



Evaluation Narrative

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ARESC Board of Directors

District	2021-2022 Service Year	2022-2023 Service Year
Arkansas Correctional School	Dr. Bill Glover - Member	Dr. Bill Glover - President
Pine Bluff School District	Barbara Warren - Member	Barbara Warren - VPresident
Arkansas School for the Deaf	Dr. Janet Dickinson - Secretary	SAME
Stuttgart School District	Dr. Rick Gales - VPresident	Jeff McKinney - Member
Watson Chapel School District	Dr. Andrew Curry - Member	Tom Wilson - Member
Sheridan School District	Jerrod Williams - President	Dr. Karla Neathery - Member
White Hall School District	Doug Dorris - Member	Gary Williams - Member

ARESC Demographics

We are proud to serve the 7 districts in Arkansas, Grant, Jefferson, as well as two state-wide schools of service. One is in Pulaski County and the other has schools in multiple counties. These two state-wide schools are the Arkansas Correctional School and the Arkansas School for the Deaf.

Section 6-13-1003	Requirement	Documentation
1	ESC region includes at least three(3) but no more than nine(9) counties	ARESC serves 7 school districts in four counties: Arkansas, Grant, Jefferson, Pulaski
2	ESC region includes at least ten (10) but no more than thirty-five(35) school districts	This section of the law refers to the creation of a NEW ESC region. At the time of ARESC's creation, we had at least ten but no more than 35 school districts. Through consolidation and annexation over the years,

		we now serve 7 public school districts and welcome others: Arkansas Correctional School, Arkansas School for the Deaf, Pine Bluff, Sheridan, Stuttgart, Watson Chapel, White Hall.
3	ESC region includes at least twenty thousand (20,000) pupils in K-12 average daily membership (ADM)	This section of the law refers to the creation of a NEW ESC Region. The number of students in the ARESC region (My School Info-ADM): 16,506 students
4	ESC region includes at least one (1) postsecondary education institution	There are four postsecondary education institutions within the ARESC region: University of Arkansas - Pine Bluff University of Arkansas - Little Rock SEARK College, and Phillips College,
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. (Google Maps)	ARESC serves 7 public school districts, with 100% of those within 50 miles of driving distance (or approximately 1 hour) from the cooperative.

Historical Snapshot

To frame ARESC and our services, it is important to honor our past and where we live in the state-wide network of public education. Let’s start with a historical snapshot and an overview of how we fit into the larger picture of our region and state.

A brief history of our organization is Arkansas River Education Service Cooperative was created in 1985, with the Education Service Cooperative Act of 1985. According to the Education Service Cooperative Act of 1985,

“The programs and services of each education service cooperative shall be based upon the needs of the school districts included in its service area and upon the educational priorities of the state. Education service cooperatives may provide shared educational programs and services such as needs assessment and school improvement planning, staff development, curriculum development, itinerant teachers, instructional materials, adult and vocational education, programs for gifted and talented, education for children with disabilities, alternative educational programs, secondary area vocational centers, community-based education programs, and other services which the State Board of Education may approve or which school districts may support with local funds.”

The first home of ARESC was on the UAPB Campus, in 1985, under the direction of Dr. Curtis Merrell (1985-2000). Under Dr. Merrell's leadership, the historic Sears and Roebuck Building where we currently have our home base of operations was purchased for \$50,000 including the entire block for parking and the side parking lot on the front. He began renovating the space for offices and making the transition to an educational center for its communities. Also under his leadership, he was given the first National Guard Armory in Arkansas which is on the National Historic Registry. He was also given another building and lot across the street from the National Guard Armory. We have plans to renovate the exterior of the Main building. We are also working with Preserve Arkansas to revitalize the National Guard Armory.

State-Wide Landscape

Arkansas River Education Service Cooperative operates within a network of 15 sister service agencies created to help schools meet accreditation standards, equalize educational opportunities, use resources effectively, and implement programming. ARESC is governed by a board of directors consisting of the Superintendent from each member school. This provides unique programs and services that are meaningful to the districts of our region. Since 1985, we have continued to grow into a specialized team of professionals who promote effective teaching and learning, support schools and educators in the field, and provide early intervention services for the youth and families of our service region. We partner with the Arkansas Department of Education, Arkansas Department of Higher Education, Arkansas Home-Visiting Network, Arkansas Department of Human Services, Arkansas Department of Workforce Services, and other state agencies to implement state-wide initiatives that support students, schools, and families within the communities we serve. We are also encouraged and allowed to partner with regional and local organizations and partners in the same manner.

We are set up to handle financial and administrative functions of a multitude of grant fund sources and are audited annually by the Arkansas Legislative Audit. We receive base funding from the state legislature that pays for a Director, Teacher Center Coordinator, and Office Manager/Bookkeeper. All other operating expenses (utilities, security, custodial/maintenance, receptionists, fingerprinting technician,) and all other expenditures rely on the 5% we are allowed to keep for administrative costs on all grants.

