



A Primer on Washington's Educational Service Districts (ESDs)

House Education Committee Work Session
1/14/25

Presented by:
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Primary functions of the ESDs

[RCW 28A.310.010](#)

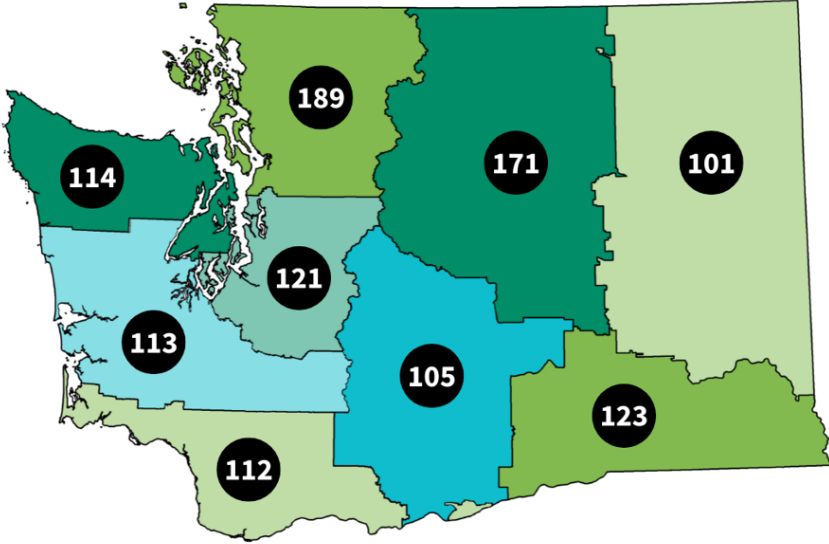
ESDs are considered political sub-divisions of the state and are statutorily designed as “**regional agencies** intended to”:

- **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 and the Washington Center for Deaf and Hard of Hearing and School for the Blind **to assure equitable educational opportunities**



ESDs vary in the of districts and students served

ESD Region	# School Districts	# Charter Schools	# Tribal Compact Schools	% of statewide student population (approx.)
NorthEast WA ESD 101	59	4		8.7%
ESD 105	25		1	6.1%
ESD 112	30	1		8.9%
Capital Region ESD 113	44		1	6.7%
Olympic ESD 114	15	1	2	4.3%
Puget Sound ESD 121	35	10	2	38.9%
ESD 123	23			7.0%
North Central ESD 171	29	1	1	4.4%
Northwest ESD 189	35	1	1	15.1%



Statutory authority has expanded to allow ESDs flexibility to meet the needs of school districts within their regions

- Support school districts with **financial accounting and reporting** needs
- **Information processing and joint purchasing** programs (e.g., worker compensation, technology, curriculum)
- Legislative **programs or services delegated by OSPI or SBE** (e.g., Teacher & Principal Evaluation Program training, school improvement, attendance & reengagement)
- **Direct student service programs** through **regional cooperatives**
- Partnerships with **behavioral health** organizations for wraparound services
- Regional **educator recruitment** programs
- Form Regional Committees that facilitate **district boundary changes and help filling vacant school board seats**, when necessary



Examples of regionally-specific programs and services

- Student **nutrition** cooperatives
- Educator **certification**
- **Early career teacher development & mentoring** programs, and **paraeducator training/support**
- **Communications** & marketing
- **Dropout prevention & reengagement** (Open Doors)
- **Expanded supports** through district & grant funding (e.g., **Safety** cooperatives and **behavioral/mental** health services)



Statutory authority has also expanded to support regional delivery of statewide services

- **Regional School Safety Centers**
- **School Nurse Corps**
- **Professional Development**
 - English language arts, math, science, education technology
- **Behavioral & Mental Health** student services
- **Transition support services for justice-involved youth** through Education Advocates
- High school **accreditation**



Approach to service delivery

- For **regionally-specific programs** and services, **each ESD engages their local districts** to understand their needs and design/deliver services to meet them
- For most **statewide initiatives**, **each ESD delivers services in their region**
- In some cases, **an individual ESD** provides services **statewide**
 - Construction services
 - Special education
 - Regional transportation coordination
 - Migrant education
- Another example is the **statewide ESD not-for-profit cooperative**: Washington School Information Processing Cooperative (WSIPC) that provides technology support services.



