



AESA

ASSOCIATION OF
EDUCATIONAL SERVICE AGENCIES

STATE BY STATE ESA REPORT

March 2021

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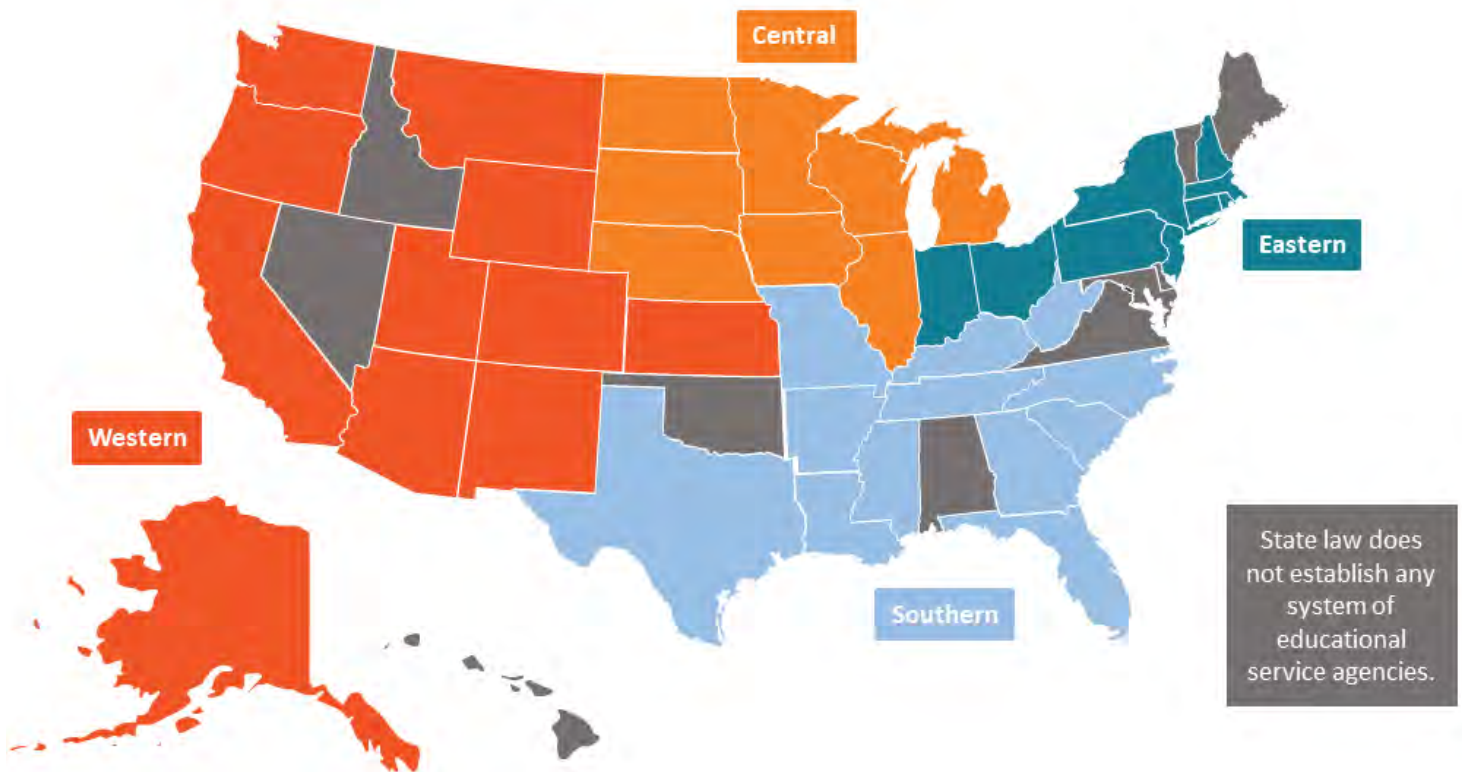
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INTRODUCTION

By an accepted national definition, an educational service agency is “a regional public elementary-secondary education agency authorized by state statute or administrative code that exists primarily to provide instructional support and management and planning programs and services to local education agencies . . . An ESA may also provide services of a technical assistance, consultative, or statistical nature for the state... these services] do not carry with them the responsibility for the ESA to levy sanctions against a non-complying local education agency to a state or federal directive.” The primary role of the ESA is service to its constituent districts and schools, not their regulation.

AESA REGIONS



WESTERN REGION



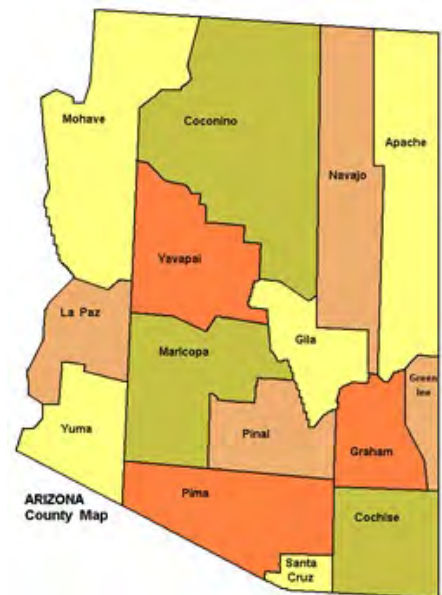
Alaska

- Name: Southeast Regional Resource Center (SERRC), Alaska's Educational Resource Center
- Number of Organizations: 1
- Definition: The districts of the state public school system may join together to establish regional resource centers to provide services, including the following: accounting, payroll, and other fiscal; media; instructional support; bilingual-bicultural educational; in-service and staff development; student; diagnostic; school management; and school board member training. AS § 14.12.150
- State Association: None
- Funding: SERRC is grant and contract funded and receives direct payments from school districts for services provided.
- Local Education Agency (LEA) status: Alaska does not have a definition of LEA. Alaska law defines "school districts" and "regional resource centers" as distinct entities.



Arizona

- Name: Office County of School Superintendent
- Number of Organizations: 15
- Definition: The county school superintendent shall: ... At the request of school districts and charter schools, the county school superintendent may provide discretionary programs.”
A.R.S. § 15-302
- State Association: Arizona Association of County School Superintendents. Informal. Executive Directors meet on a regular basis with a rotating chair.
- Funding: The Offices of County School Superintendents maintain county school funds which consist of revenues accruing from:
 - The county school fund of each county shall consist of all revenues accruing to the credit of each county from:



1. That portion of the payments made under § 36-1419 which represents payment in lieu of the county levy for school purposes.

2. Taylor grazing act monies as provided in § 37-723.
 3. All receipts from the lease of public lands as provided in § 37-724.
 4. All balances remaining in the county school fund and in the special county school reserve fund at the end of the fiscal year and all balances of lapsed school districts remaining after the payments authorized under § 15-469.
 5. All dividends, proceeds from sales, refunds, credits arising from cancelled warrants and any other sums or amounts that are attributable to the county school fund.
 6. All other federal lieu taxes which are not specifically allocated by law.
 7. Any gratuity or devise designated for specific school purposes.
- A.R.S. § 15-1000. In addition, the board of supervisors for each county also annually allocates a budget for a special county school reserve fund which can be used for specific purposes like transportation for rural students. A.R.S. § 15-100
 - Local Education Agency (LEA) status: Arizona law explicitly defines Offices of County School Superintendents as LEAs for purposes of eligibility for federal programs.

