



# Annual Report To Our Partners 2011-2012



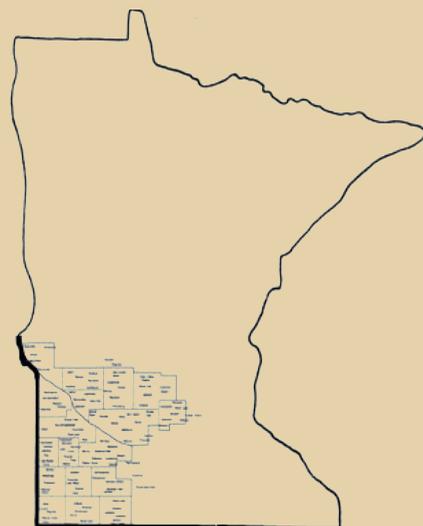
## SW/WC Service Cooperative

1420 East College Drive, Marshall MN 56258  
507-537-2240 [www.swsc.org](http://www.swsc.org)

Office Locations: Marshall, Montevideo  
Pipestone, Willmar and Windom

School Locations: Belview, Benson, Cosmos,  
Luverne and Windom

Serving the 18 counties of  
Southwest and West Central Minnesota



**Partnership. Innovation. Leadership. Service.**

# Our Mission

The SW/WC Service Cooperative is a public agency dedicated to meeting the needs of our members by providing high quality programs through partnership, innovation, leadership, and service.

## Divisions of Excellence

A Division of Excellence combines comprehensive services with highly qualified and educated staff to deliver quality programs and services to our members.

### Division of Administrative Services



The Division of Administrative Services is committed to delivering high quality, reliable services to our members and partners, which exceed expectations for responsiveness and expertise.

This division is comprised of the following programs:

- |                                               |                          |
|-----------------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Regional Management Information Center (RMIC) | Health and Safety        |
| Information Technology                        | Technology Integration   |
| Cooperative Purchasing                        | E-Rate Coordination      |
| Distance Education                            | Professional Development |

This division is led by Darin Jensen, Senior Director of Administrative Services.

### Division of Special Education Services



The Division of Special Education Services has a long and positive history of working collaboratively with its member districts to ensure students with disabilities are afforded excellent educational services. Our employees are dedicated professionals who are exceptionally skilled in the services they provide. They exude professionalism and an unwavering dedication to their respective fields.

The division is comprised of the following programs:

- |                                               |                             |
|-----------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Special Education Direct Student Services     | Regional Low Incidence      |
| Regional Assistive Technology Lending Library | Outreach Clinics            |
| Autism Training Project                       | Transitions Outcome Project |
| Alternative Learning Programs & Settings      | Professional Development.   |

This division is led by Dr. Mary Palmer, Senior Director of Special Education Services.

# From the Executive Director

Dear Friends of SW/WC Service Cooperative:

The staff, administration, and Board of Directors are committed to providing high quality programs and services to our members! Our mission highlights partnership, innovation, service, and exceptional leadership and we believe this past year demonstrated our commitment to achieving this mission! Our shared services model of delivering services is show-cased through a number of important initiatives outlined in this year's *Annual Report to Our Partners*. SW/WC SC is a membership driven organization...through a number of advisory committees and the Superintendents Executive Council, our Board of Directors and Administration work collaboratively with our members to bring program and service opportunities that meet their needs.



As we plan for the 2012-13, we recognize the challenges facing our members and have a financial plan for the agency that reflects the current fiscal circumstances of federal, state and local budgets. Using a conservative approach to generating revenue through our fee structure, we will continue to work on finding new and innovative ways to deliver programs and services. In addition, it is our intention in 2012-13 to focus on technology integration, expanding teaching and learning services, and growing new opportunities for cities, counties and other governmental agencies.

Thank you for taking time to read the *Annual Report to Our Partners*. Just as we believe it is important to report to you, we believe it is equally important that we listen to you. Tell us what you need and we will work with you to find innovative ways to meet those needs!