For reference: A comprehensive list of statewide initiatives and services

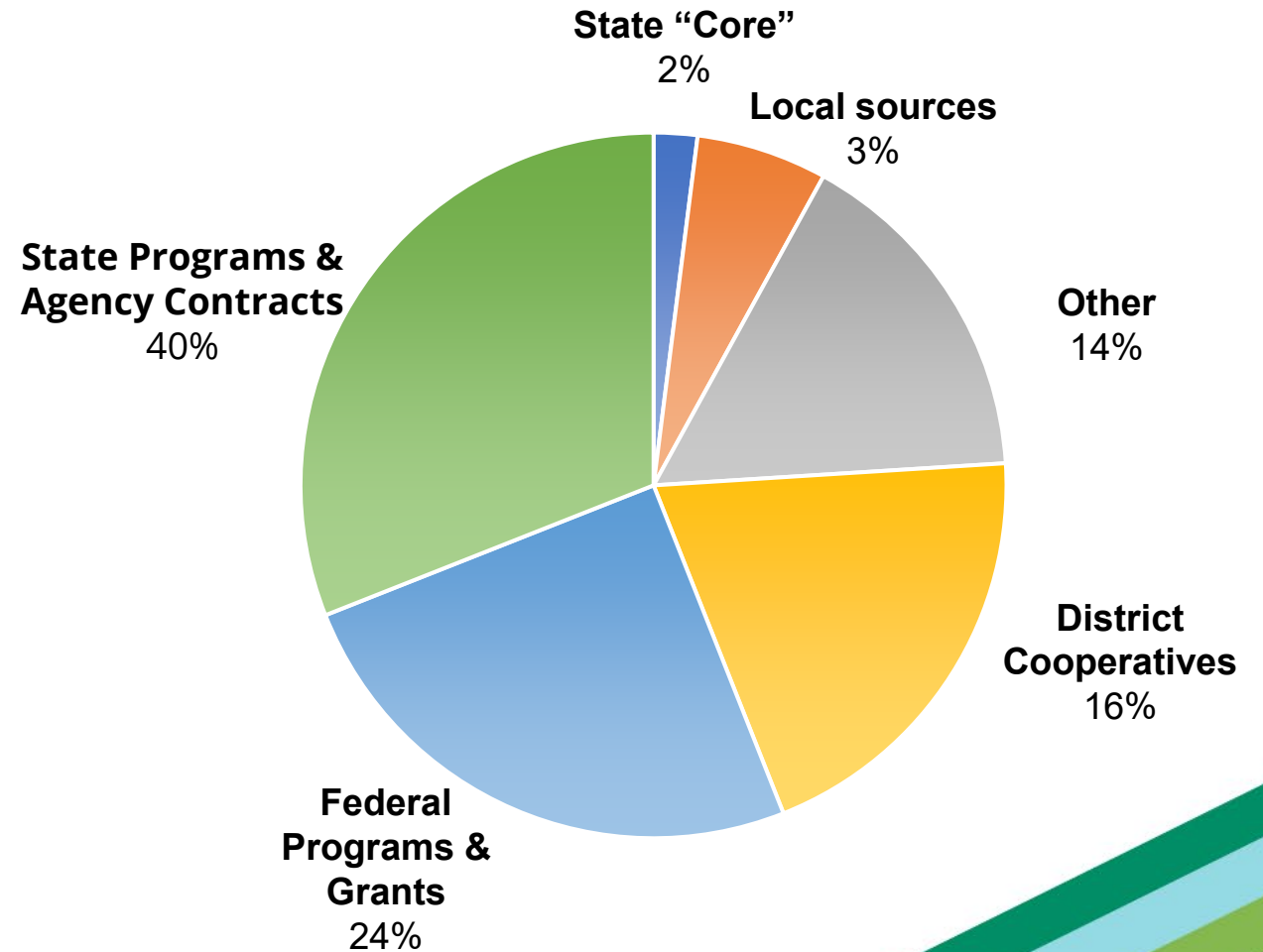
Learning	Student Supports	Operations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Beginning Educator Support Training (BEST) ● Educator Networks (Fellows, etc.) ● Early Learning ● Teacher & Principal Evaluation (TPEP) ● Native Education & Government to Government Supports ● Content Professional Learning <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - English Language Arts - Mathematics - Science & Climate Science - Inclusionary Practices - Computer Science ● System & School Improvement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Attendance & Reengagement ● Behavioral Health Student Assistance Program & Community Prevention & Wellness Initiative ● Bicycle Education ● Career Connected Learning ● Early Learning ● Institutional Education & Education Advocates ● Migrant Education ● Multi-Tiered Systems of Support ● Regional School Safety Centers ● School Nurse Corps ● Special education 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● District Operations ● Communications supports ● Fiscal support services ● School construction ● Hiring supports (i.e., fingerprinting, etc) ● Information services ● Insurance pools ● PPE purchasing & distribution ● Program evaluation ● Public Health & Pandemic Coordination/Support ● School Accreditation ● Special education ● Student transportation



ESDs have multiple funding sources that allow them to be responsive in meeting school district needs

These include:

- **State** appropriations and contracts for specific programs
 - With minimal state funding for “core” ESD operations
- **Federal** programs and grants (e.g., Head Start and behavioral/mental health)
- **Local** revenues (e.g., from district cooperatives; fee for service programs; and transportation services)