California

- Name: County Office of Education
- Number of Organizations: 58
- Definition: California County Superintendents of Schools have authority to act as educational service agencies for school districts. Specifically, “each county superintendent of schools is authorized upon request to provide consultative or coordinative services for school districts and community college districts in the territory under his or her jurisdiction which have established educational programs that are designed to meet the requirements of federal law for the receipt of federal funds for the support of the programs, and that are supported in whole or in part by federal funds. The services may be financed by the federal funds as may be provided.” Cal. Educ. Code § 1262

County Superintendents of Schools are also responsible for approving the LCAP-Local Control and Accountability Plans- of the school districts in their jurisdiction.

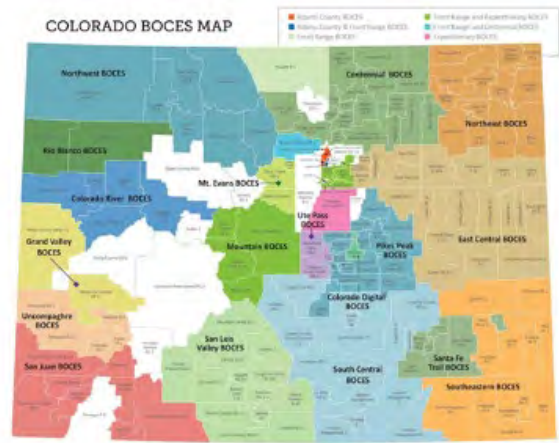
- State Association: CA County Superintendents Educational Services Association (CCSESA). Hired Executive Director.
- Funding: County Offices of Education are funded via state allocations from the local control funding formula, funds from taxes managed by counties, and federal funds.



- *Local Education Agency (LEA) status:* California law explicitly defines County Offices of Education as LEAs for purposes of eligibility for federal programs. California defines “local educational agency” to include county offices of education. Specifically, “local educational agency means a school district, a county office of education, a non-profit charter school participating as a member of a special education local plan area, or a special education local plan area.” Cal.Educ.Code § 56026.3

Colorado

- Name: Boards of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES)
- Number of Organizations: 21
- State Association: Colorado BOCES Association. Hired Executive Director.
- Definition: The general assembly declares that this article is enacted for the general improvement and expansion of educational services of the public schools in the state of Colorado; for the creation of boards of cooperative services where feasible for purposes of enabling two or more school districts to cooperate in furnishing services authorized by law if cooperation appears desirable; and for the setting forth of the powers and duties of said boards of cooperative services.” C.R.S.A. § 22-5-102.
- Funding: BOCES receive a small amount of money directly from the state to support staff development. Outside of this amount, BOCES receive the rest of their funding via their member school districts, whether through membership fees, fees for services, or funds from state or federal grants.
- Local Education Agency (LEA) status: Colorado law designates BOCES as local education agencies for purposes of federal or state programs only if two or more of the BOCES member school districts have expressly agreed to participate in a grant application. C.R.S.A. § 22-5-114.5



Hawaii

- Hawaii law does not establish any system of educational service agencies.

Idaho

- Idaho law does not establish any system of educational service agencies.

Kansas

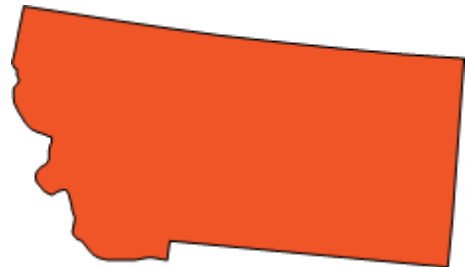
- Name: Service Centers (Interlocal Cooperative)
- Number of Organizations: 7
- Definition: "In the event the boards of education of any two or more school districts enter into a school district interlocal cooperation agreement for the purpose of jointly and cooperatively performing any of the services, duties, functions, activities, obligations or responsibilities which are authorized or required by law to be performed by school districts of this state." K.S.A. 72-13,100
- State Association: Informal. Executive Directors meet on a regular basis with a rotating chair.
- Funding: Funded through contributions from their member school districts and through fees charged for services provided. K.S.A. 72-13,100
- Local Education Agency (LEA) status: Kansas does not have a definition for "local education agency." Kansas state law separately defines "school district" and "interlocal cooperative agreements" as distinct concepts.



Kansas Education Service Agencies 20-21

Montana

- Name: Educational Cooperatives (Created as voluntary cooperatives in 2012)
- Number of Organizations: 2
- Definition: A school district may contract with one or more other school districts to establish a cooperative to perform any or all education administrative services, activities, and undertakings that the school district entering into the contract is authorized by law to perform. The cooperative contract must be authorized by the boards of trustees of the districts entering into the contract. MCA 20-7-451.
- State Association: None
- Funding: Educational Cooperatives are funded by their member districts and through fees charged for services provided. Educational Cooperatives may receive special education funds directly from the state.
- Local Education Agency (LEA) status: Educational Cooperatives are not considered LEAs under state law.



Nevada

- Nevada law does not establish any system of educational service agencies.

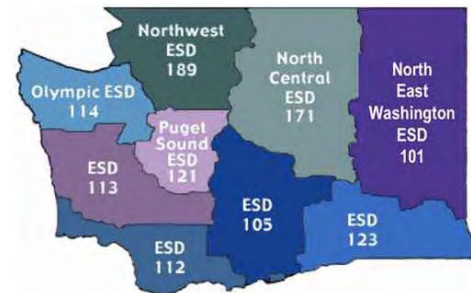
New Mexico

- Name: Regional Education Cooperatives
- Number of Organizations: 10
- Definition: The department may authorize the existence and operation of “regional education cooperatives”. Upon authorization by the department, local school boards may join with other local school boards or other state-supported educational institutions to form cooperatives to provide education-related services. N. M. S. A. 1978, § 22-2B-3
- State Association: Informal. Executive Directors meet on a regular basis with a rotating chair.
- Funding: Regional education cooperatives are funded through contributions from their member districts and through fees charged for services provided. Regional education cooperatives can supplement these funds with grants from state and federal sources.
- Local Education Agency (LEA) status: Regional Education Cooperatives are not considered LEAs under state law.



