NORTHWEST ARKANSAS
Education Service Cooperative

# NORTHWEST ARKANSAS
# Education Service Cooperative

## *Annual Report 2024-2025*

NORTHWEST ARKANSAS
Education Service Cooperative

**4 North Double Springs Road**

**Farmington, Arkansas 72730**

**(479) 267-7450**

NORTHWEST ARKANSAS
Education Service Cooperative

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NORTHWEST ARKANSAS
Education Service Cooperative

*Mr. Jody Wiggins*
*Director*

*Dr. Missy Hixson*
*Assistant Director/TC Coordinator*

Northwest Arkansas Education Service Cooperative
4 North Double Springs Road
Farmington, AR 72730
(479) 267-7450 FAX (479) 267-7456

**To: Arkansas Educators**

**From: Jody Wiggins, Director**

**Subject: 2024–2025 Annual Evaluation Report**

The Northwest Arkansas Education Service Cooperative (NWAESC) continues to evolve to meet the needs of our rapidly growing region. While the number of students, teachers, administrators, and support staff in our 16 public school districts and 6 public charter schools continues to rise—now serving nearly 100,000 students—our cooperative has operated with a leaner team because of state cuts. Even with this reduction in staffing, we remain focused on delivering high-impact services that help our schools thrive.

This past year has provided valuable opportunities for reflection and strategic growth. We've taken a close look at our programs to assess their effectiveness and find ways to enhance our support for districts across Northwest Arkansas. One highlight includes our ongoing collaboration with the Walton Family Foundation, which has enabled us to visit high-performing Career and Technical Education (CTE) centers across the country. These visits have sparked meaningful conversations and inspired partnerships aimed at expanding high-quality CTE opportunities for students in our region.

We've also led important discussions around student behavior, bringing together educators and experts to explore practical solutions. We hosted a bestselling author who spoke on the impact of screen time and cell phone use in schools, as well as a third-party vendor who introduced a therapeutic day treatment model that can be tailored to individual districts or implemented through district consortia.

In addition to these initiatives, NWAESC has continued to deliver a wide range of professional development and training opportunities for teachers, administrators, and district staff. We've also worked closely with districts to fine-tune strategic plans and strengthen applications for state and federal funding.

The 2024–2025 Annual Evaluation Report reflects the collective efforts of our dedicated staff and the vision shared by Assistant Director and Teacher Center Coordinator Dr. Missy Hixson and myself. Our team of approximately 100 employees—based in Farmington, Springdale, Rogers, and Bentonville—leverages a base funding allocation of $408,618 from the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education to manage a total cooperative budget of roughly $11 million.

Below is a snapshot of the programs we proudly provide in partnership with our member districts:

- APSCN Field Support
- Medicaid Billing Services
- Computer Science Education
- School Health Nurse Services
- Early Childhood Special Education
- Technology Support Services
- Education Services for Visually Impaired (ESVI)
- Science/STEM Support
- English Language Services
- Teacher Center Services
- Behavior Intervention Support
- Migrant Education Services
- Career and Technical Education (CTE)
- Math Support Services
- Dyslexia Services
- Professional Development
- Novice Teacher Training

Our mission at NWAESC is simple yet powerful: to *make a difference*. We are committed to advancing teaching and learning by equipping educators with the tools, training, and support they need to succeed. As lifelong learners ourselves, we are always seeking new, research-based practices that help elevate outcomes for students.

Arkansas's education service cooperatives have long played a vital role in implementing state initiatives, providing the training and infrastructure needed to drive student achievement. While we remain steadfast in our support of the Arkansas State Standards and the LEARNS Act, we are equally committed to developing local programs that respond directly to the unique needs of our districts.

As we look ahead to a new year of challenges and opportunities, we remain excited, focused, and optimistic. Thank you for your continued partnership and dedication to improving education for every student in Northwest Arkansas.

Sincerely,

**Jody Wiggins**

Director of the  Northwest Arkansas Education Service Cooperative

***"Serving the Schools, Serving the Children"***

NORTHWEST ARKANSAS
Education Service Cooperative

**Northwest Arkansas Education Services Cooperative**

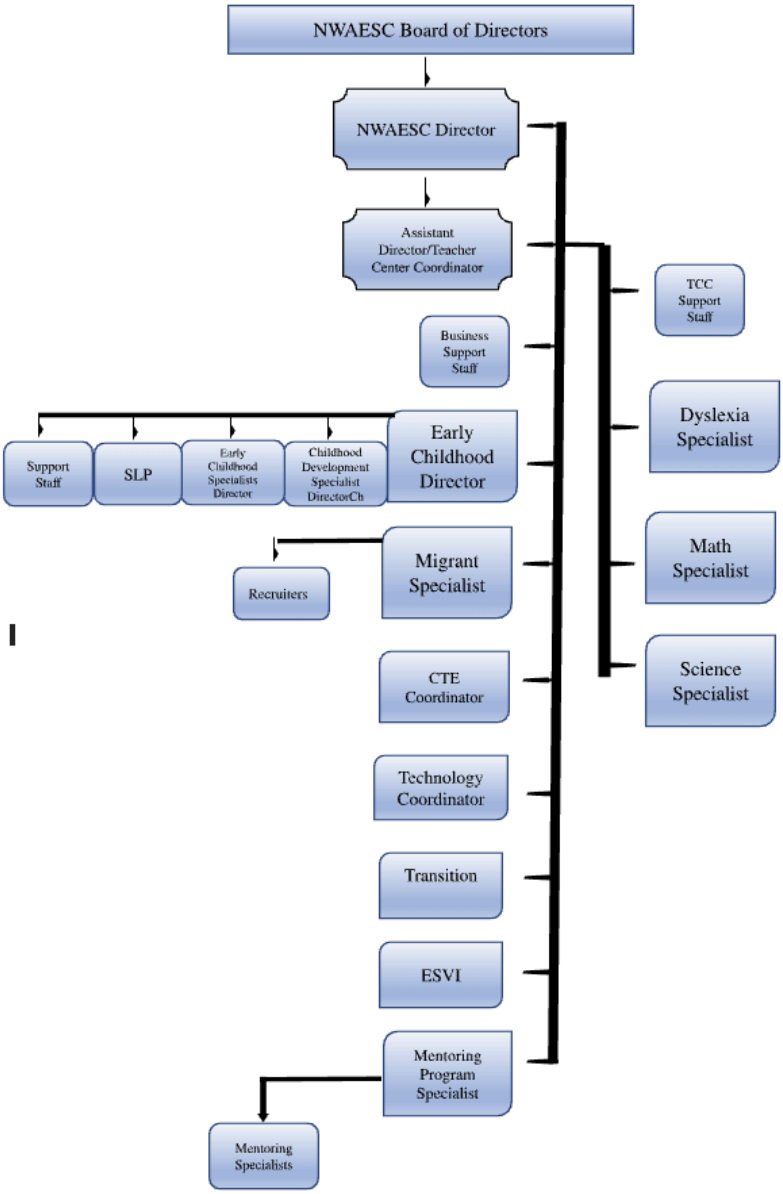
# Arkansas Education Service Cooperatives

**Mission Statement:** The mission of the Northwest Arkansas Education Service Cooperative is to promote high expectations for positive leadership in order to effect desired change for educators and students in this region. We further seek to foster public and private sector educational partnerships as we seek to continuously enhance and expand the quality of programs and services for the schools we serve.

Northwest Arkansas Education Cooperative proudly serves Benton, Washington, and Madison Counties.

NORTHWEST ARKANSAS
Education Service Cooperative

# Organizational Chart




**Additional Affiliates**
Behavior Support Specialists
Computer Science Specialist
Regional ESOL Specialist
Multicultural Liaison/Interpreter

**Additional Affiliates**
Community Health Nurse Specialist
Community Health Specialist
eSchool Staff
Arkansas Teacher Retirement Rep

NORTHWEST ARKANSAS
Education Service Cooperative

**Northwest Education Service Cooperative**

***Public School Districts served in Northwest Arkansas Education Service Cooperative:***
Bentonville, Decatur, Elkins, Farmington, Fayetteville, Gentry, Gravette, Greenland, Huntsville, Lincoln, Pea Ridge, Prairie Grove, Rogers, Siloam Springs, Springdale, and West Fork

***Charter Schools served in Northwest Arkansas Education Service Cooperative:***
Arkansas Arts Academy, Arkansas Connections Academy, Haas Hall, Founders Classical Academy, Hope Academy, Responsive Ed Solutions Premier High School,

**Officers of the Board**

| Name | Position | School District |
|---|---|---|
| Mr. Jon Laffoon | President | Elkins |
| Dr. Jared Cleveland | Vice-President | Springdale |
| Mr. Jody Wiggins | Director/Ex-officio | NWAESC |
| Mr. Keith Martin | Secretary | Pea Ridge |

**Members of the Board**

| Name | Position | School District |
|---|---|---|
| Dr. Debbie Jones | Board Member | Bentonville |
| Dr. Steve Watkins | Board Member | Decatur |
| Mr. Jeremy Mangrum | Board Member | Elkins |
| Mr. Jon Laffoon | Board Member | Farmington |
| Dr. John Mulford | Board Member | Fayetteville |
| Dr. Tyler Broyles | Board Member | Gentry |
| Mr. Jeff Gravette | Board Member | Gravette |
| Dr. Andrea Martin | Board Member | Greenland |
| Mr. Bryan Law | Board Member | Huntsville |
| Dr. Mary Ann Spears | Board Member | Lincoln |
| Dr. Lance Campbell | Board Member | Prairie Grove |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Dr. Jeff Perry | Board Member | Rogers |
| Mr. Shane Patrick | Board Member | Siloam Springs |
| Dr. Jared Cleveland | Board Member | Springdale |
| Mr. John Unger | Board Member | West Fork |

NORTHWEST ARKANSAS
Education Service Cooperative

**Northwest Arkansas Education Cooperative 2024-2025 Teacher Center Committee**

| Committee Member | District | Position | Expires |
|---|---|---|---|
| Ms.Alyson Lyles | Bentonville | Elementary Teacher | 2027 |
| Ms. Jayme Burden | Decatur | High School Teacher | 2025 |
| Ms. Monique Lambert | Elkins | Elementary Teacher | 2026 |
| Ms. Brittany Reano | Farmington | Middle School Teacher | 2027 |
| Ms. Brooke Edwards | Fayetteville | Elementary Teacher | 2026 |
| Ms. Sue Ann Chenault | Gentry | Middle School Teacher | 2025 |
| Dr. Mandy Barrett | Gravette | Elementary Administrator | 2027 |
| Mr. Robert Fithian | Greenland | Middle School Teacher | 2027 |
| Ms. Sherry Baldwin | Huntsville | Middle School Teacher | 2027 |
| Ms. Olivia Barenberg | Lincoln | Elementary Teacher | 2027 |
| Mr. Evan Athanasiou | Pea Ridge | Middle School Teacher | 2027 |
| Dr. Evan Hubbard | Prairie Grove | High School Teacher | 2027 |
| Ms. Kristy Brown | Rogers | Curriculum Administrator | 2027 |
| Ms. Kelle Meeker | Siloam Springs | High School Principal | 2025 |
| Mr. Aaron Tinnin | Springdale | MS/JH Administrator | 2026 |
| Ms. Cynamin Jarnagan | West Fork | High School Teacher | 2025 |

**Superintendent**
**1 Year Term**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Mr. Jeff Gravette | Gravette | Superintendent | 2025 |

NORTHWEST ARKANSAS
Education Service Cooperative

# Division of Elementary and Secondary Education

Education Service Cooperative (ESC) Annual Report

**Date:** June 2025 **LEA#** 072-21 **ESC#** 072-21

**ESC Name:** Northwest Arkansas Education Service Cooperative

**Address:** 4 North Double Springs Road, Farmington, AR 72730

**Phone Number:** 479-267-7450 **Fax:** 479-267-7456

**Director:** Mr. Jody Wiggins **Teacher Center Coordinator:** Dr. Missy Hixson

**Counties Served:** Benton, Madison, and Washington **Number of Districts:** 16

**Number of Charters:** 8 **Total Number of Students:** 98,335

| District | Total Number of Students | Percentage of Free/Reduced Lunches | Certified Staff | Certified Classroom Teachers | Classified Staff |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Bentonville | 19,575 | 19% | 598 | 1,365 | 1,000 |
| Decatur | 575 | 79% | 16 | 76 | 45 |
| Elkins | 1,428 | 45% | 32 | 116 | 59 |
| Farmington | 2,917 | 31% | 58 | 202 | 123 |
| Fayetteville | 10,154 | 40% | 310 | 684 | 715 |
| Gentry | 1,753 | 54% | 47 | 142 | 97 |
| Gravette | 2,056 | 43% | 40 | 154 | 131 |
| Greenland | 747 | 72% | 15 | 70 | 40 |
| Huntsville | 2,212 | 70% | 39 | 192 | 159 |
| Lincoln | 1,047 | 70% | 19 | 89 | 76 |
| Pea Ridge | 2,610 | 32% | 45 | 192 | 214 |
| Prairie Grove | 2,160 | 45% | 41 | 155 | 108 |
| Rogers | 15,281 | 51% | 745 | 1,208 | 761 |
| Siloam Springs | 4,546 | 59% | 117 | 296 | 288 |

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Springdale | 21,656 | 73% | 393 | 1,501 | 1,266 |
| West Fork | 736 | 42% | 16 | 85 | 56 |
| **Charter Schools** | | | | | |
| AR Arts Academy | 945 | 41% | 24 | 72 | 30 |
| AR Connections Academy | 4,575 | 36% | 156 | 89 | 8 |
| Founders Classical Academies-NWA | 1,648 | 10% | 12 | 118 | 45 |
| Garfield Scholars' Academy | 73 | 40% | 3 | 7 | 4 |
| Haas Hall Academy | 1,427 | 1% | 19 | 97 | 19 |
| Hope Academy NWA | 25 | 8% | 3 | 5 | 10 |
| Responsive Ed Solutions Premier HS of Sprg | 102 | 25% | 1 | 4 | 3 |
| School for Advanced Studies | 87 | 26% | 19 | 17 | 5 |

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Totals** | 98,335 | - | 2,768 | 6,936 | 5,262 |

## I. Governance:

A. How is the co-op governed? **Board of Directors**
How many members are on the Board? **16**
How many times did the Board meet? **9**
When is the regular meeting? **First Thursday of each month**

Date of the current year's annual meeting: **Thursday June 3, 2025**

B. Does the co-op have a Teacher Center Committee? **YES**
How many are on the Teacher Center Committee? **17**
How many members are teachers? **11**
How many times did the Teacher Center Committee meet? **3**
When is the regular meeting? **As scheduled (three times per year)**
When was the most recent survey/needs assessment conducted? **November 2024**

C. Have written policies been filed with the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education? **Yes**

## II. Staff

Please list (or attach a list of) all staff members of the co-op (including those housed at the co-op and paid through other sources), their titles and the salary funding sources for the positions. Place an asterisk (*) beside those who are housed at the co-op only and whose salary does not flow through the co-op's budget.