Governance

- Each ESD is **governed by a Board of Directors**, elected by local school board members
 - Responsible for hiring the ESD Superintendent and oversight
- Each ESD has a **Superintendents' Advisory Council** comprised of regional superintendents
 - Reviews the ESD's annual budget
 - Recommends ESD services and support
- The nine **ESD Superintendents work together** to coordinate and implement statewide services through the Association of Educational Services Districts (AESD) Network



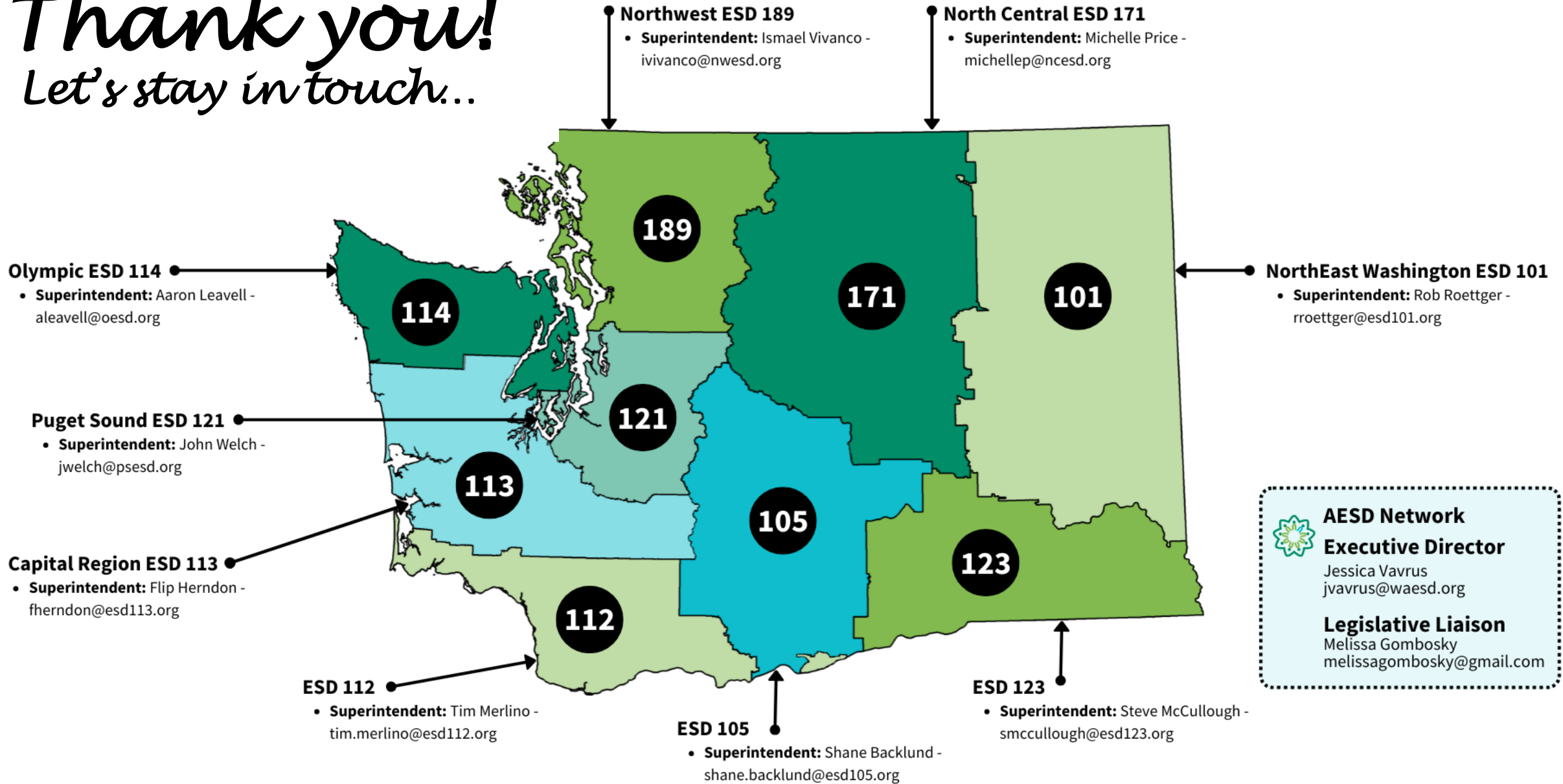
What is the AESD Network?

- The AESD Network is a formalized partnership among the nine ESDs to deliver statewide initiatives and services.
- Serves as a “bridge” among the nine ESDs with OSPI, the SBE, school districts, other state agencies, and state education organizations to support educating Washington’s 1.1 million students through:
 - Communication and coordination
 - Development and implementation of statewide initiatives and services



Thank you!

Let's stay in touch...



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