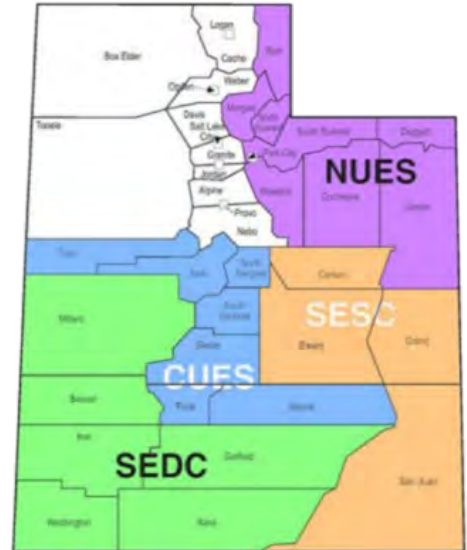
Oregon

- Name: Educational Service District (ESD)
- Number of Organizations: 19
- Definition: Education service district means a district created under ORS 334.010 that provides regional educational services to component school districts.” O.R.S. § 334.003
- State Association: Oregon Association of Education Service Districts (OAESD). Hired Executive Director.
- Funding: ESDs are funded through annual appropriations from the state government and through fees charged for services provided to their member school districts. Additionally, ESDs have the authority to levy ad valorem property taxes.
- Local Education Agency (LEA) status: ESDs are not considered LEAS under state law. However, ESDs may be eligible for federal funding for programs supporting migrant children as Oregon state law defines “school district” to include ESDs for purposes of the state’s migrant children funding provisions.



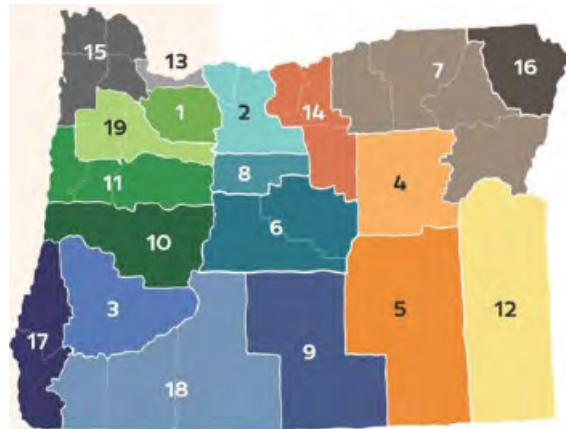
Utah

- Name: Regional Education Service Agencies
- Number of Organizations: 4
- Definition: Regional education service agency means an entity formed by two or more school districts as an interlocal entity, in accordance with Title 11, Chapter 13, Interlocal Cooperation Act, with the authority and duties described in this section.” U.C.A. 1953 § 53G-4-410.
- State Association: Informal. Executive Directors meet on a regular basis with a rotating chair.
- Funding: Regional Education Service Agencies receive direct appropriations from the state. Regional Education Service Agencies may also receive funds through federal and state grants as well as through fees charged for services provided by member school districts and charter schools.
- Local Education Agency (LEA) status: Regional Education Service Agencies are not considered LEAs under state law but do have authority as such as an education entity.



Washington

- Name: Educational Service District (ESD)
- Number of Organizations: 9
- Definition: Educational service districts were established in state law in 1969 as regional agencies which were intended to:
 - “(1) Provide cooperative and informational services to local school districts;
 - (2) Assist the superintendent of public instruction and the state board of education in the performance of their respective statutory or constitutional duties; and
 - (3) Provide services to school districts and to the Washington center for deaf and hard of hearing youth and the school for the blind to assure equal educational opportunities.” WA ST RCW 28A.310.010
- State Association: Washington Association of Educational Service Districts (WAESD). AESD Executive Board consists of one representative from each ESD with an elected president and vice-president. ESD superintendents meet on a regular basis with a chair who rotates every two years. There is a hired “AESD/OSPI Network Executive Director” who supports AESD statewide efforts and statewide initiatives with the state’s Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI).
- Funding: ESDs are expected to provide foundational “core services” within each region and are allocated state funding through a formula established by OSPI to do so in order to accomplish

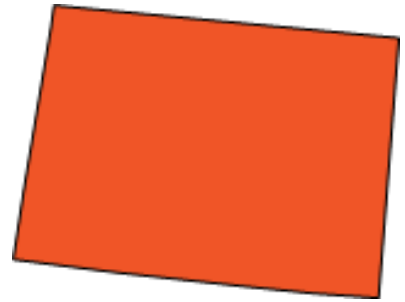


core activities as outlined in RCW [28A.310.350](#). Less than 3% of funding for each ESD is provided by state appropriation for core services. The remaining revenue comes from grants, fees for service, cooperatives, and entrepreneurial activities for activities to support K12 education statewide.

- Local Education Agency (LEA) status: Overall, ESDs are not considered Local Education Agencies (LEAs) under state law. However, in some cases ESDs host school district cooperatives that may be considered LEAs by OSPI as they provide direct student services (i.e., special education).

Wyoming

- Name: Boards of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES)
- Number of Organizations: 3
- Definition: The purpose of this act is to provide a method whereby school districts and community college districts or any combination may work together and cooperate to provide educational services, including but not limited to postsecondary education, vocational-technical education, adult education, and services for children with disabilities, when the services can be more effectively provided through a cooperative effort. Educational services provided under this act by or in cooperation with public schools shall be subject to the standards for educational programs imposed under W.S. 21-9-101 and 21-9-102, and by rule and regulation of the state board." W.S.1977 § 21-20-102
- State Association: Informal. Association of Cooperative Educational Services (ACES). Executive Directors meet on a regular basis with a rotating chair.
- Funding: BOCES member districts may levy a special school district taxes on their behalf generate funds. W.S.1977 § 21-20-109. BOCES are otherwise funded by their member districts on a basis agreed upon by the boards of trustees of the districts. W.S.1977 § 21-20-106.
- Local Education Agency (LEA) status: BOCES are not considered LEAs under state law.



A map of the Central Region of the United States, including Montana, Wyoming, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas, Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona, and Nevada. The map is colored in a light orange hue with white outlines for state boundaries. The text "CENTRAL REGION" is overlaid in the center in a bold, dark blue font.

CENTRAL REGION

Illinois

- Name: Regional Offices of Education (ROEs) and Intermediate Service Centers (ISCs) (a subset of ROEs that serve Cook County).
- Number of Organizations: 35 ROEs, 3 ISCs
- Definition: The chief administrative officer of an educational service region shall be designated and referred to as the 'regional superintendent of schools' or the 'regional superintendent' and after the effective date of this amendatory Act of 1993 the office held by the chief administrative officer shall be designated and referred to as the 'regional office of education.'" 105 ILCS 5/3-0.01 "Any reference to 'county' or to 'educational service region' in this Article means a regional office of education." *Id.* "Each regional superintendent of schools is encouraged to offer school districts the opportunity to share in joint educational or operational programs and to urge school districts to participate in such programs when the school district determines that such participation is fiscally prudent. The regional superintendent of schools may provide and contract for the staff, space, necessary materials, supplies, books and apparatus for such agreements." 105 ILCS 5/3-15.14.



ISCs are a subset of ROEs that serve Cook County. 23 Ill. Adm. Code § 525.30.