S=State, F=Federal, H=Head Start, M=Medicaid, P=Private Funding, B=Base Funds, D=District Allocations

**2024-2025 Employees**

| Employee Name | Position | Funding Source | New Hire | Resigned |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Allgood McGee, Zoe | Speech/Language Pathologist | S | | |
| Augustosky, Meggi | Community Health Promotion Specialist | * | | |
| Bair, Brittney | Literacy Specialist | S | | |
| Barker, LeighAnn | Accounts Payable Clerk | S | Y | |
| Becker, Capucine | EC SPED Teacher | | Y | |
| Brown, Christin | Paraprofessional | S | | |
| Brown, Ember | Speech/Language Pathologist | S | | |
| Butcher, Kelli | Community Health Nurse Specialist | * | | |
| Canion, Chelsea | APSCN Field Analyst | * | | |
| Clements, Leslie | EC SPED Teacher | S | | |
| Coats, Lisa | EL Specialist | S | | |
| Corbino, Dena | EC SPED Teacher | S | | 11/29/2024 |
| Davidson, Megan | Speech/Language Pathologist | S | Y | |

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Davis, Martha | Adm. Asst/Fingerprinting | S | | |
| Deertz, Betsy | Early Childhood Secretary | S | | |
| DeVore, Colleen | Early Childhood Coordinator | S | | |
| Dowdle, Rachel | Speech/Language Pathologist | S | Y | |
| Estes, Shem | EC SPED Teacher | S | | |
| Faizy, Aqela | Afghan Refugee Liaison | F | | |
| Flood, Jill | Speech/Language Pathologist | S | | |
| Florick, Wendy | Speech/Language Pathologist | S | | |
| Gallardo, Angela | Migrant Parent Engagement Liaison | F | | |
| Galucki, Natalie | EC SPED Teacher | S | | |
| Gammill, Jennifer | Science Specialist | S | | |
| Garnett, Joni | EC SPED Teacher | S | | |
| George, Lindsey | Speech/Language Pathologist | S | | 1/10/2025 |
| Gooch, Michelle | Regional Mentoring Specialist | S | Y | |
| Graf, Darlene | EC SPED Teacher | S | Y | |
| Green, Courtney | Speech/Language Specialist | S | Y | |
| Hardy, Regan | Adm. Asst/Medicaid Clerk | S | Y | |
| Harris, Cris | Speech/Language Pathologist | S | | |
| Hartley, Amy Roxane | EC SPED Teacher | S | Y | |
| Hein, Bridget | EC SPED Teacher | S | Y | |

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Henschell, Tamara | Speech/Language Pathologist | S | Y | |
| Heck, Amy | Speech/Language Pathologist | S | | |
| Higgins, Hannah | EC SPED Teacher | S | Y | |
| Hixson, Dr, Missy | Assistant Director/TC Coordinator | B | | |
| Holder, Marsha | ESVI Specialist | F | | |
| Holtz, Rebecca | Child Development Specialist | S | | |
| Hull, Anne-Ashley | Speech/Language Pathologist | S | | |
| Hunt, Angela | EC SPED Teacher | S | | |
| Hunter, Katelynd | Paraprofessional | S | | |
| Johnson, Kara | Speech/Language Pathologist | S | | |
| Johnston, Hope | Sign Language Facilitator | S | | |
| Johnston, Paul | SPED Transition Specialist | F | | |
| Komarek, Cindy | Child Development Specialist | S | | |
| Lancaster, Kat | Behavior Support Specialist | * | | |
| Ledbetter, Elizabeth | Speech/Language Pathologist | S | | |
| Locke, Lauren | Paraprofessional | S | Y | |
| Lomax, Morgan | Speech/Language Pathologist | S | | |
| Lovelady, Lindsey | Behavior Support Specialist | * | | |
| Maddan, Heather | MEP Student Support Specialist | F | | |

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| McLaren, Lisa | Child Development Specialist | S | | |
| Moore, Anna | Speech/Language Pathologist | S | | |
| Nava, Lourdes | MEP Student Support Specialist | F | Y | |
| Neal, Cayce | Regional Mentoring Coordinator | S | | |
| Nelson, Marlo | Child Development Specialist | S | | |
| Noll, Lydia | Math Specialist | S | | |
| Orange, Lynn | Speech/Language Pathologist | S | | |
| Parks, Kayla | Paraprofessional | S | | |
| Pelfrey, Wendy | Child Development Specialist | S | | |
| Pratt, Maritza | Spanish Interpreter | S | | |
| Ramer, Michael Ann | Speech/Language Pathologist | S | | |
| Ratelle, Lisa | EC SPED Teacher | S | | |
| Rhodes, Rachele | EC SPED Teacher | S | | |
| Ritchie, Laura | EC SPED Teacher | S | Y | |
| Schlinker, Jeremy | Technology Coordinator | S | | |
| Schmitt, Karle | Regional Mentoring Specialist | S | Y | |
| Smith, Robbye | Migrant Recruiter | F | | |
| Smith, Robyn | EC SPED Teacher | S | | |
| Sparks, Brittany | Migrant Recruiter | S | | |
| Storm, Tina | TCC Admin. Assistant | S | | |
| Stripling, Robin | SPED Consultant | P | Y | |
| Thompson, Brandy | EC SPED Teacher | S | | |
| Trolinger, Stephanie | CTE Coordinator | F | Y | |

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Vanhook, Jakki | Business Manager | B | | |
| Vardeman, Monica | EC Admin. Assistant | S | | |
| Vining, Savannah | Paraprofessional | S | | |
| Vinson, Jennifer | Migrant Specialist | F | | |
| Waldrop, Crystal | EC SPED Teacher | S | | |
| Walker, Jessica | EC SPED Teacher | S | | |
| Warford, Shelby | Paraprofessional | S | | |
| Watson, Josh | Automation & Robotics Teacher | S | | |
| White, Cynthia | ESVI Specialist | F | | |
| Wiggins, Jody | Director | B | | |
| Williams, Rebecca | Speech/Language Pathologist | S | | |
| Willis, Jeremy | Speech/Language Pathologist | S | | |
| Wohlford, Patti | Business Assistant | B | | |
| Wynn, Stephanie | Speech/Language Pathologist | S | | |
| Yates, Mitzi | EC SPED Teacher | S | | |
| Zimmerebner, Claire | Speech/Language Pathologist | S | | |

## III. Teacher Center

Please attach a list of all in-service training/staff development workshops offered through the co-op, including month offered, topic, number of districts participating, number of participants and location of workshops. Place an asterisk (*) beside those which provided curriculum assistance. Include a cumulative total of participants. See attached form.

Does the co-op provide media services to schools? **YES (check out basis)**
Approximate the number of titles in media center: **45**
Does the co-op provide delivery to the districts? **NO**
How many districts participate in the media program? **N/A**

How many titles (including duplicate counts) were provided to schools during this current year? **N/A**

Do districts contribute dollars to the media services? **NO**

How are media / technology charges per district determined (formal or per ADM)? **N/A**

Does the co-op operate a "make-and-take" center for teachers? **YES (as needed)**

How many teacher visits have been made to the center? (Count all teachers who have visited the center, using duplicate counts for teachers who have visited the center more than once.) **81**

## IV. Administrative Services

Please check administrative services offered through the co-op:

[X] Administrators and Local Board Member trainings

[X] Assessment data analysis and support

[X] Behavior Support services

[X] Bookkeeping assistance

[X] Business Management training

[X] Carl Perkins/CTE assistance

[X] Computer Science support

[X] Cooperative purchasing

[X] Curriculum support

[X] Dyslexia support

[X] E-Rate applications

[X] English Language support

[X] eSchool and eFinance support

[X] Evaluation procedures

[X] Fingerprinting

[X] Gifted and Talented support

[X] Grant writing assistance

[X] Health and Nurse services

[X] Instructional facilitator training

[X] Math/Science/STEM/Literacy support

[X] Media services

[X] Migrant student identification

[X] Novice Teacher Mentoring

[X] Numerous professional development opportunities for teachers

[X] Special Education services

[X] Technology support and training

[ ] Other (please specify)

## V. Direct Services to Students

Please check the student services provided through the co-op:

[ ] Academic Competition in Education (ACE)

[ ] Amazing Shake (grades 4-5)

[X] Behavior Support services

[ ] Chess Tournament

[ ] Computer Science competitions

[ ] Gifted/talented programs

[X] Early Childhood Special Education ages 3-5 years old

[X] Low incidence handicapped

[X] Migrant Education services

[ ] National History Day (NHD)

[X] Nursing services

[X] Occupational Therapy

[ ] Odyssey of the Mind

[X] Physical Therapy

[X] Quiz Bowl

[X] Speech therapist

[ ] Science Olympiad

[ ] STEAM Day (grades 3-4)

[ ] Other (Please specify):

## VI. Anecdotal Reports:

Please attach descriptions of activities which demonstrate partnerships, agreements or creative ways that the co-op has assisted local districts. The co-op personnel may write the reports, or the descriptions may be written by local schools served by the co-op. These reports may also include letters sent to the co-op or evaluations of a co-op activity.

The Northwest Arkansas Education Service Cooperative (NWAESC) continued the work to support regional schools in a plethora of ways, including working with educators with teaching and learning initiatives, assisting with accountability and compliance information, alignment of K-12 schools with higher education and/or business and industry needs, and partnering with our local educator prep programs to assist in teacher recruitment, etc. sessions were held both at the Co-op onsite in the districts where possible. Additionally, some other highlights are listed below:

**NWAESC and SpEd Strategies Grant-**The Arkansas Department of Education (ADE) launched the Inclusive Practice Project in 2020 to "Promote an intentional focus on inclusive practices to ensure that students who are IEP-eligible, as well as other groups of struggling learners, have meaningful access to core instruction." The project's timeline has been ambitious with the expectation of having as many K-7th students as possible included in general education during the current 2024-25 school year with plans to add grades through high school by 2030. Through this Walton Family Foundations grant, NWAESC is working in partnership with SPED Strategies and ADE to support the quality implementation of the Inclusive Practices Project in NWA. During this time, SPED Strategies will be running an intensive cohort program with six (6) schools per year. NWAESC's local special education consultant will support that effort through school visits and training support, and she will provide training, instructional coaching, and

technical assistance for educators and schools not in the SPED Strategies' intensive cohorts.

The Special Education Consultant has provided training for twelve of the districts in NWA on topics including Universal Design for Learning, backward design, flexible scheduling, effective scaffolding strategies, and the use of artificial intelligence to meet individual student needs. She is also providing ongoing coaching for two NWA districts.

**Automation and Robotics and Career and Technical Experiential Program Grants -** The Northwest Arkansas Education Service Cooperative (NWAESC), in partnership with the Walton Family Foundation and Insightful Education Solutions, is conducted a comprehensive review of Career and Technical Education (CTE) pathways offered to students in Northwest Arkansas. This initiative focused on pathways aligned with regional economic demands, equipping students with the knowledge, skills, and credentials necessary for long-term career advancement and economic stability.

The primary goal of this collaboration was to strengthen alignment between high-demand, high-skill, and high-wage occupations. NWAESC is working to meet this need by vertically aligning CTE courses with postsecondary credentialing programs, emphasizing progressive, sequential coursework that builds toward career readiness. A high-quality CTE pathway must be interconnected—blending academic and workforce experiences that prepare students to excel in both education and employment settings.

A key development within this initiative was a partnership with Northwest Arkansas Community College to launch a robotics training program. This program provides students the opportunity to gain hands-on experience and certification in the operation of FANUC robots. It represents the first phase of a broader strategy to expand robotics education across the region, supporting students whether they pursue direct entry into the workforce or continue their studies in robotics and automation at the college level.

With support from the Northwest Arkansas Council, participating school districts conducted site visits to leading CTE programs in Frisco, Texas; Phoenix, Arizona; and San Antonio, Texas, with additional visits planned to Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, and Grand Rapids, Michigan. These trips helped to identify exemplary programs and districts that serve as national leaders in career and technical education, informing the continued development of high-quality opportunities for students in Northwest Arkansas.

**ESC Works-** Since 2004, the escWorks platform has been used across the state to house professional development hours required by Arkansas law to renew and retain teaching licenses and certifications. escWorks is an event management software that can schedule and track professional development offerings online. It

then produces reports to quickly and clearly communicate services provided or taken over time. The software is made up of multiple online modules designed to schedule events, manage data, and most importantly, keep track of educators professional development hours. Before escWorks was purchased, there was not a consistent and logistical platform to track educator professional development in Arkansas.

By using escWorks, Arkansas school districts and administrators can access professional development history from any educator at any location across the state. This platform allows for school districts to easily verify employment history and trainings when they are interviewing and selecting high-quality educators for open positions.

Whether an educator has taught one year or twenty, they can use the platform to see their history of professional development and courses taken over their career. They can print transcripts and reports to keep in their personnel files or personal folders. Participants also have the ability to print a certificate of completion after a training.

Additionally, after each training session, a professional development evaluation survey is sent to all participants. The surveys are identical in the platform and allow participants to share feedback about trainings that our staff or guest presenters instruct. Our cooperative staff and specialists use the data from these surveys to improve instruction and grow in methodology. We measure the level of implementation of knowledge and skills participants had before and after attending the training. The comment section at the end of the survey is another tool we use to gain personal feedback from the teachers we support. It also allows us to closely inspect our practices and delivery methods.

Each Educational Cooperative assists their local school districts with escWorks in the following ways:

- Hosting trainings for new and veteran teachers on how to use the platform.
- Input trainings, meetings, and other events that participants can select to attend for yearly professional development.
- Check attendance records with district administration to make sure professional development requirements were met.
- Mark attendance in escWorks after a training is completed.
- Answer Help Desk questions that come from users of escWorks.
- Assist current and retired educators with obtaining records and reports.

Each of the fifteen Educational Service Cooperatives and the Arkansas Department of Education split the cost of this service each year. Approximately $6,787.73 was paid by each entity for site maintenance and support FY24-25. Southeast Service Cooperative handles the renewal and purchase of this program each year. The total amount paid to escWorks to cover Region 4 (Arkansas) was $101,815.95 FY 24-25.

**Teacher Recruitment-**In partnership with three local university teacher education preparation programs and local school districts, the NWAESC Mentoring Program hosted a Pre-Service Teacher Reception. Spring 2024 graduates learned about the Early Career Educator Program and how the NWAESC is able to support educators. These future educators had the opportunity to engage in a Question and Answer discussion with different administrators in NWA to hear tips on best interview practices. Districts were able to interview these candidates for hiring at the time of the event.

**Arkansas Teacher Retirement Counselor-**NWAESC hosts an Arkansas Teacher Retirement Counselor who meets with members to help them better understand the retirement system and how it works. The ATR Counselor assists members with retirement and Tdrop applications. From May 2024-April 2025 there have been 434 meetings both virtual and in person.

NORTHWEST ARKANSAS
Education Service Cooperative

## Program Summaries

**Program:** **Arkansas Public School Computer Network (APSCN)**
**Funding Source:** Division of Elementary and Secondary Education
**Funding:** $3,600
**Competitive Grant:** No
**Restricted:** No

---

**Participating Districts:**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Arkansas Arts Academy | Arkansas Connections Academy | |
| Bentonville | Decatur | Elkins |
| Farmington | Fayetteville | Gentry |
| Gravette | Greenland | Haas Hall |
| Huntsville | Lincoln | Pea Ridge |
| Prairie Grove | Rogers | Siloam Springs |
| Springdale | West Fork | Hope Academy of NWA |
| Garfield Scholars Academy | Advanced Studies of NWA | |

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**Personnel:**
**Name:** Chelsea Canion
**Position:** SMS Field Analyst

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**Goal:**
Our goal is to provide end-user support to district student users of the SMS statewide student management system, Cognos reports, and meeting statewide guidelines.

---

**Program Summary:**

The Student Applications Field Analyst provides services to districts within Arkansas that utilize the SMS statewide student management system software. The software is used to store district, school, and student data. Student Management Systems Applications is computer software used primarily to process and maintain student records. The SunGuard Pentamation student management systems applications provided by APSCN include: Demographics, Attendance, Scheduling, Report Cards, Discipline and Medical. With the use of nine cycles yearly, districts electronically submit data to DESE. The student field analyst provides districts with consulting and training workshops through meetings at the Cooperative, school visits, and communicating

closely by e-mail and telephone. Various training offered throughout the year include, but are not limited to, SMS Required Fields for State Reporting, New Personnel, Cognos Report Writing, Next Year Scheduling and Year End Rollover.

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**Major Highlights of the Year:**

- Provided 17 trainings for all districts throughout the 2024 year along with multiple one-on-one training and support.

NORTHWEST ARKANSAS
Education Service Cooperative

**Program:** **Arkansas Transition Services**
**Funding Source:** Federal Grant
**Funding:** $125,000
**Competitive Grant:** No
**Restricted:** Yes

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**Participating Districts:**
**NWAESC Districts**:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| AR Arts Academy | AR Connections Academy | Bentonville |
| Decatur | Elkins | Farmington |
| Fayetteville | Gentry | Gravette |
| Greenland | Haas Hall Academy | Huntsville |
| Lincoln | Pea Ridge | Prairie Grove |
| Rogers | Siloam Springs | Springdale |
| Premier High School | West Fork | |

**O.U.R. Districts:**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Alpena | Bergman | Berryville |
| Cotter | Deer/Mt. Judea | Eureka Springs |
| Flippin | Green Forest | Harrison |
| Jasper | Lead Hill | Omaha |
| Ozark Mountain | Valley Springs | |
| Yellville/Summit | | |

**Guy Fenter ESC Districts:**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Alma | Booneville | Cedarville |
| Charleston | County Line | Fort Smith |
| Future School of Fort Smith | | Greenwood |
| Hackett | Lavaca | Magazine |
| Mansfield | Mountainburg | Mulberry |
| Ozark | Paris | Premier High School-Fort Smith |
| Van Buren | Waldron | |

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**Personnel:**
**Name:** Paul Johnston
**Position:** Transition Consultant
**Degree:** MM-UA Fayetteville, BSE-Missouri State, AAS-UA Fort Smith

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**Goal:**

To provide district, regional, and state-wide training throughout the year to prepare teachers to help Special Education students reach their post school goals as stated on their Transition Plans per their IEP. To provide consults with participating districts to assist students, parents, and teachers in assisting students to reach their post school goals. To develop and facilitate local Transition Teams for school districts. To assist LEAs in folder reviews to ensure Transition Plans on the IEP are accurate and help students to reach their post school goals.

