

# Northeast Arkansas Education Cooperative



## Evaluation Narrative Summary

**Daryl Blaxton, Director**  
**November 16, 2022**

**Northeast Arkansas Education Service Cooperative  
Board of Directors  
2022-2023**

Name	Position	School District
Jennifer Woolard	Superintendent	Corning
Scott Gerrish	Superintendent	Greene County Tech
Mickel Smith	Superintendent	Hillcrest
Kelly Gillham	Superintendent	Hoxie
Chester Shannon	Superintendent	Jackson County
Terry Belcher	Superintendent	Lawrence County
Keith Richey	Superintendent	Marmaduke
Patricia Rawlings	Superintendent	Maynard
Nick Jankoviak	Superintendent	Paragould
Freddie Bowen	Superintendent	Piggott
Lesa Grooms	Superintendent	Pocahontas
Johnny Fowler	Superintendent	Rector
Clifford Rorex	Superintendent	Sloan-Hendrix
Scott Gauntt	Superintendent	Westside Consolidated

## NEAESC Demographics

The Northeast Arkansas Education Service Cooperative (NEAESC) has served the regional districts for approximately 38 years. NEAESC was established under ACT 960 through a higher education grant, with Arkansas State University being the recipient. In 1985, Act 349 authorized the Arkansas Board of Education to establish up to 15 Education Service Cooperatives, and Northeast ESC became one of them. NEAESC was initially located in Strawberry on the Strawberry High School Campus. The cooperative moved to the Hoxie School District in 1993 and relocated in 1998 to the present location of 211 West Hickory, Walnut Ridge. The cooperative employs a staff of 88, with 26 housed on-site, who serve its 14 member districts. The NEAESC Staff strives to *Empower and Inspire Others to Achieve Their Greatest Potential* by establishing ongoing connections with intentionality, providing training, resources, and support in a positive, safe environment, and challenging others to foster a growth mindset.

Section 6-13-1003	Requirement	Evidence
1	ESC region includes at least three(3) but no more than nine (9) counties.	NEAESC serves 14 school districts in 6 counties. We also serve the Imboden Area Charter School upon request.
2	ESC region includes at least ten (10) but no more than thirty-five (35) school districts.	NEAESC serves 15 school districts, fourteen (14) traditional and one (1) charter. The districts served are Corning, Greene County Tech, Hillcrest, Hoxie, Jackson County, Lawrence County, Marmaduke, Maynard, Paragould, Piggott, Pocahontas, Rector, Sloan-Hendrix, and Westside Consolidated. Imboden Area Charter School is not a member, but NEA Cooperative provides services as requested.
3	ESC region includes at least twenty thousand (20,000) pupils in K-12 average daily membership (ADM).	Per <i>My School Info</i> , NEAESC serves approximately 17,311 students.
4	ESC region includes at least one (1) postsecondary education institution.	There are three postsecondary education institutions within NEAESC's service region: Black River Technical College - Campuses in Pocahontas and Paragould Crowley's Ridge College - Paragould Williams Baptist University - Walnut Ridge NEAESC has partnerships with ASU, Jonesboro since they are less than 4 miles from our region's borders.
5	ESC region covers no more than fifty (50) miles distance or approximately one (1) hour driving time to the area's main offices for ninety percent (90%) of the school districts.	NEAESC serves 14 districts and 1 charter school(upon request), with 93.3% (14/15) of those within 50 miles of driving distance (or approximately 1 hour) from the cooperative. Piggott, the lone exception, is 59 miles from the co-op.

### Section 1: User Satisfaction and Service Adequacy

#### 22.2 Section 1A-1B Annual User Satisfaction Survey and Summative PD session evaluation responses

NEAESC utilizes the User Satisfaction and Summative Professional Development Surveys in many ways, both in real-time and in the annual review process. The User Satisfaction Survey is designed in collaboration with the other co-ops statewide and distributed as a Google Form to the school districts each spring (March/April). The professional development evaluations are electronically generated through escWorks and disbursed to

participants after each session. NEAESC specialists use escWorks electronic evaluations and the user satisfaction survey to reflect on their practice. Each year literacy, mathematics, science, novice teacher, English Language Learner, technology, G/T, and career and technical education specialists analyze evaluations, feedback from technical support visits, and other available information (various communications) to discern the levels of user satisfaction.