- State Association: Informal, Illinois Association of Regional Superintendents of Schools. Executive Directors meet on a regular basis with a rotating chair.
- Funding: ROEs apply to the state annually for funding. Funding is determined by "a) the total appropriation of state funds identified with a particular program; b) the amount of federal grant funds applicable to particular programs to be provided through the Regional Office of Education or Chicago Intermediate Service Center for programs and services to be provided pursuant to Section 525.110 of this Part; c) the level of each Regional Office of Education's or Chicago Intermediate Service Center's need for support, including levels of expenditure and experience from prior years, as evidenced in its annual application to the State Board of Education; and d) the need to assure the delivery of services on a statewide basis" 23Ill. Admin. Code § 525.150. ROEs also receive fees for services provided to school districts.
- Local Education Agency (LEA) status: Illinois law explicitly defines ROEs and ISCs as LEAs for purposes of eligibility for federal programs.

Iowa

- Name: Area Education Agencies (AEAs)
- Number of Organizations: 9
- Definition: It is the intent of the general assembly to provide an effective, efficient, and economical means of identifying and serving children from under five years of age through grade twelve who require special education and any other children requiring special education as defined in section 256B.2; to provide for media services and other programs and services for pupils in grades kindergarten through twelve and children requiring special education as defined in section 256B.2; to provide a method of financing the programs and services; and to avoid a duplication of programs and services provided by any other school corporation in the state; and to provide services to school districts under a contract with those school districts." I.C.A. § 273.1
- State Association: Formal, Iowa Association of AEA's (IAAEA). Hired Executive Director.
- Funding: AEAs are funded by the school districts that they serve, including with flow through funding from state aid designated for special education services. I.C.A. § 273.9.
- Local Education Agency (LEA) status: AEAs are not considered LEAs under state law.



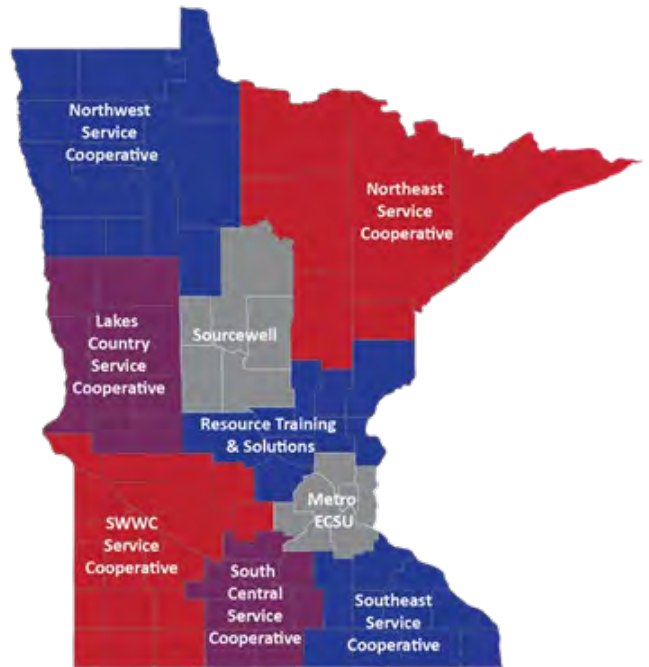
Michigan

- Name: Intermediate School Districts (ISDs)
- Number of Organizations: 56
- Definition: Intermediate school district means a corporate body established under part 7." M.C.L.A. 380.4. Part 7 of Article I of the Revised School Code of 1976 then goes on to define the duties and powers of ISDs. M.C.L.A. 380.601a.
- State Association: MI Association of Intermediate School Administrators (MAISA). Hired Executive Director.
- Funding: ISDs have taxing authority and may issue bonds to generate funds. Additionally, ISDs may charge school districts for services provided. M.C.L.A. 380.625.
- Local Education Agency (LEA) status. ISDs are considered LEAs for Federal Funding.



Minnesota

- Name: Regional Service Cooperatives and Intermediate School Districts
- Number of Organizations: 9 Regional Service Cooperatives, 4 Intermediate School Districts
- Definition: "The primary purposes of designation as a SC shall be to perform planning on a regional basis and to assist in meeting specific needs of clients in participating governmental units which could be better provided by a SC than by the members themselves. The SC must provide those programs and services which are determined, pursuant to subdivision 7, to be priority needs of the particular region and must assist in meeting special needs which arise from fundamental constraints upon individual members." M.S.A. § 123A.21
- Intermediate district means a district with a cooperative program which has been established under Laws 1967, chapter 822, as amended; Laws 1969, chapter 775, as amended; and Laws 1969, chapter 1060, as amended, offering integrated services for secondary, postsecondary, and adult students in the areas of vocational education, special education, and other authorized services. M.S.A. 136D.01
- State Association: Informal, Service Cooperative Executive Directors meet on a regular basis with a rotating chair.
- Funding: Regional Service Cooperatives are funded by the member school districts they serve. Regional Service Cooperatives may supplement this funding with local, state, and federal grants. M.S.A. § 123A.21
- Local Education Agency (LEA) status: Regional Service Cooperatives are not considered LEAs under state law.



Nebraska

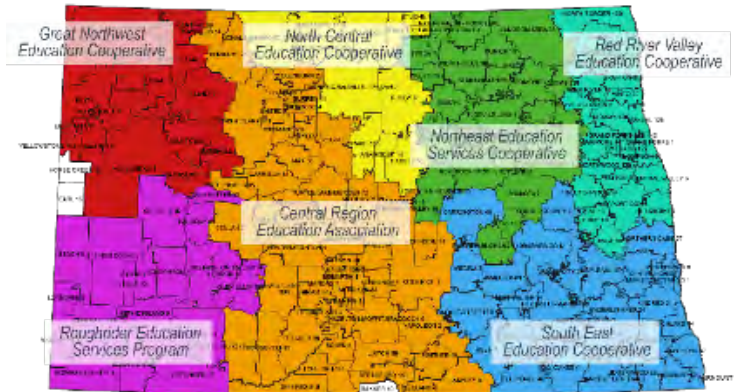
- Name: Educational Service Units (ESUs)
- Number of Organizations: 17
- Definition: The role and mission of the educational service units is to serve as educational service providers in the state's system of elementary and secondary education." Neb.Rev.St. § 79-1204
- State Association: NE ESU Coordinating Council. Hired Executive Director.



- Funding: Educational Service Units have the power to levy taxes to raise funds. Neb.Rev.St. § 79-1225. Educational Services Units otherwise receive funds from their member school districts and through fees charged for services provided.
- Local Education Agency (LEA) status: Educational Service Units are not considered LEAs under state law.

North Dakota

- Name: Regional Education Association (REAs)
- Number of Organizations: 7
- Definition: For purposes of this chapter, 'regional education association' means a group of school districts that have entered a joint powers agreement that has been reviewed by the superintendent of public instruction and verified as meeting the requirements of section 15.1-09.1-02." NDCC, 15.1-09.1-01.