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**Program Summary:**

Arkansas Transition Services is a consultant group in affiliation with the Arkansas Department of Education, Division of Secondary and Elementary Education, Office of Special Education, that provides training and technical assistance related to secondary transition to special education teachers, other relevant school staff, and relevant agency personnel in Arkansas. Our services are not only related to ensuring secondary transition requirements in the Individualized Education Program (IEP) are in place, but also include building capacity of local transition teams, and information and assistance on research and evidence-based practices that improve transition programs and post-school outcomes for students with disabilities. We are available to assist at no cost to public schools in Arkansas.

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**Major Highlights of the Year:**

Arkansas Transition Services (ATS) has been spending this year out in schools consulting and providing on-site statewide and regional professional learning opportunities. ATS also has a YouTube channel and a website (www.arkansastransition.com) as a resource to get our information out across the state.

**State Level**

- ATS continues to produce videos that are housed on both our YouTube channel and website that focus on specific areas of Transition. These are resources that can be accessed at any time. These provide educators and families the opportunity to access professional development and information on a variety of secondary transition topics.
- Arkansas Transition Services, Career and Technical Education, and Inclusion Films continue to partner to provide The Inclusion Films Film Camp for students with disabilities. The 2025 camp was held on-site this year April 21-25 at University of Arkansas Pulaski Technical College in North Little Rock. We had a full camp for 2025 with 47 students registered. Students write scripts, pitch proposals, cast characters, film, and produce a 7-10 minute short video. These experiences give students the opportunity to not only explore a variety of options in the film industry, but to experience team work, responsibility, accountability, and other pre-employment

skills. The skills they learn and practice at camp are all transferable work skills. The 2023 Camp had 33 students from across the state.

- Arkansas Transition Services is continuing its work to encourage schools to implement The Predictors Implementation Self-Assessment (PISA) tool. This tool allows schools and/or districts to take a closer look at their transition programs and identify predictors of positive post-school outcomes supported by evidence-based practices. The tool then allows for action planning to include those predictors and evidence-based practices for program growth or improvement. ATS has been using the PISA to help districts focus on Inclusion in General Education as well as other areas for which the school determines a need..
- Arkansas Transition Services in partnership with the University of Kansas, are participating in a study to see the effects of interagency collaboration for students with disabilities. The CIRCLES (Communicating Interagency Relationships and Collaborative Linkages for Exceptional Students) model involves three levels of interagency collaboration: Community Level Team, School Level Team, and IEP Team. The approach includes youth with disabilities who may need support from multiple adult service agencies to experience successful post-school outcomes. Follow up trainings were held this year. NWAESC schools participating in CIRCLES are Bentonville HS and Bentonville West HS, Fayetteville, Pea Ridge, and Siloam Springs. Guy Fenter schools are Future School of Fort Smith and Hackett as well as Eureka Springs from the OUR Co-op.
- College Bound Arkansas 2025 will be held June 2-4, 2025, on the University of Central Arkansas Campus. This is an on-campus experience that offers sessions for students, parents, and professionals, that focus on the following areas: self-advocacy, transitioning, assistive technologies, mental health and college survival. This provides students with an opportunity to explore the expectations of college and what support could be available to help them succeed. College Bound Arkansas 2024 had 11 students and 7 parents/professionals attend.
- Arkansas Transition Services and DESE Office of Special Education, Monitoring & Program Effectiveness team are continuing to collaborate in an effort to educate each group on specific requirements and procedures and to improve monitoring outcomes in transition related indicators through reviewing state and federal requirements.
- ATS held its statewide Transition Summit for teams from across the state in Hot Springs October 15-17. The Summit is a chance for Transition Teams from across the state to work on plans to improve transition at their respective districts and attend breakout sessions on Transition.
- ATS also works with adult service providers around the state to share concerns and possible strategies to better connect with schools and their students. We continue to work collaboratively among districts, agencies and ATS, and help with both on-site and virtual

Transition Fairs to increase the knowledge of agency services around the state. Agencies are also invited to participate in IEP meetings and on local transition teams.

- State Level Organizations Served:
    - Arkansas Council on Exceptional Children (AR-CEC) sub-division Division of Career Development and Transition (DCDT) - State President

**Co-op Level**

- Transition Fairs – ATS promotes and provides technical assistance for districts and regions that want to have a Transition Fair. The fairs are opportunities for students, parents, and teachers to connect with state and local agencies that can provide assistance.
    - NWAESC: Fayetteville held a Transition Fair February 27th, 2025
- Coop Trainings – 1 day of training (2 half day sessions) were offered at all 3 Co-ops.
    - "Transitioning to Success"
        - 71 attendees
            - NWAESC-Springdale, Siloam Springs, Farmington, Rogers, Prairie Grove, Eureka Springs, Elkins, Gentry, Fayetteville, Lincoln
            - Guy Fenter-Fort Smith, Booneville, Greenwood, Westside, County Line
            - OUR-Jasper, Berryville, Harrison, Alpena, Kingston
    - "Expect, Engage, Empower"
        - 37 attendees
            - NWAESC-Siloam Springs, Greenland, Springdale, Farmington, Prairie Grove, Eureka Springs, Elkins, Gentry, Fayetteville, Lincoln
            - Guy Fenter-Booneville, Fort Smith Greenwood, Hackett, Westside, Bentonville
            - OUR-Alpena, Berryville, Jasper, Park, Valley Springs
    - Additional Trainings
        - "Indicator 13 Walkthrough"-111 attendees-16 districts
- Technical Assistance was provided on a variety of Transition related subjects to teachers/staff in districts across the 3 co-op areas.
    - NWAESC – Gentry, Pea Ridge, Arkansas Arts Academy, Bentonville, Decatur, Elkins, Springdale, Fayetteville, Springdale
    - OUR – Cotter, Yellville/Summit, Harrison, Omaha
    - GFESC – Greenwood, Ozark, Hackett, Waldron
- Meetings regularly attended
    - AASEA Area I and Area II (Special Education Supervisors)

    - AR-CEC Board Meetings
    - Project Search Fort Smith-Mercy Hospital
    - Project Search Rogers-Embassy Suites
    - Project Search-Springdale Arkansas Children's NW
- Trainings/Conferences Attended:
    - Arkansas LEA Academy
    - Arkansas Collaborative Consultants Convening
    - Cognitive Coaching

NORTHWEST ARKANSAS
Education Service Cooperative

**Program:** **Behavior Support Specialist**
**Funding Source:** **Federal-Part B**
**Competitive Grant:** No
**Restricted:** Yes

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**Participating Districts: Statewide**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Bentonville | Decatur | Elkins | Farmington |
| Fayetteville | Gentry | Gravette | Greenland |
| Huntsville | Lincoln | Pea Ridge | Prairie Grove |
| Rogers | Siloam Springs | Springdale | West Fork |

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**Personnel:**

**Name:** Dr. Shelia Smith, Ph.D., L.P., BCBA-D
**Position:** BSS Director

**Name:** Jennifer Brewer, Ed.S.
**Position:** Behavior Support Specialist

**Name:** Kelly Davis, M.Ed., BCBA
**Position:** Behavior Support Specialist

**Name:** Audrey Kengla, M.S., CCC-SLP BCBA*
**Position:** Behavior Support Specialist

**Name:** Lindsey Lovelady, M.S., BCBA*
**Position:** Behavior Support Specialist

**Name:** Nicheyta Raino, M.Ed., BCBA
**Position:** Behavior Support Specialist

**Name:** Connie Thomason, M.Ed., BCBA
**Position:** Behavior Support Specialist

**Name:** Amanda Kirby, M.S.E.
**Position:** Behavior Support Specialist

**Name:** Carla Knight, M.S.E., BCBA
**Position:** Behavior Support Specialist

**Name:** Meagan Booe, M.Ed., BCBA
**Position:** Behavior Support Specialist

**Name:** Shanna Bailey, M.S.
**Position:** Behavior Support Specialist

**Name:** Sandy Crawley, M.S.E
**Position:** Behavior Support Specialist

**Name:** Sonaia Harsfield, M.Ed.
**Position:** Behavior Support Specialist

**Name:** Kat Lancaster, M.A.,CCC-SLP,

**Position:** Behavior Support Specialist

**Name:** Allison Mears, LPC., BCBA
**Position:** Behavior Support Specialist

**Name:** Jenna Stapp, M.A.T.
**Position:** Behavior Support Specialist

**Name:** Mary Walter, Ed.S., SPS
**Position:** Behavior Support Specialist

***(NWAESC)**

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| **BX3 Cohort 3- Building level teams** | |
|---|---|
| 1. Alma Intermediate<br>2. Bryant Elementary<br>3. Horatio Elementary<br>4. Hurricane Creek Elementary<br>5. McRae Elementary<br>6. Mena Middle School | 7. Mena High School<br>8. Oscar Hamilton Elementary<br>9. Pottsville Junior High<br>10. University Heights Elementary<br>11. Asbell Elementary |

| **BX3 Cohort 4 - Building level teams** | |
|---|---|
| 1. Arkansas Arts Academy High School<br>2. Magnolia Middle School<br>3. Sidney Deener Elementary<br>4. Westside Elementary - Searcy<br>5. Southwest Middle School rcy- WDM<br>6. Janie Darr Elementary<br>7. Arkadelphia High School<br>8. Lake Hamilton New Horizons<br>9. Washington Elementary<br>10. Lincoln Middle School<br>11. Cedarville Elementary<br>12. Glen Rose Elementary<br>13. Flippin Elementary<br>14. Beebe Elementary<br>15. Bob Folsom Elementary<br>16. The Academies of West Memphis<br>17. Westbrook Elementary - Harmony Grove | 18. Elmdale Elementary-Springdale<br>19. Louise Durham Elementary<br>20. Manila Elementary<br>21. K-8 Connect - Springdale<br>22. Indian Hills Elementary<br>23. Newport Elementary<br>24. East End Elementary<br>25. Lakeside Primary<br>26. Allbritton Elementary<br>27. Peak Elementary School<br>28. Harmony Leadership Academy<br>29. Rector Elementary School<br>30. Wonder Jr. High<br>31. Bayyari Elementary<br>32. North Heights Community School<br>33. Beebe Middle School<br>34. Benton Jr High |

| **BX3 Cohort 5 - Building level teams** | |
|---|---|
| 1. Waldron Middle School | 13. Eureka Springs Elementary |

| | |
|---|---|
| 2. Mountainburg Elementary<br>3. Mountainburg Middle School<br>4. Mountainburg High School<br>5. King Elementary-Van Buren<br>6. Fairview Elementary- Fort Smith<br>7. East Side- Magnolia<br>8. Central Elementary-Magnolia<br>9. Smackover-Norphlet Elementary<br>10. Hillcrest Elementary<br>11. East End Middle- Sheridan<br>12. Sheridan High School | 14. Eureka Springs Middle School<br>15. McCrory Elementary<br>16. Augusta Elementary<br>17. Augusta High School<br>18. Jerry "Pop" Williams Elementary-Farmington<br>19. Farmington High School<br>20. Arkansas Arts Academy Elementary<br>21. Clarendon Elementary |

**PROGRAM SUMMARY:**
The Arkansas Behavior Support Specialists (BSS) affiliated with the Arkansas Department of Elementary and Secondary education (DESE) - Office of Special Education lead the state-wide initiative, the BX3 (Behavior eXtreme 3 - Training, Coaching, Empowering) Project. This BX3 project is designed to build capacity by providing coaching to building-level behavior teams that are working to develop tiered systems of positive behavior supports for all students. BX3 assists building level teams in developing and monitoring at least one SMART goal based on their assessment on the Tiered Fidelity Inventory (TFI). Additionally, the BX3 teams create and update an action plan focused on meeting their individualized SMART goal(s). The BSS offer 4-6 coaching sessions for each BX3 team throughout the school year. Professional learning opportunities are offered as needed based on the SMART goal(s) and action plan.

**MAJOR HIGHLIGHTS OF 2024-25:**
- Cohort 3 continued with 11 building-level teams across the state
- Cohort 4 continued with 34 building-level teams across the state
- Accepted Cohort 5 with 21 building-level teams across the state
- 99% of participants in Cohort 3, 4 and 5 agreed to strongly agreed that the coaching session on the topic covered was beneficial.
- 99% of participants in Cohort 3, 4 and 5 agreed to strongly agreed that the BX3 Coaches helped their team plan action steps toward meeting their SMART goal(s).
- 99% of participants in Cohort 3, 4 and 5 agreed to strongly agreed that the interactions with and methods used by BX3 coaches were positive and acceptable.
- 98% of participants in Cohort 3, 4 and 5 agreed to strongly agreed that they feel confident in carrying out the steps in their action plan.

## CIRCUIT

**GOAL:**
- To provide technical assistance and support to local school district administrators and school personnel in the development and implementation of evidence-based behavior supports for students receiving special education services

- To provide professional development to local school district administrators and personnel on evidence-based behavior supports

**PROGRAM SUMMARY:**
The Behavior Support Specialists (BSS) provide technical assistance in the area of behavior to all school districts within the state. The BSS receive requests for technical assistance through the CIRCUIT on-line referral system. Once a request for services is received, the BSS works in conjunction with the Special Education Supervisor of the referring school district to identify and provide needed support for students with disabilities. Services include:

- On-site coaching and consultation, student observation, record review and written recommendations with follow up and training as needed
- Coaching student teams on Functional Behavior Assessment (FBA) and Behavior Intervention Plan (BIP) development
- Provide professional learning opportunities on evidence-based interventions

**MAJOR HIGHLIGHTS OF 2024-2025:**

- Provided on-site coaching and consultation, student observation, records review, assistance with functional behavior assessment, safety and behavior intervention planning for student teams for 155 CIRCUIT referrals across all Education Service Cooperatives

## Professional Learning Opportunities

**GOAL:**

- To provide professional development to local school district administrators and personnel on evidence-based behavior supports

**PROGRAM SUMMARY:**
The Behavior Support Specialist (BSS) position provides professional learning opportunities on evidence-based behavior practices via in-person, virtual, and online learning modules available to all school districts in all Education Service Cooperatives.

**MAJOR HIGHLIGHTS OF 2024-2025:**

- Offered 19 sessions of the 5 Essential Components of School-Wide Behavior Supports professional developments to building-level teams
- Added 10 Behavior Breaks which are short instructional videos to equip educators and parents with strategies that can be implemented quickly to improve student engagement and success. https://arbss.org/behavior-breaks/
- Offered over 140 professional learning opportunities in person or virtually to school districts in all Education Service Cooperatives with over 2655 participants

**ADDITIONAL BSS HIGHLIGHTS OF 2024-2025:**

- Planning for the first annual Arkansas School Behavior Conference
- Partnered with DESE to support THRIVE Leadership Academy Cohorts 5, 6, and 7 and THRIVE Leadership Academy at DeQueen-Mena ESC, Dawson ESC, Southeast ESC, and Arch Ford ESC to improve the implementation of positive behavior supports in school buildings. Provided 21 professional learning opportunities to THRIVE participants

- Served on the DESE Leadership Team for Arkansas THRIVE
- Served on the Arkansas Early Childhood Behavior Support Cadre'
- Served on the BehaviorHelp Kindergarten Transition Support Planning group
- Served on committee DESE staff and AETN to develop modules on Crisis Management and MTSS-B for AR IDEAS
- Facilitated BCBAs working in the school through ArPSBAN meetings (meet once a month either in person or virtual), connecting BCBAs across the state through a community of practice
- Newsletter is reaching nationally and internationally (8 countries)
- Several states are accessing our online modules including California, Colorado, Nevada and North Carolina
- Presented Multi-Tiered Behavior Support Resources at SEAS Conference
- Presented Mic Drop Sessions - Review of BSS Website at AAEA Conference
- Presented Increasing Student Behavior Supports at the Tier 2 Level: Student Intervention Matching (SIM) Form at the Transition Summit
- Presented Charting the Path to Tier 2 Behavior Interventions: Intro. to the Student Intervention Matching Form at LEA Academy
- Presented Navigating Tier 1 and Tier 2 Behavior Supports in the Inclusive Classroom at LEA Academy
- Presented The BX3 Journey Awaits! Building Capacity in School-Wide Positive Behavior Supports at LEA Academy
- Presented The Behavior Side of RTI with DESE- OCSS for New Administrators
- Presented Meaningful Access ToT: Behavior with DESE-OSE
- Presented Behavior Strategies and Resources at the The Teaching & Partnerships in Juvenile Detention Centers Workshop
- Presenting Supercharging Student Success: An Overview of Multi-Tiered Behavior Support at the ArSCA & DESE School Counselor Conference
- 14 BSS attended the Association of Positive Behavior Supports International Conference in St. Louis, MO
- 1 BSS attended the 23rd Annual NWPBIS Conference in Portland, OR
- 1 BSS attended the LRP Institute Convention in Phoenix, AZ

NORTHWEST ARKANSAS
Education Service Cooperative

**Program:** **Career & Technical Education (CTE)**
**Funding Source:** Arkansas Department of Education, Division of Career & Technical Education and Carl Perkins Grant
**Funding:** $227,277.96
**Competitive Grant:** No
**Restricted:** Yes

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**Participating Districts:**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Gravette | Huntsville | Decatur | Farmington |
| Prairie Grove | Lincoln | Elkins | West Fork |
| Greenland | | | |

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**Personnel:**
**Name:** Stephanie Trolinger
**Position:** CTE Coordinator
**Degree:** BSE Education

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**Goal:**

The goals of Career and Technical Education align with the State of Arkansas Strategic Goals: To Grow, Educate, and Improve Quality of Life. To this end, it is the mission of the NWAESC CTE Department to prepare students for future college and career success by:

- Facilitating the delivery of high-quality CTE programs and services that increase workplace readiness skills among the 97,000 students in NWA.
- Promoting and supporting equitable and diverse CTE learning opportunities and services to improve engagement and learning.
- To prepare students for future college and career success.