A review of the 3,104 responses to the Summative Professional Development Evaluation Form from 6/1/21 to 5/31/22 shows an overall rating of 3.89 on a 4.0 scale. After each Professional Development session, the content specialist(s) and the Teacher Center Coordinator look at the evaluation results to reflect on the changes needed for future sessions to be more effective.

The NEAESC Annual User Satisfaction Survey was distributed in March 2022 and received 573 responses, with 95% receiving satisfied/very satisfied ratings. The results represent all 14 districts and all job titles. The following chart displays the data collected.

(NOTE: The survey directions instructed participants to use N/A if the question pertained to a service area with which they were unfamiliar. In the table below, N/A responses are not included in the final calculations.)

*NEAESC User Satisfaction Survey*

	Area of Service	Very Satisfied	Satisfied	Not Satisfied	Very Satisfied + Satisfied Subtotals
<b>Support Services</b>	Administrative Support	58% - 192	40% - 133	1% - 4	<b>99%</b>
	Support for State Initiatives	48% - 182	49% - 183	3% - 12	<b>97%</b>
	Support for Federal Programs, Curriculum, ESL, GT, etc.	50% - 168	47% - 158	4% - 13	<b>96%</b>
	Helpfulness of Staff when Seeking Info as an Educator	63% - 298	36% - 174	1% - 6	<b>99%</b>
<b>Literacy</b>	RISE K-2	47% - 82	51% - 90	2% - 4	<b>98%</b>
	RISE 3-6	45% - 82	49% - 89	6% - 10	<b>94%</b>
	SoR Stand-Alone Days	48% - 53	48% - 53	5% - 5	<b>95%</b>
	Critical Reading	46% - 65	49% - 70	5% - 7	<b>95%</b>
	Literacy Content Training	43% - 84	54% - 105	4% - 7	<b>96%</b>
	Dyslexia	45% - 88	50% - 98	6% - 11	<b>94%</b>
	Writing Training	36% - 55	55% - 83	9% - 13	<b>91%</b>
<b>Math</b>	CGI/ECM	47% - 42	47% - 42	6% - 5	<b>94%</b>
	Mathematics Content Trainings	50% - 70	46% - 63	4% - 6	<b>96%</b>
	Quantitative Literacy	45% - 42	50% - 47	5% - 5	<b>95%</b>
	AR Math QuEST	52% - 58	44% - 49	5% - 5	<b>96%</b>
	Illustrative Mathematics	51% - 48	45% - 43	4% - 4	<b>96%</b>
	Mathematics Programs	46% - 50	47% - 51	7% - 8	<b>93%</b>
<b>Science</b>	Grasping Phenomenal Science K-4	45% - 37	49% - 40	7% - 6	<b>93%</b>
	Grasping Phenomenal Science 5-8	46% - 41	48% - 43	7% - 6	<b>93%</b>
	Grasping Phenomenal Science 9-12	45% - 37	48% - 39	7% - 6	<b>93%</b>

