

GUY FENTER EDUCATION SERVICE COOPERATIVE



Evaluation Narrative Summary

Roy Hester, Director

September 2022

Guy Fenter Education Service Cooperative

Board of Directors

Name	Position	School District
Dr. Kerry Schneider	Executive Committee - Vice Chair	Cedarville
Jim Ford	Executive Committee	Ozark
Taylor Gattis	Executive Committee	County Line
Dr. David Hopkins	Executive Committee - Chair	Clarksville
Wayne Fawcett	Executive Committee	Paris
John Ciesla	Executive Committee	Greenwood
Steve Rose	Executive Committee	Lavaca
Daniel Fielding	Board Member	Waldron
Trent Goff	Board Member	Booneville
Missy Moore	Board Member	Charleston
Dr. Terry Morawski	Board Member	Fort Smith
Eddie Ray	Board Member	Hackett
Jay Holland	Board Member	Lamar
Dr. Beth Shumate	Board Member	Magazine
Joe Staton	Board Member	Mansfield
Dr. Debbie Atwell	Board Member	Mountainburg
Dr. Lonnie Myers	Board Member	Mulberry/Pleasant View
David Woolly	Board Member	Alma
Toby Cook	Board Member	Scranton
Dr. Harold Jeffcoat	Board Member	Van Buren
Brad Kent	Board Member	Westside

Guy Fenter ESC Demographics

The Guy Fenter Education Service Cooperative (GFESC) is celebrating its fortieth year of service in 2023. The cooperative began as a pilot project through the efforts of its first director, Mr. Guy Fenter, and became a state funded agency through “The Education Service Cooperative Act 349 of 1985,” which Mr. Fenter co-authored. The first offices were established in July 1985 in the same location that the Guy Fenter ESC is located today. The Guy Fenter Cooperative began with three employees and currently employs 72 highly skilled employees to serve the 21 Public School Districts and 1 Charter School within 6 counties in the River Valley of Arkansas.

Section 6-13-1003	Requirement	Documentation
1	ESC region includes at least three (3) but no more than nine (9) counties	Guy Fenter ESC serves 22 school districts in 6 counties.
2	ESC region includes at least ten (10) but no more than thirty-five (35) school districts	Guy Fenter ESC serves 21 public school districts, 1 charter school, and 2 private schools.
3	ESC region includes at least twenty thousand (20,000) pupils in K-12 average daily membership (ADM)	Number of students in the Guy Fenter ESC region. (LEA Insights - ADM 42,387)
4	ESC region includes at least one (1) postsecondary education institution	There are 3 postsecondary institutions within the Guy Fenter ESC region: University of Arkansas at Fort Smith (4-year), University of the Ozarks (4 year), and Arkansas Tech University at Ozark (2 year).
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)	Guy Fenter ESC serves 22 school districts, with 95% of those districts within 50 miles of driving distance (or approximately 1 hour) from the cooperative.

Section 1: User Satisfaction and Service Adequacy

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

Guy Fenter ESC utilizes the data collected from the User Satisfaction and Professional Development surveys to reflect on the satisfaction of participants for services offered, number and types of sessions offered, and feedback for specialists. The User Satisfaction Survey is designed in collaboration with the ESCs statewide and distributed as a Google Form to the school districts via email, ESC website, social media, etc. in the spring of each year (March/April).

Professional Development surveys are automatically generated by ESCWorks to participants after a session has concluded. Guy Fenter Specialists use both the User Satisfaction and Professional Development survey data to reflect on the sessions that they conducted and their practice. Each year the Guy Fenter Professional Development staff, including Literacy, Mathematics, Science, GT, and Recruitment and Retention Specialists, and the Teacher Center Coordinator meet to discuss and review survey and evaluation data.

The Guy Fenter ESC Annual User Satisfaction Survey was distributed in March 2022 and received 654 responses (with representation from all 22 districts and all job titles). See the disaggregated data below.

