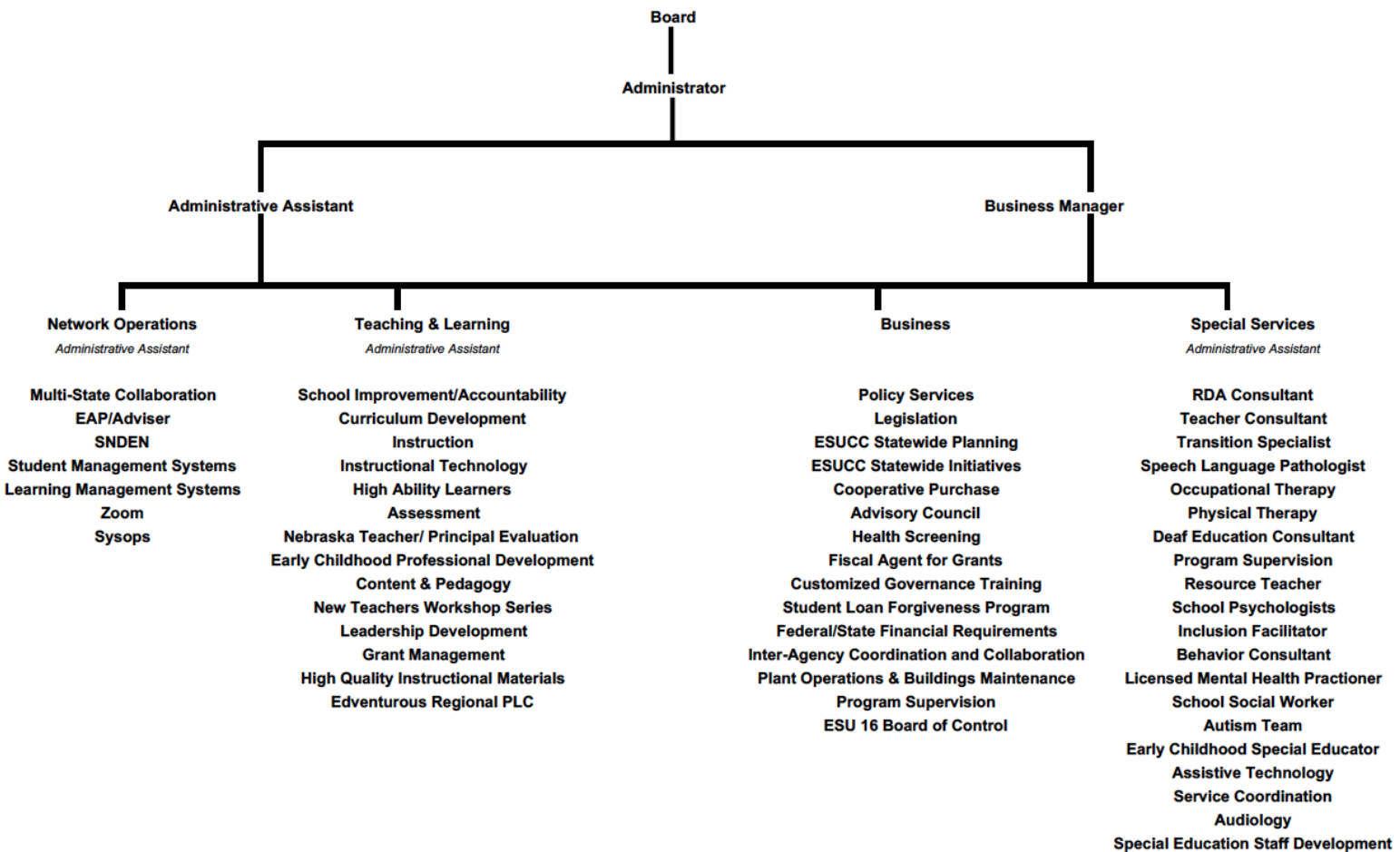
June 23, 2020

11:45 a.m. MT Lunch
12:30 p.m. MT Meeting
Central Office Ogallala

Educational Service Unit 16 Information

Excellence is never an accident; it is the result of high intention, sincere effort, intelligent direction, skillful execution and the vision to see obstacles as opportunities. Anonymous

Lines of Communication



Purpose Statement:

ESU 16 provides visionary leadership and equitable access to services for all learners.

Direction/Vision:

Leading and facilitating the coordination of shared resources and services for all learners.

Tag Line:

Leadership and service.

Belief and Core Value Statements:

ESU 16 commits to:

all learners & positive learning environments
partnerships & relationships
collaboration & communication
responsiveness & responsibility
leadership & accountability

*Continuous Improvement
Goals for Agency*

01

To continuously improve leadership and services through the systemic use of data for decision making.

