

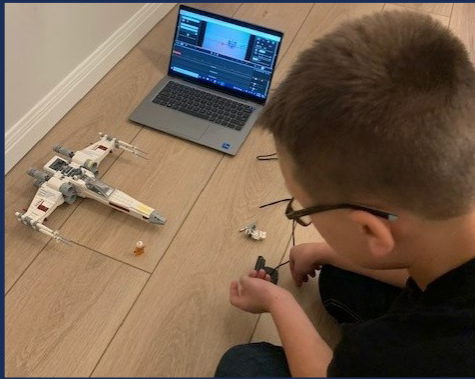
SOUTHWEST WEST CENTRAL SERVICE COOPERATIVE



Education & Administrative Resources

2021-22 ANNUAL REPORT TO OUR PARTNERS

Our mission is to support and enhance the work of our members by providing programs and services that meet their needs.



Service Integrity Respect

GOVERNANCE

The care, management, and control of SWWC shall be vested in a board of directors. The majority of the members of the board of directors shall be current school board members of school districts in full membership. The remaining board members may be representatives at large appointed by the board of directors or elected as representatives by other participating agencies, such as schools, cities, counties, or other governmental units.



Top Row: Maydra Maas, Chair, Westbrook-Walnut Grove Schools; Kathryn Kelly, Vice-Chair, Renville County SWCD; Tom Walsh, Treasurer, KMS Schools; Don Brugman, Clerk, Windom Schools; Darin Balken, Montevideo; Jody Bauer, Tracy Schools

Bottom Row: Matt Coleman, Marshall Schools; Kari Harding, Canby Schools; Mike Henrickson, ACGC Schools; Joe Nagel, McLeod County; Steve Schnieder, Worthington Schools; Mike Zins, Fulda Schools

From the Board Chair:

There are two days in every week about which we should not worry ... Two days that should be kept free from any fear and apprehension. One of these days is yesterday, with its mistakes and cares, its aches and pains, its faults and blunders. Yesterday has passed forever beyond our control; all of the money in the world cannot bring back yesterday. We cannot undo a single act we performed; we cannot erase a single word we said; we cannot rectify a single mistake. Yesterday has passed forever beyond recall.

The other day we should not worry about is tomorrow; with its possible adversities, its burdens, its large promise and even poor performance. Tomorrow also is beyond our immediate control. Tomorrow's sun will rise either in splendor or behind a mask of clouds ... but it will rise. Until it does, we have no stake in tomorrow because it is yet unborn.

That leaves us but one day ... TODAY! One task ... DREAM!

With diligent dedication and compassionate competence, SWWC Service Cooperative administration and staff face the challenges of this one day with eyes wide open. Yes, yesterday and tomorrow may be futile worries. But SWWC resolves to continue to journey no more than one futuristic day at a time.

On behalf of the SWWC Board of Directors, I most sincerely thank you for your unending support and dedication to our mission.

Maydra Maas, SWWC Board Chair
Westbrook-Walnut Grove Schools

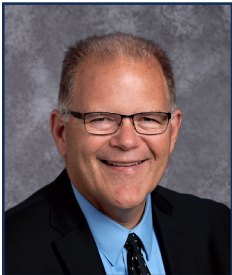


ADMINISTRATION

SWWC Service Cooperative exists for one particularly important reason ... to support and enhance the work of our members!

This report highlights the 2021-22 programs, services and accomplishments of SWWC. This past year continued to be challenging as we navigated our way through a second pandemic year. We experienced staffing shortages that were unprecedented. All year long, SWWC staff demonstrated unbelievable commitment as these staffing challenges made our work extremely difficult. It was amazing to see our staff provide great programs and services in such a challenging environment. Kudos and thanks to everyone who made this year a success.

Because we are a membership driven organization, SWWC staff, administration, and board work collaboratively with our members to provide affordable programs and services that support, enhance and meet their needs. As we move into 2022-23, we will continue to recognize member needs and collaborate with them to find solutions. We are grounded and committed to our service approach and will continue to find ways to be innovative in our efforts to provide high quality, affordable programs and services.



There are a number of administrative changes in the region, workforce challenges, and new challenges we do not know about yet. A long with challenges will come celebrations and this time next year, we will reflect on all the wonderful things that happened this year. It is our promise to you to continue to bring great programs led by great people to our members. Although each year brings new challenges, we will not waiver from our commitment to serving you!

Thank you for all that you do in supporting our work together. I look forward to working with you in the coming year as we continue to find ways to meet your needs.

