Down Through The Years

Celebrating 50 Years
1965-2015

SOUTHWEST-MIDWEST CENTRAL SERVICE COOPERATIVE

Education & Administrative Resources

Service Cooperatives

Southwest/Midwest

Since 1965

SWMC

SOUTHWEST-MIDWEST CENTRAL SERVICE COOPERATIVE

EDUCATIONAL
DEVELOPMENT
RESEARCH and
COUNCIL

DUCATIONAL
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The Southwest and West Central Educational Research and Development Council (SW and WC ERDC) was formally organized on May 23, 1966, following a series of meetings with interested educators in southwest and west central Minnesota who had expressed interest in cooperative programs among small schools in the area. These meetings began in Morris on June 14, 1965 – with the first annual meeting of the ERDC held on May 23, 1966. No incentive monies were used to form the organization – it was organized by superintendents who were willing to develop a dues structure that would create and support such an organization.

The SW and WC ERDC was a non-profit organization developed under a joint agreement of the schools involved. It was devoted exclusively to the development of education through research and cooperative action of schools and other related agencies.

The organization was founded on two basic principles:
• The governance of the organization must be vested in the member school districts themselves
• The programs and services offered must be responsive to the requests of the members

First Staff and Board of Directors

Dr. Charles Bruning, Acting Executive Secretary  
*Dr. Bruning was Chairman of the Division of Education at the University of Minnesota Morris.*

William Scarborough, Assistant Executive Secretary  
*Mr. Scarborough received a University of Minnesota faculty appointment and joined the staff on September 1, 1966.*

Mrs. Joyce Walters, Secretary

Staff were officed at the University of Minnesota-Morris.

The Board of Directors was comprised of superintendents of member schools:

- Richard Baker, Canby
- L. G. Blood, Benson
- R. B. Clay, Dawson
- Alex Fisher, Fulda
- S. L. Held, Worthington
- John Kleinsasser, Hoffman
- L. A. Graves, Cyrus
- Jerome Webster, Windom
- Abner Hegre, Buffalo Lake
- B. L. Ailts, Danube
- L. G. Blood, Benson
- S. L. Held, Worthington
- John Kleinsasser, Hoffman
- L. A. Graves, Cyrus
- Jerome Webster, Windom
- Abner Hegre, Buffalo Lake
- B. L. Ailts, Danube

First Members

Membership was open to any public or private school, within limited restrictions to the latter, or any institution of higher learning located in a twenty-some county area of Southwest and West Central Minnesota.

As of May 1966, the original members included: Adrian, Appleton, Balaton, Belview, Benson, Brandon, Buffalo Lake, Canby, Chandler, Chokio, Clarkfield, Comfrey, Cottonwood, Cyrus, Danube, Evansville, Fulda, Glenwood, Granite Falls, Herman, Hoffman, Jackson, Jasper, Jeffers, Kerkhoven, Lake Wilson, Lakefield, Lamberton, Luverne, Madison, Magnolia, Marshall, Milroy, Montevideo, Morgan, Morris, Odessa, Okabena, Olivia, Ortonville, Pipestone, Russell, Rutchon, Wabasso, Willmar, Windom and Worthington.

Did You Know?

No incentive monies were used to form the SW and WC ERDC. It was organized by superintendents willing to develop a dues structure to support the organization.

A Look Back ...

Membership expanded a year later. April 1967 members are listed at left.
First Year Activities

Planning and Training
• A planning grant from the federal Office of Health, Welfare and Education in February 1967 addressed further development of the ERDC and how to upgrade education in the ERDC’s sphere of influence.
• A data communications workshop was held in Marshall in November 1966. The program and hardware were jointly provided the Northwestern Bell Telephone Company and the Pillsbury Company.
• Ninety-nine principals attended a two-day principal workshop in April 1967 at a Minneapolis motor hotel.
• A Title I Directors Workshop was held in May 1967 to help facilitate the writing of school district proposals.
• A two-day workshop was held for those teaching summer school and covered the areas of Remedial Reading, Remedial Mathematics, Adaptive Physical Education and Language Arts.
• A three-day seminar about current educational problems and philosophies was held for school administrators. The areas of study were: Education and Rural America, Educational Improvement through Reorganization, The School of the Future – Its Form and Function, Educational Improvement – Curriculum Development, Innovation and Reality – The New in Practice, The Financial and Economic Picture of SW and WC Minnesota, and Where Do We Go From Here? Funding was provided by the Upper Midwest Regional Educational Laboratory.
• Some 346 teachers participated in an in-service program about the disadvantaged child. Six sessions were taught by 12 master teachers. Sessions included: The Nature of the Disadvantaged Child, Teaching the Disadvantaged, Communicating with the Disadvantaged, Working with Parents of the Disadvantaged, Curriculum Problems and Trends, and a Summation. Teaching stations were located in Morris, Granite Falls, Lamberton and Chandler.