Objective 1: Implementation of SIMPL

Objective 2: Develop evaluation tool(s) to evaluate job alike CIP efforts & utilize data to improve practice.

Objective 3: Embed an annual orientation process for new and returning staff to be delivered during the August Opening Inservice Day.

Objective 4: Ongoing individual professional growth is directed by data from staff evaluation and job alike focus that results in improved practice for all staff.

Objective 5: Steering committee uses annual systematic data informed process to drive continuous agency improvement.

02

To continuously improve service and leadership through effective communication with on-line stakeholders.

Objective 1: Communication with teachers

Objective 3: Expand use of social media

| | | | | | | | #1 2019-2020 Calendar | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------|----|----|----|----|----|----|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|---------------------|-------------------------------------|----|----|----|----|----|-----|-------|--|--|--|--|--|--|----|
| | | | | | | | EDUCATIONAL SERVICE UNIT 16 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | Ogallala, NE | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2019 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 2020 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| S | M | Tu | W | Th | F | S | July 4-(Independence Day) ESU Offices closed | | | | | | | S | M | Tu | W | Th | F | S | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| July | | | | | | | August 1-Resume Regular Office Hours | | | | | | | January | | | | | | | 20 | | | | | | | | |
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | | | | | | | | | |
| 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | August 12-All Staff First Day/Edventurous PLC | | | | | | | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | | | | | | | | | |
| 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | | | | | | | | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | | | | | | | | | |
| 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | August 16-All Staff In-Service | | | | | | | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | | | | | | | | | |
| 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | | | | | | | | | | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | September 2-(Labor Day) ESU Offices closed | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| August | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 15 | February | | | | | | | 20 | | | | | | | |
| | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | October 11-(Fall Break) ESU Offices Open | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | |
| 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | | | | | | | | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | | | | | | | | | |
| 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | October 14-Edventurous PLC | | | | | | | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | | | | | | | | | |
| 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | | | | | | | | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | | | | | | | | | |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | October 25-All Staff In-Service | | | | | | | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| September | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 20 | November 27-29-(Thanksgiving Break) | | | | | | | March | | | | | | | 21 |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | ESU Office Closed 28-29 | | | | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | | | | | | | | | |
| 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | | | | | | | | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | | | | | | | | | |
| 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | December 23-January 3-(Christmas Vacation) | | | | | | | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | | | | | | | | | |
| 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | or follow assigned school schedule | | | | | | | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | | | | | | | | | |
| 29 | 30 | | | | | | ESU Offices closed Dec 24-25 & Dec 31-Jan1 | | | | | | | 29 | 30 | 31 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | January 6-All Staff Returns | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| October | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 22 | April | | | | | | | 20 | | | | | | | |
| | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | January 10-All Staff In-Service | | | | | | | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | | | | | | | | | |
| 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | | | | | | | | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | | | | | | | | | |
| 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | February 17-Edventurous PLC | | | | | | | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | | | | | | | | | |
| 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | | | | | | | | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | | | | | | | | | |
| 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | | March 6-(Spring Recess) ESU Offices closed | | | | | | | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | or follow assigned school schedule | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| November | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 18 | May | | | | | | | 14 | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | 1 | 2 | March 20-All Staff In-Service | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | 2 | | | | | | | | | |
| 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | | | | | | | | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | | | | | | | | | |
| 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | April 10-13-(Easter Recess) ESU Offices Closed | | | | | | | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | | | | | | | | | |
| 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | | | | | | | | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | | | | | | | | | |
| 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | May 15-All Staff In-Service | | | | | | | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 31 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| December | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 15 | May 20-Last day for Staff | | | | | | | June | | | | | | | |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | or follow assigned school schedule | | | | | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | | | | | | | | | |
| 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | Last day for Para-educators | | | | | | | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | | | | | | | | | |
| 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | | | | | | | | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | | | | | | | | | |
| 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | May 25-(Memorial Day) ESU Offices closed | | | | | | | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | | | | | | | | | |
| 29 | 30 | 31 | | | | | | | | | | | | 28 | 29 | 30 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | June 1-Summer office Hrs | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | 7:30-4:00 Mon-Thurs | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | 7:30--2:00 Fri | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Calendar Key | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Teacher Workdays | | | | | | | 180 | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | In-service/Workdays | | | | | | | 5 | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | Preschool - Continuous Services | | | | | | | Recess Days | | | | | | | 12 | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | 11/27, 12/23, 12/30 office closes | | | | | | | Important Days | | | | | | | 7 | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | at 12:00 p.m. | | | | | | | Para-educators | | | | | | | 192 | | | | | | | | |

Advisory Council

Background

The Advisory Council, consisting of all local school superintendents within the ESU 16 boundaries, has been an advisory group to the ESU 16 administration and board since the Unit was established in 1968. Since that time, the Advisory Council has met three to seven times per year. The main function of the Advisory Council has been to make recommendations to the administration and board concerning programs and services offered by ESU16.



