Nine ESDs. One Network. A Backbone of Support for Washington’s Schools & Communities

WSSDA Annual Conference
11/18/2021
Introductions

• Tim Merlino, Chair, ESD Superintendents, ESD 112
• Marcia Henkle, AESD Board Vice President, NCESD 171
• Jessica Vavrus, Exec. Director AESD/OSPI Network
Our Time Today

● Build awareness

● Make connections

● Consider opportunities to engage
History of Washington’s Educational Service Districts (ESDs)

- 1890 – Office of the County Superintendent was created by statute
- 1909 – County Boards of Education were created with duties in statute
- 1955 – County board membership changed to elected lay membership
- 1969 to 1977 – A decade of legislative actions resulted in going from 14 service areas to the present nine ESD’s
- 1981 – Legislation passed to allow ESD’s to provide direct services
Washington’s nine ESDs have evolved from a system that began as 39 individual county offices of education. A series of consolidations and name changes between 1969-1977 ultimately yielded a statewide system of nine regional ESDs...
The AESD
Nine ESDs, One network

Serving: 295 school districts | 7 State Tribal Education Compact Schools (STECs) | 16 Public Charter Schools Statewide!
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>LEA Landscape</th>
<th># K12 Students</th>
<th># ESD Staff</th>
<th>ESD Operating Budget</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NEW ESD 101, Spokane (Northeast)</td>
<td>59 districts 4 public charters</td>
<td>87,840</td>
<td>137</td>
<td>$21,048,095</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ESD 105, Yakima (Yakima Valley)</td>
<td>25 districts 1 Tribal compact</td>
<td>63,863</td>
<td>141</td>
<td>$36,107,093</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ESD 112, Vancouver (Southwest)</td>
<td>30 districts</td>
<td>94,436</td>
<td>510</td>
<td>$75,898,652</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CR ESD 113, Tumwater (Thurston, Lewis, Grays Harbor, Pacific)</td>
<td>44 districts 1 Tribal compact</td>
<td>71,669</td>
<td>169</td>
<td>$36,600,214</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OESD 114, Bremerton (Olympic Peninsula)</td>
<td>15 districts 2 Tribal Compacts 2 Charters</td>
<td>45,647</td>
<td>171</td>
<td>$21,610,163</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSESD 121, Renton (Puget Sound)</td>
<td>35 districts 2 Tribal compacts 9 public charters</td>
<td>413,139</td>
<td>374</td>
<td>$82,510,975</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ESD 123, Tri-Cities (Southwest)</td>
<td>23 districts</td>
<td>73,196</td>
<td>143</td>
<td>$20,853,430</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NCESD 171, Wenatchee (North Central)</td>
<td>29 districts 1 public charter</td>
<td>46,465</td>
<td>102</td>
<td>$17,603,574</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NWESD 189, Anacortes (Northwest)</td>
<td>35 districts 1 Tribal compact 1 public charter</td>
<td>159,209</td>
<td>152</td>
<td>$25,443,589</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>STATEWIDE TOTALS</strong></td>
<td><strong>295 districts 7 Tribal compacts 16 public charters</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,055,464</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,899</strong></td>
<td><strong>$337,675,785</strong></td>
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Adding economic value

ESDs leveraged $8.1 million of state allocated core funding into $337.7 million of needed services for students and schools in Washington.

For every $1 in core funding, ESDs returned $42 in educational programs and services - $306 for every student in the state.
Roles of ESDs  RCW28A.310.210

Considered a political sub-division of the state and statutorily designed to:
• Provide cooperative and informational services to local school districts.
• Assist the superintendent of public instruction and the state board of education in the performance of their respective constitutional duties.
• Provide services to school districts to assure equitable educational opportunities for all students.
A couple of examples

Regional Committees – district boundaries & organization
• Facilitate petitions for school district boundary changes.
• ESDs assist school districts with meeting regulatory requirements and implementing best practices.

School Board Vacancies
ESDs may appoint individuals to fill vacant school board seats in the case where search is unsuccessful (after three months)
ESD Governance  RCW 28A.310.430

➢ Each ESD is governed by a Board of Directors, elected by school board members of the school districts in the ESD region, to four-year terms.

➢ Each ESD has a Superintendents’ Advisory Council that approves the annual budget and makes recommendations for ESD service and support.

➢ Each ESD Cooperative is governed by an Advisory Council made up of Superintendents in the region.
# ESD Governance

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**STATEWIDE TOTALS** 69
What is the “AESD”?  

• Association for ESD board members  
  • Growth and development for ESD board members

• Network of “9” Educational Service Districts – collaborative work across all ESDs  
  • Programs & advocacy

• Partnership with OSPI – Network of “10”  
  • Statewide initiatives
The AESD: Leadership & Governance

- Nine Member Executive Board (one per ESD)
- Officers: President, Vice President, President Emeritus
- Operates with a Constitution
- ESD superintendents are non-voting, advisory board members
- AESD Executive board meets five times a year including an annual conference
- Annual meeting at conference includes budget adoption & election of officers
**Mission:** To ensure equity and excellence in education through effective services delivered statewide.

**Vision:** To inspire and foster equity, opportunity, and results through meaningful support of all school districts.
AESD Strategic Plan

Mission: To ensure equity and excellence in education through effective services delivered statewide.