ARESC Culture

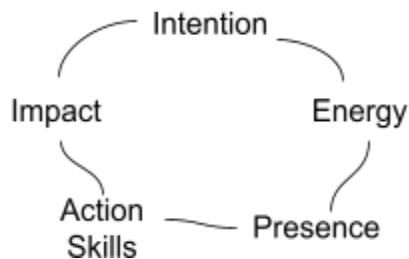
- ★ Our mission is to deliver cooperative support services that foster learners for life.
- ★ Our vision is to be the heart of learning, leadership, innovation, and prosperity.

Our agency goals have been set by the ARESC staff through a strategic planning process are

- ★ Model and support a culture of high expectations and positive energy.
- ★ Model, support, and facilitate learners for life in all services.
- ★ Promote sharing of resources and services among stakeholders based on local, regional, state, and/or federal educational priorities.
- ★ Provide assistance to schools in meeting or exceeding accreditation standards and equalizing educational opportunities.
- ★ Encourage and facilitate innovative practices, strategies, and learning environments.
- ★ Provide services to children, families, and schools that prepare them for a prosperous life.
- ★ Establish and maintain effective working relationships with all stakeholders of the community.

In order to meet these goals and achieve our mission and vision, we have developed Collective Commitments we use to frame our efforts. We have designed a graphic to remind us how we function during team collaboration.

We will be UNIFIED and STUDENT-FOCUSED.
We will consider ALL options PRIOR to decision-making.
We will “SHOW UP!”



We will make an intentionally positive impact.

Based on our Foundational Text - Contagious Culture by A. Cavanaugh

Arkansas River utilizes an anchor text called *Contagious Culture* by Anese Cavanaugh. Every new employee is provided a copy of *Contagious Culture* and we participate in individual study, small group study, team study, and whole agency study.

Section 1: User Satisfaction and Service Adequacy

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

Arkansas River Education Service Cooperative (ARESC) utilizes the Annual User Satisfaction Survey and the ESCWorks Summative Professional Development Survey to inform our practice and services to better meet the needs of our very diverse user population.

The User Satisfaction Survey is a survey designed in collaboration with the statewide Education Service Cooperatives and distributed as a Google Form to the school districts each spring (February-May). The results of this survey indicate that 90% of survey participants were very satisfied or satisfied. The remaining 10% indicated that they were not satisfied. ARESC staff further disaggregated this data to study individual district data.

The Summative Professional Development Evaluation Surveys are electronically generated through ESCWorks to participants after a session has concluded. A review of the results from the ESCWorks Summative Professional Development Evaluation Responses from August 1, 2021 to October 18, 2022 shows an overall average score of 3.94 on a 4.0 scale from 6,440 responses. While the overall summative responses offer value at long-term evaluations, our most valuable use by our Teacher Center Team is immediate feedback after session completion.

Efforts to gather feedback through the User Satisfaction Survey began in February and continued through May. These efforts included presenting the survey to our area superintendents during board meetings, emails to various educator groups and posting on our website.

	Area of Service	Very Satisfied	Satisfied	Not Satisfied	Very Satisfied + Satisfied Subtotals
Support Services	Administrative Support	98(49%)	104(52%)	7(.3%)	202
	Support for State Initiatives	104(42%)	146(58%)	12(.5%)	250
	Support for Federal Programs, ESL, Curriculum, GT, etc	83(41%)	118(59%)	14(.7%)	201
	Helpfulness of Staff when Seeking Info as an Educator	175(60%)	115(40%)	13(.4%)	290
Literacy	RISE K-2	56(47%)	64(53%)	5(.4%)	120
	RISE 3-6	60(39%)	95(61%)	5(.3%)	155
	SoR Stand Alone Days	35(33%)	63(60%)	7(.6%)	105
	Critical Reading	35(32%)	66(61%)	7(.6%)	108
	Literacy Content Training	38(32%)	78(66%)	3(.2%)	119

