

Arkansas River Educational Service Cooperative Evaluation

Evaluation Date: December 14, 2022

Section 1: User Satisfaction and Service Adequacy

1A. Annual User Satisfaction survey results (all personnel of member districts) (22.2) <i>User Satisfaction Survey - Please show evidence that the survey was sent to all in the ESC area. Focused effort on Superintendent and key personnel who utilize or facilitate PD. Please identify the percentage of districts that responded to your Survey.</i>	
90% or greater satisfied/very satisfied	5 Excellence
80-89% or greater satisfied/very satisfied	4 Exceeding Standards
70-79% or greater satisfied/very satisfied	3 Meeting Standards
60-69% or greater satisfied/very satisfied	2 Alert
50-59% or greater satisfied/very satisfied	1 In Need of Improvement
<p>Evaluation Notes: There were 384 responses with a 90% satisfaction rate. All districts within ARESC were represented. ARESC made adjustments to meet the needs of one specific district by converting the user satisfaction survey from the electronic form to a paper form due to inaccessibility of the district.</p>	
1B. Summative PD Session Evaluation responses (22.2) <i>ESC Works Final Report for 2020-21 or 2021-22</i>	
3.8 or higher on 4.0 scale	5 Excellence
3.4 to 3.7 on 4.0 scale	4 Exceeding Standards
3.0 to 3.3 on 4.0 scale	3 Meeting Standards
2.6 to 3.2 on 4.0 scale	2 Alert
2.5 or below on 4.0 scale	1 In Need of Improvement
<p>Evaluation Notes: There were 6,440 responses with a 3.94 overall average score. During an interview, we found that the PD offerings were strategically selected and aligned to the specific needs of the member districts. Teachers shared in an interview that they found PD offerings very beneficial. In an interview, a district communicated a need for specific guidance on dyslexia "look-fors." They shared that a Literacy/Dyslexia specialist from ARESC created Dyslexia look-fors by grade level bands in support of their need.</p>	
1C. Annual Survey and Needs Assessments (17.00) <i>One professional development needs survey with evidence that the survey was reviewed by ESC leadership and evidence on on-going input of district needs. (survey, agenda, results, follow-up evidence, etc.</i>	

Meets 4 of the 4 criteria AND Reports survey and needs assessment results to member districts and the Department AND Reports any duplications to the Department (<i>How was information shared with DESE</i>)	5 Excellence
Meets 4 of the 4 criteria AND Reports survey and needs assessment results to member districts	4 Exceeding Standards
Meets 4 of 4 criteria listed below. Evidence that: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A PD Needs Survey was administered 2. The survey data was reviewed by cooperative leadership 3. Ongoing input of district needs from various groups (i.e. Teacher Center Committee, job alike groups, etc.) 4. Works with the Department to conduct surveys that complement rather than duplicate the work 	3 Meeting Standards
Meets 3 of 4 criteria	2 Alert
Meets 2 or less of the 4 criteria	1 In Need of Improvement
Evaluation Notes: ARESC administered the needs assessment survey to all district administrators. The results of the survey were analyzed by ARESC and shared with district superintendents, assistant superintendents, and teacher center committee. ARESC leadership met with three of the seven districts (White Hall, Watson Chapel, and Stuttgart) and reviewed administrator needs based on the survey data. ARESC communicates regularly with DESE representatives via TCC meetings, directors' meetings, and individual needs. No duplications were identified.	
1D. Provide Assistance (4.2) District Cost Analysis connected to examples provided.	
Meets 3 of the 3 criteria AND Provides evidence that exceeds the expectation in at least two (2) areas such as exceeding accreditation standards and equalizing education opportunities AND A cost analysis study of coordinated service	5 Excellence
Meets 3 of the 3 criteria AND Provides evidence that exceeds the expectation in at least one (1) areas such as exceeding accreditation standards and equalizing education opportunities OR a cost analysis study of coordinated services	4 Exceeding Standards
Meets 3 of the 3 criteria listed below: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Assist member districts in meeting or exceeding accreditation standards and equalizing educational opportunities; 2. Using educational resources more effectively through cooperation among school districts; and 3. Promoting coordination between school districts and the Department in order to provide services that are consistent with the needs identified by school districts and the education priorities of the state 	3 Meeting Standards
Meets 2 of the 3 criteria	2 Alert
Meets 1 of the 3 criteria	1 In Need of Improvement
Evaluation Notes: During an interview, a teacher shared how ARESC supported her in the shift from scripted lessons to designing her own standards based lessons. A cost analysis is reviewed with individual superintendents regularly. In response to providing equalized educational opportunities, ARESC offers a synchronous K-6 Virtual Academy and a tiered approach to serving students in alternative learning environments. ARESC has a vast HIPPPY program that serves thirteen counties.	