Sincerely,

*Cliff Carmody, Executive Director*

## Division of Risk Management Services

The Goals of the Health Insurance Pool Program are to: reduce the individual risk for our member groups, stabilize rates for our members on a year-to-year basis, negotiate with the claims administrator on behalf of our members, secure a competitive price, create product design options and services, and provide educational trainings and workshops for our members and their employees.

The SW/WC SC provides health insurance coverage to nearly 20,000 lives through our School and City, County and Other Governmental Agency (CCOGA) Pools. The Pools provide the efficiencies of a self-insured group with the financial protection of a fully-insured group. Our recently created Wellness Institute provides expertise and resource opportunities for groups to provide a strategic wellness program to their members.

This division is led by Doug Deragisch, Senior Director of Risk Management Services.



## Division of Teaching and Learning Services

The Division of Teaching and Learning Services is comprised of the following programs:

School Improvement/AYP Services	Student Enrichment Activities
Shared Services	Curriculum, Assessment & Instruction
Carl Perkins/Career and Tech Education	Math and Science Teacher Partnership
Response to Intervention (RtI)	Professional Development
Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS)	

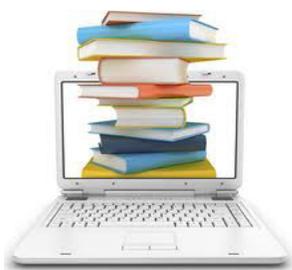
This division is led by Bob Braun, Senior Director of Teaching and Learning Services.



# In Partnership With Our Members

## Highlights from this past year...

### Educational Resource Library Redesign



Known to many as SEIMC, our Educational Resource Library went through a redesign this past school year. Lucy Tokheim was hired as the coordinator in the Fall of 2011 and was immediately tasked with clearing out old, outdated resources. Along with an advisory committee, Lucy planned a new and improved resource library that will be ready for Fall 2012. The new library will offer an online, searchable database similar to what many public libraries use. Members can search for special education items, testing materials, science pacs, general education resources, and much more. We will also feature more digital materials! We are excited about the redesign and look forward to member use for many years to come.

### Math and Science Teacher Partnership



The Math and Science Teacher Partnership Grant has completed its fourth year of providing high-quality professional development and support.

Over this four-year period, positive impacts were made by addressing math and science content as well as teaching and learning strategies for over 240 teachers and 6,500 students.

Preparations are being made for the fifth year of the Math and Science Teacher Partnership in 2012-2013.

### Information Technology



Three new members joined our Wide Area Network (WAN) Consortium--Redwood Area, Wabasso and ECHO Charter. It is now comprised of 33 public schools, 2 charter schools, 2 libraries, and the SW/WC SC. Upgrades to the WAN took capacity from 90 Mbps to 400 Mbps. An additional 200 Mbps POP will be implemented on 7/1/12. On 2/15/12, the FCC issued an order granting our appeal for the WAN Consortium ending a 3-year process of working with USAC and the FCC on the matters.

Shared Technology Coordination Services continue to grow with 18 member school districts now relying on our comprehensive services.

Six school districts converted to the TSIS Student Information System bringing the total to twelve.

125 Aerohive Wireless Access Points were deployed and are managed by IT Services in 8 member school districts



## Record Year for Student Enrichment



A "Quarter of a Million" and Counting! The SW/WC SC has been providing student enrichment services to students from our member schools for over 20 years. Since the 2000-01 school year we have been using a more specific method to measure participation. During that 12 year period we have provided unique enrichment experiences to a "Quarter of a Million" participants. Our goal is to help students "Find Their Passion in Life" by providing enrichment experiences that would not normally be available in our region. This could not be accomplished without the hundreds of business, college, K12, service organization and community partners, and event sponsors we work with. We look forward to serving a "Half a Million".