Organization of Advisory Council

The Advisory Council will consist of superintendents of local school districts within ESU 16 and district program coordinators. Starting in August of each school year, the Advisory Council will meet approximately every other month (5 times) with the exception of June and July. Times and locations of these meetings will be determined at the final spring semester meeting.

The purpose of the Advisory Council will be two-fold. The primary purpose will be to make recommendations to the ESU 16 administration and board concerning programs and services offered by ESU 16. A secondary purpose will be to provide an opportunity for superintendents to share common concerns, discuss and possibly take action on educational issues and to provide a system for dispensing information concerning the Nebraska Department of Education policy and state legislation.

Starting in the 2009-10 school year, the ESU 15 (Trenton) schools and the ESU 16 (Ogallala) schools began holding joint Advisory Council meetings in order to create regional efficiencies between the two ESU's. The joint Advisory Council will meet to

- Provide leadership training opportunities to ESU 15/16 superintendents
- Plan regional events (Senator's Round Table, Board Member Workshops)
- Provide networking opportunities

ESU 15 and 16 will host presentations, round table discussions and focus groups as identified by Advisory Council members.

Advisory Council Meeting Procedures

ESU 16 Advisory Council meetings will be approximately two and one-half hours in length. Joint ESU 15 and 16 meetings will run approximately two and one-half hours following the ESU 16 Advisory Council. Any voting that is to be done will be done by roll call, or ballot, one vote per school. If a superintendent is absent, he/she may send a representative from his/her school who will have voting privileges.



**ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING DATES
2019-2020**

August 27, 2019

Tuesday

10:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. MT

Ogallala- Quality Inn & Convention Center

ESU 15 Superintendents will be joining us at 11:45 a.m. for lunch and afternoon meeting

October 29, 2019

Tuesday

10:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. CT

ESU 16 North Platte Special Services Center (NPSSC)

ESU 15 Superintendents will be joining us at 11:45 a.m. for lunch and afternoon meeting

December 10, 2019

Tuesday

10:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. CT

ESU 16 North Platte Special Services Center (NPSSC)

ESU 15 Superintendents will be joining us at 11:45 a.m. for lunch and afternoon meeting

January 22, 2020

Wednesday

Annual Board Member Workshop

5:00-9:00 p.m. CT

North Platte Senior High School

February 4, 2020

Tuesday

10:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. CT

ESU 16 North Platte Special Services Center (NPSSC)

ESU 15 Superintendents will be joining us at 11:45 a.m. for lunch and afternoon meeting

March 24, 2020

Tuesday

10:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. MT

Ogallala- Quality Inn & Convention Center

ESU 15 Superintendents will be joining us at 11:45 a.m. for lunch and afternoon meeting

Addresses

ESU 16 Central Office, 314 West 1st Street, Ogallala, NE

ESU 16 Special Services Center, 1221 West 17th Street, North Platte, NE

Quality Inn & Convention Center (I-80 Interchange), Ogallala, NE

North Platte High School, 1220 West 2nd North Platte, NE

Advisory Council

SIMPL

Service Implementation Model Process and Log (SIMPL) is a data driven process that systematically identifies the needs of ESU 16 member districts and determines services to fill the gaps. SIMPL also provides for comprehensive assessment of ESU 16 programming to support optimal implementation at the school district level. The process engages districts and ESU 16 staff in three stages of data analysis, services and design/planning and assessment of implementation at the district level.

Advisory Council Members 2019-2020

| | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| Arthur County Schools | Barry Schaeffer |
| Brady Public Schools | James McGown |
| Hershey Public Schools | Jane Davis |
| Hyannis Area Schools | Troy Unzicker |
| Maxwell Public Schools | Danny McMurtry |
| McPherson County Schools | Dana Jeppson |
| Mullen Public Schools | Chris Kunc |
| North Platte Public Schools | Ron Hanson |
| Ogallala Public Schools | Michael Apple |
| Paxton Consolidated Schools | Del Dack |
| Perkins County Schools | Phillip Picquet |
| South Platte Public Schools | David Spencer |
| Stapleton Public Schools | Howard Gaffney |
| Sutherland Public Schools | Dan Keyser |
| Thedford Public Schools | Blake Dahlberg |
| Wallace Public Schools | Thomas Sandberg |

Special Education

ESU 16 contracts to schools include the following:

- Supervision of Instruction
- Itinerant Resource Teacher
- Psychology Services
- Speech/Language Pathology
- Instructional Materials
- Mileage for personnel delivering special education
- Educator of Deaf and Hard of Hearing
- Inclusion/Transition
- In-service Training
- Early Childhood
- Behavior Consultation
- Audiology
- Occupational Therapy
- Physical Therapy



Each school district is billed in 8 equal monthly payments, beginning in September, as indicated in the contract for services.