Cliff Carmody, SWWC Executive Director

2021-22 Executive Leadership Team

- Cliff Carmody, Executive Director
- Amber Bruns, Clinical Director of Behavioral Health Services
- Randy Erdman, Director of Finance
- Lisa Gregoire, Director of New Teacher Center
- Nicole Lydick, Southwest Prairie Regional Center of Excellence Director
- Shelly Maes, Manager of Member Services and SWWC Foundation Executive Director
- Mary Palmer, Regional Director of Special Education
- Abby Polzine, Director of Human Resources
- Christine Schmitt, Director of Business Services
- Stephanie Strenge, Teaching and Learning Program Administrator
- Josh Sumption, Director of Technology

2021-22 Superintendents Executive Council

Chair: Wayne Wormstadt, Windom
Vice-Chair: Joe Meyer, MCC
Past Chair: Ryan Nielsen, Canby
Dr. Chad Anderson, Tracy
Paul Bang, Heron Lake-Okabena
Dan Deitte, Minneota & Ivanhoe
Kevin Enerson, Pipestone

Dr. Chris Fenske, Lakeview
Doug Froke, RCW
Jeff Holm, Willmar
Todd Holthaus, Hills-Beaver Creek
Jeff Horton, GFW
John Landgaard, Worthington
Dennis Laumeier, Benson

Dr. Michelle Mortensen, BLHS
Craig Oftedahl, Luverne
Barry Schmidt, JCC
Richard Schneider, YME
Dr. Sonya Vierstraete, SMSU
Dr. Terry Gaalswyk, Minnesota West

STAFF & SERVICE AREA

SWWC's values of **SERVICE, INTEGRITY AND RESPECT** are an important part of how we do our work and are embedded in the benefits we provide our members. At the heart of these values is service. We believe service is a commitment to putting others above ourselves. We care about others, listen to them and work to address their issues. Satisfying those we serve is a priority for everyone in the agency.

The SWWC team is made up of over 400 highly skilled and talented professionals. They work at the locations identified in the service area map below and in schools throughout the region.

STAFF STATS

Average length of service: 5.6 years

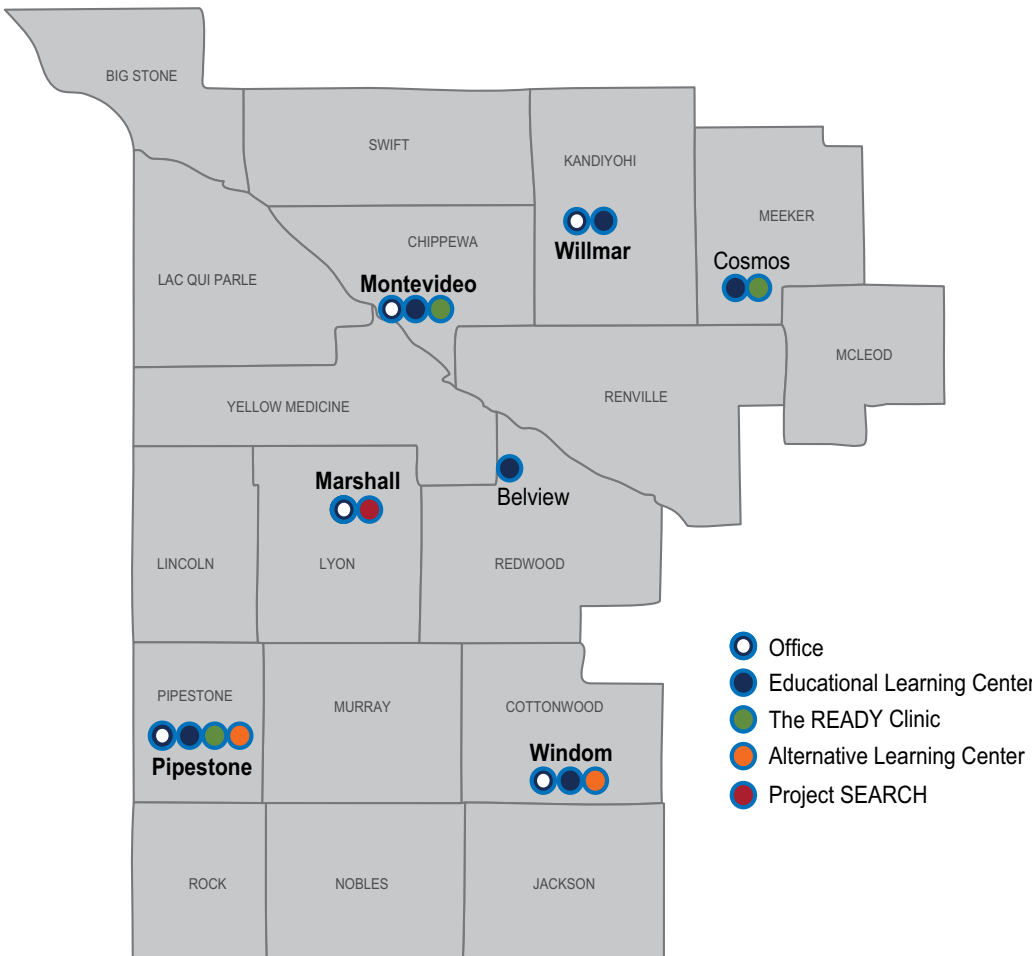
Staff working 20+ years: 26

Staff working 15-19 years: 19

Staff working 10-14 years: 27



SWWC staff enjoying time together at our annual spring in-service.