## Innovation for Students with Hearing Loss



A blog for SW/WC SC students with hearing loss was created this year, and was quickly shared with students all over Minnesota. Students have shown deep insight related to their needs and triumphs as a person with hearing loss. We also started using webconferencing to connect students across the miles. Meeting on a regular basis, students work on IEP goals and discuss issues like "telling your date you have a hearing loss" or "my teacher always forgets to use the FM". Students, 1st-12th grade, look forward to communicating with someone like them. When they see each other in person at our Building Identity Events, students interact, see new and unique amplification and assistive listening devices, and feel comfortable about their hearing loss.

## Cooperative Purchasing



Sales for statewide CP program: \$26,500,032 (a savings of \$3,976,836 for members).

Sales for SW/WC SC CP: \$3,631,042 (a savings of \$565,302 for members).

Numerous new contracts added: K2 Logistics; Reason Computers; Polaris Industries; CDI; PartStock Computer; OfficeMax; Midwest Playscapes; Nasco Science/Facs; Bio Corporation; Retrofit; Bennett Office Technologies; Affinis; SchoolReach; Daktronics; elnstruction; Mackin Via; Emantras (Mobl21); FieldTurf; LightSpeed; Robert Cohen/Fisher Tracks; UBU – Field Turf.

Continued involvement with SMART Users Networking Group and hosted multiple "Lunch and Learn" events for members.



# New Initiatives and Continued Growth

## Distance Learning

Great changes came to the Distance Learning program this year as we began to incorporate some of the new back-end equipment from our RUS Grant into the ITV system and made the move to Moodle 2.0 for the start of the 2011-2012 school year. These changes allowed instructors and students to take advantage of some new functionality to continue to enhance their distance learning experience.

## Behavior Analyst

Citing member needs, starting in the Fall of 2011 we began offering high quality behavior analyst services at an affordable price to our members. We hired a school psychologist who also has his behavior analyst certification. In year one, nineteen schools and two alternative schools purchased this service. Moving into year two, we have continued school support and need to hire an additional behavior analyst.

## Alternative Learning Programs

All of our programs continued to see an increase in enrollment and expanded opportunities for the students they serve. In an ongoing effort to better meet program needs and provide enhanced student experiences, the Blue Mound Learning Center is moving from Luverne to the campus of MN West in Pipestone for the start of the 2012-13 school year.



### Social Media

The SW/WC SC officially entered the world of social media. We enhanced our Facebook page and started using Twitter. Facebook was used during our Career Expo events in the Fall of 2012. We uploaded pictures of students and encouraged them to visit, comment and tag. We used Twitter during the Technology Conference to link conference related tweets. We look forward to the continued use of social media.

### Tech Integration

This was the first year in which school districts contracted for regular technology integration facilitation. Participating school districts received regular staff support, professional development and coaching in the use of instructional technologies in the classroom. Initiatives focused around one-to-one computing, digital curriculum, flipped classroom, Moodle, and interactive lesson development.

### Member Services Database

To better serve our members and our staff, we created a Member Services Database which is now located on our website. Members can search which services they purchase, which services they don't purchase, get contact information for our staff who work in their buildings, and even compare the services they purchase with services purchased by a similar sized district.



[www.facebook.com/SWWCSC](http://www.facebook.com/SWWCSC)

