

## TEACHING & LEARNING

The PD Team offers tailored learning opportunities for school districts. Opportunities for learning include curriculum, instruction, instructional technology, leadership, CPI, assessment and much more. Team members plan and coordinate learning opportunities with individual school districts that take place onsite or offsite. The team’s goal is to develop greater educator effectiveness with the ultimate result of higher student achievement.

## TECHNOLOGY

ESU 2 boasts a state-of-the-art data center to support the technical needs of not only our 16 districts, but also a consortium of ESU’s (Northeast NE Network Consortium – ESU’s 1, 2, 7, 8, 17). This data center allows for the hosting of servers for the ESU as well as all member schools and government entities wishing to participate. It also allows for offsite back up for disaster recovery purposes to any participating member schools or government entities. The Tech Department is always looking for new and innovative ways to provide cutting-edge support and services to all members.

## BOARD

The ESU 2 Board is comprised of eight representatives. Each term of office is four years and he/she serves without compensation. The Board meets once a month normally at 1:00 P.M. on the third Monday of the month. Meetings are held at the ESU 2 office. Names and districts of the current Board are:

<u>District</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>
1	Matt Connealy	Member
2	Wayne Erickson	Vice President
3	Conny Dunn	Member
4	George Robertson	President
5	Corrine Forbes	Member
6	Joanne Lehman	Member
7	Rich McGill	Member
8	Louise Nabb	Secretary
	Ted DeTurk	Administrator

## LEADERSHIP TEAM



ESU 2 is led by the following department directors:

Caryn Zietlow	Teaching & Learning
Karen Vontz	Student Services
Cody Ernesti	Technology
Chris Stogdill	Special Projects
Taira Masek	Mental Health

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# ANNUAL REPORT



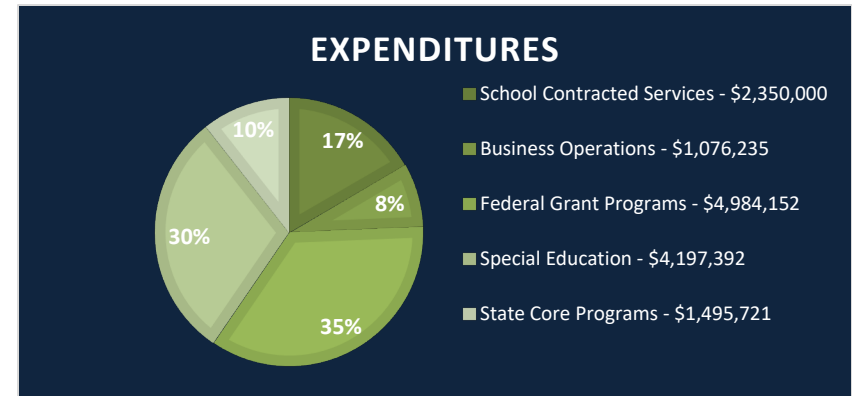
2022-2023

## SERVICE AREA

Educational Service Unit 2 provides educational services to sixteen school districts that are located within the counties of Burt, Cuming, Dodge, and Saunders. Several ESU 2 member school districts extend into adjacent counties. As a result, portions of Butler, Cass, Colfax, Douglas, Lancaster, Sarpy, Seward, Stanton, Thurston, Washington, and Wayne counties are included in the ESU 2 service area.

## PROGRAM EXPENDITURES

The graph below represents the expenditures for each content area.



## SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES

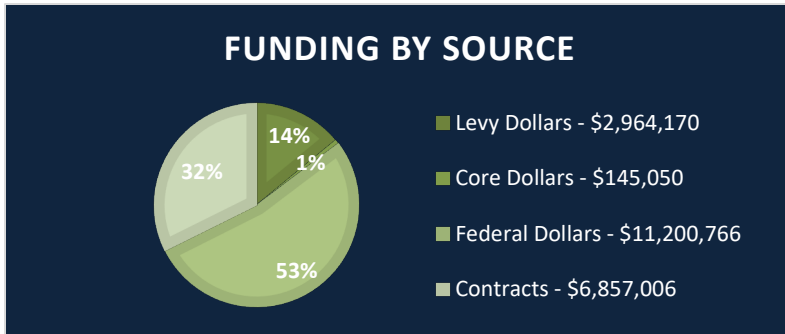
School districts contract with ESU 2 to provide cooperative special education and early childhood services. Program rates are based on the projected budget needs. As in prior years, an 8% fee is charged for administrative supervision of contracted personnel. The special education department director and consultants provide assistance to all ESU 2 school districts for federally and state funded programs. This includes the ESU 2 Special Education Level III Program for students working on self-regulation. The ESU 2 Independent Program began serving students in August 2013. The enrollment growth is depicted below:

1 <sup>st</sup> Year	2012-13	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
	11	37	40	42	51

## FUNDING FOR PROGRAMS

ESU's operate under two budget constraints. A levy limit of 1.5¢ per \$100 of actual valuation guides revenue; and an expenditure limit that states the current year's funds (defined as property taxes and state core funds) cannot exceed the prior year's budgeted restricted funds plus state determined growth.

The following graph represents anticipated budgeted receipts received from each funding source in 2022-23. The amount contracted to districts (\$6,857,006) depicts the greatest share of all the sources excluding Federal Grants. This amount is based on services to districts, specifically special education services.



## SPECIAL PROJECTS

ESU 2 manages consortium and cooperative programs, such as Perkins, Special Education, Distance Education, and a Career and Technical Education program entitled Pathways 2 Tomorrow (P2T) for area schools that choose to participate.

## FEDERAL GRANTS

### CULTURAL CONNECTIONS 1 & 2

Cultural Connections is a federal grant awarded to ESU 2 by the Office of Indian Education. The grant focuses on providing support to Native American students attending non reservation schools (Homer, Emerson-Hubbard, Tekamah-Herman, Oakland-Craig, Bancroft-Rosalie, Pender, and Lyons-Decatur Northeast).

### EIR EMPOWER

EIR focuses on improving student engagement, achievement, self-efficacy, and opportunities in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) and Computer Science. Administration and teachers are provided professional development and instructional coaching through STEM Leadership Academy and will be trained on incorporating Project Lead the Way into their classrooms. Students participate in one-on-one mentoring, monthly STEM activities, field experiences, and a STEM summer camp.

## MHPP

The Mental Health Professional Partners Grant provides funding to support and demonstrate innovative partnerships to train school-based mental health services providers for employment in high need schools. ESU # 2 partners with UNMC, UNO, UNL, and Wayne State College to identify and place mental health interns into our school mental health services. The goal is to build a pipeline of quality mental health providers for rural mental health shortage areas. The grant also provides training to school districts supporting comprehensive school mental health best practices.

## MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS TRAINING (MHAT)

The purpose of this program is to: (1) train individuals to recognize the signs and symptoms of mental disorders and how to safely de-escalate crisis situations involving individuals with a mental illness and (2) provide education on resources available in the community for individuals with a mental illness and other relevant resources, including how to establish linkages with school and/or community-based mental health agencies.

## PROJECT AWARE

The purpose of Project AWARE is to develop a sustainable infrastructure for school-based mental health programs and services. Project AWARE works to increase awareness of youth mental health; provide mental health training to school personnel and other adults who interact with youth; and connect youth and their families to area services.

## SCHOOL BASED MENTAL HEALTH

This five-year grant sets to increase the number of professionals supporting district-wide mental health. The program will support tuition for paras to earn special education teaching degrees, classroom teachers to earn school counselor credentials, and school counselors or school psychologists to earn their licensed mental health practitioner license. A total of 100 new credentials will be earned by the end of the 5-year period.

## PREVENTION TASK FORCE

This project focuses on defining human trafficking, identifying risk and protective factors, and building the capacity of schools to provide skills-based human trafficking prevention education for educators, other staff, students, and caregivers. Our focus is to train qualified individuals employed by districts to implement and replicate project activities so that the prevention work continues after the grant funding ends.

## RESTORE

This five-year grant focuses on talented and gifted students, especially students from underrepresented populations (i.e. low SES, minority, EL, rural, twice exceptional.) The grant goals are to develop identification tools, provide professional development opportunities to improve differentiation for all students, and provide experiential learning opportunities for talented and gifted students. Instructional coaching supports are available to districts and up to 20 teachers across ESU 2 will earn their HAL endorsement.