(*NOTE: In survey directions, participants were instructed to use N/A if the question pertained to a service area in which they were not familiar. In the table below, N/A responses are removed from the final calculations of the percentages of user satisfaction.)

	Area of Service	Very Satisfied	Satisfied	Not Satisfied	Very Satisfied + Satisfied Subtotals
Support Services	Administrative Support	59% (162)	41% (162)	0	100%
	Support for State Initiatives	52% (237)	47% (217)	1% (6)	99%
	Support for Federal Programs, ESL, Curriculum, GT, etc	51% (211)	45% (186)	3% (16)	96%
	Helpfulness of Staff when Seeking Info as an Educator	63% (357)	36% (201)	1% (5)	99%
Literacy	RISE K-2	55% (117)	42% (90)	2% (5)	97%
	RISE 3-6	50% (116)	47% (109)	3% (7)	97%
	SoR Stand Alone Days	55% (107)	45% (89)	0	100%
	Critical Reading	51% (95)	44% (82)	4% (9)	95%
	Literacy Content Training	54% (126)	42% (97)	4% (10)	96%
	Dyslexia Support	52% (118)	41% (93)	7% (16)	93%
Math	Cognitively Guided Instruction (CGI)	57% (63)	43% (48)	0	100%
	Mathematical Content Trainings	55% (100)	45% (81)	0	100%
	Quantitative Literacy	54% (50)	46% (42)	0	100%
	AR Math QuEST	56% (50)	44% (40)	0	100%
	Illustrative Mathematics	50% (57)	50% (57)	0	100%
	Mathematics Programs	50% (63)	50% (64)	0	100%
Science	Grasping Phenomenal Science K-4	56% (50)	40% (36)	4% (4)	96%
	Grasping Phenomenal Science 5-8	64% (54)	36% (31)	0	100%
	Grasping Phenomenal Science 9-12	55% (45)	39% (32)	6% (5)	94%
	STEM	57% (76)	37% (49)	6% (8)	94%

Novice Teacher	Classroom Management	47% (143)	50% (152)	3% (10)	97%
	Support through use of Digital Platform	49% (145)	49% (146)	2% (6)	98%
	Support by R & R and/or Cooperative Specialists	57% (147)	40% (104)	3% (9)	97%
	PD on relevant topics	49% (147)	48% (146)	3% (9)	97%
Digital Learning	Digital Learning Resources/Tools	45% (146)	51% (165)	4% (12)	96%
	Support on Digital Platforms	47% (150)	49% (157)	4% (12)	96%
	In-district support for Digital Learning	45% (134)	51% (153)	4% (13)	96%
	IT Support	47% (114)	48% (116)	5% (11)	95%
Covid-19	Assistance to transition to Blended Learning	44% (142)	49% (158)	7% (24)	93%
	Regular Communication/Updates	50% (200)	45% (181)	5% (20)	95%
	PD Offerings during Covid-19	48% (216)	49% (221)	3% (13)	97%
	Support with AR Ready for Learning Plan	47% (144)	48% (148)	5% (17)	95%
Special Education	LEA Supervisors	56% (96)	37% (63)	7% (12)	93%
	Behavior Support Specialists	51% (103)	41% (83)	7% (15)	92%
	Other SPED Services	55% (97)	40% (70)	5% (9)	95%
Early Childhood	ABC Program	59% (55)	41% (38)	0	100%
	Early Childhood Special Education	58% (65)	42% (47)	0	100%
	HIPPY	54% (36)	46% (31)	0	100%
	Other Early Childhood Services	57% (66)	43% (49)	0	100%
Other Services	Student Services (Quiz Bowl, Chess, Spelling Bee, etc.)	60% (106)	40% (70)	0	100%
	Career/Technical Education(CTE)	63% (108)	37% (63)	0	100%
	Gifted and Talented	56% (109)	44% (85)	0	100%
	Instructional Technology	50% (107)	47% (100)	2% (5)	97%
	Community Health Nurse	66% (82)	34% (43)	0	100%
	Facilities Consortium	67% (62)	33% (31)	0	100%
	Purchasing Programs (Warehouse)	62% (65)	38% (40)	0	100%
	Teacher Center and/or Print Shop	52% (78)	42% (63)	5% (8)	94%
	Overall Average	54%	43%	3%	97%

A review of the data from the July 2021 - June 2022 Summative Professional Development Evaluation Survey Responses indicate an overall average score of 3.95 on a 4.0 scale. There were 4,601 Evaluation Survey Responses recorded.