North Dakota has a separately established system of multidistrict special education districts which provide special education services to cooperatives of school districts. NDCC, 15.1-33-01

- Services to be offered: In order to be eligible for state funding, a regional education association must offer the following services to its member districts:
 - Coordination and facilitation of professional development activities for teachers and administrators employed by its member districts.
 - Supplementation of technology support services.
 - Assistance with achieving school improvement goals identified by the superintendent of public instruction.
 - Assistance with the collection, analysis, and interpretation of student achievement data.
 - Assistance with the expansion and enrichment of curricular offerings.

Subsection 1 does not preclude a regional education association from offering additional services to its member districts. NDCC, 15.1-09.1-02.1

- State Association: Informal, ND Regional Education Association, meets regularly with a rotating chair.
- Funding: Regional Education Associations are funded with an annual state appropriation based on member districts' average daily membership. NDCC, 15.1-27-03.1. Additionally, Regional Education Associations are funded through fees charged for services.
- Local Education Agency (LEA) status: Regional Education Associations are not considered LEAs under state law.

South Dakota

- Name: Cooperative Educational Service Units
- Number of Organizations: 14
- Definition: A cooperative education service unit is a legal entity. It is the intent of the Legislature to encourage maximum utilization of cooperative efforts among school districts in an effort to maximize educational excellence in this state and to permit cooperative efforts between schools which are not adjacent to one another. A cooperative service unit may provide academic educational resources, human resources, special education services, payroll services, cooperative purchasing, workers' compensation, group health insurance, and other services deemed appropriate by a majority vote of the governing board and in keeping with the laws of the State of South Dakota." SDCL § 13-5-31.



South Dakota previously had entities called "education service agencies" that were disbanded in 2017 as they were seen as largely duplicative of cooperatives. SL 2017, ch 74, §§ 5 to 12.

- State Association: None
- Funding: Cooperative Educational Service Units are funded according to their individual by-laws. Some Cooperative Educational Service Units require member districts to pay annual allocations, while others only charge fees for services provided. Cooperative Educational Service Units supplement these funds with state and federal grants.
- Local Education Agencies (LEA) Cooperative Educational Service Units are not considered LEAs under state law

Wisconsin

- Name: Cooperative Educational Service Agencies (CESAs)
- Number of Organizations: 12
- Definition: The cooperative educational service agencies are designed to serve educational needs in all areas of Wisconsin by serving as a link both between school districts and between school districts and the state. Cooperative educational service agencies may provide leadership, coordination, and education services to school districts, University of Wisconsin System institutions, and technical colleges. Cooperative educational service agencies may facilitate communication and cooperation among all public, private, and tribal schools, and all public and private agencies and organizations, that provide services to pupils." W.S.A. 116.01



- State Association: CESA Statewide Network (CSN). Hired 40% CESA Statewide Network Liaison.
- Funding: CESAs are funded through state and federal grants as well as fees paid for services provided to member school districts. W.S.A. 116.08.
- Local Education Agency (LEA) status: CESAs are not considered LEAs under state law.

A map of the Southern United States with state boundaries. Most states are colored light blue, while four states (Oklahoma, Arkansas, Mississippi, and Virginia) are highlighted in a darker brownish-grey color. The text "SOUTHERN REGION" is overlaid in the center in a bold, dark teal font.

SOUTHERN REGION

Alabama

- Alabama law does not establish any system of educational service agencies.

Arkansas

- Name: Education Service Cooperatives
- Number of Organizations: 15
- Definition: Education service cooperatives shall be intermediate service units in the state's elementary and secondary education system and as such shall be eligible to receive and expend funds from state and federal governments, school districts, and other public or private sources. A.C.A. § 6-13-1002
- State Association: Informal, Executive Directors meet regularly with a rotating chair.
- Funding: Education Service Cooperatives are funded with a combination of direct state budgetary allocations for core needs (e.g. salary, travel, equipment, staff support, etc.), federal funds, and fees for services offered to local school districts. School districts do not pay membership fees to the Education Service Cooperatives. A.C.A. § 6-13-1019
- Local Education Agency (LEA) status: Arkansas law explicitly defines Education Service Cooperatives as LEAs for purposes of eligibility for federal programs.



Florida

- Name: Regional Consortium Service Organization
- Number of Organizations: 3
- Definition: School districts with 20,000 or fewer unweighted full-time equivalent students, developmental research (laboratory) schools established pursuant to s. 1002.32, and the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind may enter into cooperative agreements to form a regional consortium service organization. Each regional consortium service organization shall provide, at a minimum, three of the following services: exceptional student education; teacher education centers; environmental education; federal grant procurement and coordination; data processing; health insurance; risk management insurance; staff development; purchasing; or planning and accountability." F.S.A. § 1001.451



- State Association: None
- Funding: Regional Consortium Service Organizations receive direct funding through state incentive grants and allocations from member school districts. Additionally, Regional Consortium Service Organizations may charge fees for services provided.
- Local Education Agency (LEA) status: Regional Consortium Service Organization is not considered an LEA under state law.

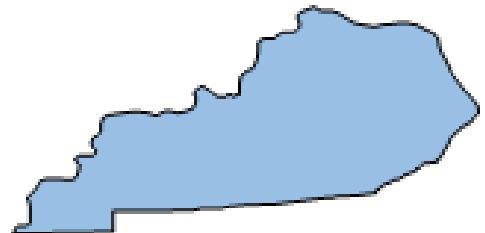
Georgia

- Name: Regional Educational Service Agency (RESA)
- Number of Organizations: 16
- Definition: The State Board of Education shall establish a state-wide network of regional educational service agencies for the purposes of: providing shared services designed to improve the effectiveness of educational programs and services to local school systems and state charter schools; providing instructional programs directly to selected public school students in the state; and providing Georgia Learning Resources System services. The regional educational service agencies established by the state board may legally be referred to as 'RESA' or 'RESA's'." Ga. Code Ann., § 20-2-270
- State Association: Informal. Executive Directors meet on a regular basis with a rotating chair.
- Funding: RESAs are funded through a combination of a uniform state-wide needs program grant, a documented local needs program grant, allocations from member local school systems, and fees for services provided. Ga. Code Ann., § 20-2-274.
- Local Education Agency (LEA) status: Georgia considers RESAs to be "local units of administration" that are established by state law. Georgia does not otherwise define the term "local education agency."



Kentucky

- Name: Education Cooperatives
- Number of Organizations: 8
- Definition: It is the purpose of [KRS 65.210](#) to [65.300](#) to permit public agencies to make the most efficient use of their powers by enabling them to cooperate with each other on a basis of mutual advantage and thereby to provide services and facilities in a manner and pursuant to forms of governmental organization that will accord best with geographic, economic, population, and other factors influencing the



needs and development of local communities.” KRS § 65.210. Education cooperatives are cooperatives formed by school boards under this general statute allowing for the formation of cooperatives between public agencies.