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**Program Summary:**

In Arkansas, the role of a CTE Coordinator at a cooperative is to provide leadership, support, and resources to member school districts to enhance their CTE Programs. In terms of administering Carl D. Perkins Vocational funding, the coordinator creates and manages the budget for nine consortia schools, providing accountability as required by the Division of Career and Technical Education. The coordinator acts as a liaison between the districts and the Department of Career and Technical Education (DCTE), helping to develop, implement, and improve programs aligned with state goals and objectives.

The coordinator collaborates with administrators and CTE staff to:

- Identify and develop new/innovative programs
- Initiate and facilitate grant applications

- Provide training for new CTE staff
- Implement mentor training programs for licensure
- Provide guidance in programming decisions
- Provide Perkins and new equipment audit assistance
- Promote CTSO participation and CTE program success
- Develop and deliver professional development for administrators and teachers

The coordinator works closely with districts in the collection of data, program evaluation and expansion, and technical assistance & expertise; collaborates widely with industry and community partners to identify workplace trends and needs to inform CTE program improvement. Works regionally with post secondary educators and other stakeholders to identify opportunities for concurrent credit and work-based learning experiences.

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**Major Highlights of the Year:**

- CTE Centers of Excellence Visits
    - Kent Career Center, Grand Rapids, Michigan
    - Francis Tuttle, Oklahoma City

- Fayetteville Chamber: FANUC Robotics Program Opportunity
- ESSA Steering Committee Meeting
- NW Arkansas Education Leadership PD: ACTE Vision Conference
- CTE Day at the State Capitol
- NWAESC CTE Showcase:
    - Farmington High School
    - Elkins High School
    - Lincoln High School
    - Prairie Grove High School
    - Greenland High School
    - West Fork High School
    - Huntsville High School
    - Decatur High School
    - Gravette High School
- Perkins V Administrator Training
- Perkins Administration & Start-up Grants Workshop
- NWA Council Industry Partnerships: Business Teacher Roundtable
- NWA Council Industry Partnerships: Medical Teacher Roundtable
- NWA Council Industry Partnerships: Career Coach Roundtable
- Adoption of Perkins Purchasing Policies and Guidelines
- Counseling and Career Coach Training
- GlowForge Proficiency Training

- BOSS Laser Training
- Virtual Reality for Career Development Training
- DCTE Opportunity Gap Analysis Workshop
- Work-based Learning for Career Development and Internship Instructors
- NEW CTE Teacher Training
- Don Tyson's School of Innovation Trade and Industry Days
- I49 Workforce Summit
- Industry Tours for Educators:
    - Walmart
    - Multi-Craft
    - Kimbel Mechanical
    - South Coast Baking
    - Emery, Sapp & Sons
    - XNA Airport
    - United Robotics
    - Razorback Sports Media Broadcasting
    - Northwest Arkansas Community College
- CTE Coordinator Retreat
- Mentor Novice CTE Teachers & Train new Mentors

| **Funding Highlights** | | |
|---|---|---|
| NWAESC Grant-funded Projects | Walton Family Found./CTE Centers (year 2) | $135,000.00 |
| | Virtual Reality Technology | $76,386.00 |
| Grant-writing Assistance - Funded | Lincoln: Agricultural Power, Structural, and Technical Systems | $106,353.49 |
| | Elkins: Agricultural Power, Structural, and Technical Systems | $19,839.00 |
| | Prairie Grove: Agricultural Power, Structural, and Technical Systems | $32,385.00 |
| **TOTAL GRANTS** | | **$369,963.49** |

NORTHWEST ARKANSAS
Education Service Cooperative

**Program:** **Computer Science**
**Funding Source:** Arkansas Department of Education Grant – Act 220 of 2017
**Competitive Grant:** Yes
**Restricted:** Yes

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**Statewide**

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**Personnel:**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Name:** | Brian Lawhon | **Name:** | Alex Moeller |
| **Position:** | Statewide CS Specialist | **Position:** | Statewide CS Specialist |
| **Degree:** | | **Degree:** | |
| **Name:** | Ashley Kincannon | **Name:** | Joshua Rodgers |
| **Position:** | Statewide CS Specialist | **Position:** | Statewide CS Specialist |
| **Degree:** | Ed.S. | **Degree:** | |
| **Name:** | John Hart | **Name:** | Stacy Reynolds |
| **Position:** | Statewide CS Specialist | **Position:** | Statewide CS Specialist |
| **Degree:** | MLIS | **Degree:** | MSE |
| **Name:** | Zachary Spink | **Name:** | Tammy Glass |
| **Position:** | Statewide CS Lead Specialist | **Position:** | Statewide CS Specialist |
| **Degree:** | MSE | **Degree:** | |

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**Goals:**
The ADE DCTE Office of Computer Science's established goals and associated tasks for computer science education implementation in Arkansas are divided into five categories:

**1. Standards, Curriculum, and Pathways -** Successful implementation of computer science education in Arkansas requires the development and periodic revision of a comprehensive and vertically articulated set of K-12 computer science curriculum standards and courses, the local creation of well-developed curriculum that supports student learning, proper alignment of the K-12 expectations and opportunities to industry needs, and appropriate K-20 pathway development for students seeking formal computer science education beyond high-school.

**2. Educator Development and Training** - Successful implementation of computer science education in Arkansas requires the ADE and its partner organizations to anticipate and address the needs of the Arkansas educational system with regards to knowledgeable and informed computer science teachers. ADE in collaboration with the Arkansas Educational Cooperatives and other partners must support quality computer science educator development and training opportunities for all Arkansas Educators and Administrators.

**3. Licensure** - Successful implementation of computer science education in Arkansas requires the ADE and its partner organizations to anticipate and address the needs of the Arkansas educational system with regards to licensed and endorsed computer science teachers. ADE will continue and further research and implement, when appropriate, flexible licensure pathways and practices, based on legislation and regulation.

**4. Outreach and Promotion** - Successful implementation of computer science education in Arkansas requires the active use of a broad range of mediums, digital tools, and human networks to properly communicate about the Arkansas Computer Science Education Initiative and respond to the needs and concerns of Arkansas students, educators, community members, and industry leaders.

**5. Program Growth and Student Success -** Successful implementation of computer science education in Arkansas requires encouraging broad school implementation, supporting lighthouse schools to expand their programs, increasing statewide teacher capacity, growing student interest, and increasing stakeholder interest and support using innovative programs and outreach initiatives.

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**Program Summary:**
Education Service Cooperatives, in partnership with the Arkansas Department of Education, administers the Computer Science Support Program for grades K-12 (Support for Integrating the Embedded K-8 Standards; Middle School Introduction to Coding: Grades 5-8; and High School CS). In the interest of providing Arkansas educators with access to quality computer science (CS) professional development (PD), the Arkansas Department of Education (ADE) Office of Computer Science provided grants for ten Computer Science Specialists beginning in 2017. The computer science specialists each serve the CS PD needs state-wide for all ESCs, and Public School Districts. Assistance is provided to local school district educators through PD services including sessions (ADE developed & customized based on needs assessments) at the Cooperative as well as support on-site in living the mission and striving for the vision of Computer Science Instruction in Arkansas.

**Vision**

*All Arkansas students actively engaging in a superior and appropriate computer science education*

**Mission**

*To facilitate Arkansas's transition to becoming and remaining a national leader in computer science education and technology careers*

**PD Offered:**

- Computer Science Impact Meeting
- High School Computer Science Certification and Preparation
- Autonomous Vehicle Workshop @ UCA
- Python Programming for Year 1 - High School CS Professional
- Python Programming for Year 2 & 3 - High School CS Professional Development
- Business Intelligence - High School CS/Business Professional

- Cybersecurity for Year 1 - High School CS Professional Development
- Cybersecurity for Year 2 & 3 - High School CS Professional
- Robotics for Year 1 - High School CS Professional Development
- Robotics for Year 2 & 3 - High School CS Professional Development
- Mobile Application Development for Year 1 - High School CS Professional Development
- Computer Science Planning and Pacing for Middle and High School
- Middle School Intro to Coding: Learn Text-Based Code (Formerly Coding Block)
- Computer Science: Teaching K-4
- Computer Science: Teaching 5-8
- Data Science for Year 1 - High School CS Professional Development
- Data Science for Year 2 & 3 - High School CS Professional Development
- Game Development and Design for Year 1 - High School CS
- Game Development and Design for Year 2 & 3 - High School CS Professional Development
- Computer Science: Intro to Block-Based Coding
- Computer Science: Transition to Text-based Coding
- Computer Engineering for Year 1 - High School CS Professional Development
- Networking for Year 1 - High School CS Professional Development
- Precision Agriculture
- Introduction to AI
- EAST Raspberry Pi
- EAST Circuit Playground

**Conferences Presented at:**

- State TSA Conference
- Arkansas Association for Career and Technical Education
- ADE Summit
- AEA PD Conference
- HSTI
- EAST Conference

**Events/Committees/Projects Assisted with:**

- National Computer Science Education Week – Scheduled daily activities with local districts - December 2025
- Regional Capture the Flag Events
- TSA State Conference – March 2025
- Support of Robotics Competitions (VEX, FIRST) March 2025
- All-State Coding Competition April 2025
- SkillsUSA April 2025

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**Major Highlights of the Year:**

- Revised pathways and standards across all CS courses
- Supported the work of the Data Science HIRED grant and the Cybersecurity HIRED grant
- Mentoring students across the state in Unity game development.

- Assisted with regional Stakeholder Meetings
- Provided training to annual ADE Counselor sessions
- Provided CS training to over 1853 education professionals and 8311 students.
- Lead Judge and Coding Challenge Creator for All-Region and All-State Coding Competition.
- Provided digital capture the flag events at schools and cooperatives around the state
- Administration statewide site visits for implementation of ACT 414
- Continued growth, development, and support of TSA
- Computer Science Completer Cords
- State of Computer Science Education Report - Code.org
- Partnered in the creation of new computer science related CTE courses

**ONGOING SUPPORT:**

- Specialists are in the process of revamping trainings for the upcoming summer
- Specialists have increased the number of professional development offerings as well as developed and will deliver several new trainings this summer..
- Specialists are currently working to visit all 260 districts to help support their implementation of ACT 414. This work will continue through the remainder of the year and summer.
    - For districts who already have computer science programs in place, specialists are working to identify ways to grow and develop their program to fit their needs.

NORTHWEST ARKANSAS
Education Service Cooperative

**Program:** **Digital Learning – Virtual Arkansas**
**Funding Source**: Arkansas Department of Education
**Competitive Grant**: No
**Restricted:** Yes

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**Participating Districts:**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Bentonville | Decatur | Elkins | Farmington |
| Fayetteville | Gentry | Gravette | Greenland |
| Huntsville | Lincoln | Prairie Grove | Rogers |
| Siloam Springs | Springdale | West Fork | |

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**Central Office Personnel:**

**Name:** John Ashworth
**Position:** Executive Director

**Name:** Dr. Brandie Benton
**Position:** Deputy Superintendent of Curriculum & Instruction

**Name:** Mindy Looney
**Position:** Director of Operations

**Name:** Candice McPherson
**Position:** Director of Development & Design

**Name:** Amy Kirkpatrict
**Position:** Director of Technology

**Name:** Jason Bohler
**Position:** Core Campus Principal

**Name:** Christie Lewis
**Position:** CTE Campus Director

**Name:** Tye Bibby
**Position:** Concurrent Credit Campus Principal

**Name:** Samantha Carpenter
**Position:** Core Campus Principal

**Name:** Rachel Walston
**Position:** Learn Anywhere Academy Principal

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**MISSION:** Our mission is to equip, engage, and empower Arkansas schools, students, and teachers by providing equitable access to superior online education.
**VISION:** Leveraging local, national, and global partnerships to advance student and educator success through innovative technologies and services.

**CORE VALUES:** Teamwork, Relationships, Integrity, Quality, Innovation

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**PROGRAM SUMMARY:**

Virtual Arkansas is a supplemental State Virtual School (SVS) that partners with local Arkansas schools, the Arkansas Department of Education, and the local Education Service Cooperatives to provide 7th-12th grade online courses, resources, and services to Arkansas schools, teachers, and

students who might not otherwise have access to these resources and opportunities. This initiative is guided by Act 2325 of 2005: An Act to Provide Distance Learning. www.virtualarkansas.org

We are not an online high school or a diploma-granting institution, but a resource for supplementing education for students through their local school.

Virtual Arkansas is comprised of five campuses:

- Core Campus High School: Arch Ford Educational Service Cooperative
- Core Campus Middle School: Arch Ford Educational Service Cooperative
- CTE Campus: Dawson Educational Service Cooperative
- Concurrent Credit Campus: Southeast Educational Service Cooperative
- DYS Campus: Arch Ford Educational Service Cooperative

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**GOALS:**

Virtual Arkansas exists to provide affordable and equitable educational access and opportunities for Arkansas students, teachers, and schools. According to *Act 2325 of 2005*, distance learning opportunities were employed:

- To help alleviate the teacher shortage
- To provide additional course-scheduling opportunities for students
- To provide an opportunity to access an enriched curriculum
- To develop and make available online professional development

Virtual Arkansas has specific goals that drive its operations. These goals are outlined in the chart below, along with the most recent results:

| Goals | 2023-2024 Results |
|---|---|
| Help Address the Arkansas Teacher Shortage | - VA made courses available in all critical academic licensure shortage areas<br>- VA provided access to 101 full-time Arkansas-certified teachers for local schools |
| Provide a Wide Range of Courses for Arkansas Students | - VA provided access to 220 total courses; 160 courses with a VA teacher<br>- These courses provided opportunities to 29,121 Content + Teacher enrollments and 6,482 Content Partnership enrollments |
| Ensure Educational Options for Economically Disadvantaged Students | - VA courses were made available to all high-poverty districts and were utilized by 88% of all Arkansas school districts with a 70% or higher FRL population<br>- VA offered preferred automatic concurrent credit registration for high-poverty districts. 100% of high-poverty |

| | |
|---|---|
| | schools that submitted the necessary paperwork for enrollment during the early registration period were granted seats in the classes for which they registered |
| Ensure Educational Options for Rural Students | - 60% of all Virtual Arkansas Content + Teacher Enrollments were from districts designated as rural<br>- VA provided educational options and opportunities to all rural districts and was utilized by 97% of all districts designated as rural<br>- 80% of all Concurrent Credit enrollments were from districts designated as rural |
| Provide Educational Options for Students with Scheduling Conflicts | - All VA courses can be taken at any time during the day, which provides flexibility in scheduling local course options to avoid scheduling conflicts<br>- This is particularly important for smaller districts, as they have many courses only available during certain periods of the day |
| Maintain Positive Customer Support Ratings | - Virtual Arkansas had a 100% positive rating in customer support/service measures on the 2023-2024 perception survey to administrators and counselors. |

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**Major Highlights of the 2023-2024 School Year - Virtual Arkansas**

- Provided parent orientation webinars and informational webinars throughout the school year.
- Recognized as a national leader, including the second highest number of Quality Matters externally reviewed and quality assurance certified courses in the nation.
- Partnered with the Department of Youth Services (DYS) to provide high-quality online courses and opportunities to adjudicated youth.
- After designing, developing, and launching the pre-educator Arkansas Teacher Residency Certified Teaching Assistant Concurrent Credit pathway and partnership to provide concurrent credit pre-educator options to students throughout the state, saw a 65% growth in student enrollments within the concurrent credit program.
- Spearheaded and implemented the state effort to include a new Arkansas Military Service and Security Pathway for students interested in a military future.
- Implemented a large-scale assessment improvement initiative that aligned course curriculum and assessments with the ATLAS assessment.
- Executive Director continues to serve the role of President for the Virtual Learning Leadership Alliance (VLLA), a partnership of 20 state virtual programs dedicated to advancing quality online learning.

