**UNIT ORGANIZATION**

**Statutory Role 1310**

The statutory role of ESU 2 is to serve as an educational service provider in Nebraska’s system of elementary and secondary educational agencies. ESU 2 shall:

 1. Act primarily as a service agency in providing core services and services

 identified and requested by member school districts;

 2. Provide for economy, efficiency, and cost-effectiveness in the cooperative

 delivery of educational services;

 3. Provide educational services through leadership, research, and development in

 elementary and secondary education;

 4. Act in a cooperative and supportive role with the State Department of Education

 and school districts in the development and implementation of long-range plans,

 strategies, and goals for the enhancement of educational opportunities;

 5. Serve, when appropriate and as funds become available, as a repository,

 clearinghouse, and administrator of federal, state, and private funds on behalf of

 school districts which choose to participate in special programs, projects, or

 grants in order to enhance the quality of education in Nebraska schools.

 6. Provide core services to member school districts:

 a. In order of priority, the core services are: (i) staff development which

 shall include access to staff development related to improving the

 achievement of students in poverty and students with diverse

 backgrounds; (ii) technology, including distance education services;

and (iii) instructional materials services;

 b. Core services shall improve teaching and student learning by focusing on

 enhancing school improvement efforts, meeting statewide requirements,

 and achieving statewide goals in the state’s system of elementary and

 secondary education;

 c. Core services shall provide schools with access to services that: (1) ESU 2

 and its member school districts have identified as necessary services; (ii)

 are difficult, if not impossible, for most individual school districts to

 effectively and efficiently provide with their own personnel and financial

 resources; (iii) can be efficiently provided by ESU 2 to its member school

 districts; and (iv) can be adequately funded to ensure that the service is

 provided equitably to the public school districts.

 d. Core serviced shall be designed so that the effectiveness and efficiency of

 the service can be evaluated on a statewide basis; and

 e. Core services shall be provided by ESU 2 in a manner that minimizes the

 costs of administration or service delivery to member school districts.

 7. Meet minimum accreditation standards set by the State Board of Education that:

 a. provides for accountability to taxpayers;

 b. assures that educational service units are assisting and cooperating with

 school districts to provide for equitable and adequate educational

 opportunities statewide; and

 c. assures a level of quality in educational programs and services provided to

 school districts by the educational service unit.

 8. In fulfilling its role and mission, ESU 2 may contract to provide services to:

 a. Nonmember public school district;

 b. Nonpublic school systems;

 c. Other educational service units; and

 d. Other public agencies, under the Interlocal Cooperation Act and the Joint

 Public Agency Act.

 9. ESU 2 will not regulate school districts unless specifically provided to do so.

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