- State Association: Informal. Executive Directors meet on a regular basis with a rotating chair.
- Funding: Education cooperatives are funded by fees paid for services provided to member school districts. Education cooperatives also may apply for state and federal grants.
- Local Education Agency (LEA) status: Education Cooperatives considered LEAs under state law. (KRS 65.210 - 65.300)

Louisiana

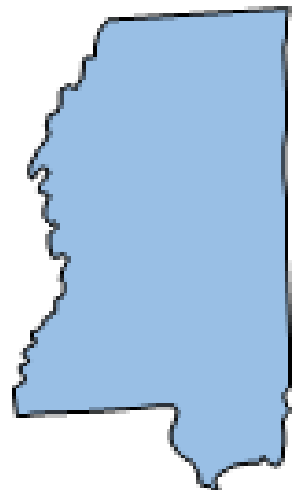
- Name: Special School District
- Number of Organizations: None
- Definition: “The Special School District shall be considered an educational service agency administered the Department of Education, subject to the limitations of such units which shall include no authority to levy tax. The Special School District shall have the responsibility and authority to create and fill positions to serve the students in the district subject to the availability of funds.” LSA-R.S. 17:1945
- State Association: None
- Funding: The Louisiana Special School District is directly funded by the state government.
- Local Education Agency (LEA) status: Louisiana law explicitly defines Special School Districts as LEAs for purposes of eligibility for federal programs.



by

Mississippi

- Name: Regional Educational Service Agencies (RESAs)
- Number of Organizations: 6
- Definition: A regional educational service agency (ESA) may be established in a region of the state when twelve (12) or more school districts determine there are benefits and services that can be derived from the collective and collaborative formation of an agency for the purpose of pooling and leveraging resources for the common benefit of students, teachers, administrators and taxpayers. An educational service agency shall be incorporated in the State of Mississippi and organized under the laws of the State of Mississippi as a non-profit corporation. The educational service agency shall obtain 501(c)(3) status with the Internal Revenue Service.” Miss. Code Ann. § 37-7-345



- State Association: None
- Funding: RESAs are funded by their member districts. RESAs can supplement these funds with state grants.
- Local Education Agency (LEA) status: RESAs are not considered LEAs under state law.

Missouri

- Name: Educational Service Agency
- Number of Organizations: 4
- Definition: Any public school district or districts may designate an educational service agency, as defined in 20 U.S.C. Section 7801, for the purpose of developing, managing, and providing instructional services or programs to the participating school district or districts.” V.A.M.S. 162.1180



- State Association: None
- Funding: Educational Service Agencies are funded by their member districts and through fees charged for services provided.
- Local Education Agency (LEA) status: Educational Service Agencies are not considered LEAs under state law.

North Carolina

- Name: Regional Educational Service Agencies
- Number of Organizations: 8
- Definition: North Carolina law does not establish any system of educational service agencies. However, local boards of education are permitted to form cooperative agreements with other local boards of education or with non-profit corporations. N.C.G.S.A. § 115C-47.

North Carolina State Board of Education Districts



- State Association: Informal. Executive directors meet regularly.
- Funding: Fee for service.
- Local Education Agency (LEA) status: Educational service agencies in are not formally established under state law, therefore they are not considered LEAs.

Oklahoma

- Oklahoma law does not establish any system of educational service agencies.

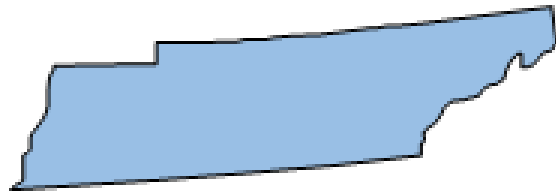
South Carolina

- Name: South Carolina law does not establish any system of educational service agencies. However, they do have regional consortia that provide shared services (Proviso 1.88)
- Number of Organizations: 6
- Definition: South Carolina law does not establish any system of educational service agencies.
- State Association: None
- Funding: Regional consortia are established and funded by groups of school districts.
- Local Education Agency (LEA) status: Educational service agencies in are not formally established under state law, therefore they are not considered LEAs.



Tennessee

- Name: Educational Cooperatives
- Number of Organizations:
- Definition: "It is the purpose of this part to permit local governmental units and boards of education the most efficient use of their powers by enabling them to cooperate with other localities on a basis of mutual advantage and to thereby provide educational services and facilities in a manner that will accord best with geographic, economic, population and other factors influencing the needs and development of local educational facilities and services." T. C. A. § 49-2-1302
- Funding: Educational Cooperatives fund operations according to the bylaws of the cooperative agreement, which may include requiring contributions from member districts. Educational Cooperatives receive funds through fees charged for services provided as well as state and federal grants.
- Local Education Agency (LEA) status: Educational Cooperatives are not considered LEAs under state law.



Texas

- Name: Regional Education Service Centers

- Number of Organizations: 20

- Definition: Regional education service centers means a system of regional and educational services established in Chapter 8." V.T.C.A., Education Code § 5.001.

- Regional education service centers shall:

- assist school districts in improving student performance in each region of the system;
 - enable school districts to operate more efficiently and economically; and
 - implement initiatives assigned by the legislature or the commissioner." V.T.C.A., Education Code § 8.002.



- State Association: Informal, Executive Directors meet regularly with a rotating chair.
- Funding: Regional Education Service Centers receive direct annual appropriations from the state for core services. V.T.C.A., Education Code § 8.121. Regional Education Services Centers also receive funding through additional state and federal grants as well as through fees charged for services provided to member school districts.
- Local Education Agency (LEA) status: Regional Education Service Centers are not considered LEAs under state law.

Virginia

- Virginia law does not establish any system of educational service agencies.

West Virginia

- Name: Educational Service Cooperatives (formerly known as Regional Education Service Agencies)
- Number of Organizations: 3
- Definition: A county board is authorized to enter into a cooperative agreement with one or more other county boards to establish educational services cooperatives which shall serve as regional units to provide for high quality, cost effective lifelong education programs and services to students, schools, school systems, and communities in accordance with this section. Each educational services cooperative may serve as a regional public multi-service agency to develop, manage, and provide such services or programs as determined by its governing council and as provided in this section or otherwise provided in this code. All references in this code to regional education service agencies or RESA's mean an educational services cooperative as authorized under this section." W. Va. Code, § 18-5-13c.



In 2017, West Virginia repealed the legislation that established Regional Education Service Agencies and replaced them with Educational Service Cooperatives.

- State Association: None
- Funding: Educational Services Cooperatives may generate funds from fees charged for services and from state and federal grants.
- Local Education Agency (LEA) status: Educational Service Cooperatives are not considered LEAs under state law. ESCs are considered LEAs for the purpose of receiving federal grants.

EASTERN REGION



Connecticut

- Name: Regional Education Service Center (RESC)
- Number of Organizations: 6
- Definition: A regional educational service center may be established in any regional state planning area designated in accordance with section 16a-4a upon approval by the State Board of Education of a plan of organization and operation submitted by four or more boards of education for the purpose of cooperative action to furnish programs and services.