1E. Teacher Center Committee and 10.00 Other Necessary Committees (9.0) TCC Committee list, noting district and position of each member. Link documentation of at least 3 meetings per year 2020-21 or 2021-22 school year.	
Meets 5 of the 5 criteria AND Lists the other committees and the purposes or responsiveness to member districts AND Best practices are shared publicly	5 Excellence
Meets 5 of the 5 criteria AND Lists the other committees and the purposes or responsiveness to member districts	4 Exceeding Standards
Meets 5 of the 5 criteria listed below: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A teacher center will provide, if funds are available, curriculum development assistance, educational materials, and staff development services to teachers within the area 2. A teacher center committee is composed of at least one (1) representative from the staff of each school district 3. At least one-half (½), but not more than two-thirds (⅔) of the members are classroom teachers 4. The committee meets at least three (3) times per year; and 5. Other committees of local school personnel are convened to be responsive to the member districts. 	3 Meeting Standards
Meets 4 of the 5 criteria	2 Alert
Meets 3 or less of the 5 criteria	1 In Need of Improvement
Evaluation Notes: Teachers stated that ARESC provided science, math, computer science materials, as well as, any needed materials to support individual teacher and classroom needs. A superintendent stated that during the pandemic, ARESC was like “a Walmart” and provided any PPE needed. During the Teacher Center Committee interviews, it was stated that individual building leaders were being created through PLC meetings that were hosted by the ARESC specialists. The Teacher Center Committee met November 11, 2021, January 18, 2022, March 4, 2022, and November 4, 2023. ARESC HIPPIY was highlighted on Channel 7 when the director shared best practices monthly.	
1F. Liaison with Postsecondary Institutions (16.00) Publicly shared Post Secondary partnerships.	
Collaborates with more than two (2) postsecondary institutions or other recognized educational agencies on a regular basis AND Best practices are shared publicly	5 Excellence
Collaborates with more than one (1) postsecondary institutions on a regular basis	4 Exceeding Standards
Shall cooperate with the state-supported postsecondary institution located within its area	3 Meeting Standards
Cooperates with one (1) postsecondary institution within the state	2 Alert
Does not cooperate or collaborate with a postsecondary institution	1 In Need of Improvement
Evaluation Notes: The ARESC maintains positive, dynamic partnerships with postsecondary institutions, as evidenced by collaborating with 5 four-year institutions of higher education (IHE) including the University of Arkansas - Pine Bluff, University of Arkansas - Monticello, the University of Central Arkansas, Arkansas State University, and the University of Arkansas - Fayetteville plus 1 community college - Southeast Arkansas Community College. This total of 6 IHE’s exceeds the 2 required collaborations for an “Excellent” rating. Justification for “Excellent” rating was underscored during the interviews. The second component to receive an “Excellent” rating requires sharing of best practices which ARESC meets by: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Monthly internal meetings; 2) Local LEA meet monthly; 	

- 3) Regional Professional Learning Community collaborates every week;
- 4) Coop specialists collaborate with schools;
- 5) HIPPY Program fosters sharing information;
- 6) Virtual Arkansas uses technology;
- 7) Webinars on economic development; and
- 8) Career fairs, face-to-face meetings, and social media venues.

Section 2: Staff Qualifications and Administration Effectiveness

2A. Director; personnel; general policies, rules and regulations; policies, procedures, expenditures, reports, and audits. (11.00, 12.00, 14.00, 21.00)

Spreadsheet of positions occupied with appropriate licenses noted; Evaluations will be checked during site visit; Personnel policies and procedures will be part of the site visit; 2020-21 and 2021-22 annual reports.

Meets 5 of the 5 criteria **AND** All audit findings are addressed **AND** Best practices are shared publicly

5 Excellence

Meets 5 of the 5 criteria **AND** All audit findings are addressed

4 Exceeding Standards

Meets 5 of the 5 criteria listed below:

1. All positions requiring licensure are occupied by personnel possessing licensure or approved alternative
2. Evidence of staff formal evaluations including performance evaluation of director
3. Personnel policies are in place and current
4. Annual reports are compiled and disseminated to individuals and entities required by statute
5. There is no evidence of fiscal distress as witnessed by any one of criteria in 27.00 of the Rules

3 Meeting Standards

Meets 4 of the 5 criteria

2 Alert

Meets 4 of the 5 criteria

1 In Need of Improvement

Evaluation Notes:

All staff maintain necessary licensing. Evaluations for different positions are performed. The COOP shares information via their website, and other channels including community groups such as Go Forward Pine Bluff.

2B. Board of Directors and Executive Committee

Documentation of Board of Directors meetings according to rubric.

The Board of Directors meet more than eight (8) times each year, and written policies and procedures for operation are filed with the State Board **AND** Records of internal improvement in efficiency of operation are available upon request *MAY Substitute: The executive committee and board of directors meets more than required.*

5 Excellence

The Board of Directors meet more than eight (8) times each year, and written policies and procedures for operation are filed with the State Board *MAY Substitute: The executive committee or board of directors meets more than required.*

4 Exceeding Standards

The Board of Directors meet at least eight (8) times each year, and general fiduciary responsibilities for the cooperative are documented **OR** The executive committee meets at least nine (9) times per year, and the board of directors meets at least three (3) times annually. The president of the board shall serve as chair of the executive committee

3 Meeting Standards

The Board of Directors meet less than eight (8) times each year, and/or general fiduciary responsibilities for the cooperative are minimally documented	2 Alert
The Board of Directors meet less than eight (8) times each year, and/or general fiduciary responsibilities for the cooperative are not adequately documented	1 In Need of Improvement
Evaluation Notes: The board met 10 times last year with good attendance. The board is updated on progress as well as the COOP Leadership Team. The COOP staff uses perceptual surveys and student success to measure effectiveness.	

