



# Annual Report

### From the Chief Administrator,

The Annual Report of Educational Service Unit 7 serves to provide an overview of the programs and services offered to our member school districts and to share information about how ESU 7 continues to advance our mission of providing leadership and support through customized and innovative services.

ESU 7 serves 19 public school districts across Boone, Butler, Colfax, Merrick, Nance, Platte, and Polk Counties—nearly 3,500 square miles that are home to more than 13,000 students, 1,000 teachers, 80 administrators, and over 100 ESU 7 employees. Together, we are committed to a shared purpose: ensuring that every student in our region has access to high-quality learning experiences and that every educator has the professional and operational support needed to make that possible.

Each year, ESU 7 engages in an intentional, data-driven service planning process to align our resources with district needs. Through that process, we identify priorities, customize supports, and deliver services that strengthen instructional quality, enhance operational efficiency, and expand educational opportunity. Our core services, professional development, instructional materials, and technology infrastructure, remain central to our work, while additional programs such as special education, licensed mental health providers, grants, and our print shop extend our impact.

In the past year, our focus on People, Services, and Efficiency guided not only how we delivered programs, but also how we improved as an organization, from investing in staff development and leadership collaboration, to enhancing facilities and communication systems that make our work more responsive and effective.

On behalf of the ESU 7 Board of Directors, I extend sincere appreciation to our member districts, educators, and community partners for their ongoing trust and collaboration. We are proud to serve alongside you in support of ESU 7's schools and students.

Marci Ostmeyer
Chief Administrator, ESU 7



#### **ESU 7 ANNUAL REPORT**

### **Demographics**

### Legislative Districts: 6

15 - Senator Wordekemper

22 - Senator Moser

23 - Senator Storm

24 - Senator Hughes

34 - Senator Lippincott

41 - Senator McKeon

### **Departments: 14**

Administration, Bridges, Cen7ter, Early Childhood, Grants, Learning Academy, Mental Health, Title IC Education Program, Print Shop, Professional Development, Psychology, Speech Language Pathology, Technology, and Vision

#### **School Districts: 19**

Boone Central, Central City,
Clarkson, Columbus, Cross County,
David City, East Butler, Fullerton,
High Plains, Howells-Dodge,
Humphrey, Lakeview, Leigh, Osceola,
Palmer, Schuyler, Shelby-Rising City,
St. Edward, and Twin River

#### Counties: 7

Boone, Butler, Colfax, Merrick, Nance, Platte, and Polk

#### **Board Members: 12**

Doug Pauley, President - District 8

Jack Young, Vice President - District 5

Dawn Lindsley - Secretary - District 12

Richard Stephens - District 1

Gary Wieseler (2024) - District 2

Beth Kabes (2025) - District 2

Amy Blaser - District 3

Richard Luebbe (2024) - District 4

Clark Lehr (2025) - District 4

Bob Arp - District 6

Karen Gomez - District 7

Joyce Baumert - District 9

Marni Danhauer - District 10

Donald Graff - District 11

ESU 7 Staff Members: 103

**Distance Learning** - ESU 7 efficiently orchestrates a diverse array of courses catering to K-12 students and offers innovative professional development opportunities for educators through a unique and dynamic delivery approach.

**Grant Facilitation -** ESU 7 adeptly manages a comprehensive spectrum of state and federal grants, encompassing an array of vital initiatives, such as Title IA, Title IC Education Program, Title IIA, Title III, Title IV, Carl Perkins, Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), Early Learning Connection (ELC), Planning Region Team (PRT), Transition, Regional Transition, and PEaK (Promoting Engagement and Knowledge).

**Grant Writer** - Coordinates and oversees the grant application by researching, identifying potential new funding sources, developing and responding to public and private grant opportunities for ESU 7 and districts. Responsible for writing proposals and other supporting documents at the federal and state level, and with private funding agencies.

**Instructional Resources -** ESU 7 operates a regional center dedicated to supplying a wealth of instructional resources, effectively bolstering curriculum standards and enhancing instruction. These resources encompass not only information literacy but also skill development, ensuring comprehensive support for educators and students alike.

**LANMan Partnership** - ESU 7 extends a commitment to deliver ongoing technical services as stipulated in our LANMan Partnership service agreement. Within this framework, ESU 7 appoints a dedicated District Technology Coordinator, employed directly by the ESU, to serve schools that opt to engage with this invaluable service.