First Year Financials
Revenue and Expenses
for the Year Ended May 1, 1967
Revenues: $36,437
Expenses: $26,977

Red River Valley Inter-Institutional Project
The ERDC’s first “fiscal host” job.
The fee charged was a minimum of $1,000.

First Membership Dues
According to the ERDC By-Laws dated March 1, 1966, school district membership dues were $0.25 per student - with a minimum of $100 and a maximum of $1,500.
Associate membership dues were offered for individuals and institutions. Individual dues were $20 and institutions paid $75.
Institutions of higher education paid a membership fee of $100.
On July 1, 1967, with funds from the US Office of Education, an Educational Service Center was established in Willmar to serve schools in southwest and west central Minnesota. It became operational on August 16, 1967. There were 24 staff in the Willmar office.

Additional centers were opened in Morris on December 18, 1967 (with four staff) and in Windom on January 3, 1968 (with four staff).

Two other centers (Pipestone and Madison) were set to open during the summer of 1968.

**Objectives of the Educational Service Centers:**
1. To provide for early identification of potential school problems
2. To indicate the availability and utilization of services which were previously non-existent or in short supply in the area
3. To test, identify, analyze and correct reading problems, speech difficulties, hearing and sight difficulties and provide health services
4. To assist in the improvement of techniques of instruction as reflected in increased pupil performance and increased teacher productivity
5. To provide speakers upon request to local communities to discuss issues in education.

Services were provided to all members schools on a regular referral basis and included:

- psychological evaluations
- diagnostic and remedial reading
- curriculum consultation
- research
- social services (visiting teachers)
- speech correction
- counseling and guidance
- in-service workshops

Through April 1, 1968, over 1,200 students were seen for evaluation for psycho-educational services.

Note: The school nurse program was not well received (other nursing agencies were not happy with the infringement in their area and the larger schools employed their own nurses), so this program was curtailed.

**Planning for Data Processing Procedures and Centers**

In the Fall of 1967, a Data Processing Commission with personnel from member schools was appointed to study the feasibility of establishing data processing procedures and centers to serve member schools and to plan cooperative programs with members schools, area vocational schools, junior colleges and colleges in data processing and computer applications.
Members
82 public schools
9 associate members
Service area: 21 counties
(approximately 15,000 square miles)

New Members as of April 1968:
Atwater
Belgrade
Bellingham
Belview
Brewster
Brooten
Cosmos
Eden Valley
Fairfax
Grove City
Hendricks
Maynard
Milan
Morton
Murdock
New London-Spicer
Raymond
Renville
Round Lake
Sanborn
Storden
Tracy
Tyler
Villard
Walnut Grove

Staff and Board Notes
The ERDC Constitution and By-Laws called for co-executive secretary offices to be located at the University of Minnesota-Morris and Southwest Minnesota State College in Marshall.

Dr. Richard Wollin, Co-Executive Secretary in Marshall
*Dr. Wollin was Chairman of the Division of Education at Southwest Minnesota State College.

Dr. Charles Bruning, Co-Executive Secretary in Morris
Dr. Lester Edens, Director of the Educational Service Centers in Willmar
There were four staff in the Marshall office and four in Morris.

New to Board of Directors:
• E. Palmer Rockswold, Superintendent at Madison
• Victor Clark, Superintendent at Brooten
• R. M. Brynelson, Superintendent at Cottonwood

Did You Know?
The original newsletter of the Southwest and West Central Educational Research and Development Council was called ERDC Notes.
During the 1967-68 school year, it was published 6 times and 3 times the following year. Over 5,000 copies were distributed each time!
1968-69
Lines of Service

In-Service Education
Topics included individualized instruction, social studies, flexible scheduling, development of visual perception, learning disabilities, planning for educational change, and data processing and computer services.

*Twenty-five principals attended a 3-day flexible scheduling workshop focused on team teaching, large and small group instruction, small independent study, open laboratories, staff utilization and modular schedules.