	Dyslexia Support	40(31%)	81(62%)	10(.7%)	131
Math	Cognitively Guided Instruction (CGI)	NA	NA	NA	NA
	Mathematical Content Trainings	23(27%)	59(69%)	3(.4%)	85
	Quantitative Literacy	13(23%)	40(71%)	3(.5%)	56
	AR Math QuEST	11(22%)	36(72%)	3(.6%)	50
	Illustrative Mathematics	NA	NA	NA	NA
	Mathematics Programs	NA	NA	NA	NA
Science	Grasping Phenomenal Science K-4	18(33%)	29(54%)	7(1%)	54
	Grasping Phenomenal Science 5-8	17(35%)	26(53%)	6(1%)	49
	Grasping Phenomenal Science 9-12	12(27%)	26(59%)	6(.2%)	44
	STEM	21(31%)	41(60%)	6(.9%)	68
Novice Teacher	Classroom Management	50(34%)	89(60%)	10(.7%)	149
	Support through use of Digital Platform	45(35%)	77(59%)	9(.7%)	131
	Support by R & R and/or Cooperative Specialists	44(37%)	70(58%)	6(.5%)	120
	PD on relevant topics	52(33%)	87(55%)	19(1%)	158
Digital Learning	Digital Learning Resources/Tools	55(28%)	126(65%)	13(.7%)	194
	Support on Digital Platforms	60(29%)	128(63%)	16(.8%)	204
	In-district support for Digital Learning	52(27%)	123(64%)	18(.9%)	193
	IT Support	44(41%)	91(84%)	16(2%)	108
Covid-19	Assistance to transition to Blended Learning	47(25%)	120(63%)	24(13%)	191
	Regular Communication/Updates	79(35%)	121(54%)	24(1%)	224
	PD Offerings during Covid-19	80(36%)	123(54%)	23(1%)	226
	Support with AR Ready for Learning Plan	52(32%)	95(59%)	14(.8%)	161
Special Education	LEA Supervisors	32(31%)	68(65%)	5(.5%)	105
	Behavior Support Specialists	32(27%)	72(61%)	14(12%)	118
	Other SPED Services	34(34%)	61(60%)	6(.5%)	101
Early Childhood	ABC Program	21(35%)	38(63%)	1(2%)	60
	Early Childhood Special Education	33(44%)	41(55%)	1(.1%)	75
	HIPPY	26(39%)	40(60%)	1(.1%)	67
	Other Early Childhood Services	26(36%)	43(60%)	3(.4%)	72
	Student Services (Quiz Bowl, Chess, Spelling Bee, etc.)	50(40%)	70(55%)	7(.5%)	128
	Career/Technical Education(CTE)	41(36%)	68(61%)	4(.3%)	113

Other Services	Gifted and Talented	28(25%)	79(70%)	6(.5%)	113
	Instructional Technology	34(27%)	80(65%)	10(.8%)	124
	Community Health Nurse	26(32%)	51(63%)	4(.5%)	81
	Facilities Consortium	11(18%)	49(78%)	3(.5%)	63
	Purchasing Programs (Warehouse)	20(28%)	45(63%)	6(.9%)	71
	Teacher Center and/or Print Shop	31(33%)	60(63%)	4(.4%)	95

At the very core of ARESC is providing services that meet the needs of everyone we serve. It is with great intention that we focus on being the heart of learning, leadership, innovation, and prosperity. With this in mind, we are constantly gathering user satisfaction data and assessing the needs of those we serve. The User Satisfaction Survey is one tool that is utilized to support our intention to serve.

Some responses to needs from our districts include:

- Increased support for inclusive practices for administrators and instructional staff
- Job embedded support at school sites during collaborative team times
- On-going coaching cycles by specialist supporting learning initiatives
- Year-long instructional leadership support for building level administrators
- Monthly collaboratives supporting recruitment/retention efforts
- Expansion of alternative education consortium to meet additional needs
- Support for Professional Learning Community(PLC) processes and procedures(Essential standards, unwrapping, CFA's, master scheduling, etc)
- Added additional sessions that address behavior and classroom management
- Establishment of K-6 Virtual Academy
- Added additional training and trained staff to support de-escalation and restraint training needs
- Coordinated collaboratives for state computer science specialist to support computer science programs in area schools
- Additional sessions supporting dyslexia identification and interventions
- Professional development sessions for Google Classroom basics
- Sessions to support mental health and behavior challenges
- Back to school PD support at school sites personalized to meet specific needs
- Addition of media specialist collaborative

While the User Satisfaction Survey is a useful data tool, phone calls, text messages, emails, and/or face to face conversations during regularly scheduled collaboratives are methods of data collection that determine many of our services.

17.00 Section 1C: Annual Surveys and Needs Assessment

Arkansas River Education Service Cooperative administers the PD Needs Assessment Survey via Google Form to all district administrators each year starting in late November until early January. This data is utilized to assist in determining the professional development needs and services we will focus on during the upcoming summer and following school year. The ARESC Teacher Center Committee meets in January to disaggregate data from this survey and to provide additional needs related to their school district. The content specialist and Teacher Center Coordinator(TC Team) meet in January using this data to start the planning process for our annual summer catalog. Other data sources such as direct requests from various collaboratives, assessment results, observations, state initiatives etc. are also part of the planning process. The development of the PD catalog continues until March at which time the Teacher Center Committee reviews the proposed catalog to check for alignment with identified needs and offers additional suggestions. After this feedback our TC Team revisits the catalog to make any additions or changes as requested. We release our catalog upon return from Spring Break for our districts to plan and registration to start. After the release of the catalog we will continue to make revisions to our offerings based on feedback and needs.

Arkansas River Education Service Cooperative Director and Teacher Center Coordinator meet monthly with DESE personnel to coordinate services and support. Coordination with the Arkansas Department of Elementary and Secondary Education was consistent, and no duplication was identified. We also meet weekly or bi-weekly depending on what is happening in the state of education. These conversations are on-going to ensure there is no duplication of efforts. The communication between DESE and the ESCs is very strong and ongoing.

