

Montana Survey of Other States' Education Service Agency Structures - 2004

Questions	Oregon	Arizona	Nebraska	Iowa
1. Name of ESA responding.	Multnomah Education Service District	Pinal County Education Service Agency (Pinal County School Supt. Office)	Educational Service Unit 10	Grant Wood Area Educational Agency 10
2. Name of person responding.	Dr. Edward L. Schmitt, Superintendent	Jack Harmon, Superintendent	Wayne Bell	Ron Fielder
3. Number of ESAs in your state?	20	15	18	12
4. Number of LEAs your agency serves?	8	19 School Districts (65 schools) 15 Charter Schools	89	33public/8 non-public
5. Does your agency provide services to private schools and/or home schoolers?"	Yes	Home school affidavits are provided by our agency, but not services	We do help private schools both directly and indirectly. We do not serve home school students.	"approved (accredited) private and parochial schools get our services. Home school families can access our media and tech resources.
6. Do you have a statewide system of ESAs?	Yes, Oregon Association of Education Service Districts (OAESD)	Yes, Arizona Association of County School Superintendents	Yes	Yes – we are deliberate about acting as a statewide system: have a statewide director, lobbyist, other staff, operating procedures, defined roles & resp. etc. Also carry out joint projects across AEAs and / or statewide.
7. Describe your agency's governance structure.	Elected volunteer Board of Directors	The County School Superintendent is elected at large by county voters and is responsible for the agency in all matters. There is no governing board.	15 member elected board. 1 member from each county served and 4 at-large. Also 11 member advisory council of superintendents who help decide program of services offered to LEAs.	Elected board – 9 members who overs operation. They hire CEO who oversees on daily basis.
8. How many Board Members do you have and how are they selected? Who can be an ESA board member?	Seven Board Members, county election process (5 zones and 2 at-large positions). Anyone living within the Zone boundaries	No Board Members	See #7, Any citizen of the ESU 10 area.	Nine members (we can have nine or seven in Iowa). Members of the general public can file as candidates. They are elected by vote of member district boards. Each board in a given "director district" region casts a percentage vote based on number of students enrolled in the district. Person who gains majority of vote percentage is elected. Many board members either are or have been LEA board members or administrators.

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9. How is an ESA Superintendent/CEO selected?	Application/Interview Process	Elected on partisan basis during the general election every four years	Appointed	Board recruits and selects its CEO independently of any other body.
10. What role does your State Department of Education play as it relates to your states ESAs?	Various formal and informal partnerships, contracts and working arrangements	ESA's act as a pass thru with reports and budgets from local school districts. Arizona Department of Education provides services thru the county to school districts. ESA's meet frequently with the members of ADE to coordinate efforts	Advisory. They funnel federal funds to us and we work with them to help provide statewide service. No direct control but they do accredit us.	They are full partners with us in technical assistance to LEAs. They approve our budgets, CEO salaries, & oversee the AEA accreditation process.
11. How does your ESA work with State Department of Education?	Same as #10 plus we provide advisors to various State Department committees and work groups. We also have defined in statute our mission, roles and goals. We are non-regulatory, unlike the State Department of Education	Our agency has some contracts and intergovernmental agreements with the state department and we provide an extension of services (e.g. Reading Specialists funded from the state thru our agency and we provide the specialists to train teachers	See #10	We have a most collaborative relationship with roles and resp. fairly well understood & stated. We serve with them on various task forces to develop policy, rules, and training. We are the technical assistance delivery system in th state. The assistant CSSO meets monthly with AEA CEOs.
12. What role does the USED play in the activities of your agency?	Policy direction and guidance. More formal, financial roles come through our State Department of Education	Our AESA receives grants from USED (e.g. \$500,000 by efforts of our congressman, counseling grants, Title grants, etc)	The current NCLB legislation focuses our program of services in the area of pro-fessional development. They also provide special education funding.	USED plays very little direct role in our activities. However, we are the dedicated support system for NCLB, and are responsible for special education compliance activities, so the scope of our services are very much shaped by federal policies.
13. Do you provide services outside your membership region?	Yes, Co-op purchasing, Medicaid Admin. Claiming, Special Education, school health services, technology	Yes, as requested. Some training such as substitute teacher workshops, reading workshops and others as requested either by individuals, districts, ESA's	Yes. Nebraska has many regional services where expertise from one area is shared with all or one area assumes financing and responsibility for a statewide program.	Yes - but primarily when those services are not being provided or are not available from the AEA for those districts. For example, we provide a full array of data processing and student management software options to districts across the state.