Educational Service Centers
A multi-discipline approach was used at each of the five Educational Service Centers located in Madison, Morris, Pipestone, Willmar and Windom.

During the 1968-69 school year, the following positions were employed:
- 9 psychologists
- 10 speech correctionists
- 8 social workers
- 3 elementary counselors
- 5 reading consultants
- 3 curriculum personnel
- 2 research assistants
- clerical staff

Staff and Board Notes
Dr. Charles Hanna, Co-Executive Secretary in Morris
Dave Lammers, Speech Therapist in Pipestone
Lester Martisko, Psychologist in Windom

New to Board of Directors:
- O. J. Miller, Superintendent at Morris
- Russell Lund, Superintendent at Clinton

Members
92 schools

New Members
- Echo
- Elbow Lake
- Franklin
- Jasper
- Lynd
- Minneota
- New Ulm Cathedral
- Springfield
- Tintah
- Tyler
- Verdi
- Wheaton

Youngsters seen for evaluation during 1968-69 school year: 6,232
- 2,744 for psychological evaluation
- 1,949 for speech
- 1,473 for reading
- 1,424 for social work services
- 939 for elementary counseling

Selling Services
The larger schools were interested in “breaking the package” to meet their needs. Some already had one or more of the discipline on staff and wished to avoid the promotion of duplication of services.

Staff and administration felt that services rendered in less than ½ day increments were not feasible or practical – so all services were viewed in terms of minimums of one-half day units.

Small schools found the “package” of services best met their needs.

Did You Know?

We have employed a wide variety of positions over the years.

Here are two pictures from agency brochures in the late 60s/early 70s.

A Look Back ...
1969-70

Lines of Service

In-Service Education
Administrator Workshops
(focused on educational leadership in the 70s)
Teacher Workshops
(focused on individualized instruction)
Social Studies
(summer teacher workshops)

Instructional Materials Center
The Instructional Materials Center was located in Montevideo.
An educational specialist called a Prescriptive Resource Teacher was available at each educational service center to liaison with the Instructional Materials Center.

Other Services
Media Center
(filmstrips, equipment repair, etc.)
Microfilming Service
Crippled Children’s Clinics
(ERDC Educational Service Center staff conducted exams that led to referrals to Crippled Children’s Clinics in the area)

Educational Service Centers
Seventy-nine public school districts participated in services of the Educational Service Centers. We employed 38 professional personnel – with an annual budget in excess of $680,000 – to make it one of the largest service projects of its type in rural America.

To sell services, a modified “package” formula was developed where schools were required to buy a minimum package but were allowed flexibility in the choice of those services within the package.

The Educational Service Centers were focused on moving from total federal financing in 1967 to total local financing in 1970.

Members
93 public schools
New Member: Starbuck
Service Area:
21 counties

Staff and Board Notes
Dr. Dean Hinmon, Co-Executive Secretary in Morris
Dave Lammers, Supervisor in Pipestone
Bill Naylor, Psychologist and Supervisor in Willmar
Sue Eischens, Secretary in Marshall (later Sue Gorecki)
Dr. Lester Edens resigned as Director of the Educational Service Centers as of 6/30/70.
Dr. Bill Tilley started 7/1/70.
New to Board of Directors:
• F.M. Gislason, Superintendent at Lamberton

Did You Know?
Speech Correctionists
Speech Clinicians
Speech Language Pathologists

The title has changed over the years, but the commitment to helping kids hasn’t!

Here are some pictures from our brochures in the 70s.

A Look Back...
1970-73

Services during 1970-73

Administrative Services: Data processing, federal proposal development and in-service training

Special Education Services: Educational Service Centers, Special Education Instructional Materials Center (SEIMC) and the Special Education Resource Consultant (SERC). (See images at right)

- The SERC identified handicapped children not attending school or attending school but not receiving services.
- The school year 1970-71 was the second year of independent operation of the Educational Service Centers program - with local school districts paying the entire cost of the program in the form of service fees.

Media Services: Cooperative purchasing, media distribution, electronic equipment repair and printing.

Instructional Services: Fine Arts and Humanities, Human Relations and IGE.

- Human Relations was a recertification requirement.
- The Individually Guided Education (IGE) project, funded with Title III funds, helped districts implement an educational program that was objective-oriented and met the needs of individual children by providing training programs for teachers and administrators.

Editor’s Note: There was very little information on record for the years 1970-1973.

Introducing ...