4.2 Section 1D: Provide Assistance

Arkansas River Education Service Cooperative regularly provides assistance to our districts to assist with national or state initiatives, regional or local initiatives, and for any need that arises. A saying we use frequently is, “If it is legal and ethical, helps with learning, leadership, innovation, or prosperity, our answer is YES.” We have worked, over time, to create a relationship with each district where we serve as an extension of their Central Office. The Director establishes a working relationship with each Superintendent to serve as a silent partner and additional member of their team, as requested/needed. The Assistant Director establishes a working relationship with each Assistant Superintendent in this same manner. All of our Team Leaders operate in this same manner. We are starting this building relationship phase all over with half of our districts, due to changes in leadership. Please find a bulleted list of specific instances where ARESC has responded to a district need and provided assistance.

- Through a rotation cycle, ARESC provides a cost analysis to each district to assist them in determining cost savings by using resources provided through Cooperative services. This allows the district to budget resources and utilize the services that the Cooperative offers.
- ARESC provides Licensure support, Mentoring, and assistance with Pre-Service Teachers through the Teacher Excellence Coordinator. By providing Job-Alike, Human

Capital, and Supportive workshops for Novice Teachers as well as those considering a career in education we are able to recruit and retain teachers for the area.

- When COVID-19 hit, we saw an immediate need for a virtual solution. K-6 Virtual Academy @ The River was launched to fill the need and continues to thrive.
- ARESC provided Technology and Network Management services to a district in need. We partnered with a district to provide Technology services due to the loss of a Technology Coordinator mid-year. We hired a network administrator to work with the district to rebuild their district network. This was a two year partnership.
- ARESC specialists provide support with core instruction by working with districts on developing essential standards, creating and delivering lessons, planning curriculum, creating common formative assessments, planning for intervention, and modeling lessons on a daily basis.
- The ARESC Early Childhood Special Services team provides the special education and related services for our traditional school district partners. We provide three SLIDE Classrooms that allow parents that have children with multiple service appointments to schedule one session and receive them all. ARESC Early Childhood Special Services has 90 slots for children in the SLIDE classrooms.
- Providing Professional Development and one-one-one coaching support from content specialists throughout the year and summer.
- Collaborated with all state ESCs to provide trainings such as Title IX, On To College ACT Prep Sessions, Pre-AP, and Restorative Practices Playbook.
- Provide Title IX Investigators and Decision Makers for our districts and districts across Arkansas.
- Provide a series of tiered approaches to serving students in alternative learning environments. The Academies consist of Focus, After Focus, Flex, and Explore sites.
- During the onset of the Pandemic, ARESC coordinated a mass wifi acquisition effort through local telco providers on behalf of our districts. We were able to secure 600 wifi devices and were able to do so before the shortage occurred. We also coordinated Wifi on the Bus and Wifi from the parking lot services for all of our districts.
- During the Pandemic, we delivered multiple loads of Personal Protective Equipment to our districts.
- During the mandatory redistricting of school boards, ARESC contracted with a Geographic Information System Mapping service to work directly with Superintendents and School Boards on their redistricting efforts. The communication and invoicing was coordinated by ARESC.
- Participated and provided leadership in Go Forward Pine Bluff at the request of the Pine Bluff area Superintendents and local industry representatives.
- Provided center-based preschool services when centers closed unexpectedly leaving parents/caregivers without reliable childcare.
- Provide a Facilities Specialist to assist districts with aspects of new and existing facilities.
- The Arkansas Department of Workforce Services asked ARESC to pilot an innovative accelerated learning model. We piloted this academy at the request of Dr. Jerry Guess and Superintendent Barbara Warren. We are in year 2 of that model and are in the process of implementing 9 additional sites across Arkansas.

- The Arkansas Office of Skills Development partnered with us to implement the Jefferson Area Technical Career Center. During the 2021-2022 academic year, we facilitated a transition to SEARK. Our districts requested ARESK facilitate the transition.
- ARESK partners to provide work space and office space for state employees that provide services to our schools. Examples include: APSCN Coordinator, School Health Nurse, Jefferson County Health Nurse, Rehabilitations Counselor, Behavioral Specialist, and ADE Science Specialist.
- We provide assistance to DESE and our schools by providing fingerprinting services to any member of the school system that needs to be hired or renew their license. If a district determines they will do their own fingerprinting in house, we consult with them to set up their services.
- We host STEM Competitions, Spelling Bees, Chess Competitions, and Quiz Bowl competitions on behalf of our districts.
- We host FBLA and FCCLA meetings on behalf of our districts.
- We facilitated training and coordinated curriculum for bus drivers per the new federal law last year. We provide the curriculum and pay for that curriculum license and support the transportation staff at the local district.
- We provide space for AP Student testing to help schools meet the mandatory testing space guidelines.
- We facilitated a virtual summer camp for our schools during the summer of 2020. They were unable to stay connected to their students and hold face-to-face camps. ARESK hosted a virtual summer camp in partnership with BrainChase and IDTech Camps. Students participated in online escape rooms together and learned a variety of applications (Roblox, YouTube Video Making, etc.)
- ARESK supports the Digital Learning Unit of DESE and has been actively working to ensure a streamlined transition of Cooperative-led services to DESE-led services.