Except where the pupil population is over fifty thousand in a given planning area, only one regional educational service center may be established in such area. In no case shall there be more than two educational service centers in any such area and in no case shall a board of education be a member of more than one regional educational service center. If, after the establishment of a regional educational service center, boards of education vote to withdraw so that fewer than four such boards are members or the State Board of Education denies continued approval pursuant to section 10-66h, the center shall cease to exist at the end of the subsequent fiscal year." C.G.S.A. § 10-66a.

- State Association: RESC Alliance that has a rotating Chair. The RESC Alliance employs a retired Superintendent part-time to support organizational subgroups including ones for special education, professional development, Human Resources, fiscal services, tech and marketing. Each RESC appoints an employee to serve in each of these subgroups. Executive Directors meet twice per month.
- Funding: RESCs are fee-for-service, not-for-profit entities. RESCs are funded by their member school districts via pooled payments for overhead and administrative costs as well as fees for services provided. RESCs also have authority to issue bonds and enter into other contractual agreements. C.G.S.A. § 10-66e
- Local Education Agency (LEA) status: For purposes of state special education programs, Connecticut defines "providing school districts" broadly enough to possibly include RESCs. However, it is not clear that this definition would be imputed to a definition of "local educational agencies".



Delaware

- Delaware law does not establish any system of educational service agencies.

Indiana

- Name: Educational Service Centers (ESCs)
- Number of Organizations: 9
- Definition: Educational service center means an extended agency of school corporations, charter schools, and applicable nonpublic schools that:
 - operates under rules established by the state board;
 - is the administrative and operational unit that serves a definitive geographical boundary, which, to the extent possible, must be aligned with the boundary of a regional works council's region established under IC 20-19-6 (before its expiration); and
 - allows school corporations, charter schools, and applicable nonpublic schools to voluntarily cooperate and share programs and services that the school corporations, charter schools, and applicable nonpublic schools cannot individually provide but collectively may implement.” IC 20-20-1-2
- State Association: Informal, Executive Directors meet regularly with a rotating chair.
- Funding: ESCs are funded through donations, local funds, and federal funds. ESCs also receive fees for services provided to school districts. IC 20-20-1-11
- Local Education Agency (LEA) status: ESCs are not considered LEAs under state law.



Maine

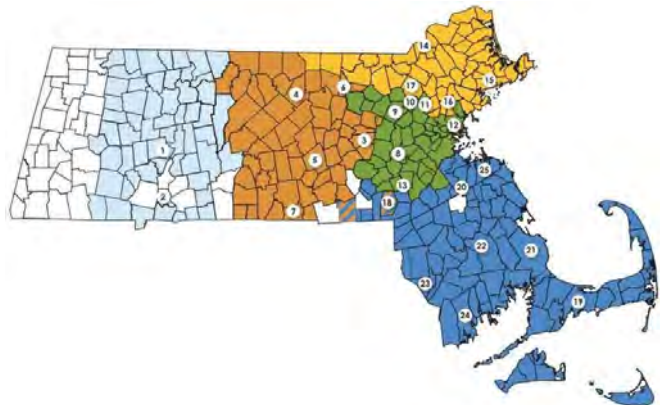
- Maine law was repealed in 2009 that established Regional Education Cooperatives. There is currently no system of educational service agencies.

Maryland

- Maryland law does not establish any system of educational service agencies.

Massachusetts

- Name: Educational Collaborative
- Number of Organizations: 25
- Definition: Two or more school committees of cities, towns and regional school districts and boards of trustees of charter schools may enter into a written agreement to provide shared programs



and services, including instructional, administrative, facility, community or any other services; provided that a primary purpose of such programs and services shall be to complement the educational programs of member school committees and charter schools in a cost-effective manner. The association of school committees and charter school boards which is formed to deliver the programs and services shall be known as an education collaborative.” M.G.L.A. 40 § 4E.

- State Association: Massachusetts Organization of Educational Collaboratives. Hired Executive Director.
- Funding: The board of directors of the education collaborative shall establish and manage a fund, to be known as an education collaborative fund, and each such fund shall be designated by an appropriate name. All monies contributed by the member cities or towns and charter schools and all grants or gifts from the federal government, state government, charitable foundations, private corporations or any other source shall be paid to the board of directors of the education collaborative and deposited in the fund.” M.G.L.A. 40 § 4E.

The collaborative board of directors shall follow the process outlined in the collaborative agreement for the development and approval of the collaborative budget, tuition rates, membership dues and fees-for-service. On an annual basis the collaborative board of directors shall propose a budget for the upcoming fiscal year. The proposed budget shall contain all planned financial activity. Expenditures from grant funds, trust funds and other funds not designated as general funds that by law may be expended by the collaborative board of directors without further appropriation shall be segregated in the budget. The general fund budget shall segregate all operating expenditures, capital expenditures, debt service payments and deposits to capital reserve. The proposed budget shall be classified into such line items as the collaborative board of directors shall determine.

All financial activity for the operation of the collaborative shall be considered general fund activity with the exception of activities relative to grants, gifts or contracts.

The budget shall delineate the tuition rates, membership dues and fees-for-service or surcharges, if applicable, to be paid by the member districts and non-member districts.

Tuition rates and fees-for-service shall be based on the combined cost of providing collaborative programs and services.

The proposed budget shall be discussed at a public meeting of the collaborative board of directors. Public notice shall be given to member districts.

Approving the Collaborative Budget:

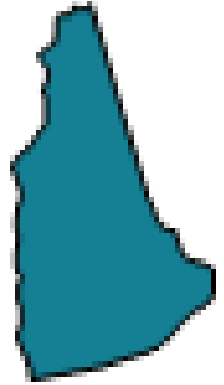
At a collaborative board meeting at least ten working days following the board meeting at which the collaborative budget was first proposed, the collaborative board of directors shall approve, by at least a majority vote, the collaborative budget for the upcoming fiscal year.

The treasurer of the educational collaborative shall certify and transmit the budget and the tuition rates, membership dues and fees-for-service for the upcoming fiscal year to each member district in a timeframe specified in the collaborative agreement.

- Local Education Agency (LEA) status: Educational Collaboratives are not considered LEAs under state law.

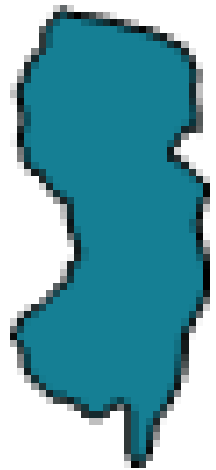
New Hampshire

- Name: Educational Service Centers
- Number of Organizations: 4
- Definition:
- State Association: No state association.
- Funding: Educational Service Centers receive fees for services provided.
- Local Education Agency (LEA) status:



New Jersey

- Name: Educational Services Commission
- Number of Organizations: 11
- Definition: Educational Services Commission means an agency established or to be established in one or more counties for the purpose of carrying on programs of educational research and development and providing to public school districts such educational and administrative services as may be authorized pursuant to rules of the State Board of Education.” N.J.S.A. 18A:6-51
- State Association: Informal, Educational Services Council. Superintendents meet monthly with a rotating chair.
- Funding: Educational Service Commissions receive fees for services provided.
- Local Education Agency (LEA) status: Educational Services Commissions are considered LEAs under state law.