1973-74

In 1973, legislation passed to establish a pilot educational service area in southwest and west central Minnesota (covering regions 6 and 8). The general purpose, as stated in the special act, was to assist in meeting specific educational needs of children in participating school districts.

The Commissioner of Education, Howard Casmey, invited representatives of all districts to a general meeting held in Montevideo on June 12, 1973. As a result, the SW and WC Educational Service Agency (ESA) held its first board of directors meeting on July 18, 1973.

Board members included: Harold Biederman, Renville; Duby Hanson, Granite Falls; D. T. Nelson, Canby; Lloyd Standafer, Worthington; Clifton Blom, Milan; George Caspers, Clara City; William DeBates, Luverne; Harry Haugen, Montevideo; Dennis Blomeke, Belview; Mrs. Pat Nelson, Tracy; Gordon Solomonson, Willmar; and Robert Stearns, Hutchinson.

The position of Regional Director was offered to Dr. Richard Wollin, who was granted a leave of absence from Southwest Minnesota State College in order to accept the position.

The ESA replaced the ERDC structure and assets of the ERDC were transferred to the ESA. In addition, the Special Education Instructional Media Center, which was established at the Montevideo Media Center with Title
VI funds from participating schools and established by the Montevideo School District, was transferred to the ESA effective September 1973. The administration and assets of the Educational Media Center (opened in 1966 as a Title III project with Montevideo Public Schools as the host LEA) were transferred to the ESA effective January 1, 1974.

It was determined that ESAs should provide services to schools – and not engage in enforcement of rules and regulations of the State Department of Education.

## Proposed New Services

In addition to previously offered programs and services, the following new services were proposed for 1974-75:

### Instructional Services
- Right to Read Program
- Testing and Counseling - to study ideas/initiate changes for the improvement of testing and counseling programs in schools
- Gifted Students

### Special Education Services
- Alternatives for Emotional Disturbed Adolescents
- Coordination of Mentally Retarded Programs
- Coordination of SLBP (special learning behavior problems) Programs (for schools in the Windom & Pipestone service centers)
- Developmental Disabilities
- Itinerant Teacher for the Hearing Impaired

### Media Services
- Right to Read Resource Center - reading games, flash cards and other materials

### Administrative Services
- Comprehensive Educational Planning - leadership assessment, needs assessment, program planning and evaluation
- Professional Information Center - library of current research
- Statewide Facilitator - to help districts identify needs and find demonstration projects throughout the state/country with validated evaluations - also known as National Diffusion Network (NDN). (See image on page 29)

### 105 public school districts from Regions 6, 8, 4 and 7 participated in the new ESA

#### REGION 6 MEMBERS
- Appleton
- Atwater
- Beardsley
- Bellingham
- Benson
- Bird Island
- Brownston
- Buffalo Lake
- Canby
- Clara City
- Clarkfield
- Clinton
- Cosmos
- Danube
- Dawson
- Echo
- Eden Valley-Watkins
- Fairfax
- Franklin
- Graceville
- Granite Falls
- Grove City
- Hector
- Hutchinson
- Kerkhoven
- Lester Prairie
- Litchfield

#### REGION 7 MEMBERS
- Belgrade
- Broten
- Paynesville

#### REGION 8 MEMBERS
- Adrian
- Balaton
- Belview
- Chandler-Lake Wilson
- Cottonwood
- Edgerton
- Ellsworth
- Fulda
- Hendricks
- Heron Lake
- Hills-Beaver Creek
- Ivanhoe
- Jackson
- Jasper
- Lake Benton
- Lakefield
- Lamberton
- Luverne
- Lynd
- Magnolia
- Marshall
- Milroy
- Minneota
- Morgan
- Mountain Lake
- Okabena
- Pipestone
- Redwood Falls

#### Smallest District
Barrett - 167 students

#### Largest District
Willmar - 4,504 students

#### REGION 4 MEMBERS
- Alexandria
- Ashby
- Barrett
- Brandon
- Chokio-Alberta
- Cyrus
- Elbow Lake
- Evansville
- Hancock
- Herman
- Hoffman
- Morris
- Osakis
- Starbuck
- Villard
- Wheaton

#### REGION 4 MEMBERS
- Belgrade
- Broten
- Paynesville
1974-75
Lines of Service

Administrative and Instructional Services

Administrative
Data Processing
Federal Proposal Development
In-Service Programs
Comprehensive Educational Planning

Title III-306 State Facilitator
(for Regions 4, 6, 8 & 9)