The first of 8 invoices will be mailed September 25th of each year, with payment to be made by the 20th day of each month.

Rate charges for ESU 16 are approved by the Nebraska Department of Special Education

RESOURCE ITINERANT SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHERS

Contact Person:

Mary Peters, Director of Special Education (308) 534-2416

All school districts are facing rigid requirements in PL 94-142 concerning Individual Educational Plans for all children having a disability. ESU 16 employs itinerant Resource Teachers who are contracted to area schools to provide direct and indirect services designed to meet the needs of students with verified disabilities.

Resource teachers will assist school districts not having school-owned special education teachers in meeting the requirements of Rule 51. They will be responsible for developing, updating, and completing the Individual Educational Plans required for all students with disabilities. Their goal will be to educate the students with disabilities in the least restrictive environment, develop intervention strategies, curriculum modifications, remediations, and teaching prescriptions, and/or develop alternatives to help meet the student's special needs. They will also assist in the evaluation and additional referrals of children qualifying for special programs.

Contracts for resource teacher's time will be determined based on the amount of students and needs of the district. When it is determined the local school district has a special education population to justify the service of a full-time special education teacher, the district is encouraged to hire their own teacher.

PSYCHOLOGY SERVICES

Contact Persons:

Mary Peters, Director of Special Education (308) 534-2416
Carmen McMahon, North Platte home base (308) 534-2416
Catherine Ruhlman, Ogallala home base (308) 284-8481

ESU 16 provides psychological testing for students needing this service. Complete referral requests must be made by individuals requesting psychological examination. The referral process follows NDE Rule 51 guidelines with a Student Assistance Team completing a problem-solving process prior to referral.

When it is determined that non-Special Education interventions have not been effective, then a referral for a Multidisciplinary Team evaluation is initiated through the Special Education staff who will obtain the required parental permission for the evaluation. The psychologist along with other special education personnel will conduct a full and individual evaluation for each child being considered for special education and related services. Triennial re-evaluations of students receiving Special Education are initiated by the students MDT or IEP team. The School Psychologist will participate in MDT meetings and parent conferences as needed. They will also coordinate a plan for the services to be performed at each school requesting School Psychological services from ESU 16. School Psychologists assist schools with data collection and interpretation at the SAT and MTSS level. Inservice training on effective Student Assistance Teams and data collection is also available.

Contracts for psychological services are based on the December 1st, resource teacher's roster, for the following year.

SPEECH/LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY

Contact Person:

Mary Peters, Director of Special Education (308) 534-2416

ESU 16 employs Speech/Language Pathologists who are contracted to area schools to provide services designed to meet the needs of students with speech and language difficulties.

Speech Language Pathologists educate students with speech, language, and learning difficulties. They evaluate children ages birth to twenty-one who are referred for speech, language, stuttering, or voice assessment and make recommendations to area school personnel and parents. They develop educational plans and adjust curriculum to meet the students' special needs.

Services are provided in a direct and indirect model. Direct services are through individualized instruction or collaborative teaching in the regular classroom. Indirect services are delivered to students who qualify for speech-language services by working with regular classroom teachers, resource teachers, parents, and paraprofessionals to meet the student's individual needs. Evaluations are conducted for students, ages birth to twenty-one, referred for testing in the areas of speech, language, stuttering, and/or voice. Speech Language Pathologists assist school personnel and parents in developing an Individualized Education Plan addressing the students' communication and learning needs.

Contracts are based on the December 1st roster. Costs are based on a per student cost using a formula for rosters with more than 10 students.

SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAM SUPERVISION

Contact Person:

Mary Peters, Director of Special Education (308) 534-2416

ESU 16 employs a full-time Director of Special Education who is responsible for assisting all school districts to comply with requirements of LB 403, LB 889, PL 94-142, and PL 99-457. The Director supervises and coordinates all special education services available through ESU 16. Assistance is given to districts on referral placement, student progress, and transportation. The Improving Learning for Children with Disabilities Process required by the Nebraska Department of Education is coordinated and assisted.