SWWC Main Office
 1420 East College Drive
 Marshall, MN 56258
 507-537-2240

The physical boundaries of SWWC's service area are the 18 counties of southwest and west central Minnesota. Within those boundaries, we have 58 public school members and 12 private school members.

However, several of our services expand past those boundaries and even go into South Dakota.

- Office
- Educational Learning Center
- The READY Clinic
- Alternative Learning Center
- Project SEARCH

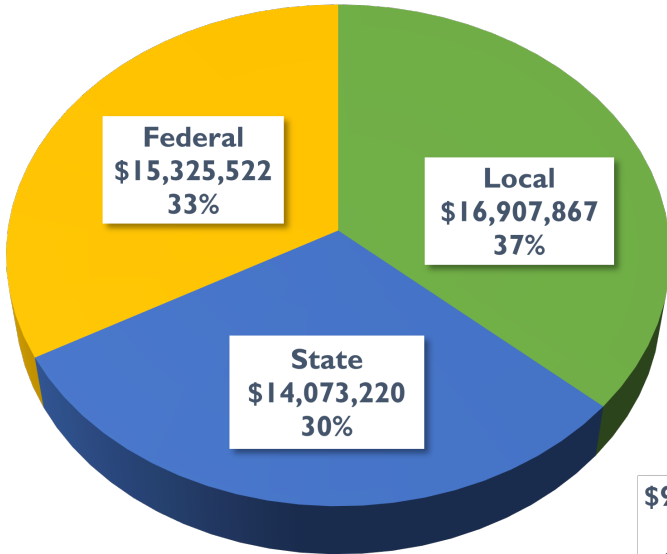


SWWC is a member of the Minnesota Service Cooperatives, an association of nine educational service agencies in Minnesota.

FINANCIALS

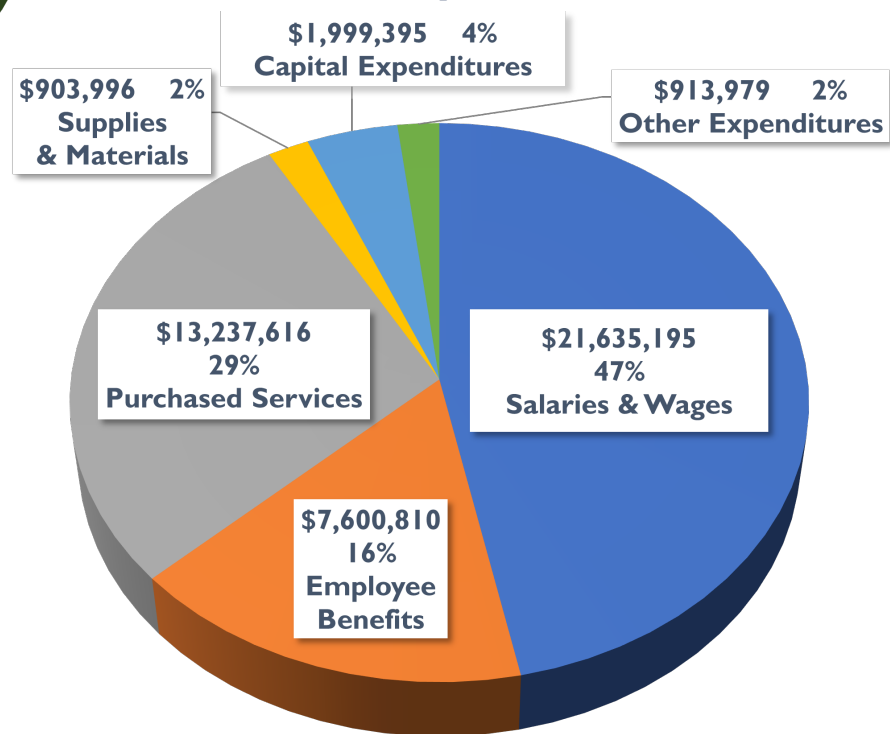
As the foundation for all we do, our core values also drive our efforts to be great financial stewards of the resources we are given to serve our members.

2021-22 Revenue



SWWC Business Office Staff

2021-22 Expenditures



This financial information is from the 2021-22 SWWC Final Budget approved by the SWWC Board of Directors.

Complete copies of audited financial statements are available at the SWWC office.



SWWC Foundation



SWWC Administrators



SWWC ELC Staff

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

The **REGIONAL MANAGEMENT INFORMATION CENTER** team serves 50 public schools districts for finance, UFARS, payroll and HR support. Our finance staff process approximately 350 closing UFARS file submissions a year, and our payroll staff process approximately 37,000 W-2s a year!