The survey results were reviewed to determine ways that the Guy Fenter ESC could better meet the needs of the school districts that we serve. The following responses from the User Satisfaction Survey were addressed by the Guy Fenter ESC staff:

- Educators want training on how to align Standards Based assessments with SoR

- Educators want ongoing support for how to incorporate literacy into other subjects, specifically the secondary level
- Educators requesting ongoing support for small school districts that have a high employee turnover rate and must train new staff on programs each year
- Educators want direct communication of the services and offerings provided by the Guy Fenter ESC
- Counselors requesting regularly scheduled meetings throughout the school year for collaboration and support
- Educators in need of Special Education professional development

The Guy Fenter ESC addressed the above mentioned needs:

- Literacy Specialists attend PLC meetings in districts and work with teachers to make connections between the essential standards and their alignment to SoR, in addition to reviewing Standards Based Assessments and any data collected. The GFESC school districts are in various stages of implementation with regards to Standards Based assessment and Standard Based report cards. GFESC Literacy Specialists also offer professional development sessions to provide additional support and training for area educators.
- Literacy Specialists developed and offered professional development sessions and in-district support to secondary teachers to address incorporating the Science of Reading into all content areas.
- GFESC Teacher Center Coordinator, Recruitment and Retention Specialist, and Content Specialists have provided professional development and in-district support for both administrators and teachers in districts with a high employee turnover rate. GFESC has provided specific program training(s) (Foundations, Sonday, Eureka Math, Grasping Phenomenal Science, Novice sessions, etc.) yearly to ensure that all new teachers in affected districts could be trained and supported.
- The GFESC Teacher Center Coordinator and Technology Coordinator are updating the GFESC website to create an opportunity for educators to join specific Listserv groups. The TCC, R & R, Content Specialists, and Technology Coordinator will utilize these Listserv groups to send out communication regarding upcoming events, professional development, etc. The GFESC website will also display icons that lead to a specific Google site for administrators, novice teachers, federal programs, curriculum, etc. groups respectively.
- GFESC Teacher Center Coordinator will work with area school district counselors to schedule monthly meetings to discuss topics relevant to school counselors.
- GFESC offered numerous Special Education professional development sessions for both novice and veteran special education teachers. The Guy Fenter ESC offered professional development on topics such as: Inclusion, Co-teaching, 504, Targeted Behavior Intervention, Data, Make-and-Take Centers, SPED Law, etc. Outside consultants including The Autism Helper, Special Education Resource Room, Dr. Christy Smith, Donny Lee, and Easter Seals were brought in to train the area special education teachers. Arkansas Behavior Specialists, ESVI consultants, and LEAs also provided training and support to area educators.

In addition to the User Satisfaction Survey and Summative PD Evaluation Data, the GFESC Director and Teacher Center Coordinator visit with district administrators to gain feedback on how the Guy Fenter ESC can better meet the needs of the educators in our member districts. The Guy Fenter Teacher Center Coordinator hosts monthly meetings with Building Level Administrators, Federal Programs, and Curriculum Coordinators to provide monthly updates and support for local districts.