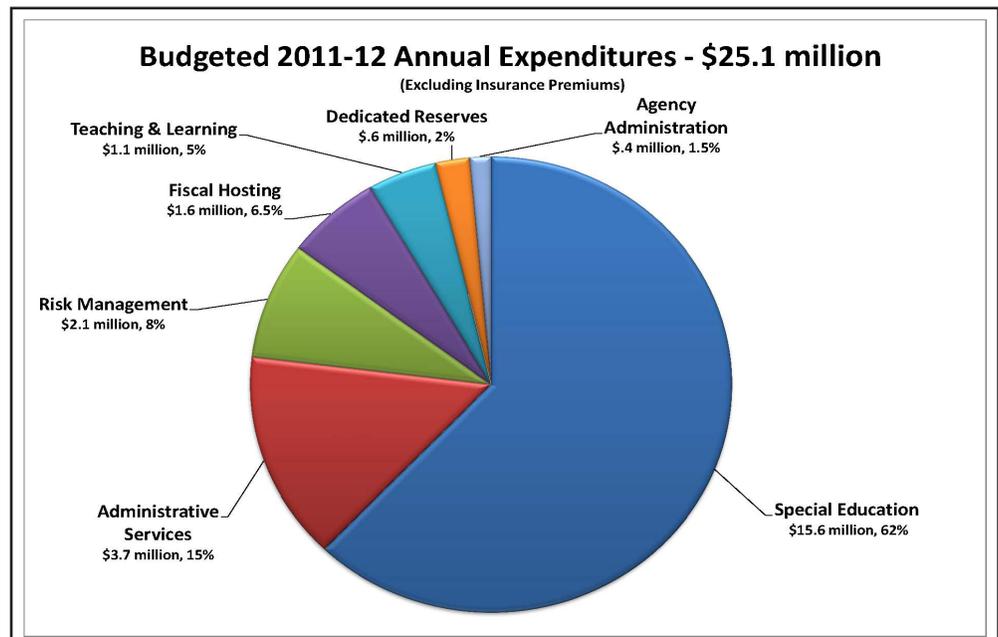
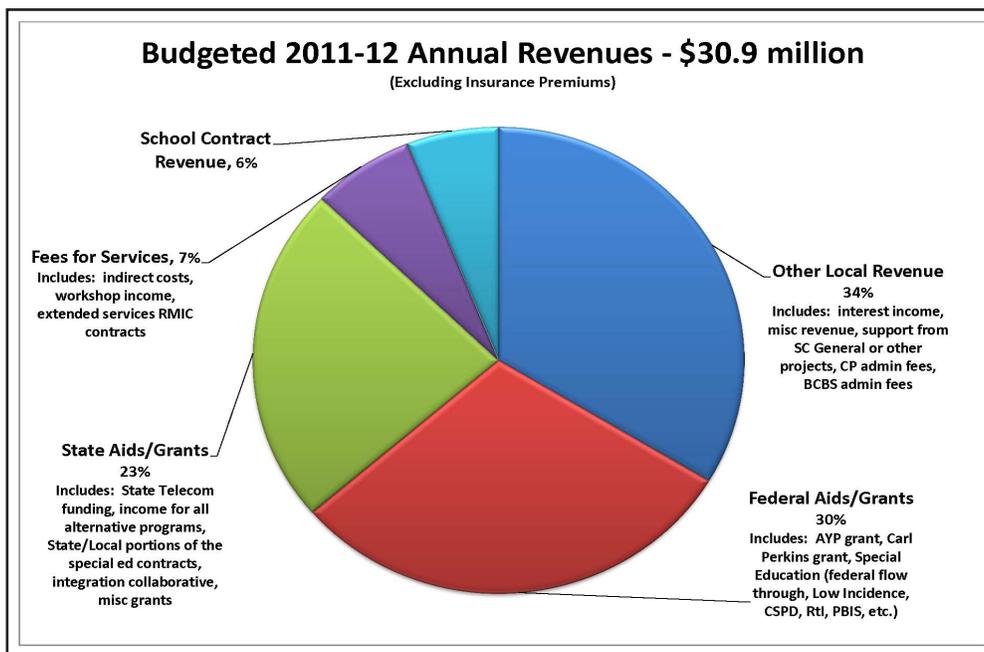
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# Maximizing Financial Resources

- Our members are under no obligation to use or purchase our services; thus, quality, cost effectiveness and relevance are necessary to our operations.
- SW/WC Service Cooperative’s approach to sound fiscal management is prudent and efficient, allowing the agency to respond to the diverse needs of our members.
- In today’s economic environment, creating financial savings by developing economies of scale is core to our purpose. As our members experience continued budget reductions, we provide fiscal efficiencies so members can focus on success.



# Staff

We employ over 250 staff throughout the 18 counties of southwest and west central Minnesota. Our staff are located in one of our 5 office locations, but many are actually housed right in the school districts they work in!