Section 3: Extent of Local Financial Support

3A. Program Services; participation of local districts; extent of local financial support; technology center; Math and Science Center (18.00, 19.00, 22.2, 24.00, 25.00)	
Meets 3 of the 3 criteria AND . Programs and services are documented based on needs assessment and evaluation is reported AND . Resources of the educational service cooperative are enhanced by forming support networks among the member schools to provide extended services, provide new services and combine funding to support programs such as group purchasing, thus maximizing local school district funding. 90% or more of member districts participate by purchasing services and providing release time for staff to engage in specialized training & services AND . Cost analysis study has been performed for 1/3 of member districts annually and the findings have been shared in a face-to-face meeting with the superintendent AND . Best practices are shared publicly	5 Excellence
Meets 3 of the 3 criteria AND . Programs and services are documented based on needs assessment AND . 50% or more of member districts support the cooperative in offering extended services in two (2) or more activities or events or purchased services with local funds AND . At least one (1) cost analysis study has been performed and the findings have been shared in a face-to-face meeting with the superintendent(s)	4 Exceeding Standards
Meets 3 of the 3 criteria listed below: 1. Programs and services are based on the needs of the member districts and priorities of the state 2. Each member district is entitled to participate in programs and services that are fully supported by state funds 3. Programs and other services may be supported by local funds	3 Meeting Standards
Meets 2 of the 3 criteria	2 Alert
Meets 1 or less of the 3 criteria	1 In Need of Improvement
Evaluation Notes: The cooperative proactively and responsively identifies and meets the needs of participating districts. The cooperative has initiated many new programs to address the changing needs of regional schools. Programs include virtual school and an alternative learning consortium that has multiple branches to meet the diverse needs of all scholars. The cooperative has performed a cost-analysis for multiple districts. One of the assistant superintendents stated "I would not survive without the co-op. Another stated that they "do whatever it takes to give me whatever I need."	

Total Evaluation Score

Determination of Rating	Cooperative Evaluation Level
Must receive a majority score of 5 on categories (at least 6 out of 9 categories); and NO scores below 3	5 Excellence
Must receive at least 6 scores of 4 or some combination of 4 or 5; and NO scores below 3	4 Exceeding Standards
Must receive at least 6 scores of 3 or some combination of 3, 4, or 5; may include only one score of 2 (if some combination of 4 or 5 was assigned) with no additional scores below 3	3 Meeting Standards
Scores 2 in 2 or more categories	2 Alert
Scores 1 in 1 or more categories	1 In Need of Improvement

Evaluation Notes:

The Arkansas River Cooperative organized several interview groups as well as an on-site tour of their facility, and one of their Alternative Learning sites. This enables the evaluation committee to get a full picture of the services and supports provided to member districts.

The Alternative Education program included multiple academies that meet the needs of scholars with diverse needs. The Focus Academy serves scholars who have demonstrated patterns of disruptive behavior. Scholars receive behavioral and social-emotional scaffolding with their academics. The After-Focus Academy serves scholars who have been expelled from school and works collaboratively with the juvenile judge. Classes meet from 3:00 - 5:00 and focus on supplementing the asynchronous virtual instruction. Students are provided with meals and additional support services. The Flex Academy serves scholars who have needs that require flexible scheduling due to various reasons such as teen parent, provider for the household, etc. The Explore Academy serves Jr. High students who have fallen behind academically and also require additional support. The Explore Academy uses hands-on instruction and asynchronous instruction to re-ignite a scholar's passion for learning. All of the academies utilize asynchronous instruction. Asynchronous instruction is allowable because licensed educators are in the classroom. One of the scholars stated that the self-paced instruction enables the teacher to more efficiently respond to the individual needs of scholars. She reported that it also gave her the capacity to drive her own remediation when needed.

Arkansas River also houses and supports the Parents as Teachers program and the largest HIPPIY program in the state. These two programs focus on supporting parents from pregnancy to kindergarten. Working directly with parents to give them the necessary skills to build strong foundational early learning and parenting skills. One of the things noted by regional committee members was how much they didn't know about the resources and services available. The Cooperative is encouraged to be more intentional about sharing the amazing work they are doing in the community.

Overall score of "excellence".

Committee Members:		
Stacy Smith, DESE	Jennifer Barbaree , OCSS	Andy Curry, Business & Industry
Jacob Smith, Administrator	Candice Johnson	Roger Guevara, ERZ SAU
Eric Saunders, DESE	Renee Treadwell, ESC	Scott Pitillo, Board Member
Sonja Jefferson	Dr. Eric Saunders	

Committee Chair Signature: *Stacy Smith*