17.00 Section 1C: Annual Surveys and Needs Assessment

The Guy Fenter ESC administers a Needs Assessment Survey via Google Forms to all district administrators each year in the late fall (November/December) to determine the professional development needs and services we need to focus on for the upcoming summer and following school year. GFESC uses additional means such as the CTE: Comprehensive Local Needs Assessment Survey, PD Needs Assessment for Summer 2022 - Teachers, Administrator Experience Survey, Novice Teacher Survey, and job-alike group meetings to gather information as to district needs to supplement the survey information gathered. The Superintendent's group consists of 22 districts and meets monthly. Information and feedback is also gathered from the Teacher Center Committee and the following groups: GT Coordinators, ESOL Coordinators, Media Specialists, Counselors, Principals, Technology Coordinators, Federal Programs/Curriculum Coordinators, and Dyslexia Interventionists. The data and comments from the Needs Assessment Survey are shared with the GFESC Board, all Superintendents, Principals, Teacher Center Committee, and GFESC Specialists at a staff meeting.

The following are examples of how Guy Fenter ESC addressed the responses to the Needs Assessment Survey given in Fall 2021:

- Guy Fenter ESC scheduled professional development to address trauma, self-care, social and emotional learning, and ACES for the Summer 2022. Trainers for the professional development include Heidi LaFleur from Discipline Associates, AR-Trauma Resource Initiative for Schools, the Morgan Nick Foundation, and Nicole Fairchild from Arkansas AWARE. A total of fourteen professional development sessions related to this topic were offered at GFESC in Summer 2022.
- Guy Fenter ESC Director coordinated with the Dixon Safety Consulting Company to meet with the GFESC Superintendents regarding an On-site Safety Assessment for each district and application/grant writing services for the COPS Grant that is part of the SVPP (School Violence Prevention Program).
- Guy Fenter ESC coordinated with Solution Tree, Wink Consulting, The John Maxwell Team, the Criminal Justice Institute, Leading Great Learning, etc. to bring in dynamic motivational presenters to work with teachers. Sessions offered include: Common Formative Assessment with Cassandra Erkens, Excellence in Every Classroom with John Wink, Classroom Management/Differentiation/Student Engagement with Jeanne Ford, Youth Mental Health First Aid with Stacey Ball, and Tackling the Motivation Crisis with Mike Anderson.
- Guy Fenter ESC specialists offered Literacy and Math PLC professional development sessions to support work currently being done in our area districts. GFESC is also sending the Teacher Center Coordinator, Recruitment and Retention Specialist, and all Specialists to a PLC Summit during the 2022-2023 school year.

Education Service Cooperative Teacher Center Coordinators 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 noted.

4.2 Section 1D: Provide Assistance

The Guy Fenter ESC regularly assists our member districts with accreditation standards and coops costs to save them financially.

- Holds monthly meetings with Superintendents, Federal Programs Coordinators, and other personnel responsible for the state reporting that is associated with accreditation
- Hosts annual School Board training twice a year
- Provides the Tier 1 Fiscal training for all administrators and bookkeepers
- Provides instructional support in all core areas and assists with curriculum review

- CTE helped schools develop new career course concentrations and programs of study to meet career focus requirements and to purchase equipment/materials necessary for those courses
- All ESCs share 1000 seats for Vector Solutions bus drive training
- Coordinated Literacy support with DESE and member districts in Levels 3-4 of support
- ECH special education department assists school districts in providing speech, behavior, and occupational therapy services
- Utilizes Virtual Arkansas teachers and course offerings to provide online courses in career and technical education for approximately 6200 students across the state of Arkansas (2225 in the GFESC region), which really helps districts to meet the CTE course offering requirements in the standards for accreditation

The Guy Fenter ESC provides numerous professional development opportunities for all member districts as required by rule 10.01.3, and the GFESC specialists provide in-district support and training to districts throughout the school year. GFESC has provided statewide professional development opportunities: On to College, ACT Prep Sessions, Title IX, 504, Pre-AP, and Restorative Practices Playbook PD.