Vision: To inspire and foster equity, opportunity, and results through meaningful support of all school districts.

Goals:

1. **Strategic Relationships**: To grow a sustainable future through strategic relationships.

2. **Grow the Network**: To provide seamless and nimble services.

3. **Tell our Story**: ESDs are an integral and valuable part of the education ecosystem in Washington State.
Relationships are *at the heart* of our statewide work

- State agencies
  - OSPI  DCYF  HCA  DOH
- Statewide education associations
- Advocacy groups
- Community Based Organizations
- Communities
- School Districts
## Statewide Initiatives

*A regional delivery system for statewide programs & services*

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Learning</th>
<th>Student Supports</th>
<th>Operations</th>
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<td>• Beginning Educator Support Training (BEST)</td>
<td>• Behavioral Health COVID Response</td>
<td>• District Operations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Educator Networks</td>
<td>• Career Connected Learning</td>
<td>- Communications supports</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Early Learning</td>
<td>• Community Prevention &amp; Wellness Initiative - Student Assistance Professionals</td>
<td>- Fiscal support services</td>
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<td>• Teacher &amp; Principal Evaluation (TPEP)</td>
<td>• Early Learning</td>
<td>- School construction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Native Education</td>
<td>• Education Advocates / Institutional Education</td>
<td>- Hiring supports (i.e., fingerprinting, etc)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Professional Learning</td>
<td>• Multi-Tiered Systems of Support</td>
<td>- Information services (Skyward, WSIPC)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Computer Science</td>
<td>• Regional School Safety Centers</td>
<td>- Insurance pools</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- English Language Arts</td>
<td>• School Nurse Corps</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Mathematics</td>
<td>• Special education</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>- Science &amp; Climate Science</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>- Inclusionary Practices</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>• System &amp; School Improvement</td>
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- Communications supports
- Fiscal support services
- School construction
- Hiring supports (i.e., fingerprinting, etc)
- Information services (Skyward, WSIPC)
- Insurance pools
- PPE purchasing & distribution
- Program evaluation
- School Accreditation
- Special education
- Student transportation
Regional Delivery Example

- **Distance Learning Support**: Learning Management System (LMS) Solutions Team served over 17,000 educators statewide & included a statewide Regional Educator Network (REN) *(ESSER $)*

- **Inclusionary Practices**: Coordinators supported over 140 school and district teams to implement Universal Design for Learning and other inclusionary practices

- Regional Content Coordinators facilitated close to 300 *content area professional learning* sessions for educators in ELA, Math, Science, Climate Science, Computer Science
Regional Delivery Examples

- **Statewide Educator Leadership Networks** Expanded
  - ELA, Math, Science, Early Learning Fellows
  - Regional Educator Network (Statewide LMS Solutions)

- **Behavioral & mental health services** significantly expanded
  - Federal Community Wellness & Prevention Initiative: Student Assistance Program = 90 student assistance professionals based in +/- 110 sites
  - New Behavioral Health COVID Recovery Project = 60 direct service positions statewide

- **Career Connected Learning** coordinators provided technical assistance to increase system capacity, build equitable student access, and increase connections among regional business and industry partners and school districts
Support in the Pandemic
COVID Response Coordination

Regional networking
- Multiple opportunities each week in every region for districts to stay connected

Statewide services
- K12 COVID Testing Coordination
- PPE procurement / distribution
- Child care & nutrition services mapping (early on)
- Learning device distribution

Statewide coordination/collaboration with OSPI and other K12 leadership associations (60+ statewide webinars, multiple district networking events)

Statewide distance learning professional development
An example for Reopening Schools: Statewide PPE Procurement & Distribution

• 3 rounds of procurement facilitated by ESD 112 team and supported by all 9 ESDs
  (1st round saved school districts 75% of actual costs)

• Deliveries to over 400 school districts, public charters, tribal compact schools, and private schools

• PPE “by the numbers”
  • Face Coverings: 19 million
  • Sanitizing Wipes: 750k packages (840,000 lbs)
  • Gloves: 120k boxes
  • Gowns: 250k
  • Hand Sanitizer: 80k gallons
  • Over 250k miles driven for deliveries
  • Approx. $8M in total PPE purchased
2021 Legislative Session: 
In challenging times, lawmakers think of ESDs

Legislators value the AESD Network to implement policy ideas

ESDs budget items almost doubled in the past two years

Good news: the legislature trusts ESDs

Challenges: legislator education about the actual cost of programs

It's a good problem to have!

New legislation:

• HB 1365 – educational technology training, procurement, consultation supports

• HB 1214 – training for school security staff

• SB 5237 Early Start Act for Kids - expands accessible, affordable childcare and early childhood development programs.
School Directors Play an Important Role with ESDs!

**YOU** elect ESD Board Members

➢ *How can this be improved?*

What are some ideas to **strengthen connections** between school boards and ESD boards?
Next steps

• WSSDA & AESD collaboration

• Continue statewide partnerships with K12 associations and leaders

• Explore local connections

• Stay in touch!
  • Jessica Vavrus, jvavrus@waesd.org
  https://www.waesd.org
Thank you!