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

The ARESK Teacher Center Committee was established by Act 349 of 1985. The TC Committee is composed of at least one representative from the staff of each school district and shall advise the director/TCC and the governing body on the staffing, programs, and operation of the teacher center. At least one-half, but not more than two-thirds of the members are classroom teachers. To assure proper balance of membership representation our committee membership was created and approved by our board on June 19, 2018. The committee shall meet at least three times per year. The meeting dates for the 2021-2022 school year were November 11, 2021, January 18, 2022 and March 4, 2022. Our Teacher Center Committee met on November 4, 2022 and will meet again on January 23, 2023 and March 10, 2023.

2021-2022 Members

Committee Member	District	Position
Tracy Dowell	Arkansas Correctional School	Asst. Superintendent
Donna Vandevender	Arkansas School for the Deaf	Asst. Superintendent

Committee Member	District	Position
Lutonya Rauls	Pine Bluff	School Improvement Specialist
Abby Bristow	Sheridan	Elementary Teacher
Michelle Kerksieck	Stuttgart	Secondary Teacher
Lyquita Alsup	Watson Chapel	Junior High Teacher
Michele Burchett	White Hall	Curriculum Support

In addition to the Teacher Center Committee, the following committees and groups met to respond to various district needs/concerns. Groups such as LEA Supervisors, Human Capital Administrators, Home Visiting Advisory Councils, Excelby8 Committee, Technology Coordinators, Novice Teachers, CTE/Perkins Advisory Committee, JATCC Advisory Board, GT Coordinators, Transportation Directors, Curriculum/Federal Programs Coordinators, and Principals.

16.00 Section 1F: Liaison with Postsecondary Institutions

ARESC maintains a positive and active working relationship with the University of Arkansas @ Pine Bluff, University of Arkansas @ Monticello, Southeast Arkansas Community College, University of Central Arkansas, Arkansas State University, and University of Arkansas @ Fayetteville. We share best practices by participating in career fairs, face-to-face meetings, and via social media outlets.

- University of Arkansas - Pine Bluff**
 ARESA partnered with the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff to provide support to their pre-service teachers. This support included student teacher placement, training, and mentor teachers. Teachers were selected from member districts to receive formal training as a cooperating/mentor teacher for the pre-service teachers at UAPB. UAPB faculty were trained in the use of Study.com to support Praxis preparation. Training was provided for techniques and strategies for the classroom, the use of Zoom and other technology, and Ethics for AR Educators. UAPB is also a partner in coordination of the Educators Rising Conference for our region.
- University of Arkansas - Monticello**
 Our partnership with UAM is a continuous collaboration with ERZ Director, Dr. Traci Jones as we both work to support the needs of our districts. Past partnerships have included assistance in distribution and promotion of ERZ sponsored events as well as ARESA allowing the ERZ to host events in our building. We also collaborate to place UAM graduates in area districts.
- Southeast Arkansas Community College**
 ARESA operated the Jefferson Area Technical Career Center and partnered with SEARK to house the Career Center on their campus. We also worked to ensure concurrent credit options for each of the career courses we offered. We worked closely with their upper level administration and with each department on curriculum, online platforms, and

certifications for concurrent credit students. The Office of Skills Development facilitated a transfer from ARESC's coordination and administration of JATCC to SEARK during the 2020-2021 school year. We met monthly and sometimes weekly. Meetings with Superintendents, college staff, and high school staff were coordinated by ARESC. We served on their Program Advisory Committee.

- **University of Central Arkansas** - Faculty from the University of Central Arkansas partnered with ARESC to serve as panelists during the 2021 Centering Equity Conference and coordinate the Regional Educators Rising Conference.
- **Arkansas State University** - Arkansas State University partners with our Preschool Team to provide training and certification for preschool staff. They visit and conduct walk-throughs for support. Dr Tonja Fillippino from Arkansas State University delivered a presentation during Arkansas Association of Teacher Educators (ArATE) Fall Conference about their partnership with UAPB to train teachers to serve as mentor/cooperating teachers for pre-service student teachers.
- **University of Arkansas - Fayetteville**
ARESC partnered with the University of Arkansas-Fayetteville for the IMPACT Arkansas Fellowship. We connected the Director of Outreach with qualified candidates in our service area. Thirteen (13) educators applied (which is the most ever from the Pine Bluff area), and three (3) teachers were selected.