We were excited to hold our annual School Business Conference in-person once again. A total of 114 people attended, which includes registrants, presenters, SWWC staff and vendors.

We also held many workshops throughout the year focused on budgeting, the Affordable Care Act, calendar year-end, fiscal-year end and tax levies.

Changes and big changes was the motto of this past year for the **HEALTH INSURANCE POOLS**.



SWWC manages self-insured health insurance pools for our school, city, county and other governmental agencies. These pools saw a major change over the past year with the Minnesota Healthcare Consortium (MHC) requested bids and selected Medica for the third-party administrative services. As of July 1, 2022, all participating members of the pool have made the transition to the Medica platform. In all there are over 4,600 employees with a total of nearly 9,000 dependents under the SWWC pools and Medica.

Besides the transition to Medica for TPA services, MHC is beginning to transition the medical spending account administration. Further, our longtime partner, was sold leaving MHC to find another partner. MHC conducted an RFP and chose WEX as our new partner. The transition of our members from Further to WEX began July 2022 and will be completed by January 1, 2023.

The Live Well Wellness & Incentive Program continues to be an extremely popular program for our insurance pool members. With some slight changes to the program, we saw increased participation and overall, nearly \$1.5 million pool assets were paid out to members for completing locally developed programs. We continue to hear from our group leaders on the importance of this program for staff wellbeing.

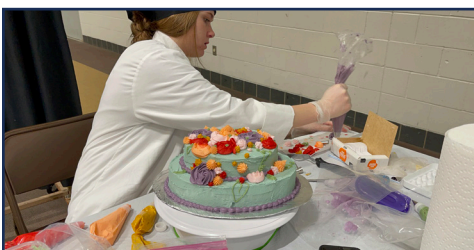
Even with these major changes this past year, the pools experienced a more stable renewal than previous renewals. Medica has been a good partner and has brought a new sense of excitement and growth opportunities to our pools and MHC.



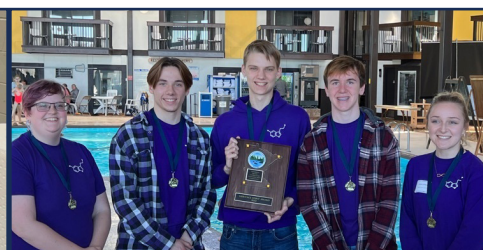
Regional Knowledge Bowl Competition



Geocaching at the Science & Nature Conference



Culinary Skills Challenge



State SH Knowledge Bowl Competition



Tech Integration at Round Lake-Brewster

ALTERNATIVE PROGRAMS

SWWC's **ALTERNATIVE LEARNING CENTER (ALC)** services continued to grow in 2021-22 as we saw the aftereffects of COVID-19 on area students who are considered "at-risk of not graduating". Through our expanded programming, ALC enrollment exploded from 47 students to 96 across our two sites. Our ALCs offer a unique and flexible experience to meet the needs of learners who haven't been successful in the traditional school system through more flexible scheduling, CTE-focused opportunities and a greater use of technology. Research and data has shown that students with CTE coursework were more likely to graduate, enroll in a two-year or four-year college, or become employed. Our Career and Technical Project Coordinator worked with both ALC and ELC students, implemented the Next Up Transition curriculum, and helped students earn credit through work-based learning opportunities.

Through our Careers course, students developed Career Learning Plans based on a framework that was developed to move students through a continuum from Career Awareness to Career Placement/Transition and were able to explore careers. This year our students were able to have the Big Ideas Trailer on site. This allowed students the chance to "try out" several careers through hands-on simulations and VR. Several ALC students were able to earn credits towards graduation through their paid internships. At the end of the year we graduated 25 students ... another successful year!



The 2021-22 school year saw the return of on-site internships at Avera Marshall for **PROJECT SEARCH**. Seven students graduated in June after taking part in three different 10-week internships. Internships were in housekeeping, clerical/mail, dietary, hospital maintenance, health services, long term care, maintenance and laundry.



Project SEARCH Graduates and Instructors

STARRS ONLINE ACADEMY was granted approval to expand its online offerings to K-12 students in Minnesota. STARRS Online is dedicated to helping students achieve their potential through individualized educational opportunities by giving alternatives to students who may be:

- Looking for courses not offered in their district
- Looking for flexibility in their learning experience
- Looking for a distance learning option
- Credit deficient and wanting to graduate
- Struggling with a traditional school environment

At the start of the school year, we were expecting 100 students, but ended the year serving over 450 K-12 students from across the state. Our STARRS Online teachers supported students using Edgenuity curriculum so they could continue to meet their grade progression or graduation requirements through an online learning platform. Students completed age-appropriate, engaging lessons that met Minnesota Academic Standards.