**Print Shop -** ESU 7 provides a streamlined and budget-friendly suite of print and art media services, encompassing tasks such as copying, collating, stapling, laminating, binding, folding, and high-quality full-color poster printing.

**Professional Development -** ESU 7 delivers comprehensive professional development support and technical expertise in the realms of curriculum, instruction, assessment, standards, and continuous improvement. These services are meticulously tailored to elevate the quality of learning, teaching, and the planning efforts of schools and districts, ensuring a profound impact on educational outcomes.

**Mental Health -** The mental health team diligently seeks tailored solutions for each student and situation, employing an array of counseling strategies to address social and emotional needs effectively. Their collaborative efforts extend to educators, parents, and fellow professionals, culminating in the creation of safe, nurturing learning environments that fortify the bonds between home and school. With a focus on prevention, they provide counseling services to students and engage with individuals and their families, all with the overarching aim of promoting the optimal mental well-being of the student.

**Technology** - ESU 7 offers a comprehensive suite of technology services, encompassing expert support, consultation, hands-on assistance, tailored training, and skill enhancement for both hardware and software. Additionally, we facilitate cost-saving opportunities for internet services and software acquisitions, ensuring optimal technology utilization for our stakeholders.

#### **Special Education**

**Behavior Specialist -** Our services are dedicated to collaborating closely with administration, educators, paraprofessionals, psychologists, students, and families to cultivate and nurture positive social-emotional behavioral skills.

**Bridges** - Bridges specializes in providing individualized education and support for students with diverse needs, including low cognitive and academic abilities, as well as challenging behaviors. Our dedicated team of educators and Board Certified Behavior Analysts collaborates closely with families to create an inclusive and nurturing environment where every student can thrive. Through innovative teaching methods, individualized learning plans, and a focus on social-emotional development, we empower our students to reach their full potential. At Bridges, we believe in building not only academic skills but also confidence, independence, and a love for learning.

**Cen7ter** - Cen7ter is meticulously crafted to cater to the unique requirements of individuals aged 14-21, specifically those with developmental disabilities. At the core of Cen7ter's mission lies the commitment to empower students harnessing their innate strengths to facilitate their journey towards acquiring essential employment and independent living skills. Our program places a strong emphasis on a holistic approach, encompassing vital areas such as life skills, academics, social development, independent living, recreational pursuits, and meaningful prevocational experiences. Cen7ter's services are individualized, driven by IEP (Individualized Education Program) considerations, and flexibly available from one to five days a week to suit each student's needs.

#### **Special Education**

**Deaf Education -** Our dedicated Teacher of the Hearing Impaired delivers specialized deaf education services and offers expert consultation to students who are verified as deaf or hard of hearing. Collaboratively, Deaf Educators partner with audiologists to ensure the provision of tailored aural rehabilitation services, guaranteeing the most appropriate and effective support for each student.

**Early Childhood** - Our intervention services encompass a diverse array of programs catering to children aged 0-5 years. These comprehensive offerings encompass evaluation, tailored intervention, and meticulous program planning, all geared towards addressing the unique needs of children facing learning challenges and developmental delays.

**Learning Academy -** The ESU 7 Learning Academy is dedicated to empowering students aged 5-21 by fostering collaborative partnerships with stakeholders. We meet students at their individual academic, behavioral, and social levels, leveraging their strengths to facilitate a successful transition back to their original educational setting, thereby helping them to unlock their full potential.

**Psychology -** ESU 7 School Psychologists partner with educators and families to support student learning, behavior, and social-emotional well-being. They provide assessment, consultation, and intervention services, and help create safe, supportive school environments where all students can thrive.