- Multiple Virtual Arkansas directors serve as national online learning workgroup chairs, demonstrating our commitment innovation and online learning leadership at the national level.
- Partnered with Arkansas Tech University to offer summer college courses
- Designed, developed, or enhanced 44 courses
- Designed and implemented 10 new Credit Recovery courses

**Virtual Arkansas Data (Based on 2023-2024 School Year)**

- Have saved Arkansas school districts over $72,500,000 in enrollment fees over the last eleven years
- Have served over 311,000 enrollments over the last 11 years
- Virtual Arkansas Students had an 92% Pass Rate
- 12,726 Unique Arkansas Students Engaged in 29,121 Content + Teacher Enrollments
- 26,730 Credits Earned
- 78% of Virtual Arkansas teachers have a Master's degree or above
- 165 Content+Teacher courses available to students throughout Arkansas
- Concurrent Credit students Earned 9,284 College Concurrent Credit Hours
- 80% of Concurrent Credit enrollments from rural districts
- Career and Technical Education: 5,884 enrollments over two semesters
- 1,952 Computer Science enrollments
- 2,007 Advanced Placement Enrollments
- 97% of all Arkansas Rural Districts Served by Virtual Arkansas
- 60% of all Virtual Arkansas Content + Teacher Enrollments From Districts Classified as Rural
- 94% of all Arkansas public school districts served

NORTHWEST ARKANSAS
Education Service Cooperative

**Program**: **Dyslexia**
**Funding Source**: Division of Elementary and Secondary Education
**Funding:** $360,000
**Competitive Grant:** No
**Restricted:** Yes

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**Participating Districts:**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Arkansas Arts Academy | Bentonville | Decatur |
| Elkins | Farmington | Fayetteville |
| Fort Smith | Gentry | Gravette |
| Greenland | Haas Hall Academy | Huntsville |
| Lincoln | Pea Ridge | Prairie Grove |
| Rogers | Siloam Springs | West Fork |

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**Personnel**:
**Name:** Brittney Bair
**Position:** Dyslexia Specialist
**Degree:** M.Ed in Reading and Endorsement in Dyslexia

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**Goal**:

The goal of the dyslexia program is to provide guidance to NWAESC school districts in accordance with the Arkansas Dyslexia Resource Guide (2017) and Arkansas law (Ark. Code Ann. § 6-41-602). The major focus on this school year was to improve RTI systems for early identification of student who were at risk and provide early intervention.

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**Program Summary**:

The NWA Regional Dyslexia group consists of district leaders, facilitators, and interventionists involved in the selection and implementation of approved dyslexia intervention programs and identification of students with characteristics of dyslexia. The purpose of group meetings is to promote networking among districts and provide an opportunity for conversation around topics of interest. Office hours for 2024-2025 were hosted via zoom. The focus of office hours included specific topics, questions, or an opportunity for the region to collaborate. The table below contains collaboration opportunities along with special session dates and attendance.

**Collaboration Opportunities and Professional Development June 1, 2024- May 31, 2025:**

| Date | Session | Number of Participants |
|---|---|---|
| 6/3/2024 | Think Tank: AR Resource Guide | 5 |
| 6/12/2024 | Enhancing Early Literacy: The Power of Explicit Instruction | 4 |
| 6/26/2024; 6/27/24 | Dyslexia Level II Screening (Mahurin): Day 1 & 2 | 40 total |
| 7/19/2024 | Maximizing Accommodations: Creating Dyslexia -Inclusive Classrooms | 14 |
| 10/29/2024 | K-3 ATLAS, MTSS, and COD | 36 |
| 1/24/24; 2/27/24;/3/7/24; 4/11/24; 5/23/24 | A Community of Practice: Designing Systems to Support Dyslexia and Reading Deficits | 123 total |

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**Major Highlights of the Year**:

- Offered five sessions as a A Community of Practice: Designing Systems to Support Dyslexia and Reading Deficits series at NWAESC
  - The purpose of the series was to collaborate on developing or refining a system to support early identification, intervention, and strengthen instruction across the tiers.
  - Participants represented 8-10 districts
- Scheduled and offered one Dyslexia Level II assessment training for 2024-2025 (Mahurin)
- Scheduled and offered speech language pathologists a three-hour session on support students with dyslexia (Mahurin)
- Offered dyslexia special sessions which focused on delivering six-hour professional development opportunities to paraprofessionals, teachers, facilitators, and district leaders.
- Worked with schools on identifying needs based on updated law and supporting based on technical assistance plans.
- Consistent weekly office hours included specific topics for discussions, collaboration opportunities, and a platform for questions.

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**Individual District Support:**

Specific district support was provided for on-site technical assistance and guidance.

Support for districts included but was not limited to the following:

- data analysis
- determination of characteristics of dyslexia
- appropriate placement criteria
- progress monitoring
- exit criteria
- 504 accommodations
- other individual student concerns
- intensifying intervention and scaffolding
- Level II testing and data analysis support
- assessment audit

NORTHWEST ARKANSAS
Education Service Cooperative

**Program:** Early Childhood Special Education
**Funding Source:** Local through MOU (Federal/State)
**Funding:** $4,258,068.75
**Competitive Grant:** No
**Restricted Funding:** Yes

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**Participating Districts:**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Bentonville | Decatur | Gentry | Gravette |
| Pea Ridge | Rogers | Siloam Springs | Elkins |
| Farmington | Fayetteville | Greenland | Lincoln |
| Prairie Grove | Springdale | West Fork | Huntsville |

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**Personnel:**

**Name:** Anna Moore
**Position:** Speech Language Pathologist
**Degree:** M.S.

**Name:** Robyn Smith
**Position:** Special Education Teacher
**Degree:** M.Ed.

**Name:** Betsy Deertz
**Position:** Administrative Assistant
**Degree:** N/A

**Name:** Stephanie Wynn
**Position:** Special Education Teacher
**Degree:** B.S.

**Name:** Katelyn Hunter
**Position:** Paraprofessional
**Degree:** N/A

**Name:** Colleen DeVore
**Position:** SPED Coordinator
**Degree:** M.Ed.

**Name:** Crystal Waldrop
**Position:** Special Education Teacher
**Degree:** B.S.

**Name:** Darlene Graf
**Position:** Special Education Teacher
**Degree:** M.Ed.

**Name:** Laura Ritchie
**Position:** Special Education Teacher
**Degree:** B.S.

**Name:** Becky Holtz
**Position:** Special Education Teacher
**Degree:** M.Ed.

**Name:** Capucine Becker
**Position:** Special Education Teacher
**Degree:** M.Ed.

**Name:** Savannah Vining
**Position:** Paraprofessional
**Degree:** N/A

**Name:** Claire Kitzmiller
**Position:** Speech Language Pathologist
**Degree:** M.S.

**Name:** Cristina Harris
**Position:** Speech Language Pathologist
**Degree:** M.S.

**Name:** Morgan Lomax
**Position:** Speech Language Pathologist
**Degree:** M.S.

**Name:** Roxane Hartley
**Position:** Special Education Teacher
**Degree:** B.S.

**Name:** Monica Verdeman
**Position:** Secretary/Paraprofessional
**Degree:** N/A

**Name:** Amy Heck
**Position:** Speech Language Pathologist
**Degree:** M.S.

**Name:** Rachel Dowdle
**Position:** Speech Language Pathologist
**Degree:** M.S.

**Name:** Jessica Walker
**Position:** Special Education Teacher
**Degree:** B.S.

**Name:** Joni Garnett
**Position:** Special Education
**Degree:** B.S.

**Name:** Kara Johnson
**Position:** Speech Language Pathologist
**Degree:** M.S.

**Name:** Regan Hardy
**Position:** Admin. Asst./Medicaid Billing
**Degree:** N/A

**Name:** Tamara Henschell
**Position:** Speech Language Pathologist
**Degree:** M.S.

**Name:** Leslie Clements
**Position:** Special Education Teacher
**Degree:** B.S.

**Name:** Hope Johnson
**Position:** Language Facilitator
**Degree:** N/A

**Name:** Angela Hunt
**Position**: Special Education Teacher
**Degree:** ME.d

**Name:** Ember Brown
**Position:** Speech Language Pathologist
**Degree:** M.S.

**Name:** Courtney Green
**Position:** Speech Language Pathologists
**Degree:** M.S.

**Name:** Lynn Orange
**Position:** Speech Language Pathologist
**Degree:** M.S.

**Name:** Jill Flood
**Position:** Speech Language Pathologist
**Degree:** M.S.

**Name:** Jeremy Willis
**Position:** Speech Language Pathologist
**Degree:** M.S.

**Name:** Anne-Ashley Hull
**Position:** Speech Language Pathologist
**Degree:** M.S.

**Name:** Elizabeth Ledbetter
**Position:** Speech Language Pathologist
**Degree:** M.S.

**Name:** Open Position
**Position:** Administrative Liaison
**Degree:**.

**Name:** Wendy Pelfrey
**Position:** Special Education Teacher
**Degree:** B.S.

**Name:** Lisa McLaren
**Position:** Special Education Teacher
**Degree:** B.S.

**Name:** Maritza Pratt
**Position:** Interpreter
**Degree:** N/A

**Name:** Marlo Nelson
**Position:** Special Education Teacher
**Degree:** B.S.

**Name:** Michael Ann Ramer
**Position:** SLP Evaluator
**Degree:** M.S.

**Name:** Rachele Rhodes
**Position:** Special Education Teacher
**Degree:** M.Ed.

**Name:** Lindsey George
**Position:** Speech Language Pathologist
**Degree:** N/A

**Name:** Shem Estes
**Position:** Sped. Teacher/Evaluator
**Degree:** B.S.

**Name:** Wendy Florick
**Position:** Speech Language Pathologist
**Degree:** M.S.

**Name:** Lisa Rattelle
**Position:** Special Education Teacher
**Degree:** ME.d.

**Name:** Shelby Warford
**Position:** Paraprofessional
**Degree:** None

**Name:** Brandy Thompson
**Position:** Special Education Teacher
**Degree:** M.Ed.

**Name:** Christin Brown
**Position:** Paraprofessional
**Degree:** None

**Name:** Rebecca Smith
**Position:** Speech Language Pathologist
**Degree:** M.S.

**Name:** Shelby Warford
**Position:** Paraprofessional
**Degree:** N/A

**Name:** Natalie Gulecki
**Position:** Sped. Teacher/Evaluator
**Degree:** M.Ed.

**Name:** Zoe Algood
**Position:** Speech Language Pathologist
**Degree:** M.S.

**Name:** Kayla Parks
**Position:** Paraprofessional
**Degree:** None

**Name:** Wendy Pelfrey
**Position:** Special Education Teacher
**Degree:** B.S.

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**Goal:**

The NWAESC Early Childhood Program seeks to identify and serve children ages three through five that are eligible for special services under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

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**Program Summary:**

The Early Childhood Special Education Program provides developmentally appropriate services through an Individual Education Program for children with disabilities ages three to five. These services are mandated under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act 1997 (IDEA) and provided by the Early Childhood Program on behalf of the 16 school districts in the Co-op area. The Early Childhood Program has grown from a child count of 115 children in 1988 to serving 1125 children on December 1, 2024. Most of our screening requests or referrals come from private and public preschool and day care programs. Services provided include screening, evaluation, preschool instruction, speech/language therapy, physical/occupational therapy, counseling, and other services as needed at no cost to the family. Services are provided in a variety of settings, including preschool and Head Start classrooms, a self-contained classroom, private homes, and central locations such as churches, libraries, youth centers, community buildings, and school facilities. The staff works on an itinerant basis traveling to all 16 school districts to provide service to preschool children in the most appropriate environment. A child may be eligible for special services if he/she is experiencing difficulties which may interfere with normal development in speech/language, vision, hearing, motor skills, behavioral/social skills, self-help skills, or cognition/readiness skills. The majority of children have speech and language disorders, any of which can be remedied much more efficiently at these early ages and provide the child with the ability to enter kindergarten with no deficit. Research shows that this is beneficial to social development as well as development of reading skills. Children with more severe disabilities are also treated. These disabilities include autism, hearing impairment, cerebral palsy, cleft palate, general developmental delays, traumatic brain injury, personal/social/behavioral disorders, and attention deficit disorder. Children with these disorders are much better prepared for entering kindergarten after receiving Early Childhood services. Their parents are initiated into the special education services gradually and caringly. State and national research shows that dollars spent on early intervention are saved in later public education costs.

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**Major Highlights:**

- The Early Childhood Program has grown from a child count of 115 children in 1988 to serving 1125 children on December 1, 2024.
- Received over 1,300 inquiries for screenings and/or services.
- More than 95% of our students are served in their community settings or in the setting the parent has chosen to enroll their child.
- Held over 600 programming conferences to develop Individualized Education Plans (IEP's) for students eligible for special education services.
- Coordinated and held over 700 transition conferences with individual school districts to ensure students have a successful experience entering kindergarten.
- Held more than 70 early intervention transition conferences from Part C to Part B to ensure a smooth transition process in determining eligibility.
- Served on Interagency Coordinating Council to ensure child find and preschool students are linked to community resources.
- Served on NWA Head Start Health Services Advisory Committee to ensure students have access to health services needed so they are ready to learn.

NORTHWEST ARKANSAS
Education Service Cooperative

**Program:** **Educational Services for the Visually Impaired (ESVI)**
**Funding Source:** Division of Elementary and Secondary Education Special Education Unit
**Funding:** $220,000
**Competitive Grant:** No
**Restricted:** Yes

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**Participating Districts:**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Fayetteville | Farmington | West Fork | Greenland |
| Prairie Grove | Lincoln | Springdale | Gravette |
| Gentry | Bentonville | Siloam Springs | Huntsville |
| Rogers | Pea Ridge | | |
| Elkins | | | |

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**Personnel:**

**Name:** Christi Dixon
**Position:** State Director TVI/COMS

**Name:** Evan Beavers
**Position:** Access Technology Specialist

**Name:** Cynthia White **(NWAESC)**
**Position:** TVI/COMS

**Name:** Stephanie Smith
**Position:** TVI/AT Specialist

**Name:** Melanie Birthright
**Position:** TVI/COMS

**Name:** Ashley Lee
**Position:** Administrative Analyst

**Name:** Marsha Holder **(NWAESC)**
**Position:** TVI/COMS

**Name:** Whitney Musick
**Position:** TVI/COMS

**Name:** Sharon Niemczyk
**Position:** TVI/COMS

**Name:** Paige Dillinger
**Position:** TVI/COMS

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**Goal:**

Educational Services for the Visually Impaired collaborates with school districts, parents, and communities to provide support that empowers them to remove educational and environmental barriers and to create solutions that foster independence for all students with visual impairments.

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**Program Summary:**

Educational Services for the Visually Impaired consultants provide recommendations for accommodations to enhance the student's opportunities for learning; develop district support teams with implementation plans to meet the needs of students who are blind or

visually impaired ages 3 through 21 in educational programs; conduct Learning Media and Functional Vision Assessments, Orientation and Mobility assessments, and Assistive Technology assessments; make recommendations for an individual student's access to educational curriculum; provide large print or Braille textbooks through the Instructional Resource Materials Center; demonstrate, loan and provide instruction and consultation in the use of assistive technology and low vision devices; and provide direct instruction in Orientation and Mobility in the school and in local communities. In addition, professional development opportunities are offered to parents, teachers and related staff.

Regional vision consultants are funded through the following Education Service Cooperatives:

- Guy Fenter Education Service Cooperative
- Crowley's Ridge Education Service Cooperative
- Southwest Arkansas Education Service Cooperative
- Northwest Arkansas Education Service Cooperative

**ESVI's Central Office is located at:**
1401 West Capitol Avenue
Victory Building, Suite 425
Little Rock, AR 72201

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**Major Highlights of the Year:**

- ESVI staff presented on a variety of topics for Teachers of the Visually Impaired and Certified Orientation and Mobility Specialists for students with visual impairments to the state AER members.
- ESVI hosted 2 professional development meetings/training sessions for Teachers of the Visually Impaired.
- ESVI provided tours at U of A for students that will transition into college.
- Public school students with visual impairments and blindness participated in the Arkansas Braille Challenge and Cane Quest.
- ESVI staff provided special education information during workshops to several coops throughout the state and at the LEA Academy in Hot Springs.
- ESVI provided information, embossers and support to districts that have students with Visual Impairment for the ATLAS testing. ESVI also provided technical assistance for many school districts across the state to help administer the tests. Paper, embossers and Windows computers were provided to assist school administrators in the testing process.
- ESVI and NanoPac coordinated a large group technology training and activity for blind and visually impaired students at the NWA Coop. Hands-on activities were provided to students as well as the experience of learning new apps, braille devices and low vision devices. Students will also participate in making their own lunch.
- Collaborative meetings with building district capacity regarding safety procedures for students with visual impairments was also addressed.
- Collaboration with ESRSS in supporting districts.