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<p>14. Do you have an Advisory Committee other than your board? If so describe the role of your advisory committees.</p>	<p>Yes, 1. Alpha High School/ Turnaround, 2. Donald E. Long, 3. Incarcerated Youth, 4. Helensview High School/ Turnaround, 5. Curriculum & Instruction, 6. Technology Services User Committees (3). Each committee has representatives from component district. They meet monthly to interact with and provide feedback to ESA Supervisors. These discussions shape the nature of our services.</p>	<p>Our agency has a Pinal County Curriculum Consortium (PC3) Advisory Committee composed of members from all districts. All of our services are planned by this committee. Our services are based upon requests from districts. Nothing is imposed on the districts as a result of years of this committee's work.</p>	<p>See #7.</p>	<p>We have an 8-10 member supt. Advisory committee that meets monthly in addition to monthly meetings with all supts. in the region. This is typical for all Iowa AEAs. There are also advisory committees around some products and services</p>
<p>15. Are the advisory committees mandatory by state statute?</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>No. But statutes state that the county school superintendent “may establish an advisory committee to the office...”</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>I can't think of any right now.</p>
<p>16. Does your state have a set of core services that your ESA must provide? If so what are your core services?</p>	<p>Yes, Home School Registration, Attendance Supervision for districts under 1,000 students, ensure annual audits of all components and ESAs itself, serve as Boundary Board for changes in component districts, special education, curriculum improvement, review school district operations (different area each year)</p>	<p>Yes. There are 12 listed “duties”. Some are rather perfunctory and ministerial. They range from appointing school board members to fill vacancies to assisting schools in collaboration with department of education and other state agencies in providing assistance to school districts, charter schools on the use of student data, staff development, curriculum alignment and technology to improve student performance.</p>	<p>Yes: Professional development, Instructional materials, Technology training, and Technology infrastructure</p>	<p>Iowa's AEAs programs and services fall under nine state standards on which AEAs are accredited: Diverse learning needs (special education support); Multicultural, gender-fair; Media services; School technology; Leadership; Management services; School-Community planning; Professional Development, Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment</p>

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17. Describe your discretionary (non core) programs.	Alternative Education, School Health Services, Outdoor School, Printing and Graphics	Special Ed Consortium, Data Processing Consortium, Countywide educators' conference (1200 attendees), Student leadership camp, Many staff development programs (math, reading, para-ed training, substitute teacher training, curriculum alignment and standards training	These are too numerous to list here. Check www.esu10.org to find a list of total services offered to participating publics.	We have initiated a design center, working with Jamshid Gharajedaghi and Susan Leddick, assisting schools and businesses who have gone through system designs and are now seeking additional or new ways to redesign their systems for greater efficiency and effectiveness.
18. Do you have the ability to enter into inter local agreements (cooperatives)?	Yes	Yes. This is very important and a basis for money of our programs.	Yes.	Yes. The AEA's have developed cooperative buying groups for food, art supplies, paper, janitorial supplies, AV, furniture, athletics, office supplies, software and computer equipment, health and first aid products, saving millions of dollars annually statewide for districts. For more information go to http://www.iec-ia.org/index.html
19. What is your total budget?	\$77,008,150	Approximately \$4.300,000	\$12,288,460	FY 04-05, all budgeted funds for the AEA's totaled \$350,175,398.
20. What percentage of your revenue is local?	FY 2004-2005 - 25%	Our agency has 3 district departments (see other notes) 22% for professional services, 100% for direct services and financial accounting	21	We don't have "local funding" per se. Funding comes through local property taxes that go to the state and are then allocated back to the AEA's through the state comptroller on a per student basis.
21. What percentage of your revenue is state?	17%	20%	10	State funding is approximately 53 percent of our total revenue stream
22. What percentage of your revenue is federal?	9%	58% Professional Services	35	Federal funding is now 38 percent.
23. What percentage of your revenue comes from cooperatives?	4% is part of Contract Services - cooperative program	0%		None. The AEA's have created a separate corporation that handles cooperative purchasing agreements for the schools. Last year, the cooperative's total purchases was \$_____

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<p>24. Do you have taxing authority? What percentage of your revenue comes from other sources? What are these sources?</p>	<p>Yes – 75%, 17% state, 49% contract services, 9% federal</p>	<p>We have taxing authority for the accommodation schools, alternative schools and a general revenue fund. Our agency is unique in that we have direct taxing authority whereas other ESA’s must tax thru the Board of Supervisors' authority and permission</p>	<p>Yes. 1 1/2 cents per hundred dollars of property valuation. 34 taxes and fees</p>	<p>The AEAs have no taxing authority. About nine percent of our revenues come from grants and/or sale of services.</p>
<p>25. Can an LEA change ESAs? If so, what are the allowable methods?</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>No, however, they can get services from other ESAs</p>	<p>Yes. There are opt out provisions in state law. The easiest is a board to board agreement.</p>	<p>Iowa code is quite strict about this. It allows LEAs to change only if they are contiguous to a different AEA and when an AEA is reconfiguring its boundaries, such as during a merger.</p>
<p>26. Do you have an accountability process for ESAs in your state? Is it at the state or local level?</p>	<p>Yes, at both levels. We file and annual report to state (self-evaluation), Component Superintendents evaluate all our resolutions annually, and the State Department conducts periodic standardization visits and submits reports.</p>	<p>No real accountability other than self imposed accountability and auditing. Visibility and the fact that the superintendents is elected makes him/her accountable to electors.</p>		<p>We have worked closely with the DE to create an accountability system. This includes annual progress reports which the AEAs send to the DE, legislators, school districts, Chambers of Commerce and local media. Like school districts, we are required to submit annual Continuous Improvement Plans (CIPs) to the DE. We also undergo an accreditation visit every five years, which includes focus groups from LEAs, review of the agency's goals, and delivery of services related to the mandated services.</p>

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27. Other		<p>Our agency has three distinct departments. They are: 1) Accounting - this department processes expense and payroll warrants for all county school districts \$400,000,000+ payroll for 3300 employees, sets tax rates for schools by formula, federal completion reports, assists with budgets, financial liaison for school districts to other agencies, etc.; 2) Direct Student Svs - this department operates a small accommodation school, special education pro-gram, alternative high school and secure care programs, and 3) Educational Services - this de-partment provides all the pro-fessional development programs.</p>		