The Director assists all schools in the fall with the completion of their Final Financial. Final Financial Reports are due on or before October 31 of each year. Under Rule 51 school districts have allowable and reimbursable costs for special education services. Schools can get reimbursement for salaries of special education staff, fringe benefits, in-service costs, travel costs, transportation of students, instructional equipment, and supplies, contracted special education services and the cost of acquisition, renovation and operation of a mobile unit used for delivery of special education services. Districts are reimbursed from the State Department of Education in the following school fiscal year. A pro rata amount is determined by the State Board Education from appropriations for special education approved by the Legislature and based on allowable excess costs for all special education programs and support services. Students receiving Level I services are participating in a special education program for not more than three hours per week. Expenditures for Level I services are allowable excess costs. Level II students receive more than three hours per week. For students who are receiving more than three hours per week, the school district must pay that portion of the adjusted average per pupil cost for that portion of the instructional time. This cost is deducted from the special education program costs. School districts are reimbursed by the State Department of Education in seven equal payments beginning in December. The monies received will be kept by the local district and can be used to pay contracts or bills received for all special programs and services.

In the spring and summer, the Director assists districts with completion of the following reports: 1) MOE (Maintenance of Effort); (2) Policies & Procedures; (3) IDEA Grant Payment Submission; (4) Non-Public Worksheet; (5) Discipline Report; (6) IDEA Grant Submission for the next year. The Director also assists Districts with reviewing Special Education Performance Report and District Determination Notices.

School districts sign a cooperative agreement indicating the district's request for this service. School districts are billed for program supervision at the cost of 11% of each Special Education bill. School Districts with their own Director of Special Education are only charged 8% of the total bill for supervision of the ESU 16 staff.

TEACHER CONSULTANT

Contact Persons:

Mary Peters, Director of Special Education (308) 534-2416
Darsha Pelland, Teacher Consultant (308) 534-2416
Denise Brauer, Teacher Consultant (308) 534-2416

ESU 16 provides consultative services for itinerant and district-owned special education staff. Regular appointments are scheduled by the school district personnel and the consultant. The consultants travel to the schools to assist in handling concerns, which arise from student IEP's, curriculum planning, caseload size, Student Assistance Teams, transition requirements, and Rule 51 compliance. Teacher Consultants assist school personnel and parents in developing an Individualized Education Plan, etc. Contracts for Teacher Consultant costs are divided equally among all school districts.

INCLUSION CONSULTANT

Contact Persons:

Mary Peters, Director of Special Education (308) 534-2416
Lou-Cox Fornander, Inclusion/Transition Consultant (308) 534-2416
Megan Lantis, Inclusion/Transition Consultant (308) 534-2416
Laurie Vak, Inclusion/Transition Consultant (308) 534-2416

This program assists school districts in providing, at the local school district site, services for students who have been verified moderate or severe/profound or multi-disabled. An Inclusion/Transition Consultant travels to the school district to assist paraprofessionals and classroom teachers in program planning for the IEP; conduct staffings; locate assistive devices; modify curriculum, and confer with parents. For vocational level students, this staff member will conduct community-based assessment and task analysis. (Occupational and Physical Therapy are also provided to students whose IEP team determines a need.)

Contracts for Inclusion Services are based on total student enrollment for the district from the fall student count.

TRANSITION CONSULTANT

Contact Persons:

Mary Peters, Director of Special Education (308) 534-2416
Lou Cox-Fornander, Inclusion/Transition Consultant (308) 534-2416
Megan Lantis, Inclusion/Transition Consultant (308) 534-2416
Laurie Vak, Inclusion/Transition Consultant (308)-534-2416

The Inclusion/Transition Consultant is directly responsible for assisting with the transition plans for special needs students. These responsibilities may include program planning, coordination, monitoring, evaluating, educating, implementation, and public relations. The Inclusion/Transition Consultant is directly responsible to the Director of Special Education.

Job responsibilities include assisting resource teachers with the development of transition plans, coordinating career assessment for transition planning, consulting with the area agency personnel regarding services available, and working cooperatively with special education teachers, resource teachers, speech-language pathologists, guidance counselors, academic teachers, medical personnel, and administrative personnel to maximize available services to special needs students.

Contracts for Inclusion/Transition Services are based on total student enrollment for the district from the fall student count.

OPPORTUNITY WITH LIFE SKILLS PROGRAM

Contact Persons:

Mary Peters, Director of Special Education (308) 534-2416
Jody Cisneros, Special Education Teacher (308) 568-9843
Rhonda Chada, Para Educator (308) 568-9843

The Opportunity with Life Skills Program (OWLS) is an enriched transition program for High School students with intellectual disabilities, (age 16-21), located on the campus of Mid-Plains Community College in North Platte. The program is to prepare students for the workforce through academic, social skills, life skills, and vocational development. It also increases independence, self-determination, self-advocacy, lifelong learning, and linkage for adult services. Contracts for the OWLS program costs are divided equally among the students that are in the program.