**Program:** **English Learner Support / ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages)**
**Funding Source:** Division of Elementary and Secondary Education
**Funding:** $236,041
**Competitive Grant:** No
**Restricted:** Yes

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**Participating Districts:**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Bentonville | Decatur | Elkins | Arkansas Arts Academy |
| Farmington | Fayetteville | Gentry | Gravette |
| Greenland | Huntsville | Lincoln | Pea Ridge |
| Prairie Grove | Rogers | Siloam Springs | Springdale |
| West Fork | | | |

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**Personnel:**
**Name:** Lisa Coats
**Position:** English Learner Specialist
**Degree:** BSE; M.Ed.

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**Goal:**

The Division of Elementary and Secondary Education (ADE) English Learner (EL) support program is the result of a collaboration among the Division of Learning Services' Curriculum and Instruction Unit and the Student Assessment Unit and the Division of Public School Accountability's Federal Programs Unit. This program's goal is to provide resources, support, and leadership to assist schools in their efforts to support ELs in the development of the skills needed to communicate effectively in English both in and out of school.

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**Program Summary:**

ADE works with schools and educational cooperatives to:

- provide assistance through the Teacher Center Coordinators for professional development of teachers and administrators in the implementation of effective English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) program design and delivery
- assist, upon request, with school improvement program planning for ELs
- coordinate ESOL professional development training
- convene regional meetings of ESOL personnel to discuss strategies and share resources used to instruct ELs under the Arkansas State Standards
- implement and assess the Arkansas State Board of Education adopted English Language Proficiency Standards
- provide on-site technical assistance addressing ESOL techniques and strategies

**Major Highlights of the Year:**

- Continued to partner with EL Achieve and DESE to provide Systematic English Language Development (SysELD) training and support to teachers and administrators in districts across the state.
    - No new districts were added this school year, but there were districts who had new hires to be trained
        - NWA Districts attending Teacher Institute: Gravette, Huntsville, Siloam Springs
        - Conducted a hybrid (in person and virtual sessions) sysELD Teacher Institute and 1 virtual Administrator Institute
- Partnered with EL Achieve and DESE to co-host live events
    - Spring Symposium (event hosted at Marriott in Little Rock)
        - Districts in attendance: Fayetteville, Gravette, Rogers, Springdale
    - Summer Seminar (scheduled in June)
- Ongoing partnership with DESE/SPED to continue to educate others about the ELs with Disabilities handbook
- Facilitated monthly-ESOL coordinator meetings
    - 2024-2025 Ongoing Agenda
    - Attendance averaged at 70% of district participation for each meeting
- Presented/facilitated ESOL workshops to educators:
    - Coordinators 101 (Novice Coordinator Support)
    - ESOL Programming Essentials & EL Instruction that Works

NORTHWEST ARKANSAS
Education Service Cooperative

**Program:** **Mathematics**
**Funding Source:** Division of Elementary and Secondary Education
**Funding:** $90,000
**Competitive Grant:** No
**Restricted:** Yes

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**Participating Districts:**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Arkansas Arts Academy | Bentonville | Decatur |
| Elkins | Farmington | Fayetteville |
| Gentry | Gravette | Greenland |
| Huntsville | Lincoln | Pea Ridge |
| Prairie Grove | Rogers | Siloam Springs |
| Springdale | West Fork | |

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**Personnel:**
**Name:** Lydia Noll
**Position:** Mathematics Specialist
**Degree:** BSE

**Name:** Danyeill Stewart
**Position:** Administrative Assistant
**Degree:** N/A

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**Goal:**

The primary goal of the Mathematics Specialist is to provide professional development and site-based support that inspires positive relationships with and success in mathematics for both educators and students of Northwest Arkansas.

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**Program Summary:**

The mathematics program at the Northwest Arkansas Education Service Cooperative is based on the identified teacher needs of the Northwest Arkansas school districts. These include increasing teachers' content knowledge, sharing best practices, disseminating research, locating and developing supplemental teaching resources, assisting with data-driven decision making, and increasing parental awareness of the importance of quality mathematics experiences. Though we differentiate our work for districts/schools/educators, the mathematics program is always working to inspire positive relationships with success in mathematics. The major focus this year was to strengthen relationships with districts, facilitate districts/schools as they worked toward creating a vision of mathematics, and supporting individual schools/teachers as they implemented a High Quality Instructional Material (HQIM).

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**Major Highlights of the Year:**

**Site Based Support**

- Site specific professional development was provided based on school/district/teacher needs such as supporting happy/healthy teachers, mathematics language development, understanding the design and structure of Illustrative Mathematics curriculum, supporting productive struggle, unpacking standards, backwards design planning, numeracy foundations, facilitating meaningful mathematics discussions, numeracy screening and interventions, and implementing tasks that promote reasoning and problem solving.
- Facilitated job-embedded opportunities for individual teachers and teams of teachers to implement a student-centered curriculum from Illustrative Mathematics. These opportunities included planning lessons, observing lessons, and reflecting upon students' engagement and mathematical thinking.
- Facilitated job-embedded opportunities for teams to evolve into true professional learning communities and collaborative teams.

**School Improvement Support**

Math specialists are available to assist in the school improvement process which includes meeting with educators in a variety of configurations to provide customized learning opportunities.

- Provided support to districts identified in need of support. Specialists assisted schools through guidance in curriculum selection and implementation, interpretation of assessment data, intervention, instructional strategies, and classroom walk-throughs. Total hours of support in these districts, Grades K-12 (over 450).

**Face-to-Face Professional Development**

- **Illustrative Mathematics Curriculum and Instruction**, 6-12 Mathematics - 22 educators participated in this session to learn more about this student-centered curriculum and how to purposefully plan for student-centered mathematics classrooms. 6 educators participated in a year 2 follow up session to continue their professional learning.
- **Illustrative Mathematics Curriculum and Instruction**, K-5 Mathematics - 34 educators participated in this session to learn more about the student-centered curriculum and how to purposefully plan for student-centered mathematics classrooms. 66 educators participated in a year 2 follow up session to continue their professional learning.
- **Understanding Illustrative Mathematics Centers,** K-5 Mathematics - 24 educators participated in this session to learn more about how the IM curriculum uses centers to address procedural fluency, an aspect of mathematical rigor, and experience specific centers to prepare for a successful launch of centers in the classroom.
- **Elevate Math Fluency: Your QUEST for Mastery Begins Here!** K-12 Mathematics - 30 educators participated in this session to uncover the importance of math fluency and dispel common fluency fallacies. They gained insight into related truths and acquired practical strategies tasks, games, and routines for improving math

fluency skills in their classrooms while learning how to support Arkansas fluency standards.

- **Technical Math Teacher Workshop:** 9-12 Mathematics - 10 educators participated in this session to collaborate around best practices and instructional approaches to teaching Technical Math, shared and received ideas and resources, and created a hub of resources that teachers can use as they teach this high school course.
- **Free/Low-Cost Tier 2 and 3 Math Numeracy Assessments and Interventions -** 11 participants explored several free or low-cost options to assess and intervene on numeracy gaps. They discussed research on best practices for Tier 2/3 interventions and walked away with tools to begin identifying and addressing numeracy needs in grades K-12.
- **Defining and Developing Number Sense in 6-12 Math Classrooms** - 23 participants experienced several different instructional routines all focused around supporting upper grade levels in developing and refining their numeracy skills. As foundational numeracy skills, such as operations of integers and fractions, are taught and practiced in the K-5 grades but not necessarily focused on in 6th grade and up, there is a need to continue to help students grow in their numeracy skills. Teachers came away with practical ways to incorporate some numeracy instruction during Tier 1 instruction.
- **Deep Dive Into the AR Math Standards K-5** - 7 participants examined and unpacked the new 2023 Arkansas Math Content Standards for Kindergarten through 5th grade.
- **Deep Dive Into the AR Math Standards: 6-Geometry** - 10 participants examine and unpacked the new 2023 Arkansas Math Content Standards for 6th grade through Geometry.
- **Building Ambitious Thinking Mathematics Classrooms: K-12** - 104 participants learned through discussions and model lesson experiences how to implement thinking tasks to increase student engagement, understanding, and application of mathematical concepts.

**Online Professional Development**

- **NWA Math Forum** - 43 educators including math teachers, math leaders, curriculum leaders, and district leaders participated in two sessions that included unpacking standards, understanding learning progressions, using the ATLAS Classroom Tool, and forming a committee to research, plan, and implement a NWA Math Conference for summer, 2026. Participants submitted topics for conversation that included unpacking standards, and using the ATLAS Classroom Tool and creating a workgroup within that tool to share items to use in the classroom.

NORTHWEST ARKANSAS
Education Service Cooperative

**Program:** **Migrant Education**
**Funding Source:** Title I, Part C—Education of Migratory Children
**Funding:** $846,477
**Competitive Grant:** No
**Restricted:** Yes

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**Participating Districts:**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Alpena | Arkansas Arts Academy | Bentonville | Bergman |
| Berryville | Bruno-Pyatt | Cotter | Decatur |
| Deer/Mt. Judea | Elkins | Eureka Springs | Farmington |
| Fayetteville | Flippin | Gentry | Gravette |
| Green Forest | Greenland | Haas Hall | Harrison |
| Huntsville | Jasper | Kingston | Lead Hill |
| Lincoln | Marshall | Omaha | Ozark Mountain |
| Pea Ridge | Prairie Grove | Rogers | Searcy County |
| Siloam Springs | Springdale | St. Joe | St. Paul |
| Valley Springs | West Fork | Western Grove | Yellville-Summit |

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**Personnel:**

**Name:** Jennifer Vinson, Ed.S.
**Position:** Migrant Specialist
**Degree:** BSE, MA, Ed.S

**Name:** Brittany Sparks
**Position:** Recruiter
**Degree:** HS + 1 year college credit

**Name:** Robbye Smith
**Position:** Recruiter
**Degree:** HS + 2 years college credits

**Name:** Angela Gallardo
**Position:** Parent Engagement Liaison
**Degree:** HS + 1 year college credit

**Name:** Heather Maddan
**Position:** Student Support Specialist
**Degree:** HS + 3 years college credits

**Name:** Lourdes Nava
**Position:** Student Support Specialist
**Degree:** Associates

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**Goal:**

The Title I Part C - Arkansas Migrant Education Program is a federally funded program that provides services to the children of families who move seeking temporary or seasonal work in Arkansas's agricultural and fishing industries. The program is designed to help children ages three (3) through twenty (21), who are uniquely affected by the combined effects of poverty, language, cultural barriers, and difficulties pertaining to the migratory lifestyle. The primary goal of the Migrant Program is to help our students meet the same challenging academic content and student academic achievement standards that are expected of all children. Our measurable program goals address reading and math achievement, high school graduation and services for out of school youth, and school readiness for preschool children.

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**Program Summary:**
Support for districts with an individual MEP grant includes the following:

- Professional development for MEP Staff in areas such as literacy, math, Pre-K, family engagement, and graduation support.
- Grant assistance.
- Ongoing program monitoring and feedback.
- Support in providing summer learning opportunities for MEP students

Students and families in districts that are supported directly by NWAESC receive all applicable migrant services from the team housed at NWAESC. Services in non-project schools are provided by Migrant Education Program (MEP) cooperative staff and include the following:

- All members of the NWAESC Migrant team receive professional development to support all facets of their roles in service of Migrant students and families.
- In home PreK Lessons for all three and four year old MEP students not already enrolled in an approved Pre K program.
- Information and support for parents of Pre K children as they prepare to enter Kindergarten.
- Students with an identified need are eligible to receive free in-school and/or after-school tutoring.
- Students with an identified need are eligible to receive free summer school support.
- Students receive supplemental, high-interest books multiple times each year. These books are self-selected by the students as often as possible.
- Students may receive health and/or hygiene education and/or services as needed.
- Secondary students are monitored at least quarterly to ensure students remain on-track for high school graduation. Intervention is provided if necessary.
- Secondary students may complete credit recovery courses through the MEP program at no cost.
- Secondary students have the opportunity to develop leadership skills through state MEP programs.

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**Major Highlights of the Year:**

- Provided students with school supplies, hygiene products, books and other items to help them be successful more than 6 times this year.
- Attended and promoted the Migrant Education Program (MEP) at two (2) Hispanic Heritage Festivals this year, and made new contacts with like-minded business'.
- Continued growing the Pre K resource library designed to house Pre K assessment and instructional resources which are accessible to all MEP programs in Region 1. Lectura Books (bilingual preschool books) were added, as well as family training.

- Partnered with IMPACT and have piloted a literacy program with families in our program, providing them with literacy resources and skills to help promote stronger literacy in the family.
- Began collaborating with AR United, a local non-profit organization that works with families new to the State of Arkansas.
- New partnership with Butterball in the Huntsville region, allowing us to locate more students.
- Parent Advisory Council (PAC) and Parent Meetings (PM) were held in December 2024 in Siloam Springs, Bentonville, Gentry & Decatur, and a second meeting will be held on April 24, 2025 at John L. Colbert Middle School in Fayetteville.
- Provided services and resources to all identified MEP students in the region.
- Built relationships with appropriate businesses and organizations within the region.
- Provided training in the areas of literacy, math, trauma informed care, Pre K assessment and the effects of poverty to all Region One personnel in school districts. The NWAESC staff provided over three hundred (300) students of the Migrant Education Program (Non-Project Schools) with a Christmas gift through a partnership with the Washington County Historical Society, Caring and Sharing of Benton County, the MEP Region 1 Staff and NWAESC staff volunteers.
- Collaborated with school districts to ensure that MEP students were safe, secure, and had all basic needs met.
- Provided summer school opportunities to all appropriate MEP students.

NORTHWEST ARKANSAS
Education Service Cooperative

**Program:** **Medicaid in the Schools (MITS)**
**Funding Source: School Health Services Division of the Arkansas Department of Education**
**Competitive Grant:** No
**Restricted:** Yes

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**Participating Districts and Cooperatives:**
Covering a 19-county region, working with approximately 80 public and charter schools, and four educational service cooperatives: Northwest, Ozark Unlimited Resources, Guy Fenter, and DeQueen/Mena. **Training:** Over the past year, provided training for 305 individuals

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**Personnel:**
**Name:** Houston Taylor
**Position:** NWA *Regional Advisor Medicaid In The Schools (MITS)*
**Degree:** M.Ed.

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**Program Description:** The Medicaid in the Schools (MITS) program serves as a liaison for Local Education Agencies (LEA) to support the administration of school-based Medicaid reimbursement. MITS assists districts to maximize health resources and revenue to promote the Whole Child Model including special education services.

The Division of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) Medicaid in the Schools program provides guidance, leadership, and technical assistance to support schools in operating effective Medicaid programs. Medicaid is a critical source of health care coverage for children, providing access to comprehensive and preventative child health programs. The provision of Medicaid revenue provides for school districts to offer sustainable, medically necessary supports for students to have every opportunity to be academically successful. Schools deliver a broad range of Medicaid reimbursable school-based services to students at school. These services include:

- Therapy Services: Occupational, Physical, and Speech
- Early and Periodic, Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment (EPSDT) - the vision and hearing portion
- Audiology Services
- Personal Care
- School-Based Mental Health Services

Medicaid in the Schools provides Medicaid billing training, and personal care training to personal care aides and school nurses as part of the certification process for the aides.

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NORTHWEST ARKANSAS
Education Service Cooperative

**Program:** **Mentoring**
**Funding Source:** Division of Elementary and Secondary Education
**Funding:** $548,150
**Competitive Grant:** No
**Restricted:** Yes

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**Participating Districts:**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Bentonville | Decatur | Elkins | Farmington |
| Fayetteville | Gentry | Gravette | Greenland |
| Huntsville | Lincoln | Pea Ridge | Prairie Grove |
| Rogers | Siloam Springs | Springdale | West Fork |
| Arkansas Arts Academy | | | |

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**Personnel:**

**Name:** Cayce Neal
**Position:** Regional Mentoring Coordinator
**Degree:** M.S. TESOL and Ed Leadership

**Name:** Michelle Gooch
**Position:** Mentoring Specialist
**Degree:** M.S Ed Leadership

**Name:** Karle Schmitt
**Position:** Mentoring Specialist
**Degree:** MAT

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**Goals:**
Arkansas state law requires that each novice teacher employed at a public or open-enrollment public charter school participate in mentoring that: (1) Provides training and support to novice teachers to increase teacher retention, (2) Establishes norms of professionalism, and (3) Leads to improved student achievement by increasing effective teacher performance.