	STEM	44% - 56	50% - 63	6% - 8	<b>94%</b>
Novice Teacher Mentoring	Classroom Management	40% - 93	54% - 128	6% - 14	<b>94%</b>
	Support through use of a Digital Platform	39% - 90	54% - 124	6% - 14	<b>94%</b>
	Support by R & R and/or Cooperative Specialists	38% - 73	56% - 109	6% - 12	<b>94%</b>
	PD on relevant topics such as: TESS, PGPs, Ethics, etc.	37% - 92	56% - 140	6% - 16	<b>94%</b>
Digital Learning	Digital Learning Resources/Tools	38% - 105	56% - 153	6% - 16	<b>94%</b>
	Support on use of various Digital Learning platforms	40% - 111	53% - 147	7% - 18	<b>93%</b>
	In-district support for Digital Learning	39% - 100	56% - 145	5% - 14	<b>95%</b>
	IT Support	41% - 90	55% - 120	4% - 9	<b>96%</b>
COVID-19	Assistance with the transition to Blended Learning	38% - 109	53% - 152	9% - 25	<b>91%</b>
	Regular communication/updates provided by your Coop	42% - 150	51% - 185	7% - 26	<b>93%</b>
	Professional Development offerings during COVID-19	39% - 163	51% - 211	10% - 40	<b>90%</b>
	Support/Assist with the development of AR R for L Plan	41% - 103	51% - 129	8% - 19	<b>92%</b>
Special Education	LEA Supervisor Services and Support	49% - 84	46% - 79	5% - 8	<b>95%</b>
	Behavior Support Specialist and Services	41% - 72	50% - 87	9% - 16	<b>91%</b>
	Other SpEd Services (Ex: Vision, Transition, Examiner, etc.)	48% - 80	47% - 79	5% - 9	<b>95%</b>
Early Childhood	ABC Program	42% - 43	53% - 55	5% - 5	<b>95%</b>
	Early Childhood Special Education Services	45% - 48	51% - 55	4% - 4	<b>96%</b>
	HIPPY Services	467 - 38	51% - 41	3% - 2	<b>98%</b>
	Other (Ex: Speech, Behavior, etc.)	46% - 51	52% - 58	3% - 3	<b>97%</b>
Other Services	Student Services (Ex: Quiz Bowl, Chess, Spelling Bee, etc.)	49% - 83	49% - 83	2% - 3	<b>98%</b>
	Career and Technical Education (CTE)	53% - 79	44% - 66	3% - 4	<b>97%</b>
	Gifted and Talented	44% - 65	53% - 78	3% - 5	<b>97%</b>
	Instructional Technology	39% - 71	54% - 99	7% - 12	<b>93%</b>
	Community Health Nurse Services	42% - 47	54% - 60	5% - 5	<b>96%</b>
	Facilities Consortium	42% - 37	55% - 48	3% - 3	<b>97%</b>
	Purchasing Programs (Ex: Warehouse Purchasing, Copy Paper, etc.)	39% - 37	58% - 56	3% - 3	<b>97%</b>
	Teacher Center and/or Print Shop	47% - 94	51% - 104	2% - 4	<b>98%</b>
	<b>Overall Average%</b>	<b>45%</b>	<b>50%</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>95%</b>

Survey data was reviewed to determine how NEAESC could better meet the needs of its school districts. Most of the survey responses were complimentary. However, any responses that were not have been or will be addressed by NEAESC staff. Shared below are a few examples.

- Suggestion of more professional development for:
  - Secondary Literacy Teachers
  - Librarians
  - Social Studies Teachers
- Counselors in need of a counselors group for collaboration.

NEAESC responded or plans to respond as follows:

- Literacy Specialists offered more professional development sessions for Secondary Literacy Teachers in the summer of 2022.
- More professional development sessions will be added for Librarians and Social Studies Teachers in the summer of 2023.
- In 2022-2023, we plan to add quarterly group meetings for Counselors, with our first meeting being on October 31, 2022.

In addition to the user satisfaction survey and summative professional development evaluation responses, the Director, Teacher Center Coordinator, and Content Specialists reach out to districts to learn how the cooperative can better meet the needs of the educators in the member districts. The Teacher Center Coordinator and the specialists host collaborative meetings with Principals and Coordinators of Dyslexia, ESOL, G/T, Technology, and Instructional Facilitators.

### **17.00 Section 1C: Annual Surveys and Needs Assessment**

NEAESC administers a Needs Assessment Survey annually (December/January) to administrators via Google Forms. The results from the Needs Assessment Survey are shared and reviewed with superintendents at a regular NEAESC board meeting, the Teacher Center Committee at its winter meeting, principals and instructional facilitators at regularly scheduled meeting(s), and specialists during a staff meeting. The survey data assists in determining the focus of professional development services for the summer and coming school year.