#### **Special Education**

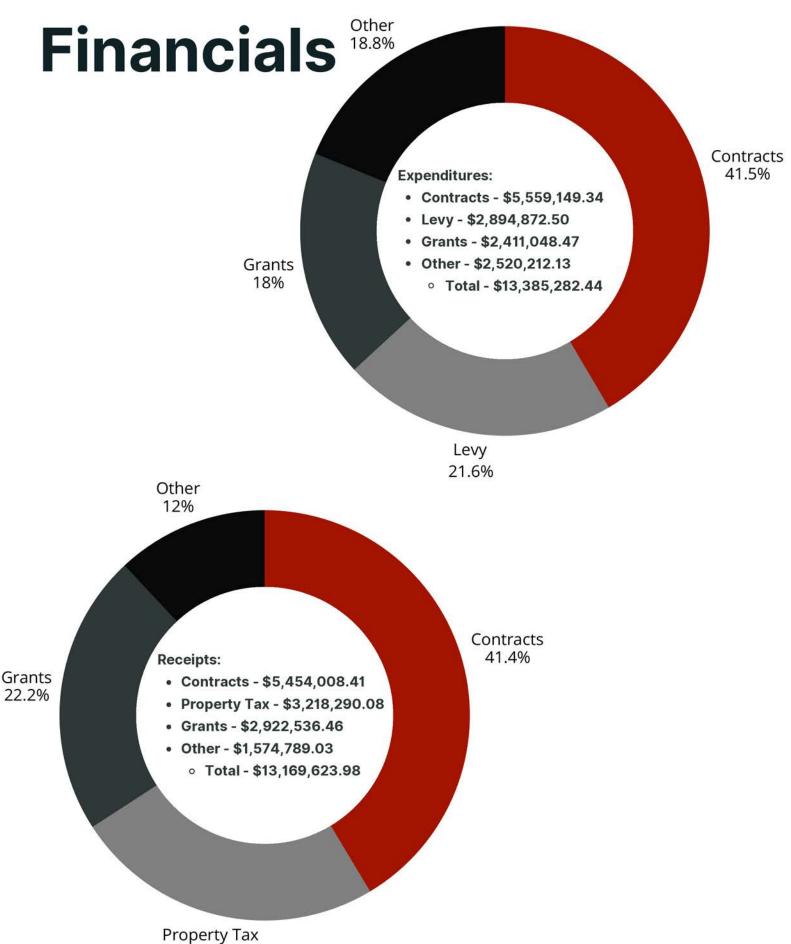
**Program Supervision -** ESU 7's Special Education department stands as a beacon of leadership and unwavering support, fostering seamless collaboration with our member schools across multiple critical domains. Within this framework, our Special Education Director, alongside the administrative assistant and bookkeeper, extends invaluable financial services tailored to Special Education, including the administration of SPEDFRS and IDEA, while also facilitating a vital network for district bookkeepers. As a dedicated liaison between the Nebraska Department of Education (NDE) and districts, the Special Education Director ensures the alignment of compliance and best practices, offering expert IEP facilitation. Our resource teachers receive robust support through NDE guidance, training, and TIP (Teacher Induction Program) assistance. Furthermore, we extend an array of professional development opportunities to districts, encompassing a wide spectrum of topics catered to both teachers and paraeducators.

**Resource Coach -** Collaboratively engages with educators and district personnel to offer expert guidance, tailored training, valuable resources, and effective strategies for effectively working with students. This includes the judicious utilization of specialized programs and materials.

**Speech and Language -** Speech-Language Pathologists (SLPs) provide a wide range of services, including evaluation, expert consultation, and individualized intervention for students with speech and language difficulties. They also support students with articulation, voice, and fluency disorders.

**Vision -** The ESU7 Vision department supports children and youth (birth to age 21) with visual impairments by providing resources, services, and guidance to help prepare them for lifelong success. In collaboration with schools, families, and community agencies, the team provides individualized support tailored to each student's unique needs.

24.4%







Percentage of ESU service offerings from the master catalog supporting AQuESTT.

8%

8%

28%

12%

12%

16%

16%













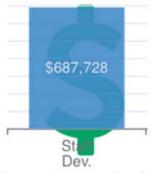


This visual represents how the ESU services align with AQuESTT Tenets. (see more real-time data about the AQUESTT implementation)





Dollars Saved
Through Cooperative
Purchasing (2023-2024)
\$540,105



Dollars Saved Through Efficient Service Delivery ESU 7 takes the time necessary to assess data identifying areas needing support, develops a service plan to address those needs, and customizes services for each district. This comprehensive service planning process is called SMART (Service Management and Reporting Tool). Information related to SMART is available at www.smart.esucc.org