Instructional
Gifted Students
Human Relations IGE
Right to Read

Fine Arts and Humanities
Testing and Counseling
(research/study model programs)

Media Services

Cooperative Purchasing
Media Distribution
Electronic Equipment Repair (See image at right)
Printing Services
Resource Center: Right to Read

Special Education Services

Educational Service Centers
Coordination of Mentally Retarded Programs
Coordination of SLBP Programs (Windom and Pipestone)
Hearing Impaired Program
SEIMC
SERC

Members

New Members: Albany and Walnut Grove
New Associate Members: Comfrey and Springfield

Staff and Board Notes

Dr. Richard Wollin, Regional Director
Bill Naylor, Assistant Regional Director/Administrative Services Director
Tom Emery, Special Education Director in Montevideo
Dave Lammers, Special Education Director in Pipestone
Robert Halvorson, Special Education Director in Willmar
Les Martisko, Special Education Director in Windom
John Arneson, Minnesota Educational Computing Consortium (MECC) Coordinator
Russ Jauss, Media Services Director
Mary Weber, SEIMC Coordinator
Edna Eischens, Secretary for IGE (later Edna Gossen)
Glen Shaw, IGE Facilitator
Willis Crow, SERC

New to Board of Directors:
• Mrs. Edna Dorr, Storden-Jeffers
• Harold Luthi, Morris
• Casimir Weller, Belgrade

1974-75 Membership Dues
$100 plus 15 cents per student

Did You Know?

Equipment Repair was a service line we offered beginning in the 1970s. We repaired typewriters, overhead projectors, movie projectors and more.

During the 1993-94 school year, the program merged with the West Central ESU’s program and it was housed in the Montevideo office. After the merger, there was little information on equipment repair included in agency annual reports.

A Look Back ...

• Mrs. Edna Dorr, Storden-Jeffers
• Harold Luthi, Morris
• Casimir Weller, Belgrade
1975-76

Lines of Service

**Administrative and Instructional Services**

- **Administrative General Support Services**
- **Region IV MECC-MIS** *(See image at right)*
- **Adult Right to Read**
- **Ag Computer Decision Aids Program**
- **Instructional Council on Quality Education (CQE) Arts**

This was the first year of the **Agriculture Computer Decision Aids Program** which aimed to disseminate the knowledge and use of computer programs available on the MECC system to area farmers.

**CQE Arts** was a three-year project to improve the arts in southwest Minnesota schools.

**Media Services**

- **Cooperative Purchasing** sales volume for 1975-76 was $250,000.

**Special Education Services**

- **Early Intervention Project**
- **Child Study Evaluation**

**Staff and Board Notes**

- **Bill Naylor, Assistant Regional Director**
- **Dick Peterson, Management Information System Coordinator**

- **New to Board of Directors:**
  - Keith Williams, Okabena
  - Dwane Bucklin, Buffalo Lake
  - Jim Fellows, Worthington
  - John Hassinger, Hutchinson
  - Connie Roemers, Tracy
  - Earl Bauman, Kerkhoven
  - Paul Skogrand, Milan
  - Richard Byers, Westbrook

**Members**

- **New Members:** Brewster and Browns Valley
- **New Associate Members:** Alexandria and Butterfield

- 105 public school members
- 22 non-public school members

**1975-76 and 1976-77 Membership Dues**

$150 plus 20 cents per student

**More Changes Are Coming ...**

In February of 1976, the state legislature enacted a bill establishing ten regional units to be called **Educational Cooperative Service Units**.

The role of the regional unit was defined as a “facilitator” or “linking agent” in assessing school needs and seeking out resources to help meet those needs.

**Editor’s Note:** Unless otherwise noted, previous year programs/services were still being offered - only new offerings listed.
At the Annual Meeting on May 20, 1976, the ESA was formally changed to the Southwest and West Central Educational Cooperative Service Unit (ECSU).

Dr. Wollin retired on June 30, 1976. Glen Shaw was named Regional Director of SW and WC ECSU.

**Lines of Service**

**Administrative and Instructional Services**

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**Regional Accounting Coordinator** services were funded through the State Department of Education beginning October 1, 1976. The purpose was to write a training program for employing the Uniform Financial Accounting and Reporting System (UFARS). The program of instruction included 15 modules of lesson plans, case studies and solutions. Three sites served as central points of instruction - Olivia, Slayton and Benson.