Additional information regarding needs and interests is gathered from districts to supplement the survey information. NEAESC uses major job-alike group meetings to gather the information. Those groups include but are not limited to the following; NEA's Teacher Center Committee, ESOL, GT Coordinators, Instructional Facilitators, Counselors, Principals, Technology Coordinators, Novice Teachers, and Dyslexia Interventionists.

Below are examples of how the NEAESC responded to the Needs Assessment Survey in December and January of the 2021-2022 school year.

- NEAESC coordinated with The Arkansas Trauma Resource Initiative to provide a 3-hour training on types of trauma, the impact of trauma on brain development, maintaining emotional safety during a crisis, and the application of key concepts to real-life scenarios for our districts in the summer of 2022.
- NEAESC partnered with David Hanson at Access Learning Academy to provide two-year Dyslexia Curriculum Training with the opportunity to become a Certified Academic Language Therapist. The demand was such that a second cohort was needed to meet the districts' requests within our Co-op.
- NEAESC Mathematics Specialists met the requests of individual teachers and entire districts' staff by providing two levels of Google Classroom Training, beginning and advanced. Well over 185 teachers attended these sessions.
- NEAESC Mathematics Specialist delivered professional development for "Justification and Explanation," the category in which students scored the lowest on ACT Aspire.
- NEAESC developed CFAM tutorial videos for superintendents and district finance staff to assist in utilizing the fiscal resource.

- Training was provided to certify Paraprofessionals for Medicaid Billing.

Education Service Cooperative Teacher Center Coordinators meet with DESE personnel monthly to coordinate services and support. Coordination with the Arkansas Department of Elementary and Secondary Education was consistent, and no duplication of services was noted.

#### **4.2 Section 1D: Provide Assistance**

NEAESC is very involved in assisting member districts with accreditation standards and providing district savings. Support measures include but are not limited to the following:

- Training school personnel responsible for the state reporting associated with the accreditation process,
- Providing annual school board member training(s),
- Holding the required Tier 1 Fiscal training for administrators and bookkeepers,
- Hosting OSHA training and asbestos training,
- Providing instructional support in the core content areas,
- Providing CPR Training,
- Facilitating the Arkansas Professional Educator Pathway (ArPEP) for an alternate route to licensure,
- Assisting schools with curriculum reviews,
- Assisting schools in developing new career course concentrations to meet career focus requirements,
- Purchasing equipment/materials necessary for those courses,
- Providing 1000 seats for “*Vector Solutions*” bus driver training; and
- Coordinating Literacy support with DESE and level 3 support districts.
- Coordination between districts and DESE by:
  - Hosting DESE Personnel to share information during various meetings.
  - Share updates from DESE during various group meetings.

The NEAESC ABC Pre-K and HIPPIE programs address the recommendation that 3 to 4-year-old children in districts have the opportunity to enroll in an approved early childhood program. Eight (8) member districts participated in the ABC consortium, where approximately 394 students received services. The HIPPIE program can serve 115 additional students. The Early Childhood/Special Education department assisted schools in providing speech, behavior, and occupational therapy services. We provided development support toward the requirement in rule (10.01.3), and specialists provided on-site support to districts throughout the year. In addition, we provided statewide Professional Development opportunities in Computer Science Praxis Prep, ACT Prep Sessions, Restorative Practices Sessions, and Title IX training.

Due to Covid-19, we partnered with the Northcentral and Crowley’s Ridge Cooperatives to create the Tri-Region K-6 Virtual School. Students from 20 member districts participated in the virtual option. Tri-Region provided the staff and curriculum while working with the home districts to ensure students received any special services for which they qualified. In response to district requests, the program was expanded through grade 8 for the 2022-2023 school year. Northeast ESC worked with their districts to provide a template to apply for the Digital Learning Option and reviewed the templates with DESE and districts before submitting them to the State Board of Education. NEAESC staff also coordinated and delivered PPE to districts during Covid-19.