Section 2: Staff Qualifications

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

Arkansas River Education Service Cooperative currently employs a staff of 134, consisting of approximately 48 certified positions and 86 classified positions. The breakdown of the number of employees per service team are as follows:

- ★ Administration Team - 9
- ★ Alternative Education (The Academies) Team - 21
- ★ Digital Learning Team - 7
- ★ Home Based Instruction for the Parents of Preschool Youngsters (HIPPY) Team - 41
- ★ Parents as Teachers (PAT) Team- 4
- ★ Preschool Team - 10
- ★ Early Childhood Special Services Team - 18
- ★ K6 Virtual Academy @ The River Team - 11
- ★ Teacher Center Team - 10
- ★ Special Projects Team - 2

All ARESC employees who hold positions requiring licensure are licensed in the appropriate area. That documentation is handled via the ARESC Business Office. Cathi Swan, Director,

maintains and monitors the employee licensure spreadsheet. ARESC employees are evaluated annually by their direct supervisor(s), with conferences to review these evaluations. The Cooperative Director is evaluated by the Arkansas River ESC Board of Directors. The Personnel Policies Handbook is reviewed and revisions are discussed annually with the ARESC Board of Directors and posted on the ARESC website under State Required Information.

The Arkansas River ESC Annual Report is compiled each spring and reported to the Board of Directors at the June meeting. The Annual Report is then sent to Deputy Commissioner Stacy Smith via email as per the DESE directive and posted to the website under State Required Information for public viewing. Highlights of note (not included in Section 3 that is forthcoming) from the 2021-2022 Annual Report include:

- **Recruitment, Retention, and Teacher Excellence** - Many of the new hires in our area schools experience difficulties and challenges associated with gaining necessary cut scores to obtain teacher licensure. Our team has developed and established a multi-tiered approach that customizes support based on individual needs. These strategies included one-to-one interventions, small group sessions and purchase of subscriptions such as 240 Tutoring and Study.com. We also provide life coaches for students that need to work on study plans, meeting goals, and time management required to successfully pass PRAXIS exams to obtain full Arkansas Licensure.
- **ARESC Community Health Fair** - Every October, ARESC hosts a community health fair. The target audience is families enrolled in Parents as Teacher, HIPPIY, Early Childhood Special Services, and area Preschool Centers. We offer Flu shots, COVID vaccines, adult health screenings, blood pressure check stations, cholesterol and glucose check stations, height/weight checks, child health screenings for birth to 6 years of age, well-child health screening, vision screening, hearing screening, and health and nutrition information, and literacy materials for all participants. Our partners include the Arkansas Minority Health Commission, Jefferson County Health Dept., UAMS - AHEC, UAMS - Audiologist Dept., SEARK Nursing Dept., and the Sheridan Lions Club. We host an average of 400 attendees at ARESC each year.
- **ARESC Learn About your Community with Curious George Summer Camp** - The camp is a 12-day learning opportunity for qualifying children who are 4 or 5 years old with priority given to children entering kindergarten in August 2022. Each day focuses on a different Curious George book where students participate in activities and field trips that make the book come to life! Each child takes home a copy of the book + an accompanying non-fiction book on the topic. Each child is provided with a Curious George stuffed animal and a backpack. They have to care for their Curious George throughout the camp and storytell about their day at the end of each day.
Day 1: *Curious George's First Day of School* (Getting to know the classroom, Meet the teacher, get to know fellow campers, art activity is painting with red, yellow, blue and mixing colors, Pre Assessment is given)
Day 2: *Curious George at the Fire Station* (Visit local fire station, engage firefighter to read the book, tour fire station, learn Stop-Drop-Roll)

Day 3: *Curious George Visits the Library* (Visit local library, receive a library card, reading time with librarian, locate the Curious George section)

Day 4: *Curious George Goes Camping* (Visit Saracen Campgrounds, make hot dogs and smores, explore tents, Ranger to read the book, fire safety and littering)

Day 5: *Curious George Goes to the Park* (Visit the park to watch for animal friends, admire trees/flowers, play soccer, and have a picnic.)

Day 6: *Curious George and the Ice Cream Surprise* (This is an onsite experiential learning day. The ice cream truck comes while they are at recess. Ice cream man will read the book to the class.)

Day 7: *Curious George Goes to a Movie* (ARESC will set up the Auditorium like a movie with ticket window, popcorn, etc. like the book. We will show Curious George going to the Movie clip.)

Day 8: *Curious George Takes a Train* (Visit Arkansas Railroad Museum, tour types of trains, ride a train, and conductor will read the book)

Day 9: *Curious George Goes Swimming* (Visit preschool area of the new Pine Bluff Aquatic Center, lifeguards talk about the importance of being safe.)

Day 10: *Curious George Goes Bowling* (Visit Thunder Lanes and experience the bowling alley like George does in the book.)

Day 11: *Curious George's Day at the Farm* (A petting zoo partner will bring animals to the playground and mimic George's experiences.)

Day 12: *Curious George and the Birthday Surprise* (Students will help plan and decorate for a surprise birthday. This is an on-side experiential learning day where we will have bouncy houses, birthday cake, and play birthday games. Post Assessment if given.) An article was published in the Arkansas Democrat Gazette which gives positive perceptions for our region.

