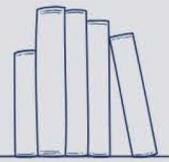




ESU2 2025-2026 ANNUAL REPORT



Service Area

Educational Service Unit 2 provides educational services to 16 school districts that are located within the counties of Burt, Cuming, Dodge, and Saunders. Several ESU2 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 ESU2 service area.

Leadership Team

ESU2 is led by the following department directors:

Kelly Georgius

Teaching & Learning

Chris Stogdill

Special Projects

Karen Vontz

Student Services

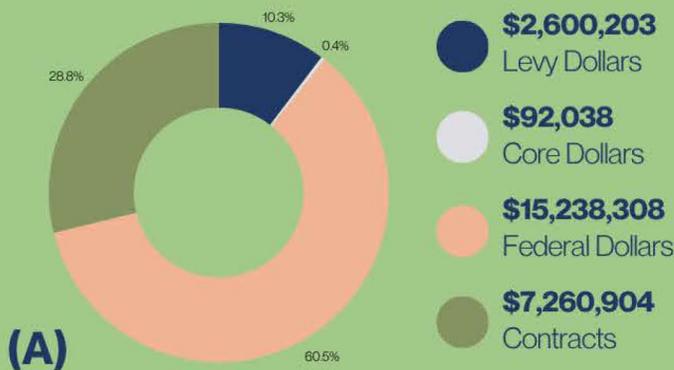
Taira Masek

Mental Health

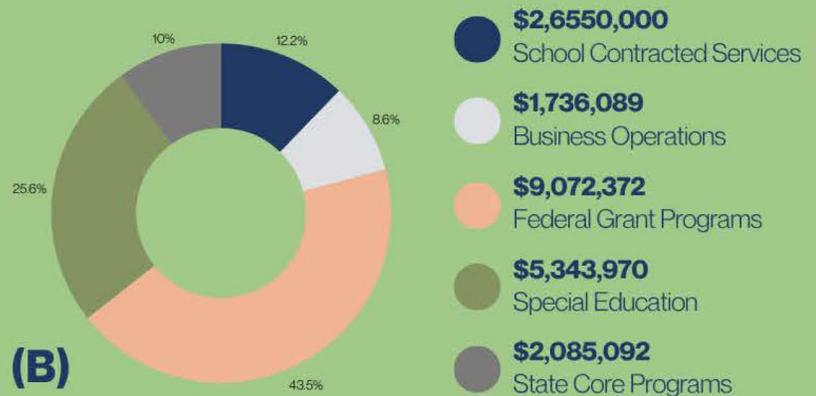
Michael Merryman

Technology

FUNDING BY SOURCE



PROGRAM EXPENDITURES



Funding for Programs

ESUs 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.

Graph A (above, left) represents anticipated budgeted receipts received from each funding source in 2024-2025. The amount contracted to districts (\$7,260,904) depicts the greatest share of all the sources excluding federal grants. This amount is based on services to districts, specifically special education services.

Graph B (above, right) represents the expenditures for each content area.

Board of Education

The ESU2 board is comprised of 8 representatives. Each term of office is 4 years, and members serve without compensation. The board meets once a month, normally at 1:00pm on the third Monday of the month. Meetings are held at the ESU2 office. Names and districts of the current board members are:

1 - Matt Connealy

Member

5 - Corrine Forbes

Member

2 - Wayne Erickson

Vice President

6 - Joanne Lehman

Member

3 - Conny Dunn

Member

7 - Rich McGill

Member

4 - George Robertson

President

8 - Louise Nabb

Secretary

Mitch Hoffer

Administrator

CONTACT US

📞 402.721.7710

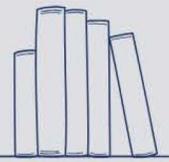
📠 402.721.7712

📍 Nebraska Educational Service Unit 2
2320 N Colorado Ave. Fremont, NE
68026-0649

🌐 www.esu2.org



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Teaching & Learning

The professional development (PD) team offers tailored learning opportunities for school districts. Opportunities for learning include curriculum, instruction, instructional technology, leadership, CPI, assessment, and 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

ESU2 boasts a state-of-the-art data center to support the technical needs of not only our 16 districts, but also a consortium of ESUs (Northeast Nebraska Network Consortium - ESUs 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.

Special Education Services

School districts contract with ESU2 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 ESU2 school districts for federally- and state-funded programs. This includes the ESU2 Special Education Level III Program for students working on self-regulation. The ESU2 Independent Program began serving students in August 2013. The enrollment growth is depicted below:

2012-2013	11 students enrolled (First Year)
2022-2023	42 students enrolled
2023-2024	51 students enrolled
2024-2025	41 students enrolled
2025-2026	45 students enrolled

Special Projects

ESU2 manages consortium and cooperative programs, such as Perkins, Special Education, Distance Education, and a Career and Technical Education program named 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 ESU2 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).

Mental Health Awareness Training (MHAT)

The purpose of this program is to: 1) train individuals to recognize the signs and symptoms of mental health 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 local 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 (LMHP) 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 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 ESU2 will earn their HAL endorsements.