

**RESOLUTION 12-60      Approval of Participation for 2012-2013 in the  
Cascade Education Alliance (CEA)**

**Background:** Multnomah ESD, Columbia Gorge ESD, Northwest Regional ESD, and Willamette ESD have seen important benefits from their partnership that created the Cascade Technology Alliance. In an effort to provide cost effective services to districts in other areas the same four agencies are creating the Cascade Education Alliance as an umbrella agreement. Cascade Education Alliance will look for new opportunities to partner on services like school improvement, human resources, and business services in addition to the current technology effort.

The Chief Operating Officer recommends approval of this resolution:

**WHEREAS**, the mission of the Cascade Education Alliance (CEA) is to develop and sustain a viable, innovative approach to education service provisions that both responds to our economic environment and delivers on the fundamental promises of the education service district concept: to reduce redundancy and cost, to enhance education services and to support program equity across school districts; and

**WHEREAS**, a collaboration of Columbia Gorge ESD, Multnomah ESD, Northwest Regional ESD and Willamette ESD, the Cascade Education Alliance will directly impact 53 school districts, indirectly benefitting approximately 50% of the K-12 students in Oregon; and

**WHEREAS**, the four ESDs will make all of their education services available to any school district in their combined service area enabling school districts to access the local service plans of all four ESDs, to contact them directly to arrange for services, to pay the same price their component districts pay for those services and to use resolution funds to purchase them (subject to pre-existing agreements within the individual ESDs); and

**WHEREAS**, the respective Technology, Fiscal, Human Resources, Special Education and School Improvement Departments of each agency have worked collaboratively to develop education service models in each area; and, to develop intergovernmental agreements and guidelines and rules of operation; and, each area of service of the Cascade Education Alliance is purposed to achieve cost savings, increase operational flexibility, improve customer service, increase focus on core competencies, effectively deliver on strategic objectives, and increase service availability for education services to our component districts..

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Directors of Multnomah Education Service District approves participation in the Cascade Education Alliance for 2012-2013.