Employee retention is important to us! Our staff average length of service 7.40 years.

Employees at the SW/WC SC >20 years: 26

Employees with us 15-19 years: 10

Employees who have worked 10-14 years: 38

Ongoing education and continuous improvement is important to our staff. We have five PhDs working among us, and 86 employees who have an MS or MA degree.



Tammy Stahl received the 2012 New Special Education Leader of the Year Award from the MN Association of Special Educators



*In Stitches*, located at the Heartland Ranch School, won Honorable Mention in the Minnesota Rural Education Association (MREA) Profiles of Excellence Awards.



Josh Sumption (left) earned his Certified Education Technology License (CETL) from the Consortium of School Networking (CoSN).



Jackie Budden (left) received the Benson/Stenswick Scholarship Award through the MN Association of Special Educators.



Jill Rohman and Bonnie Rauk, teachers of the Deaf/Hard of Hearing, presented at the 2011 AESA Annual Conference in Colorado about innovation with D/HH students.

*"Through monthly presentations to the SW/WC SC Board of Directors, the education service providers inform the directors of the unique projects and services provided. The educators and staff are passionate when talking about their work with students and delight in the students' success! Commitment to meeting the students' needs is very evident!"*

*~Dr. Kathryn K. Kelly, SW/WC Service Cooperative Board Member, Renville County Soil and Water Conservation District*

## 2011-12 Executive Director's Cabinet

- Cliff Carmody, Executive Director
- Deecy Jesse, Executive Assistant
- Annette Miller, Director of Finance
- Edna Gossen, Operations Manager
- Shelly Maes, Manager of Member Services
- Darin Jensen, Sr. Director of Administrative Services
- Doug Deragisch, Sr. Director of Risk Management Services
- Dr. Mary Palmer, Sr. Director of Special Education Services
- Bob Braun, Sr. Director of Teaching and Learning Services

# Board of Directors

The members of the SW/WC Service Cooperative's Board of Directors are elected directly from our membership.



Front Row, left to right: Mike Zins, Fulda Public School; Don Brugman, Windom Public School; Maydra Maas, Westbrook-Walnut Grove Public School; Mike O'Brien, New London-Spicer Public School; and Carol Morgan, Luverne Public School

Back Row, left to right: Maggie Kluver, Montevideo Public School; Sally Vogt, Canby Public School; Jan Fransen, Jackson County; Steve Schnieder, Worthington Public School; Dr. Kathryn Kelly, Renville County SWCD; Kathi Thymian, Ortonville Public School; and Tom Walsh, KMS Public School

## From the Board Chair

The black and gold to the red and silver of Westbrook-Walnut Grove Schools has been significant in the lives of our communities' "kids". As four-generation graduates, our family certainly did not know everyone who paid the educational bill. Yet the Maas Family did know that even when times were historically tough, the local school district continued to provide excellent educational opportunities for "our kids".

Today getting the same excellent educational opportunity for "our kids" is not a simple process. Education is more demanding. Finances remain a constant issue. Collaboration and coordination become the investment tools needed to secure the education of "our kids" and the success of southwest and west central Minnesota.

Change is never easy. Who will tackle the initiatives in these challenging times? Through dedication, commitment and desire to exceed, the SW/WC Service Cooperative continues to remain an invaluable asset and resource to its membership to meet the educational needs of "our kids".

*Maydra Maas, Chairperson, SW/WC SC Board of Directors, Westbrook-Walnut Grove Schools*



# Benefits of Membership

- Using a shared services model, the SW/WC Service Cooperative provides a number of benefits to our members. From saving money, to gaining economies of scale, our shared services model creates efficiencies while providing access to programs and services not readily available to our members without our efforts.
- Working together with the SW/WC Service Cooperative to pool money and staff, school districts gain needed service. Small, rural schools can maximize resources, bringing equal opportunities to all students in southwest and west central Minnesota.
- Creativity and innovation, coupled with our stalwart tried and true programs, provide a solid foundation of support for our members.