The Guy Fenter ESC provides multiple avenues to assist member districts with the reduction of costs for services. Examples include the following:

- Disaster Recovery Plan Agreement - This agreement establishes a framework of cooperation to ensure continuity of operations in the event that office space becomes uninhabitable. It is a statement of cooperation between the twenty-one parties for the future accommodations due to emergency/disaster declarations. (21 districts participate)
- Paper Bid Process - The cooperative process allows the GFESC districts to purchase paper services at a reduced rate/price. (19 districts participate)
- GFESC K-6 Virtual School Consortium - 14 member districts make up the GFESC K-6 Virtual Consortium and utilize the GFESC K-6 Virtual School teachers, curriculum, etc. for students in those districts. The GFESC Teacher Center Coordinator worked with districts to develop a Digital Learning Plan to be submitted to DESE for review and eventually the State Board of Education for approval. Districts continue to work the the TCC to update and resubmit plans for the 2022-2023 school year.
- CTE Consortium - This consortium is made up of 20 GFESC member districts and 1 NWA member district. Twenty-one districts in the CTE consortium were awarded Innovations and/or Non-traditional grants this year.
- ECH Special Education Consortium - 19 member districts participate and utilize the services offered by the Guy Fenter ECH staff.
- School Furniture Process - GFESC cooped the purchase of school/classroom furniture in order to get a reduced rate for our member school district from Correll Inc.
- Title IX Legal Support - GFESC in partnership with the Arkansas River ESC has secured the services of Cody Kees from Bequette, Billingsley & Kees P.A. for any Title IX concerns/issues that may arise for school districts in our respective cooperatives.

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

The Guy Fenter ESC Teacher Center Committee was established by Act 349 of 1985. The Teacher Center Committee is made up of at least one (1) representative from the staff of each member 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 (11), but not more than two-thirds (14) of the members are classroom teachers. The committee

shall meet at least three times per year. The meeting dates for the 2021-2022 school year: 10.14.21, 12.14.21, and 05.10.2022.

Committee Member	District	Position
Zach Thomas	Alma	Teacher
Kristin Fennell	Booneville	Teacher
Dr. Sarah McPhate	Cedarville	Administrator
Jessica Holt	Charleston	Teacher
Kristie Frost	Clarksville	Teacher
April Shaw	County Line	Teacher
Lindsey Swanigan	Future School of Fort Smith	Teacher
Dr. Ginni McDonald	Fort Smith	Administrator
Amy Hardy	Greenwood	Teacher
Eddie Ray	Hackett	Administrator
Sheila Key	Lamar	Teacher
Caitlin Kilbreth	Lavaca	Teacher
Beth Shumate	Magazine	Administrator
Raydell Barbry	Mansfield	Teacher
Debbie Atwell	Mountainburg	Administrator
Toni Hopkins	Mulberry/Pleasant View	Administrator
Jennifer King	Ozark	Administrator
Miranda Pfeffer	Paris	Teacher
Leigh Vonderheide	Scranton	Teacher
Kathy Wheeler	Van Buren	Teacher
Lauren Herron	Waldon	Teacher
Christine Payne	JC Westside	Teacher

The Guy Fenter Teacher Center is located on the GFESC campus at 3010 E. Highway 22 in between Suites E and D. The Teacher Center has recently been renovated for extra space and to update the resources that GFESC can provide for teacher use. The GFESC Teacher Center is available for educators Monday - Friday from 8:00-4:00 p.m. The Teacher Center provides resources such as: a poster maker, bookbinders, laminator, paper cutters, cutout dies and cutters, label maker, copiers, colored paper/cardstock, poster board, and coming soon are Silhouette Cameo 4 and Cricut tabletop CNC cutting machines, a CNC laser/engraver, computers, printers, etc. GFESC is excited about the upgrades to our Teacher Center and the resources that we will have available for educators in the area.

In addition to the Teacher Center Committee, the following committees and groups meet for discussion and response to district needs/concerns:

Committees: Legislative Committees - Governance, Finance, and Curriculum (monthly during session), AAA Activity District

Groups: Superintendents, Principals, Federal Programs/Curriculum Coordinators, GT Coordinators, Dyslexia Interventionists, Counselors, Technology Coordinators, ESOL Coordinators, and GFESC Governing Board

The Guy Fenter ESC Principals and Federal Programs/Curriculum Coordinators groups meet monthly throughout the school year to network, share best practices, troubleshoot concerns, and to hear from presenters on requested topics. During the 2021 - 2022 school year, GFESC coordinated speakers for Title IX, Child maltreatment, Pre-AP, CTE, and SoR Overview/Refresher for secondary administrators. Best practices, monthly Teacher Center Coordinator updates, and upcoming meeting dates are shared publicly via a shared Google Folder and Google Site on the Guy Fenter ESC webpage.