SWWC PROGRAM ENROLLMENT

Alternative Learning Centers (ALCs): 96 students
Educational Learning Centers (ELCs): 257 students
Project SEARCH: 7 students
STARRS Online Academy: 450+ students

SWWC PROGRAM GRADUATES

ALC - Pipestone: 10 students
ALC - Windom: 15 students
Project SEARCH: 7 students

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

BEHAVIOR ANALYTIC SERVICES AND MENTAL HEALTH consultants were busy supporting students and staff this last year. The demand for functional behavior assessments was higher than years past. Over 600 children were served by our behavior analytic and mental health staff this academic year. Supports to teacher in the classroom, providing on-line and in-person professional development, and consultation for district and school-wide supports continue to be requested. Our annual Innovations in Education Conference reached an international crowd with another year of increased attendance.

During 2021-22, **MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES** staff:

- Provided support for clinical supervision of staff at our ELCs
- Facilitated staff and student support groups in districts
- Provided conflict resolution and team building training
- Implemented CARES/ESSER grant funding which allowed for mental health supports for students and staff at SWWC
- Provided professional development for staff at Northwest Service Cooperative in Thief River Falls, MN
- Completed intake evaluations at the Abbott House in Mitchell, SD



Behavioral Health Services Staff

THE READY CLINIC (TRC) locations in Cosmos, Montevideo and Pipestone started off 2021-22 with ten clients. There continues to be a wait-list for diagnostic evaluations and intensive behavioral services at all locations. To address needs, four TRC staff received training in Project ImPACT (Improving Parents As Communication Teachers), a coaching program to boost caregiver skills while families wait for full enrollment at TRC. During the 12-week program, caregivers receive training via telehealth on how to increase communication and social engagement opportunities at home. TRC also held the first in an ongoing series of virtual parent workshops for enrolled families. Each one-hour workshop was held by a Qualified Supervising Professional and covered a topic to support caregiver and child success during intensive treatment.

POSITIVE BEHAVIOR INTERVENTION AND SUPPORTS (PBIS) is a collection of evidence-based behavioral practices which lead to improved academic and behavioral outcomes for students when implemented with fidelity. Our PBIS work continued to grow and expand in the southern region. Cohorts 16 and 17 continued to work through their Year 2 and Year 1 work through adapted cohort training models to support the needs of the districts.

This past spring, thirteen southern Minnesota school teams completed the two-year team-based PBIS Tier I cohort training. These thirteen teams, representing over 3,500 students, have joined 850+ schools across the state currently implementing positive and proactive strategies to support students. The Cohort 16 teams that completed training from our region were Canby Elementary, Knoll Elementary School, Ortonville High School, Pipestone Area Middle School, Southview Elementary and SWWC ELC - Montevideo.



Canby Elementary PBIS Team



Pipestone Middle School PBIS Team

The southern region also completed the first Tier II cohort training model, with three elementary schools in Winona completing the first year with success.

We have also continued to build capacity with the number of trainers, external coaches, data facilitators and individuals trained to provide support for schools at no cost to them.

LEARNING CENTERS

SWWC'S EDUCATIONAL LEARNING CENTERS (ELCs) are located in Belview, Cosmos, Montevideo, Pipestone, Willmar and Windom. Our purpose is to provide a highly effective social and emotional learning and academic program for students with disabilities and provide support for their families. Our mission is to provide an education in a safe, nurturing environment that fosters the highest level of independence to prepare our students for their future endeavors. We work hard to provide the resources and supports to students so they can transition back to their home district. When that happens, we know we have done our job!

TWO PROGRAMS are offered at the ELCs.

- The SUN Program is designed to meet the needs of students with severe disabilities with a diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder, DCD: Severe to Profound, DCD: Mild to Moderate, and Severely Multiply Impaired. Many of the students have minimal to no verbal skills, and behaviors and communication skills are the main focus.
- The Bridges Program is designed to meet the needs of students who are having behavior issues in their resident school district. In addition to academics, programming includes social-emotional learning classroom instruction with licensed professionals based on the individual student's educational needs.

We also work with SWWC Behavioral Health Services to further meet student needs.



ELC students in the classroom and on a field trip

A FEW HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE 2021-22 SCHOOL YEAR

- SWWC's Career and Technical Education Program arranged for the Big Ideas Mobile Learning Lab to come to Belview, Pipestone and Windom to allow students the opportunity to explore a variety of trades. The trailer has many simulators (welding, industrial painting, excavator and more) that offer a highly interactive experience.
- ELC - Pipestone secured donations from area businesses to hold a holiday celebration that included Santa bringing a gift for each student from their "wish list".
- ELC - Pipestone worked with Minnesota West to tear down an existing structure to clear an area for a new playground that will be installed in the summer of 2023.
- ELC - Montevideo had firemen and a dental hygienist as guest speakers to talk about the importance of fire prevention and dental care. They also held an all-school talent show and enjoyed an end-of-the-year field trip to a local park.