**Educational Planning Services** was established in July 1976 for the development and refinement of a general school district planning strategy to provide a structure for continuous planning at the district level, to provide planning assistance for declining enrollments, and for the implementation of the 1976 Local Curriculum Planning, Education and Reporting (PER) Legislation. (See image at right) This was funded with Title IV Part C funds and called the School-Community Planning Project. This model brought citizens, educators, students and school board members together in a school-community planning group to improve the school.

The **Talents Unlimited** project provided teachers with the skills to identify and nurture the creative potential in students through the development of their strongest talents.

**Educational Dissemination** was a pilot project to organize a method of reaching local educators. It was funded through a National Institute of Education grant.

**Special Education Services**

Pre-School Handicapped Program

In 1976-77, the Willmar Special Education Cooperative was renamed the Little Crow Special Education Cooperative.

The **Preschool Handicapped Program** was the start of Project Child Find.

The ECSU was the fiscal agent for **Information and Referral Services** (which included a database of services for handicapped children).
Staff, Board and Council Notes

Ken Baumann, Media Services Director
Kanwar Habib Khan, Special Education Director in Windom
Bill Naylor, Special Education Director in Willmar
Duby Hanson, Regional Accounting Coordinator
Dan Loritz, Educational Planning Director
Maria Jones, Pre-School Coordinator (later Maria Balbo)

New to Board of Directors:
• Art Olson, Marshall (pictured below)
• Ron Boyenga, Ellsworth
• Russell Miller, Maynard

Members
103 public schools
20 non-public schools
80,000 students

As the ESA changed to the ECSU in 1976-77, schools in Region 4 and Region 7 were listed as Associate Members. It was anticipated that those schools would become regular members of the ECSU in their region. However, they were allowed to continue to contract for services from SW and WC ECSU by paying the associate membership fee and the fee for the service or program.

In 1976-77, members from Region 4 and Region 7 listed as Associate Members included:

- Albany
- Barrett
- Brooten
- Comfrey
- Elbow Lake
- Herman
- Morris
- Springfield
- Wheaton
- Alexandria
- Belgrade
- Chokio-Alberta
- Cyrus
- Hancock
- Hoffman
- Paynesville
- Starbuck

Editor's Note: Unless otherwise noted, previous year programs/services were still offered - only new offerings listed.

Did You Know?

From 1967 to 1998, our Marshall office was located on the campus of Southwest Minnesota State University.

Here is a flashback to 1979!

A Look Back ...

Members

Editor's Note: Unless otherwise noted, previous year programs/services were still offered - only new offerings listed.
1977-78

Lines of Service

Administrative and Instructional Services

Administrative
SW & WC Information Network for Educators
(MINE)

Instructional
Preschool Right to Read
CQE Sharing Staff Project
Mainstream Project
Space-Science Involvement
People Helping People
(offering help to unwed teenage mothers)

This was the first of a 3-year project called the CQE Sharing Staff Project. Project goals were to provide financial relief to school districts through the establishment of cost-effective programs in low frequency electives and the arts and to maintain or increase educational opportunities for students in small rural school districts through the retention or establishment of course offerings. Nine districts were involved in this 3-year pilot project.

This was the first year of the Mainstream Project which provided regular classroom teachers with training on the integration of handicapped children into the general classroom curriculum. (See image at right)

The Space Science Involvement Project was funded through the CQE. We conducted workshops that encouraged teachers to become involved (and involve their students) in space science. Dennis Brown, Lakefield elementary principal, organized successful workshops in the north and south part of the ECSU region.

Media Services

Did You Know?

During 1965, the Montevideo School District submitted a Title III grant to establish an Educational Media Center to distribute audio visual materials, such as 16mm films, filmstrips, records and more.

This would eventually become part of our agency and was located in Montevideo. Services such as equipment repair and cooperative purchasing would eventually be added to the Educational Media Center.

A Look Back ...
Special Education Services

Services for Non-Attending Handicapped Children

Special education projects funded by PL 94-142 to identify and provide appropriate Services for Non-Attending Handicapped Children (under age 4 and high school drop outs) were Preschool Coordinators and Facilitators of Alternative Programs (who helped districts identify and create programs for high school dropouts).

Did You Know?

The 1977-78 school year was the first year of the Mainstream Project which provided regular classroom teachers with training on the integration of handicapped children into the general classroom curriculum.

A Look Back ...