Each of the 14 member districts participates in services at varying levels, and the cost savings range from \$30.65/ADM to \$1091.78/ADM. For example, NEAESC’s partnerships with the Rector School District resulted in a total cost savings of \$287,845.54, which is \$526.51/ADM. The cost-saving services provided were: ABC Pre-K, Early Childhood Special Education, CTE, professional development, onsite assistance from specialists and coordinators, School Psychology Services, Behavior Support Services, Special Education Supervisor, Gifted/Talented, Technology support, paper purchasing, equipment/materials, and fingerprinting services. Providing such support ensures the district meets or exceeds the accreditation standards.

### 9.00 Section 1E: Teacher Center Committee and Other Necessary Committees

Northeast's Teacher Center Committee was established by Act 349 of 1985. The Teacher Center Committee is composed of at least one (1) representative from the staff of each school district. At least one-half but no more than two-thirds of the members are classroom teachers. The committee shall meet at least three times per year. The committee met on October 14, 2021, February 8, 2022, and April 25, 2022, during the 2021-2022 school year. Committee members shall advise the Director/TCC and the governing body on the teacher center's staffing, programs, and operation.

District	Member	Position	Term
Maynard	Karla Vandergriff	Teacher	2019 - 2022
Piggott	Amy Moore	Teacher	2019 - 2022
Hoxie	Kim Washburn	Teacher	2021 - 2024
Lawrence County	Hillary Anderson	Teacher	2019 - 2022
Greene County Tech	Lisa Chaffin	Teacher	2021 - 2023
Corning	Alex Teague	Teacher	2020 - 2023
Jackson County	Paula Jones	Teacher	2021 - 2024
Hillcrest	Lana Doyle	Teacher	2020 - 2023
Paragould	Jon Fulkerson	Administrator	2020 - 2023
Westside	Pam Dooley	Administrator	2020 - 2023
Pocahontas	Eric Housh	Administrator	2021 - 2024
Rector	Nathan Henderson	Administrator	2019 - 2022
Marmaduke	Shane Robinson	Administrator	2020 - 2023

Northeast's Teacher Center is housed in the Northeast Co-op on 211 West Hickory. The Teacher Center and the Make-n-Take are in the same room and available to educators during business hours. Resources include copying, die cuts, paper cutters, a laminator, poster board, construction paper, binding, a veriquest machine, poster printer, bulletin board materials, projector, pre-cut materials, classroom activity kits, custom designed pamphlets, flyers, and business cards.

Along with the Teacher Center Committee, the following groups meet to respond to various district needs/concerns. Principals, Counselors, ESOL, GT Coordinators, Instructional Facilitators, Dyslexia Interventionists, Technology, and Novice Teachers.

The NEAESC Principal Group meets bi-monthly or more often as needed during the school year and two days during June each year. They network, share best practices, participate in mandated professional development and meet with DESE Staff regarding new initiatives. Best practices are shared publicly through a google document and social media.



Along with their monthly board meetings, Northeast Superintendents participate in ZOOM meetings as needed to discuss and collaborate on critical issues impacting all districts.

Best practices are shared publicly by the Teacher Center Coordinator via monthly updates with links to important information to administrator groups.

### **16.00 Section 1F: Liaison with Postsecondary Institutions**

NEAESC has an excellent working relationship with the area higher education institutions: Williams Baptist University and Arkansas State University (4-year Universities), and Black River Technical College and Crowley's Ridge College (2-year Colleges).