ELC students in Big Ideas Lab

As with many schools across the country, a **STAFFING SHORTAGE** was the biggest issue faced by the ELCs during 2021-22. However, despite those challenges, we were able to meet student needs and continue to transition them back to their home districts.

SOUTHWEST PRAIRIE RCE

The 2021-22 school year for the **SOUTHWEST PRAIRIE REGIONAL CENTER OF EXCELLENCE (RCE)** was a great success! The RCEs were recognized in Minnesota's Office of the Legislative Auditor (OLA) report as a successful program helping Minnesota schools. We are very proud of the work that has been done with our identified districts and schools during this identification cycle. The team has been able to serve district leaders, building leaders and teachers to help promote an equitable and rich education for our regional schools.



2021-22 RCE Team

Along with our identified schools, many regional schools have also benefited from services provided, including multilingual learners professional development, equity training, standards alignment and leadership support.

As we embark on a new identification cycle in 2022-23, we are gearing up to help districts and schools along side the Minnesota Department of Education and COMPASS (Collaborative Minnesota Partnerships to Advance Student Success) to help our regional students achieve.

SPECIAL EDUCATION

The **NEW/NEWER SPED TEACHER COHORT (NSTC)** provided support and training during the 2021-22 school year to assist districts with teacher retention and increase SpEd staff skills with relevant and meaningful support/training in due process and instruction. A total of 71 special education teachers from the following districts participated in the year-long cohort.

| | | | | |
|--------|------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|---|
| ACGC | Cedar Mountain | MACCRAY | Ortonville | RTR |
| Adrian | Eden Valley-Watkins | Marshall | Pipestone Area | Springfield |
| Benson | Heron Lake-Okabena | Montevideo | Prinsburg | Willmar |
| BLHS | Jackson County Central | Murray County Central | Redwood Area | Windom |
| BOLD | KMS | Mountain Lake | Round Lake-Brewster | Worthington |
| Canby | Lester Prairie | New London-Spicer | Red Rock Central | SWWC ELCs in Belview, Montevideo & Willmar |



RIST Website Homepage

When our district special educators have a question, they need a clear answer they can act on quickly and it shouldn't be a struggle to find it. Our mission is to put the information they need at their fingertips so they can navigate due process regulations and procedures with confidence. The majority of our guidance regarding SpEd due process is hosted on our **SPECIAL EDUCATION RESOURCES FOR INFORMED SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHER (RIST) WEBSITE**. This website is available to all SWWC Special Education Administrative Service Subscribing districts.

Here are just a few examples of topics/resources covered on the RIST:

- Running IEP meetings: Meeting agendas, meeting attendance and excusal requirements, and procedural safeguards.
- Writing IEPs: Guidance/example language for every section of the IEP (including Positive Behavior Support Plans).
- Conducting SpEd evaluations: Evaluation planning guidance, interview and observation forms and examples of completed evaluation reports.
- Ongoing tasks: MA billing, manifestation determination, restrictive procedures, amendments and progress reporting.
- Building Administrator SpEd Resources: responding to parent requests, special transportation, SpEd student discipline and out of district placement.

SPECIAL EDUCATION

The 2021-22 **STAR AUTISM SUPPORT COHORT PROGRAM**'s goal was to develop capacity inside the region to serve elementary and middle school students with autism and other developmental disabilities by providing sustainable local resources and curriculum to assist with implementation of evidence-based practices.

Training sites are developed as STAR model classrooms to receive access to the STAR Media Center, training in the STAR program and curriculum, and receive hands-on follow-up support to ensure fidelity with implementation from the STAR Trainer throughout the school year.

In our region, there are four active STAR cohorts which includes ten training sites at the elementary level ... and one active LINKS cohort with three training sites at the middle school level.

STAR Sites:

- Willmar Public Schools - Jefferson Learning Center
- Willmar Public Schools - Roosevelt Elementary (two classrooms)
- Worthington Public Schools - Prairie Elementary
- Marshall Public Schools - Parkside Elementary
- ELC - Belview SUN Program
- ELC - Willmar SUN Program
- ELC - Windom SUN Program

- ELC - Montevideo SUN Program
- ELC - Cosmos SUN Program

LINKS Sites:

- ELC - Montevideo MS/HS SUN Program
- Worthington Public Schools - Middle School
- Marshall Public Schools - Middle School



ELC student in the classroom

SPED PD ON DEMAND was developed to offer high-quality professional development that special educators could experience anytime, anywhere. Courses are completed online and at the educators own pace. These were available in 2021-22, with more to come in 2022-23.