Members

104 public schools
18 non-public schools
80,000 students

New Member: Silver Lake

1977-78 through 1980-81
Membership Dues
$250 plus 20 cents per student

Staff and Board Notes

Glen Shaw, Executive Director (position renamed)
Tom Emery, SERC
David Peterson, Special Education Director in Montevideo
Sidney Belt, MIS Regional Director
Sara Robertson, Regional Preschool Consultant

New to Board of Directors:
• Diane Johnson, Appleton
• James Peters, Milroy

Editor’s Note: Unless otherwise noted, previous year programs/services were still being offered - only new offerings listed.
1978-79
Lines of Service

Administrative and Instructional Services

Administrative
Agriculture Computer Decision Aids (Ended 9/30/79)

Instructional
Mainstream Program moves to Special Education Services

Media Services

Equipment Loan
(projectors, portable PA system, photographic slide duplicator)

Driver Education Equipment

Special Education Services

Hearing Conservation Project
Mainstream Project
Consultants for the Visually Impaired and Hearing Impaired

This was the first year of the Hearing Conservation Project. The purpose of this project was to increase school awareness of the number and diversity of students with hearing problems, create a tracking system to assure those students receive service, and develop a screening and referral schedule to serve schools throughout the school year. An audiologist conducted program activities.

1978-79 Cost Per Day
School Psychologist: $120
Speech Clinician: $85
Coordinator for Mentally Retarded Programs: $115
Hearing Consultant: $100

Staff and Board Notes
Mark Zabel, Psychologist in Willmar
Patrick Gunter, Psychologist in Montevideo
Janet Salhus, Processor, MIS for MECC Region IV
Carol Purrington, Adult Education Coordinator
Donna Ford, Director of Educational Planning Services

New to Board of Directors:
• Richard Vroman, Milroy (pictured at left)
• Marlow Nelson, Westbrook
• Karen Johnson, Spicer

Members
94 public schools
18 non-public schools
80,000 students

Editor’s Note: Unless otherwise noted, previous year programs/services were still being offered - only new offerings listed.
1979-80
Lines of Service

Administrative Services
ESV Region IV was the first in the state to have districts up on the state personnel payroll system and the first region to have districts operational on both the personnel payroll and finance systems. There were also references to the far-reaching changes in the legislation governing the ESV MIS of the MECC.

Instructional Services
Teacher Center
Basic Skills
Tutoring On The Bus
(Ended 6/30/80)

Career Education
Nutrition Education and Training (NET)
Sharing Staff Project
(Ended 6/30/80)

The Teacher Center was in the first of a 3-year federal grant.

Basic Skills was a new venture where specialists employed by the State Department of Education were assigned to each of the ECSUs to provide leadership, training and technical assistance to schools.

This was the first year of the Career Education Program, which was funded through the Career Education Incentive Act PL 95-207. The purpose was to facilitate counselor/teacher use of career education materials in existing school programs and increase communication on career education needs among business, industry, government, education, parents and students.

The Nutrition Education and Training (NET) was a federally funded project to work with schools and licensed day care providers.

The 1979-80 total organizational budget was approximately $4,000,000.

Members
90 public schools
14 non-public schools

Media Services
Reading Resource Center

Special Education Services
Regional Consultant for Vision Impairment
Regional Consultant for the Emotionally Disturbed

The Regional Consultant for Vision Impairment was a new position in August 1979.

A goal within Special Education Services was to reduce staff turnover and increase staff morale.

Staff, Board and Council Notes
Marge Mann, Parent/School Coordinator
Bill Swope, Teacher Center Director
Penny Cammack, Speech Clinician in Pipestone
Ellen Arnsdorf, NET Coordinator
Linda Kern, Office Assistant
Wanda Ochocki, Adult Education Coordinator
Frank DiChristina, Special Education Director in Windom
Jerry Robicheau, SERC

New to Board of Directors:
• Orion Frank, Fairfax

New to Superintendents' Advisory Council:
• Corny Smit, Wood Lake

The first communications efforts were put in place to educate ECSU staff members on the ECSU and its various programs and services and to make ECSU staff available to school districts for further communications about the ECSU.