- Arkansas State University
  - A partnership where the Special Education Supervisor mentors Special Education Degree Candidates.
  - A partnership where the Teacher Center Coordinator mentors Curriculum and Instruction Degree Candidates.
  - A partnership where the Teacher Center Coordinator trains the MAT Candidates and Special Education Candidates on the Teacher Excellence and Support System.
- Williams Baptist University
  - A partnership where pre-service teachers were directly instructed in the Grasping Phenomenal Science PD sessions and piloted the Anchor Phenomenon PD by Northeast's Science Specialist and a State Science Specialist.
  - A partnership between the Mathematics Specialist and the Instructor of Elementary Mathematics to teach the Mathematics Standards and discuss text options for the classroom at the district level.
  - A partnership between the Literacy Specialists and the Instructor where the Literacy Specialists train the pre-service teachers for Read Aloud in the classroom.
  - A partnership between the Recruitment and Retention Facilitator and the LaDelle Moody Chair of Teacher Education to provide data of student impact of early career educators who are completers of their educator prep program.
- Crowley's Ridge College
  - A partnership between the Recruitment and Retention Facilitator and the Division Chair to provide data of student impact of early career educators who are completers of their educator prep program.
- Black River Technical College
  - CTE Coordinator and BRTC work together to offer concurrent CTE courses for area school districts students and to support area schools in transitioning students from high school to the workplace.
  - CTE Coordinator, BRTC, and Walnut Ridge High School worked together to start two different Programs of Study, Emergency Services and Fire Fighting, which support students transitioning from high school to the workplace.

NEAESC shares best practices with collaborating partners and publicly via social media:

- NEAESC's Teacher Center Coordinator and Recruitment and Retention Facilitator work individually with Jill Clogston, ERZ, to share information and plan support.
- Best practices are shared with the other 14 cooperatives via monthly meetings and through our Annual Co-op Conference each fall.
- Mr. Daryl Blaxton, NEAESC's director, currently serves on the Arkansas Rural Education Association's (AREA) Board of Directors and the St. Bernards Five Rivers Hospital Advisory Board. Each provides an opportunity to share and learn information beneficial to NEAESC and its member districts.

### **Section 2: Staff Qualifications**

### **11.00, 12.00, 14.00, 21.00 Section 2A: Director, personnel, general policies, and reports**

NEAESC currently employs 88 staff members, of which 38 are certified positions, and 50 are in classified positions. All NEAESC employees holding positions requiring licensure are in the appropriate area. All associated documentation is kept in the Northeast Bookkeeping offices. Kristie Graham, Business Office Manager, annually maintains and monitors the employee licensure spreadsheet.

Northeast employees are evaluated in the spring by their direct supervisor. Evaluation conferences are held for all employees. The Northeast ESC Board of Directors evaluates the Co-op director. NEAESC uses the Arkansas School Board Association Model Policies as the basis for co-op policy. The Personnel Policies Handbook is addressed annually and individually with all new hires. The Personnel Policies are also posted on the cooperative website.

NEAESC's Annual Report is compiled each spring and reported to the Northeast Board at the June meeting. The Annual report is then sent to Stacy Smith ([stacy.smith@ade.arkansas.gov](mailto:stacy.smith@ade.arkansas.gov)) via email per the DESE directive and shared publicly on the NEAESC website under State Required Information. A few highlights from the 2021-2022 Annual Report include the following:

- Visual and Performing Arts Festival has been an annual event for the past 20 years. This year's festival had over 250 participants from Cooperative districts. Dr. Bob G. McGee from Williams Baptist University served as emcee. Dr. McGee has served as Professor of Music, Chair of the Fine Arts Department, and Director of Choral Activities for the past 37 years.
- Tri-Region Virtual Consortium, a partnership between the Northcentral, Crowley's Ridge, and Northeast Arkansas Cooperatives, is a supplemental State Virtual School that partners with local Arkansas schools and the Arkansas Department of Education to provide K-6th grade online courses, resources, and services to Arkansas schools, teachers, and students who might not otherwise have access to these resources and opportunities. This initiative is guided by Act 2325 of 2005, An Act to Provide Distance Learning.
- An Innovative Partnership with Williams Baptist University was approved, bringing pre-service teachers to the coop. These pre-service teachers were directly instructed in the Grasping Phenomenal Science PD sessions and piloted the Anchor Phenomenon PD. This partnership increased awareness of the AR K-12 Science Standards among the pre-service teachers, understanding the importance of phenomena first science, and gave practical experience through student placements and lesson development.
- CTE Coordinator serves as a board member of the Lawrence County Chamber of Commerce as a voice of education, relaying information that pertains to WorkReady Communities, Career Ready Certificates, and Act 319. During the year, Rick Neal from the Ready for Life Governor's initiative met with the Chamber to help them understand how the initiative works for the community.