BEHAVIOR CONSULTANT

Contact Persons:

Mary Peters, Director of Special Education (308) 534-2416
Robyn Werth, Behavior Consultant (308) 284-8481

ESU 16 provides a Behavior Consultant to assist schools with students having behavioral and/or emotional difficulty in the school setting. A request needs to be made as part of a student assistance team or part of a Multidisciplinary Team Evaluation. Referrals are made to the ESU 16 office in North Platte or Ogallala.

Support is provided through in-service training for parents and teachers, individualized observations, consultation and collaboration with staff. The Behavior Consultant promotes modification and adaptation of regular classrooms to meet the needs of students with challenging behaviors. They assist in facilitation communication between schools, families and mental health professionals in order to provide comprehensive behavioral interventions for students. Assistance is given in developing Individualized Education Plans and behavioral intervention plans for students verified and having behavioral difficulties.

Contracts for Behavior Services are based on total student enrollment for the district from the fall student count.

LICENSED MENTAL HEALTH PRACTITIONER

Contact Persons:

Mary Peters, Director of Special Education (308) 534-2416
Gwen Bergstrom, Licensed Mental Health Practitioner (308) 534-2416

ESU 16 provides a Licensed Mental Health Practitioner (LMHP) available to districts for counseling students with a mental health diagnosis. The LMHP is responsible for evaluation, risk assessment and counseling to address students' needs socially and emotionally. Consultation is provided to educators, parents and other professionals to create safe, healthy and supportive learning environments for students. Contracts are based on students receiving services at an hourly rate of one hour per week, year round counseling services.

DEAF EDUCATION

Contact Persons:

Mary Peters, Director of Special Education (308) 534-2416
Connie Dalrymple, Deaf Education Consultant (308) 534-2416

The teacher of the deaf and hard of hearing will assist school districts with verification and accommodations for students who are deaf and hard of hearing. The teacher will assess the needs for a sign language interpreter and work with the interpreter in order to meet the needs of the student as needed. They will help the school in locating assistive technology equipment, classroom materials, and support the classroom teacher in evaluating its effectiveness.

The IEP team will determine if direct or consultative services are needed from the teacher of the deaf and hard of hearing. Direct services are through an individualized instruction or collaborative teaching in the classroom. Consultative services include working with regular classroom teachers, resource teachers, parents, and paraprofessionals to meet the needs of the student.

When a hard of hearing child is placed on a 504 plan, the teacher of the deaf and hard of hearing may offer assistance in writing the plan, and suggest assistive technology or accommodations that can be made within the regular classroom setting. Contracts for Deaf Education are based on total student enrollment for the district from the fall student count.

AUDIOLOGY SERVICES

Contact Persons:

Mary Peters, Director of Special Education (308) 534-2416
Dawn Schmitt, Audiologist (308) 534-2416
Colleen Mundis, Assistant (308) 534-2416

ESU 16 provides an Audiologist to assist ESU 15 and ESU 16 and school districts with students who might have hearing concerns. The Audiologist is responsible for providing a comprehensive diagnostic testing in a soundproof booth. Consultation is provided to parents and teachers regarding the testing and the discussion of interventions that may include the use of assistive technology. The Audiologist will work with the ESU 16 Deaf Educators in coordinating the use of assistive technology devices such as auditory trainers and hearing aids.

Staff development and training will also be provided to school district nurses that perform the first level of hearing screenings with all children.

Contracts for Audiology Services are based on total student enrollment for the district from the fall student count.

EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAM

Contact Persons:

Mary Peters, Director of Special Education (308) 534-2416
Jo Lee, Early Childhood Coordinator/Teacher (308) 386-4867

ESU 16 will serve as the agency for the Regional Coordinated Plan as requested by the local school districts and approved by the ESU 16 Board. The ESU 16 Plan submitted to the State Board of Education included all school districts in the ESU 16 counties, except North Platte Public School, signing contracts requesting to be included in the Regional Plan.

Local school districts will attempt to identify children with disabilities who would benefit from services. Procedures for identification shall be as follows:

1. ESU 16 will provide news releases to all media.
2. School districts desiring to have additional news releases may distribute at their discretion.
3. All referrals to the local education agency will be followed up with the appropriate diagnostic service.

ESU 16 issues a contract to school districts with students in the program based on the December 1 roster. Costs are based on a per student cost. These costs include the Early Childhood Special Education Teacher, Speech Pathologist Diagnostic and Evaluation. Early Childhood Special Education programs are mandated for all school districts in LB 889, and ESU 16 will do everything possible to assist all school districts to keep in compliance with LB 889.

EARLY DEVELOPMENT NETWORK SERVICES COORDINATION

Contact Persons:

Mary Peters Director of Special Education (308) 534-2416
Jo Lee, Service Coordination Supervisor (308) 386-4867
April Wilson, Service Coordinator (308) 284-8481
Kaelyn Klaasmeyer, Service Coordinator (308) 386-4867

ESU 16 received the contract with the Nebraska Department of Health & Human Services for Service Coordination. Service Coordination is the identification referral and coordination of services for children, birth through the age of two, and families. The Service Coordinator serves as the single point of contact in helping parents gain needed services and assistance.