- Conducting a Comprehensive Evaluation and Evaluation Report Writing
- Individualized Education Plan Writing
- Teaching All Students: A Guide to Accommodations and Modifications

www.swwc.org/professionaldevelopment

TEACHING AND LEARNING

The five-year Rural Career and Technical Consortium \$3 million legislative grant that created the **LAUNCH YOUR FUTURE TODAY (LYFT) PATHWAYS** project concluded on June 30, 2022. During the five-year grant cycle, about 60 career and technical education (CTE) projects were funded that provided engaging hands-on experiences to about 14,000 students. Business, high school and post-secondary leaders collaborated to develop classes and experiences in healthcare, manufacturing, entrepreneurship, automotive technology, aviation, computer programming and video production to name a few.

LYFT Pathways will continue due to a new \$3 million Statewide Rural Career and Technical Consortium grant that will involve a partnership between all of the Minnesota Service Cooperatives (MSC). This MSC partnership will work together to expand CTE experiences, recruit and retain CTE teachers, and forge deeper relationships between high schools, students and Minnesota businesses.



TEACHING AND LEARNING

The **MINNESOTA WEST CARL PERKINS CONSORTIUM** held a Geometry in Construction training at the Minnesota West-Pipestone Campus on June 13-16, 2022. Math and Construction teachers and high school administration from Jackson County Central, Pipestone and Martin County West attended the training. There were also teachers from Oregon and Virginia participating.

The training was taught by teachers from Contextual Learning Concepts, LLC which created the program after successfully implementing the concepts in their Colorado classrooms. Math and Construction Trades instructors will co-teach a class so students can learn math content (and earn Geometry math credit) and develop construction skills in the same course. The participating teacher will form a professional learning community in 2022-23 so they can learn from one another as they implement the curriculum.



Goals of Contextualizing Math and Career & Technical Education

- Implement an innovative approach to math instruction with proven success at closing the achievement gap in mathematics education
- Greatly improve math results on all forms of assessments, pass/fail rates, and student engagement
- Strategically integrate math concepts into technology laboratory instruction and boost rigor in CTE
- Bring real-world relevance to math by engaging students in hands-on challenges which apply the geometry concepts they are learning (aligned with Common Core Mathematical Practices)
- Provide students the opportunity to explore math in context, thereby opening the potential to pursue STEM or CTE graduation diploma pathways
- Get the full curriculum (activities, assessments, student problem banks, unit planners) Common Core aligned
- Receive ongoing coaching and support activities that can be adapted for middle school and high school instruction



Students at the Geometry in Construction training.

SWWC has partnered with the **NEW TEACHER CENTER** since 2018. Since then, three cohorts of instructional coaches have completed a two-year evidence-based training. This training prepared Instructional Coaches to support teachers in meeting diverse students' needs, and to focus on standards-based learning, social emotional learning and research-based instructional practices. Participating districts were GFW, JCC, Marshall, Montevideo, Pipestone, Redwood, Worthington and SWWC. New in August 2022, a fourth cohort of instructional coaches will be offered!

"My coach has been an amazing resource for information, a sounding board for ideas and someone to talk to when I don't know where to find the answers. She's an amazing asset to my teaching practice and I consider her an invaluable part of my teaching experience."

- Cohort I teacher

SWWC was named as a partner with the New Teacher Center (NTC) on an **EDUCATION INNOVATION AND RESEARCH GRANT (EIR)** from the U.S. Department of Education. Under this grant, NTC and SWWC will implement a **WHOLE-SCHOOL PROFESSIONAL LEARNING MODEL** aimed at accelerating instructional practice through job-embedded instructional coaching focused on social emotional learning (SEL) and rigorous academic content. NTC and SWWC will engage in strategic planning with instructional leadership teams from participating schools and districts to establish the conditions for effective coaching, and then train and support teacher leaders to serve as coaches. NTC-trained coaches will provide instructionally focused, personalized professional development to english/language arts (ELA) and mathematics in grades 3–8, both one-on-one and in small professional learning communities (PLCs), with integrated supports for SEL. There are 22 schools, in two cohorts, participating in the grant work during the two-year grant period. What we learn through this work will help support rural schools nation-wide.

STUDENT ENRICHMENT

These **SWWC STUDENT ENRICHMENT** events were held in-person during 2021-22: Conference for Young Writers, Conference for Young Artists, Science and Nature Conference, Regional Spelling Bee, Culinary Skills Challenge and both Junior High and Senior High Knowledge Bowl. All participants were excited to be back face-to-face for hands-on learning. The Digital Photography Competition was the only event held virtually this year.



Hands-on sessions for students at our regional student enrichment conferences.