16.00 Section 1F: Liaison with Postsecondary Institutions

The Guy Fenter ESC fosters an excellent working relationship with four area universities and two community colleges: University of Arkansas at Fort Smith (UAFS), University of the Ozarks (U of O), Arkansas Tech

University, Arkansas Tech University (ATU) at Ozark, Rich Mountain Community College, and University of Arkansas Community College at Morrilton.

- **UAFS** - Teacher Center Coordinator is on the TEC Committee for UAFS. Teacher Center Coordinator and Recruitment and Retention Specialist host the teacher interns once each semester for professional development (Ethics) and Ask the Administrator Roundtable with local principals. Interns are encouraged to utilize the professional development and Teacher Center services offered by GFESC. UAFS uses Guy Fenter ESCs facilities and PD at no charge. UAFS Dean of College of Education attends GFESC Superintendents Meetings.
- **U of O** - GFESC Director is on the TEAC Committee for U of O. Teacher Center Coordinator and Recruitment and Retention Specialist host the teacher interns once each semester for professional development (Ethics) and Ask the Administrator Roundtable with local principals. Interns are encouraged to utilize the professional development and Teacher Center services offered by GFESC. U of O uses Guy Fenter ESC's facilities and PD at no charge.
- **ATU (Ozark)** - GFESC partners with ATU for the Arkansas Career Coaches Grant Program. The grant will run through the Guy Fenter ESC for the 2022-2023 school year. ATU also provides concurrent CTE courses for area school districts students. ATU and the CTE Coordinator work together to support area schools in transitioning students from high school to the workplace. ATU Chancellor attends GFESC Superintendents Meetings.
- **Arkansas Tech University, University of Arkansas Community College (Morrilton), and Rich Mountain Community College** - CTE Coordinator and these colleges 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.

Guy Fenter ESC shares best practices with collaborating partners and publicly via social media:

- GFESC Director and Teacher Center Coordinator serve on the Education Renewal Zone Advisory Board. The board meets bi-annually and helps to disseminate ERZ information and program support to local school districts
- Representatives from the University of Arkansas Fort Smith, Arkansas Tech Ozark, WATC, Arkansas School of Osteopathic Medicine, and University of Arkansas attend the monthly Superintendent meetings. Open discussion and presentations from the post-secondary institutions allows for the sharing of information and better alignment of K-12 education and postsecondary institutions.
- Best practices are shared with the other 14 cooperatives via monthly meetings (both Directors and TCCs) and through our Annual Co-op Directors' Conference each fall.
- GFESC Director, Roy Hester, supports partnership ideas and needs at the regional level. Additionally, he serves on various regional and state-wide committees to gather information, share ideas, and educate groups on how education service cooperatives can assist educational organizations.

Committee List: Arkansas Association of Career and Technical Education Administration (AACTEA), Leadership Coordinating Council, University of the Ozarks Teacher Education Advisory Council (TEAC), University of Arkansas at Fort Smith Teacher Education Council (TEC), Western Arkansas Technical Center (WATC) Advisory Board, Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC), Arkansas Special Education Early Childhood Professionals (ASEP), STEM Coalition, Arkansas Recovery and Resiliency Plan Committee, Arkansas Association of Career and Technical Education (AR ACTE), Region 4 ACTE Policy Committee, ATU Ozark Workforce and Economic Development Alliance, Western Arkansas Planning and Development District (WAPDD), Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), and CTE Skills Workforce Gap Committee.