## Our Members

Public School Members: 55 Charter & Non-Public School Members: 18

City Members: 58 County Members: 16 Other Governmental Agency (OGA) Members: 45

Adrian Schools  
 •Adult Client Training Service  
 •Advance Opportunities  
 •Area II MN River Basin Project  
 ACGC Schools  
 BBE Schools  
 Benson Schools  
 BOLD Schools  
 Brewster Schools  
 Buffalo Lake-Hector-Stewart Schools  
 •Butterfield Schools  
 Canby Schools  
 Cedar Mountain Schools  
 •Cedar Riverside Community School-Minneapolis  
 •Chippewa County  
 •City of Adrian  
 •City of Appleton  
 •City of Atwater  
 •City of Benson  
 •City of Bird Island  
 •City of Buffalo Lake  
 •City of Canby  
 •City of Carver  
 •City of Clara City  
 •City of Cosmos  
 •City of Cottonwood  
 •City of DeGraff  
 •City of Ellsworth  
 •City of Fairfax  
 •City of Franklin  
 •City of Fulda  
 •City of Granite Falls  
 •City of Greenfield  
 •City of Hanley Falls  
 •City of Hendricks  
 •City of Heron Lake  
 •City of Jackson  
 •City of Jasper  
 •City of Kerkhoven  
 •City of Lake Benton  
 •City of Lake Elmo  
 •City of Lakefield  
 •City of Madison  
 •City of Marshall  
 •City of Maynard  
 •City of Mendota Heights  
 •City of Milroy  
 •City of Minneota  
 •City of Montevideo

•City of Mountain Lake  
 •City of New Prague  
 •City of Newport  
 •City of Oakdale  
 •City of Pipestone  
 •City of Plymouth  
 •City of Prior Lake  
 •City of Renville  
 •City of Rosemount  
 •City of Round Lake  
 •City of Russell  
 •City of Sacred Heart  
 •City of Scandia  
 •City of Slayton  
 •City of Spicer  
 •City of Springfield  
 •City of St. Paul Park  
 •City of Stillwater  
 •City of Tyler  
 •City of Vadnais Heights  
 •City of Victoria  
 •City of West St. Paul  
 •City of Willmar  
 •City of Windom  
 Clarkfield Area Charter School  
 •Cologne Academy  
 Comfrey Schools  
 •Cottonwood County  
 •Cottonwood County DAC  
 •Countryside Public Health  
 Dawson/Boyd Schools  
 E.C.H.O Charter School  
 Eden Valley/Watkins Schools  
 Edgerton Schools  
 Ellsworth Schools  
 Fulda Schools  
 GFW Schools  
 Glencoe/Silver Lake Schools  
 •Heartland Community Action  
 Hendricks Schools  
 Heron Lake/Okabena Schools  
 •Hiawatha Manor-Pipestone  
 Hills/Beaver Creek Schools  
 Holy Redeemer School-Marshall  
 Holy Trinity School-Winsted  
 •Hospice of Murray County  
 •HRA of Jackson  
 •HRA of Redwood Falls  
 Hutchinson Schools  
 Ivanhoe Schools

•Jackson County  
 Jackson County Central Schools  
 KMS Schools  
 •Kandiyohi Area Transit  
 •Kandiyohi County  
 •Kandiyohi County SWCD  
 •Lac qui Parle County  
 Lac qui Parle Valley Schools  
 Lake Benton Schools  
 •Lake Minnetonka Conservation District  
 Lakeview Schools  
 Lester Prairie Schools  
 •Lincoln County  
 •Lincoln County SWCD  
 •Lincoln/Pipestone Rural Water  
 Luverne Schools  
 Lynd Schools  
 •Lyon County  
 MACCRAY Schools  
 Marshall Area Christian School  
 •Marshall Municipal Utilities  
 Marshall Schools  
 •Meeker County  
 •Mid-MN Devel. Commission  
 Milroy Schools  
 Milroy Area Charter School  
 Minneota Schools  
 Montevideo Schools  
 Mountain Lake Schools  
 •Murray County  
 Murray Co. Central Schools  
 •Murray County DAC  
 •New Heights School-Stillwater  
 •New Life Treatment Center