- **Unique Population** - ARESC serves a unique population at Arkansas Correctional School District (ACS). With recent emphasis on Science of Reading and Dyslexia, we continue to support a comprehensive plan to identify and provide interventions for adult learners in need. Further support for ACS has been customized SoR training through RISE 3-6 sessions scheduled and delivered specifically for their staff.
- **Another unique population** - served by ARESC is the Arkansas School for the Deaf (ASD). One barrier that has often prevented their staff from participating in events at ARESC has been the cost of interpreters. Our cooperative has worked with ADE to secure funding which has allowed a huge increase in ASD participation in our services. Our specialists also work to schedule and customize sessions to meet their needs.

The Arkansas River Education Service Cooperative maintains established policies and procedures for fiscal and programmatic management of grants from federal, state, and local sources. ARESC implements an organizational plan for methods and procedures designed to maintain operational efficiency and adherence to state protocols, grantor expectations, and managerial policies as related to financial records. The internal control process is designed to

ensure reliable financial reporting, effective and efficient operations, and compliance with applicable laws and regulations. Our Accounts Payable, and Accounts Receivable processes, such as requisitions, purchase orders, and check requests are created and followed per legislative audit and state finance recommendations. Other features of our fiscal accountability processes include handling financial statements and reports, coding into APSCN, reporting to the Board, grantors, and legislative audit. We operate on the expectation that team leaders reconcile their accounts monthly and pace their budget according to our internal control budgeting guide.

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

The Arkansas River Education Service Cooperative Board of Directors met ten (10) times during the 2021-2022 school year, holding board meetings in all months with the exception of July and December. The Board approves the monthly financial reports and the annual financial audit conducted by Arkansas Legislative Audit. The Board also approves the budget annually at the September Board of Directors meeting. The ARESC Board of Directors does not have an Executive Committee. In addition to our Board of Directors, each Team Leader is required to attend. We also have state and local partners that join us as the agenda allows.



Section 3: Extent of Local Financial Support

18.00, 19.00, 22.2 Section 3A: Program services, local participation, and local support

The extent of local financial support is based solely on the needs and interests of each district. Since we serve five traditional districts and two non-traditional state-wide districts, those needs vary. Arkansas River Education Service Cooperative serves all seven of our member districts by providing professional development and instructional/curriculum support based on the individual needs and requests of each member, as well as the state's priorities. Opportunities are provided to each district to participate in state programs as well as those initiated by ARESC. Additionally, we serve personnel from other co-op areas in state-supported training if and when the need arises. We also serve schools statewide through our *Title IX Investigative Services Cadre* and our *K6 Virtual Academy @ The River*.

Arkansas River ESC has multiple programs that are funded through a combination of local consortia funds. See the list below for more details about a few of the individual programs.

- *Professional Development Consortium* - 7/7 member schools participate
- *Alternative Education Consortium* - 4/7 traditional member schools participate in the (Pine Bluff, Stuttgart, Watson Chapel, White Hall)
- *K6 Virtual Academy @ The River Consortium* - 5/7 traditional member schools participate + 24 additional schools across the state.

- *CTE Consortium* - 5/7 traditional member schools participate
- *Early Childhood Special Services* - 5/7 traditional member schools
- *Facilities Support Consortium* - 5/7 traditional member schools participate
- *Gifted and Talented Specialist support* - 5/7 traditional member schools participate
- *Human Capital Job Alike Consortium* - 7/7 member schools participate
- *Redistricting/Rezoning Consortium* - 4/7 traditional member schools participate
- *HIPPY Home Visiting service team* - 5/7 traditional member schools participate
- *Novice Teacher Support Consortium* - 5/7 traditional member schools participate with support of 249 new teachers in our region.
- *Jefferson Area Technical Career Center* (The three Jefferson County schools participate +2 charter schools and 1 private school)

A cost analysis of services was conducted on two (2) of our seven (7) member schools during the 2021-2022 school year and is conducted on an annual rotation schedule as noted in the rubric, with all seven (7) schools analyzed over time. The results were shared with each superintendent individually.

In accordance with A.C.A. 6-13-120, we submit an Annual Report as a condensed report on the programs, services, resources, and activities of our cooperative. This document includes information regarding professional development, technology, early childhood, career and technical education, alternative education, home-visiting, our new Explore Academy, new K-6 Virtual Academy, and the governance and administration of our organization. This report is shared annually with our Board of Directors and was shared in the June Board Meeting, emailed to the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), posted on our website under State Required Information, and is used to share service information with other local partners. During the 2018-2019, 2019-2020, and 2020-2021 school years, our HIPPY Team Leader provided a monthly segment on Good Morning Arkansas to share best practices in working with children with literacy, academic foundations, and developmental milestones. We have provided two samples in the Rubric. We also provide Facebook Live Readings for Arkansas Children's Week each year. We have included a clip where our Director read to children and parents. We also have a clip where our Technology Coordinator read to children and parents linked in the rubric.