TECHNOLOGY

The 2021-22 school year was the first for our newly developed **CYBERSECURITY PROGRAM**, which is now staffed with two Cybersecurity Engineers and a Cybersecurity Analyst. The launch of the program started with ten school districts participating in our new Comprehensive Cybersecurity Service, which makes our Cybersecurity team an extension of the school district's technology team. Throughout the year the team worked closely with several schools on data incidents, saving them tens of thousands of dollars in cyber forensics costs. At the close of the year we were thrilled to learn that a couple of the schools that were part of our service saw a dramatic decrease in their Cyber Liability Insurance premiums - this coming at a time when many school districts were experiencing dramatic premium increases or being denied coverage altogether. We also launched our Cyber Liability Insurance Readiness (CLIR) assessment which is available at no charge for schools. Participating schools receive a complimentary report on areas where the district "meets" or "is deficient" as it relates to standards established by the insurance industry.

Minnesota's new **STUDENT DATA PRIVACY LAW** is effective July 1, 2022, and will introduce many welcomed restrictions on how Technology Providers can utilize educational data. The law also require school districts to ensure students and parents are aware of the solutions utilized in their schools and the types of information that those providers have access to. SWWC staff were actively involved in providing input and testimony at the state legislature to help shape this law into a workable solution for Minnesota's school districts. Our staff have also prioritized working with school districts throughout our region to ensure their understanding and compliance with the new law. By working together, not only will SWWC provide expertise and efficiency to this process, but all of our members who choose to work with us will be able to contribute to and reap the benefits of our collective work!



Students learning at a science, technology, engineering, arts and math camp.

SWWC's **TECHNOLOGY INTEGRATION PROGRAM** has grown and we have added two new Technology Integration Specialists to our staff. The lessons of the pandemic have allowed us to re-invent and revitalize how we view and approach technology integration throughout the region. A focus on virtual professional development opportunities, as well as re-introducing in-person workshops and trainings, is well underway and will continue to evolve in the coming years.

SWWC FOUNDATION

Imagine the impact on our region if **EVERY CHILD** had the opportunity to discover and explore their passion in life!
Your support can make that happen!



The **SWWC FOUNDATION** believes that students in the region, no matter where they live or how much money they have, deserve innovative and learning-rich educational opportunities so they can be positioned to learn, grow and find success.

Funds raised by the SWWC Foundation support a variety of regional enrichment opportunities for students such as Camp Aspire, Career Expo, Conference for Young Artists, Conference for Young Writers, Creative Writing Contest, Culinary Skills Challenge, Photography Competition, regional Knowledge Bowl competitions, Project Discovery, Regional Spelling Bee and the Science and Nature Conference. These opportunities are an extension of the classroom and give students the opportunity to further explore areas of interest in a hands-on fashion.

LARGE OR SMALL ... ALL DONATIONS MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

In 2021-22, thanks to donations and grants, the SWWC Foundation raised **\$31,850** to support student enrichment! That makes a **HUGE** impact on the future leaders of our region!

2021-22 Business Partners

- Southwest Minnesota Arts Council
- United Way of Southwest Minnesota
- Schwan
- SW MN Workforce Development Board
- Federated Rural Electric Trust
- Great River Energy
- Kandi Power Charitable Trust
- Lyon-Lincoln Electric Trust
- McLeod Cooperative Power
- Meeker Cooperative Electric Trust
- MDU Resources Foundation
- Otter Tail Power Foundation
- Redwood Electric Trust
- Renville-Sibley Cooperative
- Sioux Valley Energy Customers' Trust
- United Way of McLeod County
- Agralite Electric Trust
- ICS
- Nobles-Murray Rural Electric Trust
- United Way of Pipestone County
- Brown County Rural Electric Trust
- Minnesota Valley Coop Light & Power Trust

2021-22 Individual Partners

- Sherry Brandt
- Amber Bruns
- Cliff Carmody
- Matt Coleman
- Jan Fransen
- Jennifer Fransen
- Kathy Fransen
- Scott & Carolyn Fuller
- Brett & Anita Gaul
- Cheryl Glaeser
- Lisa Gregoire
- Kathi Gruenhagen
- Melissa Haynes
- Luther Heller
- Tom Hoff
- Jan Janasko
- Noah Johnson
- David Kilpatrick & Julie Schultz
- Jennifer Lee
- Shelly Maes
- Tammy Stahl
- Stephanie Streng
- Tim Streng
- Elizabeth Sullivan
- Josh Sumption
- Will Thomas
- In Memory of Allen Wisdorf by Ron & Ann Wendorff
- In Memory of Arlan Rossow by Ron & Ann Wendorff
- In Memory of Jan Quist by Ron & Ann Wendorff
- and many other donors who wished to remain anonymous



Launching rockets at a student conference



Regional Spelling Bee Winners

DONATE TODAY AT WWW.SWWC.ORG/DONATE

The SWWC Foundation was incorporated in December 2017 as a 501c3 public charity and a 509a3 Type II supporting organization. SWWC and the SWWC Foundation exist in a brother/sister relationship. While the organizations are separate and governed by two separate boards of directors, the SWWC Foundation was organized exclusively for the benefit of SWWC Service Cooperative (similar to a hospital or university foundation).