New London/Spicer Schools  
 •Nobles County  
 •Nobles County SWCD  
 •Odyssey Charter School-Brooklyn Center  
 Ortonville Schools  
 •PACT 4 Families Collaborative  
 •Parkview Home-Belview  
 •Parkview Manor-Ellsworth  
 •Pioneerland Library System  
 Pipestone Area Schools  
 •Pipestone County  
 •Pipestone County Medical Center  
 •Pipestone County SWCD  
 •Prairie Five Community Action  
 •Prairie Lakes Youth Programs  
 Prinsburg Schools  
 •Progress, Inc.  
 Red Rock Central Schools  
 •Red Rock Rural Water  
 Redwood Area Schools  
 •Redwood County  
 •Redwood County SWCD  
 •Redwood/Cottonwood Rivers Control Area  
 •Renville County  
 •Renville Co. Hospital & Clinics  
 •Renville County SWCD  
 Renville County West Schools  
 •Retired Senior Volunteer Program of SW MN  
 •Rock County  
 •Rock County DAC  
 Round Lake Schools

RTR Schools  
 •Rural Enterprises for Acceptable Living  
 •St. Anne's School-Wabasso  
 St. Edward's School-Minneota  
 St. Mary's School-Bird Island  
 •St. Mary's School & Church-Tracy  
 •St. Paul Conservatory for Performing Arts  
 St. Rafael's School-Springfield  
 Samuel Lutheran School-Marshall  
 Sleepy Eye Schools  
 •Southwest Regional Development Comm.  
 Southwest Christian School-Edgerton  
 Springfield Schools  
 •SW MN Broadband Service  
 •SW MN Housing Partnership  
 •SW MN Opportunity Council  
 •Swift County  
 •Swift County-Benson Hospital  
 Tracy Area Schools  
 Wabasso Schools  
 •Westbrook Public Utilities  
 Westbrook/Walnut Grove Schools  
 •Western Community Action  
 Willmar Schools  
 •Willmar Municipal Utilities  
 Window Schools  
 Worthington Schools  
 •Yellow Medicine County  
 Yellow Medicine East Schools

Members as of June 30, 2012

•denotes risk management member only



## Superintendents Executive Council

Keith Kottke, Chair, Springfield Public Schools  
Dan Deitte, Past-Chair, Minneota Public Schools  
Ann Wendorff, Heron Lake-Okabena Public Schools  
Chris Sonju, Glencoe-Silver Lake Public Schools  
Chris Fenske, Lakeview Public Schools  
Klint Willert, Marshall Public Schools  
Paul Carlson, New London-Spicer Public Schools  
Lance Bagstad, Renville County West Public Schools  
Jerry Kjergaard, Willmar Public Schools  
John Newton, Mountain Lake Christian School  
Sharon Kabes, Southwest Minnesota State University

Luther Heller, Vice-Chair, Montevideo Public Schools  
Summer Schultz, MCC Public Schools  
Loren Hacker, Canby Public Schools  
Daron VanderHeiden, Hutchinson Public Schools  
Greg Schmidt, MACCRAY Public Schools  
Tom Farrell, BOLD Public Schools  
John Brennan, Red Rock Central Public Schools  
Luther Onken, Fulda Public Schools  
John Landgaard, Worthington Public Schools  
Michael Van Keulen, Minnesota West

The Superintendents Executive Council provides advice and support to the SW/WC Service Cooperative Administration and Board of Directors. Members are elected to a 3-year term.

The SW/WC Service Cooperative is a member of the Minnesota Service Cooperatives, an association of nine educational service agencies in MN.



Scan this code to visit our website!

**Visit us online at [www.swsc.org](http://www.swsc.org)**

Our website offers a general guide to programs and services, professional development opportunities, special events, employment opportunities, a map of school districts in the region, links to member websites and other educational sites, and more!