Section 2: Staff Qualifications

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

The Guy Fenter ESC currently employs a staff of 78, made up of approximately 57 certified positions and 21 classified positions. All Guy Fenter ESC employees requiring a license are up-to-date and licensed in the appropriate area. The GFESC Business Office Manager, maintains and monitors employee licensure annually. GFESC employees are evaluated annually by their direct supervisor(s). The GFESC Director is evaluated by the GFESC Executive Board. The Personnel Policies Handbook is reviewed annually at the “Back to School Staff Meeting” each August.

The Guy Fenter ESC Annual Report is compiled each year and reported to the GFESC Board at the June meeting. The GFESC Annual Report is then sent to Stacy Smith, Deputy Commissioner Arkansas Department of Education via email (stacy.smith@ade.arkansas.gov) as per the DESE directive. The GFESC Annual Report is then posted to the ESC website under State Required Information for public review. A few highlights from the 2021-2022 GFESC Annual Report include:

- The GFESC Early Childhood Special Education Program continues to provide special education, therapy, and other related services to the identified students in traditional preschool programs, Early Intervention Day Treatment programs, etc. On the December 1 child count, the GFESC ECH Program served approximately 539 students. Service provisions were adapted to ensure continued services for students during the COVID-19 Pandemic including untraditional therapy methods such as teletherapy, packets, and communication with parents. All attempts were made to ensure that the needs of children were being met. Other funding sources, including state and federal funding of ECH services, were sent directly to each school district. All funding was billed by invoice from GFESC to each district.
- The GFESC Technology Program focused largely on Cybersecurity this school year. The GFESC Technology Coordinator worked closely with school districts by providing Cybersecurity information through access to webinars, face-to-face/on-site and virtual meetings, and training opportunities. The GFESC Technology Coordinator also worked with districts to update equipment and hosted multiple vendors on-site at GFESC to showcase new technology and product options.
- The GFESC CTE Coordinator worked with member districts to promote and offer industry certifications. Each program of study offered in GFESC districts offered students the opportunity to obtain an industry certification that would make them more employable upon the completion of high school. The GFESC Carl Perkins Consortium hosted two FFA Sub Area Leadership Career Development Events for students and teachers to explore the opportunities in CTE Student Organizations. Two GFESC Carl Perkins Schools were chosen by DCTE to “Showcase” their model CTE programs during CTE month. GFESC hosted a Non-Traditional Agriculture Mechanics intense PD for non-traditional educators in the agriculture area. Specialists and industry representatives were brought in over 3 days as female teachers developed skills and teaching methods for Agriculture Mechanics. Each instructor left with a personal set of classroom tools and PPE to be prepared to teach these skills in the classroom.
- The Guy Fenter ESC in partnership with the other 14 Arkansas Education Service Cooperatives work diligently to share policy and procedural information that will aid all ESCs in working more effectively and efficiently to help our member districts. The Guy Fenter ESC audit from 2020-2021 showed no findings. The GFESC Board minutes are available by request, and all policies are posted on the website.
- The Guy Fenter ESC communicates effectively with member districts, DESE, and other ESCs through coordinated weekly zoom meetings, monthly Superintendent, Principal, and Federal Programs/Curriculum Coordinators meetings, the GFESC website, emails from GFESC Director/TCC/Specialists, Teacher Center Coordinator monthly updates, in-district visits from GFESC Specialists, and social media.
- The Guy Fenter ESC partners with DESE to manage pass-through grants from DESE and various other organizations, including Educators Rising, ERZ, ARP Homeless II, ELC Reopening of Schools, NBCT, ArPEP, ESVI, Carl Perkins, Arkansas Rehabilitation Services, etc.

- The Guy Fenter ESC partners with the DeQueen-Mena ESC to host and facilitate the Foster Grandparents program multiple times per year.
- The Guy Fenter ESC allows the Branch, AR City Council to utilize the GFESC facilities for their monthly meetings and rented rooms to the Arkansas Connections Academy for ACT testing during this past year.