New York

- Name: Board of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES)
- Number of Organizations: 37
- Definition: The boards of education and school trustees of a supervisory district which is not part of an intermediate district, meeting at a time and place to be designated by the district superintendent of schools, may, by a majority vote of their members present and voting, file with the commissioner of education a petition for the establishment of a board of cooperative



educational services for the purpose of carrying out a program of shared educational services in the schools of the supervisory district and for providing instruction in such special subjects as the commissioner may approve." NY EDUC § 1950

Under Education Law section 1950, a BOCES may provide any educational service that is requested by two or more component districts and approved by the commissioner of education according to need and practicality in a regional context.

The BOCES then notifies component districts of the approved services, asking for a firm commitment to participate by May 1 of each year. The BOCES and the component districts then enter into formal contracts. Contracts between BOCES and component districts, when approved by the commissioner, are effective for one year. After which they may be renewed, changed, or cancelled. Districts may also authorize multi-year service requests from BOCES.

- State Association: BOCES of New York State. Hired Executive Director.
- Funding: BOCES are funded through apportionment of costs from their member school districts via an annual budgeting process and direct allocations from state appropriations. NY EDUC § 1950. BOCES also receive fees charged for services provided to member school districts.
- Local Education Agency (LEA) status: BOCES are not considered LEAs under state law.

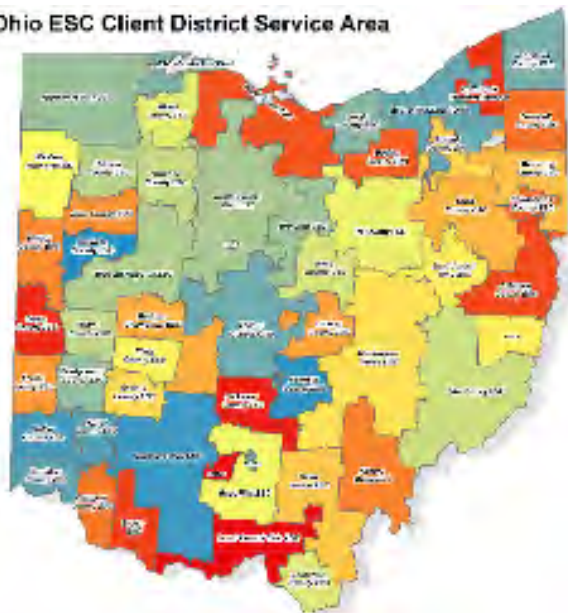
Ohio

- Name: Educational Service Centers (ESCs)
- Number of Organizations: 51
- Definition: The territory within the territorial limits of a county, or the territory included in a district formed under section 3311.053 of the Revised Code, exclusive of the territory embraced in any city school district or exempted village school district, and excluding the territory detached therefrom for school purposes and including the territory attached thereto for school purposes constitutes an educational service center." OH ST § 3311.05

ESCs are the central component of the educational regional service system. "The system shall support state and regional education initiatives and efforts to improve school effectiveness and student achievement. Services, including special education and related services, shall be provided under the system to school districts, community schools established under Chapter 3314. of the Revised Code and chartered nonpublic schools. ... In addition to implementing state and regional education initiatives and school improvement efforts under the educational regional service system, educational service centers shall implement state or federally funded initiatives assigned to the service centers by the general assembly or the department of education." OH ST § 3312.01

- State Association: Ohio ESC Association. Hired Executive Director.

Ohio ESC Client District Service Area



- Funding: ESCs are funded through a state operating subsidy as well as a statutorily required, minimum local contribution paid by “client” school districts they serve. ESCs may also enter into contracts with school districts, community (charter) schools, STEM schools, chartered nonpublic schools, and other local political subdivisions. OH ST § 3313.843, 3313.844, 3313.845, 3313.846

Ohio law includes a provision that, “An educational service center may apply to any state or federal agency for competitive grants. It may also apply to any private entity for additional funds.” OH ST §3313.843(E)

- Local Education Agency (LEA) status: Ohio law includes a provision that states that “school district” should be construed to include ESCs unless otherwise noted. Likewise, Ohio law states, “An educational service center shall be considered a school district for the purposes of eligibility in applying for any state or federal grant.” Ohio does not otherwise define “local education agency.” OH ST § 3311.055, § 3312.01(D)

Pennsylvania

- Name: Intermediate Units
- Number of Organizations: 29
- Definition: Local education agency: A school district, cyber charter school, charter school, area career and technical school or intermediate unit.” 24 P.S. § 2-220.

“Each school district of the Commonwealth shall be assigned to an intermediate unit and shall be entitled to the services of an intermediate unit in accordance with a program of services adopted by the intermediate unit board of directors. The arrangement of the school districts of the Commonwealth into intermediate units shall reflect consideration of (i) the number of public-school children enrolled in kindergarten through grade twelve, (ii) ease of travel within each intermediate unit, and (iii) the opportunity to provide adequate basic services. Intermediate units shall be part of the public school system of this Commonwealth and shall become operative on July 1, 1971.” 24 P.S. § 9-901-A



- State Association: Pennsylvania Association of Intermediate Units. Hired Executive Director.
- Funding: Intermediate units are funded through a combination of state and federal grants, fees charged for services, and contributions from LEAs.
- Local Education Agency (LEA) status: Pennsylvania law explicitly defines Intermediate Units as LEAs for purposes of eligibility for federal programs.

Rhode Island

- Name: Educational Collaboratives
- Number of Organizations: 3
- Definition: Any school committee, acting for or on behalf of its district, may enter into an agreement with one or more other school committees to conduct jointly instructional education programs and/or administrative functions, provided that the agreement has been reviewed and is recommended by the commissioner of elementary and secondary education and has the approval of each participating school committee.”
Gen.Laws 1956, § 16-3.1-2. “As used herein, the terms ‘collaborative,’ ‘educational collaborative,’ ‘regional collaborative,’ and combinations thereof, shall be deemed to refer to the collaboratives established pursuant to this chapter, and recognized as 501(c)3 nonprofit corporations incorporated pursuant to the Rhode Island Nonprofit Corporation Act, Rhode Island general laws § 7-6-1, et seq. Nothing in this legislation is intended to erode the legal status of the regional collaboratives as 501(c)3’s and their boards of directors must be cognizant to their legal and fiduciary responsibilities to these enterprises.” Gen.Laws 1956, § 16-3.1-15
- State Association: None
- Funding: Educational Collaboratives can be funded directly through state appropriations. Otherwise, Educational Collaboratives are funded through state and federal grants and through fees charged for services provided to member districts.
- Local Education Agency (LEA) status: Educational Collaboratives are not considered LEAs under state law.



Vermont

- Vermont law does not establish any system of educational service agencies.



Questions?
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