This program is funded through the Department of Health & Human Services and is of no cost to the school districts.

SPECIAL EDUCATION STAFF DEVELOPMENT

Contact Person:

Mary Peters, Director of Special Education (308) 534-2416

ESU 16 takes part in the NDE Special Education Continuous Improvement Process. ESU 16 provides training to districts based on District determination needs and requests. Staff members are available to provide in-service and workshops on Special Education issues such as Student Assistance Team Training; Co-Teaching Methods; Severe Disability Models; Behavior; Classroom Management; IEP Compliance, Legislation, and Litigation. Schools may request training and consulting in any area of special education.

OCCUPATIONAL AND PHYSICAL THERAPY

Contact Person:

Mary Peters, Director of Special Education (308) 534-2416

ESU 16 provides Occupational Therapists and a Physical Therapist to assist ESU 16 school districts with students who's IEP teams determined a need for OT or PT services for difficulty in the area of gross fine motor movements.

They evaluate children ages birth to twenty-one who are referred for motor difficulties. They make recommendations to area school personnel and parents and develop educational plans and adjust curriculum to meet the students' special needs.

Services are provided in a direct and indirect model. Direct services are through individualized instruction or collaborative teaching in the regular classroom. Indirect services are delivered to students who qualify for OT or PT services by working with the regular classroom teachers, resource teachers, parents and para professionals to meet the students individual needs. Evaluations are conducted for students ages birth to twenty-one, referred for testing and Occupational Therapists and Physical Therapists assist school personnel and parents in developing and Individualized Education Plan addressing the students' motor concerns.

Contracts for OT and PT are based on total student enrollment for the district from the fall student count.

Teaching & Learning

The ESU 16 Teaching & Learning Team positively impacts student achievement by providing educational leadership and supports to the faculty and administration in area schools. This team includes teaching, learning, and technology specialists who provide professional learning opportunities, follow-up support and coordinate the exchange of knowledge and skills among ESU 16 educators. The team also supports development of instructional resources to enhance curriculum and instruction. We also facilitate state and federal grant development.

The Teaching & Learning Team activities are responsive to the needs expressed by school districts and focus on the high priority topics as identified in district Continuous Improvement Plans.

The ESU 16 Teaching & Learning department provides district continuous training and support in a variety of areas including:

- Continuous Improvement
- Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment
- Leadership
- Classroom Management
- Content Area Instruction
- Support for new & marginal teachers
- Instructional Technology
- Classroom Coaching

In addition to supporting those who serve school-age children, we also provide professional development services to professionals who provide daycare and pre-school services. A description of this program follows:

EARLY CHILDHOOD PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Contact Person:

Cheryl Roche, Early Learning Connection Coordinator (308) 284-8481

This program provides a full-time early childhood professional development coordinator. This program is designed to work in coordination with state and regional entities, including the Early Childhood Training Center, and to intensify their work in early childhood partnerships in addressing the priority areas identified in the Nebraska Framework for Early Childhood Professional Development.

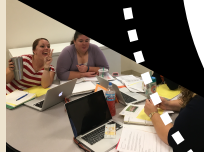
The role of the coordinator is to provide:

1. leadership, coordination, and facilitation to expand development of a comprehensive, fully-integrated, regional system of early childhood professional development;
2. leadership in efforts to implement the Nebraska Framework for Early Childhood Professional Development to: a) expand training delivery, b) support standards, c) increase collaboration, d) maximize resources, and e) increase public awareness;
3. leadership that articulates the significant relationships between professional development and the quality of early care and education; and
4. leadership for continued training and technical assistance to all persons working with children with disabilities (ages birth to five) and their families.

Alison Smith
T&L Director

Teaching & Learning Coordinators
Samantha Pavelka
Tyler Cronin
MacKenzie Carstens

Contact @
(308) 534-2416



Network Operations

The primary goal of the Network Operations staff is to assist and support teaching and learning through the appropriate use of technology in the ESU 16 school districts. Staff promotes responsible digital citizenship and provides information, consultation, evaluation, research, and training with a current focus on tablet and Smartphone technologies and an emphasis on responsible social networking and Internet safety. Over 9,500 K-12 teachers, administrators, school personnel, and students are provided Internet access and assistance. Successful online student and staff projects are continually implemented and service opportunities are available but not limited to the following: podcasting, weblogs, wikis, web-hosting, learning management systems, electronic calendars, online media catalog and registration sites, an online video delivery system, and a statewide learning object repository.