There are two primary components of novice teacher mentoring in Arkansas. One is training and preparation for an effective summative evaluation rating under the Teacher Excellence and Support System (TESS). The other is individualized support provided by the hiring school. Mentoring programs and school districts are expected to support novice teachers through their formative years through professional development training, coaching, and guided practice. Mentoring plans for each district that ensures all novice teachers are/will receive training and support shall be readily available upon Division of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) request. If participating in a grant funded Education Service Cooperative (ESC) mentoring program, the ESC Mentoring Program Specialist (MPS) will be responsible for writing the mentoring plan and coordinating support.

**Program Summary:**
In 2023-24 the early career educator program supported 990 first, second, and third-year teachers in our cooperative districts. The cost of all services is covered by the Mentoring grant and comes at no cost to participants or their districts. Additionally, the cost of substitutes is reimbursed to districts.

Professional Development sessions were as follows:

- Safe and Civil Schools Classroom Management for K-6 (CHAMPS): 3 sessions
- Safe and Civil Schools Classroom Management for 7-12 (Discipline in the Secondary Classroom): 3 sessions
- Training partnership with ARBSS: 2 sessions
- Instructional planning/HQIM training: 5 sessions
- Kagan Cooperative Learning: 1 session
- Foundations of Reading tutoring: 8 sessions
- TESS training: 3 sessions
- Training for novice Special Education teachers: 3 sessions
- Professionalism training: 4 sessions
- Mentor/K-6/7-12/counselor roundtables: 4 sessions
- Self-care and resiliency training: 3 sessions
- NIET Lead Teacher Pathway training: 48 teachers completed, funded by the mentoring grant

Further support was provided in the following three areas:

- ArPEP: In our third year of this program, we supported 31 candidates in their first year of provisional licensure and 20 candidates in their second year of provisional licensure, including ten days of summer professional development, monthly follow-up sessions, and multiple classroom observations for each.
- NIET competitive grant: Lead Teacher Pathway training funding for 12 additional teachers (60 total for NWA through NWAESC). NIET is one of the DESE-approved pathways to Lead Teacher licensure designation. These teachers will be able to support more types of novice teachers, including those with aspiring teacher permits and those in the teacher apprenticeship program. Allocating mentoring grant funds to this training assists districts in increasing their teacher recruitment pipeline as well as building the skills of the lead teacher and increasing teacher retention.
- Arkansas Teacher Registered Apprentice Program: We supported 13 journeyworkers in their work to mentor 15 registered apprentice participants. This included monthly Zoom check-ins after school and site visits at the request of the journeyworker.

**Major Highlights of the Year:**

- Coffee with counselors: 2 after-school, off-site sessions to help novice counselors network, problem solve, and explore resources
- Mentor of the Month and Novice Teacher of the Month initiative: The principal/mentor and novice teachers monthly newsletters had nomination links for teachers to nominate teachers and celebrate their accomplishments. One novice teacher and one mentor of the month received an award and prizes donated by local business donation. All received recognition via social media.
- Coaching cycles: We partnered with 3 districts (Huntsville, Pea Ridge, and Siloam Springs) to do intensive coaching cycles with 11 first-year teachers on principal-identified areas of need.
- Principal Meetings: We met with every principal in Northwest Arkansas to ensure they know the requirements and support available for novice teacher mentoring.
- Novice Teacher Summer Conference: June 17 and 18 will be our first novice teacher summer conference. We partnered with local administrators, former Arkansas teachers of the Year, Co-op specialists, and local business partners to create this event. Sessions were planned based on feedback from principals, mentors, instructional facilitators, and novice teachers.
- Online presence: We created a website to house all novice teacher resources, making them easily accessible to all. We also created Instagram and Facebook accounts to share resources and events (@novicenavigators_nwaesc) in a novice-friendly format.
- Monthly newsletters: In addition to a monthly newsletter to novices, we also started a monthly newsletter for principals and mentors to share resources, provide support, and remind of upcoming events/deadlines.
- Monthly check-ins: We created a monthly check-in form that was shared via newsletter and Google classroom for novices to privately communicate their needs. We followed up with them on-site to provide assistance and coaching to resolve these needs.

NORTHWEST ARKANSAS
Education Service Cooperative

**Program:** **Science/STEM**
**Funding Source:** Division of Elementary and Secondary Education
**Funding:** $90,000
**Competitive Grant:** No
**Restricted:** Yes

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**Participating Districts:**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Arkansas Arts Academy | Bentonville | Decatur | Elkins |
| Fayetteville | Gentry | Gravette | Greenland |
| Huntsville | Lincoln | Pea Ridge | Prairie Grove |
| Rogers | Siloam Springs | Springdale | West Fork |

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**Personnel:**

**Name:** Jenny Gammill
**Position:** Science/STEM Specialist
**Degree:** M.Ed.

**Name:** Danyeill Stewart
**Position:** Administrative Assistant
**Degree:** N/A

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**Goal:**

The Northwest Arkansas Education Service Cooperative, in partnership with the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, will work with Arkansas Public School personnel to meet the following goals related to Science/STEM education:

- Provide district and building leadership with assistance in choosing high quality instructional materials (HQIM) and assist districts in implementation
- Educate building leadership and instructional coaches on the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education's science walkthrough tool and assist leadership with walkthroughs, data collection and data disaggregation
- Partner with local community and business organizations to provide Science/STEM training and resources to educators
- Assist schools' professional learning communities in using student assessment data to make informed decisions with intervention and extensions
- Mentor and coach teachers in the classroom on high quality science content, high quality instructional practices, student ownership, and culture of learning
- Provide professional development and implementation of training related to science and the STEM disciplines
- Assist elementary schools in understanding the science standards and implementing high quality science lessons in order to prepare students for ATLAS testing in grades 3-5

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**Program Summary:**
The science/STEM program at the Northwest Arkansas Education Service Cooperative is based on the
identified needs of teachers in the Northwest Arkansas school districts**.** These include increasing teachers' science and STEM content knowledge, sharing best practices, disseminating research, implementation of HQIM, locating and developing supplemental teaching resources, assisting with data-driven decision making, and increasing parental involvement. Each opportunity supports the state and national goal of STEM literacy for all students. The specialist is continuing to build relationships with other specialists, administrators, teachers, university officials and community and business organizations in order to best support science and STEM education throughout the region.

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**Major Highlights of the Year:**

- Trained over 150 district leaders, building principals, and instructional coaches on the science walkthrough tool.
- Assisted building leadership in conducting walkthroughs using the science walkthrough tool and helping them make instructional decisions based on data collected during walkthrough.
- Provided coaching to teachers in Greenland Middle School, Farmington Elementary Schools, Huntsville Intermediate School, Leverett Elementary (Fayetteville), Bernice Young Elementary (Springdale) and Lincoln Middle School.
- Supported different school districts in choosing appropriate HQIM science curriculum including Fayetteville, West Fork, Greenland, Huntsville, Decatur and Prairie Grove.
- Worked intensively with districts implementing OpenSciEd for middle school science.
- Provided year long support to districts across the region for ATLAS interim and summative assessments.
- Partnered with Bentonville's elementary science specialist to pilot OpenSciEd's elementary curriculum unit for 3rd grade.
- Partnered with the Amazeum to provide STEAM professional development at the Co-op and to assist schools in creating STEAM labs.
- Developed a semester-long science integration cohort with the Amazeum that was attended by multiple schools in both the fall and spring semesters.
- Provided resources for family STEAM nights across the region and assisted with nights at Southside Elementary in Siloam Springs and Greenland Schools.
- Supported a number of schools across the region with books, equipment and kits so students could engage in high quality, hands-on science and STEM lessons.
- Supported STEAM teachers working in K-4 schools through modeling lessons and providing various resources for hands-on learning.
- Assisted Leverett Elementary in writing a Community Placemaking Grant for $80,000 and currently serving on the implementation team of the awarded monies.
- Partnered with the Amazeum to implement a Moonshot Grant through Remake Learning, including organizing the Learning Convening for business leaders, community members and educators across the region.

NORTHWEST ARKANSAS
Education Service Cooperative

**Program:** **School Health and Wellness - Tobacco Prevention, Nutrition, Physical Activity**
**Funding Source:** Arkansas Department of Health
**Funding:** $11,000
**Competitive Grant:** No
**Restricted:** No

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**Participating Districts:**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Arkansas Arts Academy | Bentonville | Elkins | Decatur |
| Farmington | Fayetteville | Gentry | Gravette |
| Greenland | Haas Hall | Huntsville | Lincoln |
| NWA Classical Academy | Pea Ridge | Prairie Grove | Rogers |
| Siloam Springs | Springdale | West Fork | Shiloh Christian |
| The New School | St. Joseph | St. Vincent de Paul | |

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**Personnel:**

**Name:** Kelli Butcher, RN
**Position:** Community Health Nurse Specialist
**Degree:** Registered Nurse, BS Chemistry

**Name:** Meggi Augustosky, MPH, RRT
**Position:** Community Health Promotion Specialist
**Degree:** Master's of Public Health, Respiratory Therapist

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**Goal:**
**This program provides:**

- Assistance with grant writing for school grants and community coalition grants
- Linkage for school-based tobacco prevention and other health efforts with local community coalitions
- Serves as an advocate for school health needs to community coalitions
- Linkage of resources for schools, community coalitions and others in the community to promote healthy communities
- Provides technical assistance on public health practices to schools and community
- Provides technical assistance and collaborates with school nurses to identify appropriate resources and continuing education offerings that will help meet the requirements for nursing licensure
- Works with State School Nurse Consultant to disseminate information as needed
- Technical assistance with school districts on all School Health issues
- Provides Technical Assistance in policy development for tobacco and school-based enforcement of tobacco related policies
- Provides Technical assistance with evidenced based curricula for tobacco, nutrition, teen dating, suicide prevention, teen pregnancy, and physical activity
- Provides training to school nurses and others

- Provides technical assistance to school districts with communicable disease outbreaks
- Provides training and technical assistance on School Health Index
- Provides technical assistance to Coordinated School Health grantees
- Provides technical assistance to tobacco prevention grantees
- Provides technical assistance and guidance to schools for wellness initiatives
- Provides technical assistance to schools for implementation of best practices for nutrition and physical activity, Coordinated School Health and other public health issues
- Provides technical assistance to school wellness committees regarding state and federal mandates
- Provides technical assistance on nutrition and physical activity via evidenced based curricula
- Provides technical assistance to communities regarding school health issues and current public health policy
- Maintains current knowledge of research, resources, and best practices related to school health issues
- Informs schools and communities of available trainings and grant opportunities
- Addresses training needs related to school health issues and organizes and conducts trainings based on those needs
- Coordinates and provides trainings to school personnel, ADH colleagues, and community members
- Informs schools and communities of available trainings and grant opportunities
- Serves as an advocate for school and community health needs
- Establishes communication links with communities to keep them informed of public health policy
- Compiles and distributes necessary reports and other information
- Participates in data collection and evaluation of community and school health interventions
- Serves on committees and work groups and works on special projects
- Attends, participates in, and distributes updates from regional and state meetings to schools, ADH colleagues, and community members
- Attends CHAC meetings and reports outcomes to HHI Support Staff and Wellness Committees

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**Major Highlights of the Year:**

- Annual Back to School Nurse Workshop held in person, 123 participants. Cheria McDonald, BSN, RN, State School Nurse Consultant, presented on new laws and rules and regulations for school nurses. Children's Hospital educated nurses

regarding asthma and diabetes in the school setting. UAMS presented information for school nurses about endometriosis.

- Vision Certification Training for all new school nurses
- Hearing Certification Training for all new school nurses
- Scoliosis Certification Training for all new school nurses
- BMI Certification Training for all new school nurses
- Assisted with multiple school based flu immunization clinics.

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**Other Highlights of the Year:**

- Tobacco prevention education, suicide prevention education, healthy relationship education, distress tolerance education, internet safety education,dental health education, nutrition education, opioid use prevention education, and teen pregnancy/STI prevention education for students are presented on request.
- Presented Youth Mental Health First Aid, instruction for parents, teachers, and other school staff in correct ways to address a youth that is experiencing a mental health or addiction challenge or crisis.
- Presented CPR for staff and nurses as needed.
- Presented Stop the Bleed to nurses to educate on correct presentation of the information for their staff and students
- Facilitated Medicaid in the Schools workshop on training and billing for personal care done in the school setting.
- Hosted What's Poverty got to do With It: Students and Families in Crisis in partnership with Arkansas Children's Hospital and DESE
- Assisted districts with Wellness Committee planning and requirements

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**Community Links**

NWA Drug and Tobacco Free Coalition
NWA Hometown Health Improvement
NWA Trauma Regional Advisory Council
Washington County Hometown Health
Arkansas Children's Hospital
Benton County Community Coalition
Madison County Health Coalition
Region 1 Prevention Providers
NWA Suicide Coalition

NORTHWEST ARKANSAS
Education Service Cooperative

**Program:** **Teacher Center/Professional Development**
**Funding Source:** Base
**Funding:** $292,000
**Competitive Grant:** No
**Restricted:** Yes

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**Participating Districts:** (INSIDE THE NORTHWEST CO-OP AREA)

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Bentonville | Decatur | Elkins | Farmington |
| Fayetteville | Gentry | Gravette | Greenland |
| Huntsville | Lincoln | Pea Ridge | Prairie Grove |
| Rogers | Siloam Springs | Springdale | West Fork |

**Charter Schools:**

| | |
|---|---|
| Arkansas Arts Academy | Haas Hall Academy |
| Hope Academy | Lisa Academy |
| Founders Classical Academy | |

**Participating Districts:** (OUTSIDE THE NORTHWEST CO-OP AREA)

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Alma | Dumas | Lafayette |
| Alpena | Deer/Mt. Judea | Lamar |
| Ashdown | El Dorado | Lavaca |
| Bald Knob | Eureka Springs | Little Rock |
| Beebe | Foreman | Marion |
| Benton | Fort Smith | Mountain Home |
| Bergman | Green Forest | Mountainburg |
| Berryville | Greenwood | Mulberry/Pleasant View |
| Boonville | Hackett | Nashville |
| Cedarville | Harmony Grove | Omaha |
| Charleston | Harrison | Ozark |
| Clarksville | Jasper | Ozark Mountain |
| Cossatot River | Jonesboro | Russellville |
| Star City | Valley Springs | Van Buren |
| Waldron | Westside | |

**Participating Universities:**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Harding University | John Brown University | NWA Technical Institute |
| U of A | Henderson University | Arkansas State University |

**Participating Co-ops:**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Arch Ford | DeQueen-Mena | Boston Mountain |
| Dawson | Guy Fenter | Northcentral |
| Northeast | OUR | Southeast |
| Wilbur Mills | | |

**Others Participating:**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| DESE | Prism Education Center | Shiloh Christian |
| St. Joseph Catholic | St. Vincent de Paul Catholic | The New School |

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**Personnel:**

**Name:** Missy Hixson
**Position:** Assistant Director/Teacher Center Coordinator
**Degree:** Ed.D.

**Name:** Tina Storm
**Position:** Administrative Assistant
**Degree:** A.A.

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**Goal:**

To provide teachers, administrators, and support staff with professional growth opportunities in order to expand knowledge, enhance skills, and develop new strategies and techniques is the major focus. Professional Development and the Teacher Learning Center are the primary responsibilities of this program.

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**Program Summary:**

This office has the responsibility of surveying, organizing, and providing K-12 professional development that supports school improvement for our sixteen member districts. During the 2024-2025 school year, Northwest ESC offered professional development opportunities that aligned with district needs and state initiatives. A comprehensive list of professional development workshops is provided at the end of this report.

The Northwest Arkansas Education Service Cooperative and the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education continue to work together to support districts in the state initiatives and mandates, particularly those related to the Arkansas State Standards implementation process, the ATLAS assessment and other assessment systems, Teacher Excellence Support System (TESS) and Leader Excellence And Development System (LEADS 2.0). These initiatives continue to be the driving forces for increasing student achievement. All NWAESC districts have been involved in various professional development opportunities provided at the state and local levels. With the support of the Arkansas legislature, the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education, other education cooperatives, and the local districts, K-12 educators now have the resources to align their curriculum to the Arkansas content standards and to increase student achievement to meet these standards.