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

The Guy Fenter ESC Board of Directors met a total of thirteen times (8 F2F and 5 Zoom) during the 2021-2022 school year. The GFESC Board of Directors is composed of 1 Superintendent from each of the 5 counties in our region, in addition to 2 at-large members. GFESC held a 3-day Fall Superintendent’s Conference in October 2021, which provides all mandated professional development required of administrators. The GFESC Board of Directors approves the monthly financial reports, the annual financial audit, annual report, and annual budget.

To ensure the efficiency of operations, the Guy Fenter ESC has recently implemented the use of iForms for entering leave and plans to utilize the iForms service for Purchase Orders in the future.

Section 3: Extent of Local Financial Support

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

The Guy Fenter Education Service Cooperative provides professional development and instructional/curriculum support to all 22 of member districts based on requests from Needs Assessment and User Satisfaction Surveys, as well as priorities of DESE. All 22 member districts are strongly encouraged to participate in state-supported programs, in addition to those initiated by the Guy Fenter ESC. GFESC also serves participants from other regions/districts in the state and personnel from other ESCs in state-supported training as the need arises.

The Guy Fenter ESC is able to provide multiple services for our member districts through local Professional Development Consortia funds. Professional development, on-site curriculum support, classroom support for teachers, PLC support/assistance, and instructional planning are a few of the services provided to member districts using PDC funds. The GFESC GT Specialist is partially funded through a local GT Consortium participation. Guy Fenter ESC Early Childhood Special Education services are partially funded through a local ECH Consortium participation. Participation in each of these programs are indicated below.

Guy Fenter ESC member school districts participate in the following extended services supported by local funds:

- 100% of the GFESC member districts participate in the Professional Development Consortium (PDC) 22/22 districts
- 100% of the GFESC member districts participate in the Gifted and Talented Specialist Consortium 22/22 districts
- 95% of member districts participate in the CTE Consortium (21 of 22 districts): Alma, Booneville, Cedarville, Charleston, Clarksville, County Line, Future School of Fort Smith, Greenwood, Hackett, Lamar, Lavaca, Magazine, Mansfield, Mountainburg, Mulberry/PleasantView, Ozark, Paris, Scranton, Van Buren, Waldron, and Westside. In addition, the Pea Ridge School District participates in the GFESC CTE Consortium.
- 95% of member districts utilize our Early Childhood Special Education student support services, which are partially funded by local funds. These districts utilize this Co-op service to provide individualized instruction to students ages 3-5 identified as meeting the requirements of one of the state’s recognized disability categories for special education under IDEA. Supports include instruction in cognition,

communication, socialization, and fine and gross motor skills, in addition to services such as speech and language, occupational therapy, and physical therapy.

- 14 of the 22 GFESC member districts participate in funding the GFESC K-6 Virtual School Consortium. The GFESC K-6 Virtual School provides an online option for parents and students that are seeking an online learning environment.
- 100% of the GFESC member districts participate in funding a Legislative Liaison, Harvie Nichols, to attend legislative sessions/hearing and report back with up-to-date information about the happenings in all areas of education in the state.

The Guy Fenter ESC utilizes an annual Needs Assessment Survey to help determine the professional development needs of the member districts. The GFESC Teacher Center Committee and the GFESC Teacher Needs Assessment Survey also provide additional input on professional development needs and services requested. Additional information is gathered from groups (Federal Programs/Curriculum Coordinators, Counselors, Library/Media Specialists, District Testing Coordinators, Instructional Facilitators, etc). Feedback from the above mentioned groups occurs during scheduled meetings and is used for planning purposes. All professional development requests are quickly acted upon as we aim to meet the needs of our member districts.

A Cost Analysis of services was conducted on 22 out of 22 districts within the last 5-year cycle. A Cost Analysis of services on 5 of the 22 districts was completed with the 2020-2021 school year: Cedarville, Hackett, Ozark, Van Buren, and Waldron.

The Guy Fenter Education Service Cooperative publishes an Annual Report each year on all programs/positions. The Annual Report is submitted to the Arkansas Department of Education, shared at the June Executive Board of Directors meeting, and posted on the GFESC website under State Required Information.