### **3.00, 8.00 Section 2B: Board of Directors and Executive Committee**

NEAESC's Board of Directors met 14 times (12 regular and two special) during the 2021-2022 school year. The board of directors also holds an annual 3-day conference in July, during which all the mandated professional development required of administrators is obtained. The board approves monthly financial reports during each regularly scheduled meeting. In addition, the board approves the annual budget at the September Board of Directors' meeting and the annual audit at the first regular meeting after receipt of the audit. The NEAESC Board of Directors does not have an Executive Committee.

To ensure the efficiency of processing mileage reimbursement, NEAESC has implemented digital folders with maps to reduce the time needed for completing TR-1 documentation and printing costs.

### **Section 3: Extent of Local Financial Support**

#### **18.00, 19.00, 22.2 Section 3A: Program Services, Local Participation, and Local Support**

NEAESC provides professional development, instructional support, and curriculum support to all 14 member districts. The support and professional development are based on district requests and state priorities. All 14 districts are eligible to participate in state-supported programs and programs initiated by the Northeast Education Cooperative. If the need arises, NEA also serves personnel from other co-op areas in state-supported training.

Many services are provided through local consortia funds. Examples include professional development, on-site curriculum support, classroom support for teachers, and instructional planning. For participation levels, see the information below.

NEAESC member schools participate in the following extended services provided by their local funds:

- 100% (14/14) of member districts participate in the Professional Development Consortium.
- 93% (13/14) of member districts participate in the CTE Perkins Consortium: Corning, Hillcrest, Hoxie, Jackson County, Lawrence County, Maynard, Marmaduke, Paragould, Piggott, Pocahontas, Rector, Sloan-Hendrix, and Westside Consolidated.
- 79% (11/14) of member districts utilize our Early Childhood Special Education Consortium. In addition, we serve students from our non-consortium districts who attend a Pre-K within one of the consortium district boundaries: Corning, Hillcrest, Hoxie, Jackson County, Lawrence County, Maynard, Marmaduke, Piggott, Rector, Sloan-Hendrix, and Westside Consolidated.
- 64% (9/14) of member districts participate in the School Psychology Specialist Consortium: Corning, Hillcrest, Hoxie, Lawrence County, Maynard, Marmaduke, Piggott, Rector, and Sloan-Hendrix.
- 57% (8/14) of member districts participate in the ABC Pre-K Consortium: Corning, Hillcrest, Hoxie, Maynard, Piggott, Rector, Sloan-Hendrix, and Walnut Ridge.
- 43% (6/14) of member districts participate in the Tri-Region Virtual School Consortium: Greene County Tech, Hillcrest, Jackson County, Lawrence County, Rector, Sloan-Hendrix.
- 36% (5/14) of member districts participate in the Special Education LEA Consortium: Corning, Hoxie, Maynard, Piggott, and Rector.

Each program is reviewed annually to determine levels of effectiveness in meeting the needs of participating districts.

In addition to the items shared above, member districts receive additional fiscal support and cost savings through their access to a DESE Regional Medicaid Support Specialist housed at NEAESC. The specialist is available to provide training as well as reviews of current billing practices in order to make recommendations to enhance and improve those practices.

Finally, our districts see cost savings in the area of school health and wellness through their access to the services provided by our School Health Nurse and the Arkansas Department of Health.

The educational priorities of the state, the annual needs survey and input from various job-alike groups are referenced by the co-op staff to determine the professional development needs of the member schools.

A cost analysis has been conducted annually for  $\frac{1}{3}$  of our 14 member districts as stated in the rubric. The results were shared individually with each superintendent in face-to-face meetings.

NEAESC publishes a report annually on all programs and positions. The report was approved at the June Board of Directors' meeting, submitted to the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), and posted on our website under State Required Information.