\*Service hours only include Professional Development and Technology

### **Service Plan 2024-2025**

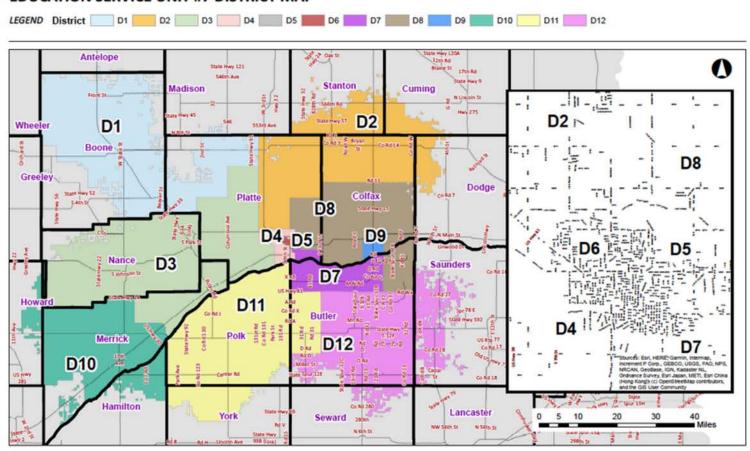
<ul><li>Service Planned</li><li>Service Accessed</li></ul>	Boone Central Schools	Central City	Clarkson	Columbus	Cross County Community Schools	David City	East Butler	Fullerton	High Plains Community Schools	Howells-Dodge Consolidated Schools	Humphrey	Lakeview Community Schools	Leigh Community Schools	Osceola	Palmer	Schuyler Community Schools	Shelby - Rising City	St Edward	Twin River
Autism Spectrum Disorders Grant		0	0	0				0					0		0		0	0	
Before Age 5 Training	0	0	0	0		0	0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Behavior & Mental Health	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	•	0	0	0	•	0	•	0	•	0
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Deaf Education	0		0		0	0	0		•		0	0	0		Ť	0		0	
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Early Childhood Special	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
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Early Learning Connection (ELC)																			
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Electronic Recycling	-	0	-			_	-				0	-			-				0
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### **Service Plan 2024-2025**

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Service Planned					Sch				hoo	pa		ols				slc			
Service Accessed	Boone Central Schools	Central City	Clarkson	Columbus	Cross County Community Schools	David City	East Butler	Fullerton	High Plains Community Schools	Howells-Dodge Consolidated Schools	Humphrey	Lakeview Community Schools	Leigh Community Schools	Osceola	ıer	Schuyler Community Schools	Shelby - Rising City	St Edward	Twin River
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Internet and WAN Support			0		0	0		•		0	0		0	•	•	0	0		0
LAN Manager Training	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Math Content Training	0			0		0			0	0		0	0				0	0	
Media Lending Library					0		0				0			0					0
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Part B 619 Early Childhood Special Education	0	0		L		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0
Part C Early Intervention	0	0	0	_	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	•	0
PEaK	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
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Principal Development	0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0		0	0	0	0	0	0
Principal/Teacher Evaluation				0		0						0		0	0	0			
Print Shop	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Products and Subscriptions	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Program Supervision	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Psychology			0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0
Resource Coach		0		0	•	0				0	0		0						0
Science Content Training	0			0	0				0			0				0			
Server Hosting	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Special Education Level III Behavior	0					0					0						0		0
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Speech Language	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	•	0	0	0	0
Strategic Planning					0														
Superintendent	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
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Title III - English Learners	0	0	0		0	0	-	0		0		0		0	0			-	0
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## **Map & Policy Manual**

#### **EDUCATION SERVICE UNIT #7 DISTRICT MAP**





It is the policy of ESU 7 to not discriminate on the basis of sex, disability, race (including skin color, hair texture and protective hairstyles), color, religion, military or veteran status, national or ethnic origin, age, marital status, pregnancy, childbirth or related medical condition, gender identity or sexual orientation, or other protected status in its educational programs, admission policies, employment policies or other administered programs. Persons requiring accommodations to apply and/or be considered for positions are asked to make their request to the Chief Administrator. Positions are subject to a veteran's preference for those who qualify. Please see the policy at www.esu7.org.

#### **ESU 7 ANNUAL REPORT**



North Building 2657 44<sup>th</sup> Avenue Columbus, NE 68601 402-564-5753

Learning Academy
2567 44<sup>th</sup> Avenue
Columbus, NE 68601
402-564-0815

South Building/Cen7ter/Bridges 2563 44<sup>th</sup> Avenue Columbus, NE 68601 402-564-0815