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**Major Highlights of the Year:**

These opportunities included, but not limited to, trainings such as

- **Math**- Elevating Math Fluency, Illustrative Mathematics (IM), Free/Low Cost Tier 2 & 3 Math Numeracy Assessments & Interventions, Defining & Developing Number Sense, Building Ambitious Thinking Math Classrooms, Deep Dive into the 2023 Math Standards, and, on-site visits to schools to provide targeted assistance and support with mathematical practices, curriculum design and curriculum alignment. Principals were provided with training on the use of the Math Walkthrough Tool. Math forums were held for collaboration and discussion with school/district leaders and teachers to provide direction in mathematics for Northwest Arkansas.
- **Dyslexia**-R.I.S.E. Academy and R.I.S.E. related trainings were held on-site at NWAESC. Workshops were held at both the Co-op and in the districts on requested topics e.g., sound wall, writing for K-2 and 3-6, etc. Representatives from between 8 and 10 districts collaborated in a series titled: A Community of Practice: Designing Systems to Support Dyslexia and Reading Deficits. Participants internalized data at the district, school, and classroom levels and left with action steps for improving identification of risk and instruction across all tiers.
- **Science/STEM**- pure science workshops, STEM and integrating literacy in the content area trainings for science teachers, lesson writing and examination of the Arkansas State Standards with embedding Next Generation Science Standards. The trainings included both cooperative and district-hosted sessions led by Science/STEM Specialist. Assistance and support to districts with the implementation and support efforts of the Next Generation Science Standards for grades K-12. The Science/STEM Specialist worked both on-site and virtually with schools.
- **Collaborative Meetings/Forums-**NWAESC continued to host K-12 Administrators, Curriculum Leaders and Federal Programs Coordinators. Curriculum and Federal Programs leaders met regularly for DESE updates and NWAESC served as a liaison between DESE and districts. Topics for these groups were on an "as needed basis" due to the ongoing topics.
- **Art, Music, Drama** – Since 1991, NWAESC has partnered with the Walton Arts Center (WAC) and the Kennedy Center of the Performing Arts to provide quality arts integrated education in this area. The Arkansas 1991 partnership provides professional development in the visual and performing arts to arts specialists, teaching artists and classroom teachers.

- **Specific Forums/Groups**-The Dyslexia Council, Instructional Facilitator Group, and the Math Leadership Forum all meet regularly to bring district leaders together to discuss common professional development needs, share concerns and suggestions and to collaborate in a way that benefits all districts in the NWA region in these areas. These groups were led and supported by specialists in their specific areas, held both on-site and virtually. Specialists worked with Computer Science, Special Education Services, Social Studies/Arkansas History, Career and Technical Education, Health and Wellness etc. Additionally Curriculum and Federal Program Leaders meeting monthly for collaborative discussions and information updates, as well as listening to guest speakers of interest. These sessions were led by the Teacher Center Coordinator and an area Federal Programs Coordinator/Director.

NORTHWEST ARKANSAS
Education Service Cooperative

**Program:** **Technology**
**Funding Source:** Division of Elementary and Secondary Education
**Funding:** $80,000
**Competitive Grant:** No
**Restricted:** Yes

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**Participating Districts:**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Bentonville | Decatur | Elkins | Farmington |
| Fayetteville | Gentry | Gravette | Greenland |
| Huntsville | Lincoln | Pea Ridge | Prairie Grove |
| Rogers | Siloam Springs | Springdale | West Fork |

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**Personnel:**
**Name:** Jeremy Schlinker
**Position:** Technology Coordinator
**Degree:** N/A

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**Goal:**

The goal of the Technology Program is to provide technology information and support throughout our member district area. The Technology Coordinator administers and supports the computer network, a computer training lab, Device Carts, over 150 PC's, servers, printers and other devices at NWAESC and our two Early Childhood offsite offices. It is a further goal of the Technology Department to provide training and support for member district staff and internal NWAESC staff.

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**Program Summary:**

The Technology Coordinator is a resource for districts to utilize as needed. The Technology Coordinator supplies pertinent information on new technologies, statewide initiatives, new cyber threats and training opportunities. Support for the NWAESC LAN, including file server administration, device support and staff development training for Co-op staff is provided. In addition to the LAN the Technology Coordinator oversees phone systems, Wifi, Security Camera, computer user and email accounts, Audio and video systems, iPad management and cellular data service. Duties also include supporting the Co-op website. Another primary role of the Technology Coordinator is to support the hundreds of workshops held at the cooperative during the year. This includes supporting workshop presenters, loading specific software

required for workshops, providing necessary hardware and network access for participants, and resolving technical issues as they arise.

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**Major Highlights of the Year:**

- Supported NWAESC staff with on site meetings and PD offerings.
- Hosted a Cybersecurity ransomware readiness assessment and table to exercise.
- Taught a Cybersecurity PD for Elkins School District staff
- Taught 3 Cybersecurity classes for all Novice Teachers.
- Hosted feight (8) in person meetings/training for NWA Techs.
- Attended CIRT training  and ACOT to further knowledge of Cyber threats.
- Authored a month of the DESE Security Awareness Insider .
- Served on Act 504 state work group to help develop school standards for the first phase of Act 504 requirements.

## Special Projects or Programs

**AR Application (ArAPP)**
**Trained: 15 participants**

**Description:**
To better serve our member districts, Education Service Cooperatives, in collaboration with the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, recognized the need for targeted support in the development and submission of the AR Application (AR App). In response, a structured support initiative was launched to assist districts and improve the overall quality of AR App submissions and creating a district strategic plan.

Beginning in January and concluding each May, a series of monthly meetings has been established to guide districts through each component of the AR App. These sessions are designed to provide differentiated support tailored to the specific needs of schools, ensuring a more effective and high-quality application process.

Each month, participating schools receive training and guidance on a different element of the AR App. These components include:

- Conducting a comprehensive needs assessment
- Collecting and analyzing relevant data
- Forming an effective planning team
- Developing SMART goals
- Writing goals that align with both district-level data and the priorities outlined in LEARNS
- Aligning resource allocation with the goals identified in the district's strategic plan.

To ensure consistency and ease of implementation across all cooperatives, training modules and introductory communication materials were developed for shared use. This collaborative approach not only strengthens district capacity but also promotes alignment and accountability across the state.
This initiative reflects the education cooperative's continued commitment to supporting schools in achieving meaningful improvement through strategic planning and data-driven goal setting. Lastly, in regard to recent legislation, education service cooperatives provided feedback on each district prior to the district's submission

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**Multilingual Liaison/Interpreter-Year 3**

**Description:**
In collaboration with a consortia of Northwest Arkansas school districts, the Multilingual Liaison/Interpreter supports collaborative communication between schools, multilingual parents, students and community members to promote student achievement and growth. The Multilingual Parent-Community Liaison/Interpreter provides support to the instructional program with

specific responsibilities for providing information on programs and services available to students and families, as well as school and/or district activities and procedures, referring families to other agencies and fostering an ongoing partnership between home and school.

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**Communities of Practice (CoP)-Year 3**

**Description:**
Building Communities of Practice (CoP) is focused around Identifying Learning Loss and Accelerating Learning using High-Quality Instructional Materials (HQIM). DESE, in partnership with a national partner, will bring together groups of Arkansas system leaders (district and school teams). The Community of Practice will explore the leadership practices necessary to implement math and/or literacy instruction and learning supports that meet the moment, while staying focused on long-term recovery and acceleration goals.

The CoP includes a series of sessions that includes research and evidence-based strategies to address and plan for acceleration of learning using HQIM.

Grantee will select vendors from those approved by Rivet Education to contract with for professional services to engage in content coaching, with emphasis on HQIM. NWAESC collaborated with the vendor The Bailey Group as a partner in this grant for 2024-2025.

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**Arkansas Professional Educator Pathway (ArPEP)**
**Trained: 31 participants in Cohort 3**
**Trained: 23 participants in Cohort 2**
**Trained: 18 participants in Cohort 1**

**Description:**
The Arkansas Professional Educator Pathway (ArPEP) is an affordable two-year, work-based training, alternative education route to obtaining an Arkansas standard teaching license for college graduates or career changers holding at least a bachelor's degree. ArPEP's goal is to prepare learner-ready teachers to meet the growing demand of the teacher pipeline in Arkansas.The primary objective of ArPEP is to train future educators on how to build classroom communities, design effective lesson plans, implement evidence-based instructional strategies, and use assessments to facilitate student learning.

The ArPEP facilitator will prepare educators who understand what accomplished beginning teaching looks like in a classroom, and more importantly, demonstrate how effective teachers design lessons, provide instruction, build classroom communities, and utilize assessments to facilitate student learning.

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**Roster Verification Training (RVS)**
**Trained: 32 participants**

**Description:**
To support the DESE with accurate coding of students to teachers for ATLAS testing, Co-ops were trained in providing Roster Verification training to their regions. As part of the training, districts were trained in matching teachers to students for the purposes of tracking student growth and progress in tested areas. The matching period for RVS took place in April through May, and included three levels of verification: teacher, principal, and superintendent. Co-ops also took the lead on troubleshooting and answering questions related to RVS in their region.

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**National Institute for Excellence in Teaching (NIET) Lead Teacher Competive Grant**
**Trained: 12 participants**

**Description:**
In addition to the 48 spots funded by the Mentoring Grant, NWAESC was awarded a competitive grant from DESE to fund 12 more spots in NIET's Lead Teacher training. NIET is one of the DESE-approved pathways to Lead Teacher licensure designation. These teachers will be able to support more types of novice teachers, including those with aspiring teacher permits and those in the teacher apprenticeship program. This grant assists districts in increasing their teacher recruitment pipeline as well as building the skills of the lead teacher and increasing teacher retention.

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**Electronic fingerprinting**
**Number fingerprinted: 1,433**

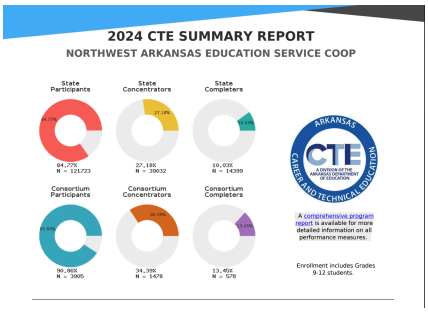
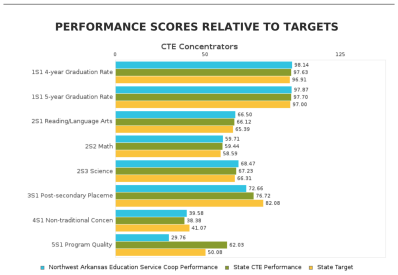
**Description:**
Arkansas State, FBI, and Child Maltreatment Central registry background checks are required for student teaching internship, first-time licensure and all licensure renewals, first employment or change of employment in public schools, charter schools or education service cooperatives. The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education deemed that the Arkansas Education Cooperatives would perform all fingerprints needed.

- NWAESC has one Live Scan unit in the main office for scheduled appointments (every 15-30 minutes). We also have a portable Live Scan that we take into the districts to do onsite prints. DESE provided NWAESC with a new Live Scan unit in spring 2025.

- Currently, we have three employees trained to conduct fingerprints. These employees must work fingerprinting into their already full-time positions.

**NWAECS Impact on Student Performance 2024-2025**

In accordance with Act 802 (2023), the following data have been collected from NWAESC Districts regarding impact of the cooperative on student growth

| Program | Impact |
|---|---|
| CTE |   |
| Early Childhood/Special Education | NWAESC Early Childhood/Special Education Program served 115 children in 1988 and has increased to 1,254 in 2025. 95% of our services are in community settings in the NWA region. The Early Childhood/Special Education has satellite offices to serve families and schools throughout the NWA region with the home base in Farmington. |
| Math and Science | The math specialist supported two (2) focus schools, as well as other schools in the region in the implementation of HQIM, providing coaching cycles with seven teachers throughout the year. The Math Walkthrough Tool was presented to 76 principals throughout the region. Currently 88% of the NWA schools have adopted math HQIM. The remaining two districts have committees designated to choose a HQIM for the 25-26 school year. The math specialist has provided resources and training in the importance of adopting an HQIM to both districts.<br><br>The science specialist provided training for all districts on the HQIM currently available for science and supported three districts in the implementation of an HQIM through coaching and PLC meetings. Currently, 75% of districts have implemented HQIM in at least one grade band. Additionally, the specialist worked with one district to pilot a new |

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|---|---|
| | elementary HQIM and will be providing training for districts across the co-op region in July 2025. Throughout the school year, the science specialist provided training on the state's science classroom walkthrough tool for principals and instructional facilitators from every district and conducted multiple walkthroughs with leadership in four districts. |
| Mentoring/Novice | In 2022-2023, 798 teachers were identified as year 1, 2, or 3 novice teachers. In 2024-2025, 940 teachers were identified as novice teachers. This was an increase of more than 142 novice teachers over one year who were supported by Mentoring Specialists. NWAESC Novice Network retention rate of teachers in the profession was 98%. |
| Dyslexia | Total Number of Students Receiving Dyslexia Intervention Services in grades K-12 during the 2023-24 school year was 4,647. |
| Virtual Arkansas | The pass rate for Northwest is 95.5%. The average grade was a 82.3%. This is based on 1,089 enrollments for the year. |

NORTHWEST ARKANSAS
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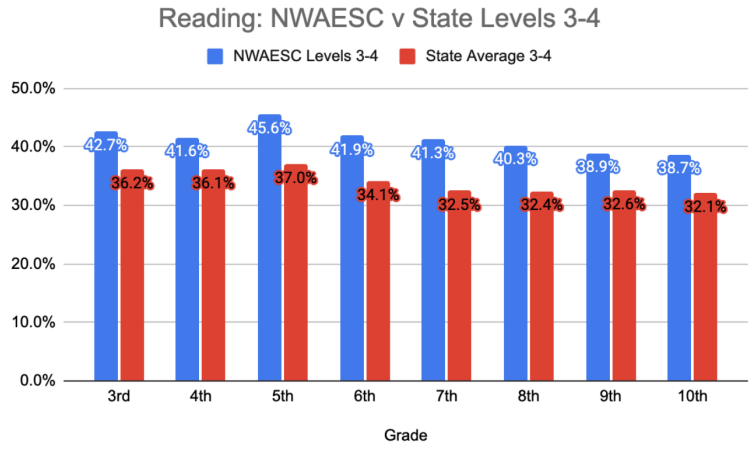
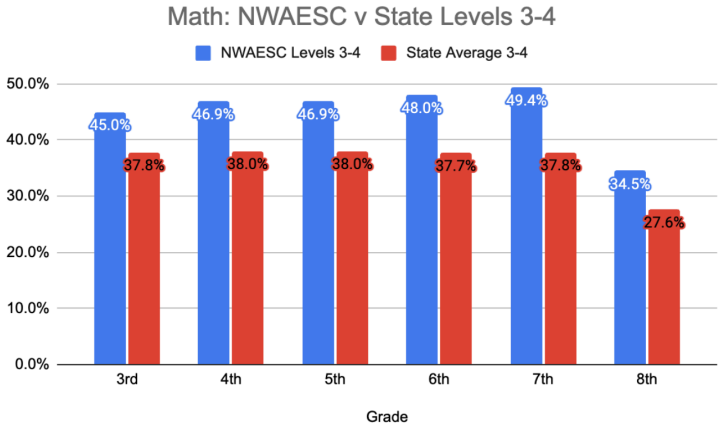
# NWAESC Performance Data
# ATLAS Spring 2024



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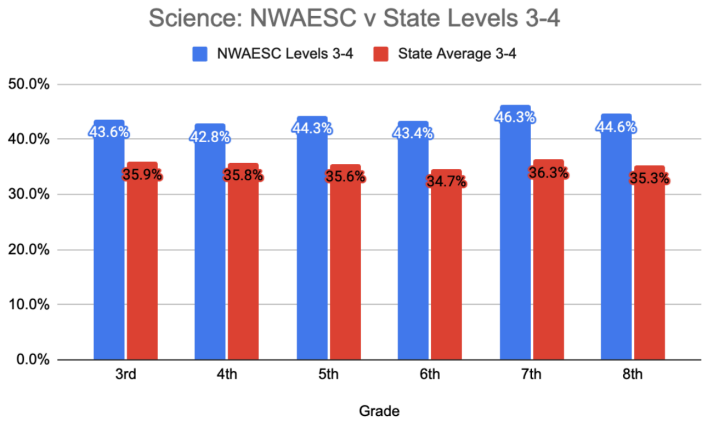


# Professional Development Summary Report

## 2024-2025

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# Notice of Non-Discrimination

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