Contact Persons:

Scott Jones, Network Operations Director
(308) 534-2416

Melissa Engel, Information Technology
Coordinator
(308) 284-8481

Chad DeWester, Information
Technology/Network Coordinator
(308) 284-8481

Todd Hatcher, Information Technology/DL
Coordinator
(308) 534-2416



DISTANCE EDUCATION

The mission of the Southwest Nebraska Distance Learning Network is to bring the concept of “education opportunities for all” to reality by building, maintaining and fostering a virtual community of learners in rural Nebraska.

The SNDEN is comprised of public schools, colleges, and educational service units committed to the design, development, and delivery of two-way interactive learning opportunities for students in 37 rural communities. It covers over 20,000 square miles in an 18 county area of Southwest, West Central, and the Sandhills of Nebraska.

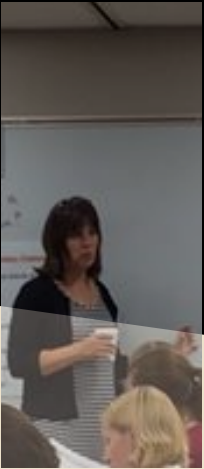
The primary focus of the network is to provide greater access to learning opportunities through collaborations and partnerships with agencies and individuals committed to an equitable distribution of educational resources. Through the latest technology, the network enables students of all ages to improve their access to learning opportunities and to achieve their life-long educational goals. SNDEN provides a description of its goals, resources, and schedules on its website located at: <http://www.snden.org/>

Business Services

On behalf of the Educational Service Unit 16 Board and Staff, we hope this summary of services will assist you in your understanding of programs available through ESU 16. It is the intent of the ESU 16 Board to plan cooperatively with local districts in meeting the needs of students within the service unit area. It is also a goal of the board to keep as many programs as possible under the control of local School Boards of Education.

The Educational Service Unit exists to provide services to local school districts in their attempt to meet the educational needs of their students. These needs are determined through direct communications with school districts and an advisory council or representatives from the schools within the service unit area. Success in developing programs to meet the needs of the school districts is dependent upon effective communications. We need to know how we are doing in meeting the needs of schools, and likewise, we need the cooperation of schools to make the programs work.

Deb Paulman
Administrator



COOPERATIVE PURCHASING

Contact Persons:

Deb Paulman, Administrator (308) 284-8481
Amber Huffman, Administrative Assistant (308) 284-8481

Cooperative Purchasing for instructional equipment is available through ESU 16. The Coop Purchasing program serves the public schools and community colleges within the geographic boundaries of the Unit. Purchasing has included everything from paper to computers and sports equipment to paper clips. Schools place orders in the spring and shipments arrive throughout the summer. [ESUCC Marketplace](#)

HEALTH SCREENING COORDINATING

Contact Persons:

Deb Paulman, Administrator (308) 284-8481
Amber Huffman, Administrative Assistant (308) 284-8481

ESU 16 will provide registered nurses to conduct health-screening examinations to schools requesting the school nurse service. All expenses involved will be charged back to the school district receiving the service on a per pupil basis in each district. The charge will include the R.N. fee, mileage, clerical time for record keeping, and incidental supplies. The vision tester for eye exams will be available from ESU 16 at no cost to the school or the nurses. The list of students being presented to ESU 16 for payment must have the approval of the superintendent, to authorize payment. All schools receiving the nurse service from ESU 16 must sign an agreement requesting service and agreeing to reimburse ESU 16 for payments made on their behalf.

Nurses will be responsible for immunization requirements in LB 173 and LB 546. Immunization requirements include: measles, rubella, polio, diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis. Form CHE 100/75 must be submitted by the nurse for each district requesting the school nurse service from ESU 16.

All R.N.'s agreeing to provide school nurse service must register their Special Service Certificate with ESU 16.



Accountability

STUDENT LOAN FORGIVENESS PROGRAM

Contact Person:
Deb Paulman, Administrator (308) 284-8481

The ESU 16 Student Loan Forgiveness Program is a national program delivered locally through Educational Service Agency partners. The loan forgiveness program may enhance recruitment and retention capabilities of districts and brings new economic value to communities. The program is free to school districts. No cost estimates of the savings can be accessed by individually seeking to determine if this program is right for them. Any fees incurred will be paid by the person who has determined that the loan forgiveness program is beneficial to them.

TRAININGS

Contact Person:
Deb Paulman, Administrator (308) 284-8481

ESU 16 provides several training opportunities for superintendents, non-certified staff, and board members. Trainings include asbestos care and removal, wellness training, dispensing of medications, budget workshops, bus driver annual in-service, and board member workshops.

Requests for additional trainings may be made through the Advisory Council or by contacting the ESU 16 office directly.