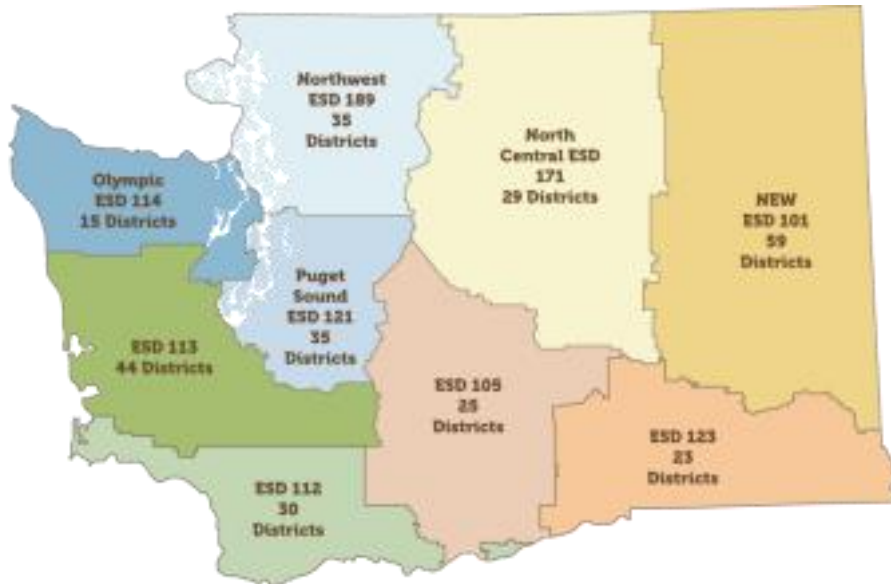


History of ESDs



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**.

Education Service Districts as they currently exist are the result of evolution for a period of over 85 years from 39 county educational agencies to the current nine ESDs. The following chronology includes most of the major changes that have occurred:

- 1890— Office of the County Superintendent was created by statute.
- 1909— County Boards of Education were created with duties created in statute.
- 1955— County board membership changed to elected lay membership.
- 1960— A legislatively mandated study recommended creation of 13 regional service agencies.
- 1966— Fifteen service areas were created by State Board of Education (Chapter 139, Laws of 1965).
- 1969— Under Chapter 176, the Laws of 1969, the State Board of Education created 14 Intermediate School Districts.
- 1971— Legislation rescinded ISDs' regulatory powers emphasizing service functions.
- 1972— ISD 102 and 103, ISD 106 and 107 were consolidated to create ISD 123 and 167 resulting in 12 Intermediate Districts.
- 1975— Intermediate School Districts were changed to Educational Service Districts and their purposes were re-defined.
- 1976— The State Board approved consolidation of ESD 110 and 111, as well as 108 and 109, creating ESD 121 (Puget Sound) and 189 (Northwest). This change resulted in the present nine ESDs.
- 1977— The legislature defined core services, directed ESDs to assist OSPI and State Board and provide equal educational opportunities. This session also provided for the election of ESD board members by board members of local districts.
- 1981— Legislation was passed to allow ESDs to provide direct services.