****Exceeding:**

We have selected three (3) additional extended services to provide greater specificity that are locally funded. We have also provided a copy of 2 cost analysis linked within the Evaluation Rubric.

- 1) Five of seven (5/7) member schools participate in the *Facilities Support Consortium*. Each of our traditional member schools share the cost of a Facilities Support Specialist.

This specialist is an ARESC employee and works hand-in-hand with Superintendents to provide training, services, and site visits to support proper planning. This service helped draft and compile all of the data necessary for submission with the facilities master plans, as well as other facilities-related submissions. Also, to identify eligible projects and submit applications for assistance through the Partnership Program. Projects during the 2021-2022 school year were the White Hall Fine Arts Facility, Watson Chapel Junior High, and Pine Bluff School District Renovations. Each district pays \$7,000 per year for this support specialist.

2) Five of seven (5/7) member schools participate in the *K6 Virtual Academy @ The River Consortium*. All of our traditional member schools participate in our virtual academy for K-6 students. Prior to the pandemic, our Superintendents met to discuss their concern with losing students to homeschool and virtual charters. They asked us to create a K-6 version of 7-12s Virtual Arkansas as a way to keep students and families in their district. We were in the process of planning to launch and COVID hit us in March. We launched our program the following August and ended up serving over 500 students in 27 Arkansas school districts. Post-Pandemic, schools are using our K6 Virtual Academy as an option for parents that come into home-school or pull students out of the local school district for various reasons. Schools reserve a certain number of seats each year and pay per child. The amount per child for each seat is \$2,000 per year.

3) Four of seven (4/7) member schools participate in the *Alternative Education Consortium* (Pine Bluff, Stuttgart, Watson Chapel, White Hall)

The Academies are an approach to providing tailored and tiered support for students that qualify, request, or are placed in an alternative education environment. Four years ago, a group of Superintendents approached ARESC to request coordination of resources and efforts around reaching students whose needs are not being met by traditional school environments. For the 2021-2022 service year, sending school sites for *The Academies* were Dollarway, Pine Bluff, Stuttgart, Watson Chapel, and White Hall. Each school is charged a per student fee that is based on seats that are reserved in March of the previous year. If a school has used all of their seats and needs to place an additional student, we work out a barter/trade system with a school that has not utilized their seats at that time. This ensures an efficient method for school funding to support actual needs. *The Academies* provide four settings tailored to student needs. All staffing are ARESC employees and we implement these settings daily on behalf of our participating schools.

★ **Focus Academy** - Serves 4-12th graders that meet certain criteria and need a structured setting with wrap-around services. Curriculum and instruction are provided in a blended format.

★ **After-Focus Academy** - Serves 7-12th graders that may have been expelled or in lieu of expulsion. These students have committed a crime or act that deems them unsafe to be in a daily Focus Academy setting. They are usually in the juvenile

court system. Our staff serves their educational needs daily virtually and layers in Tuesday and Thursday face-to-face from 3:00 - 5:00. These face-to-face days have increased security and counseling available. Students are also checked on, tutored, and fed a hot meal. Curriculum and instruction are provided in a blended format.

- ★ **Flex Academy** - Serves 10-12th graders that meet certain criteria and need a flexible setting with wrap-around services. Flex Academy Associates choose this environment because their lives require flexibility within the school day. Associates may have jobs, children, illness, anxiety, or bullying issues during the traditional school day. Our staff creates a schedule where they are supported virtually and face-to-face based on the individual student's schedules. Flex Academy students are supported and connected to our staff every day. Our staff works to create an individualized plan for each student that will provide necessary support and course a flexible schedule enabling completion of their high school diplomas.
- ★ **Explore Academy** - Serves 7-9th graders that meet certain criteria and need to re-spark their love of learning. This is a career-focused, hands-on approach to learning. Explore Academy is an accelerated learning program that utilizes a hands-on STEM-focused curriculum to reach students hoping to improve their educational and social-emotional performance. Focused on helping students make the critical transition from middle school to high school, Explore Academy allows students to learn and apply their course objectives while accelerating them towards their proper grade level.

****Excellence: AND**

Seven of seven (7/7) member schools participate in the *Professional Development Consortium*. The amount a school contributes to this consortium depends on the number of certified staff reported by My School Info each year. There is a sliding scale that ranges from \$5,000 to \$50,000. Each year the Board of Directors meets to determine a laser focus for these funds. The first two years, it was Human Capital and for the 2022-2023 year it is Literacy. These funds allow districts to pool resources to acquire access to national resources that specialize in their area of focus. They supply release time for staff to attend and participate in professional development and collaborations that enhance their level of expertise in that focus area. Examples of learning opportunities for Human Capital were attendance and support from Urban Schools Human Capital Group and Arkansas Association of School Personnel Administrators. They also formed a Human Capital Job Alike that met monthly around recruitment, retention, and excellence in staffing. Best practices in Human Capital processes were shared monthly in our Board of Director meetings and monthly in our Human Capital Job Alikes. This maximizes local funds and allows member districts to acquire specialized services and training.