To that end, several items were created: The SW & WC ECSU Past and Present booklet, revised ECSU transparencies, ECSU posters and an ECSU slide tape.
1980-81
Lines of Service

Administrative Services
- Computer Services
- Rural Education Act Program (REAP)
- Educational Planning Services
- Region IV MIS

Instructional Services
- Teacher Center
- Information Network for Educators
- Career Education NET
- Basic Skills State Facilitator MINE

Media Services
- Media Distribution
- Cooperative Purchasing
- Electronic Equipment Repair

Special Education Services
- Educational Service Centers
- Consultants for Hearing Impairment, Vision Impairment and Emotionally Disturbed
- Preschool Handicapped Project
- Services for Non-Attending Students SEIMC SERC

Staff and Board Notes
Fran Stassen, Keypunch Operator (Retired January 2014)
Erv Marquardt, School Psychologist in Windom
Barb Raske, Data Processor
New to Board of Directors:
• Erling Tofteland, Luverne

Members
- 92 public schools
- New Member: Mahtomedi
- 12 non-public schools
- 63,000 students

Did You Know?
In the late 1970s and through the 1980s, SWWC had two drivers education simulators that were rented out to school districts for their driver education programs.
A 16 seat simulator was purchased with a federal grant in 1978 and a 10 seat simulator was purchased during the 1981-82 school year.

Editor’s Note: All current and new programs/services listed under each heading.
Administrative Services

The MIS for ESV Region IV worked with the NW region to establish the Western Minnesota Multi-Regional Computer Center. This large-scale computer equipment adequately served the needs of both regions.

The first School Business Conference was held in 1982.

Media Services

We first started offering Driver Education Simulators for rent to school districts in 1978, when a 16-place simulation unit was purchased with a federal grant. In 1981-82, a 10-place simulation unit was purchased. (See image on previous page)

Instructional Services

Staff, Board and Council Notes

Lori Grant, Bookkeeping Secretary for ECSU Operations
Deb Moorse, Speech Coordinator
Penny Dickhudt, Planning Coordinator and Career Education Coordinator
Judy Zobel, Teacher Center Director
John Ferret, MECC Coordinator

New to Board of Directors:
• Alvin Bruis, Rushmore
• Perry Zenk, Montevideo

New to Superintendents' Advisory Council:
• Charlie Kyte, Eden Valley-Watkins

Editor's Note: Unless otherwise noted, previous year programs/services were still being offered - only new offerings listed.

Special Education Services

Rehabilitation Therapist

The Rehabilitation Therapist position was new in November 1981.

Members

91 public schools members
11 non-public members
61,000 students
3,475 teachers
300 administrators

1981-82 through 1982-83 Membership Dues
$300 plus 20 cents per student
1982-83

Lines of Service

Administrative Services

Media Services

Instructional Services

Special Education Services

Regional Interagency Preschool Coordinator

The Regional Interagency Preschool Coordinator was a 40-day position.

The SEIMC inventory was valued at $140,000.

Direct services offered were psych, speech, social work, learning disabilities, EMH and TMH coordination, vision, hearing and POHI.

Board Notes

New to Board of Directors:
• Gary Thomas, Clarkfield
• Jake Stoel, Lake Willson
• Sharon Radness, Ruthton
• Arliss Becker, Morgan

Members

92 public schools
12 non-public schools
60,000 students
5,011 teachers
312 administrators

Smallest District: Verdi - 99 students
Largest District: Willmar - 3,764 students

Did You Know?

The Southwest and West Central Teacher Center was created in September 1979 with a federal grant.

Bill Swope from Marshall was hired as the Teacher Center Director.

The Teacher Center was renamed in 1990 to the Center for Educational Development.

The Teacher Center even had a mobile unit - which was actually a camper (pictured at right)!

A Look Back...

1982-83 and 1983-84 Membership Dues
$300 plus 20 cents per student

Editor’s Note: Unless otherwise noted, previous year programs/services were still being offered - only new offerings listed.
1983-84
Lines of Service

Administrative Services
Planning and Evaluation Services Coordinator of Special Projects

The Coordinator of Planning and Evaluation services were provided on a limited basis and focused on technology utilization planning and inter-district planning in conjunction with the Inter-district Cooperation Aid/Levy legislation.

The Coordinator of Special Projects focused on telemedia/interactive telecommunications. Clusters of districts were actively pursuing development of a system.

Instructional Services

The Teacher Center offerings included:

• “Apple Crate”, which was a mobile classroom (with 10 Apple IIe microcomputers) that visited over 35 schools to provide microcomputer in-service instruction to personnel. (See image on previous page)
• TC² - a technology and microcomputer training conference
• Regional Title I Conference
• Annual Rural Education Association Regional Workshop

Media Services

Energy Monitoring Service
Energy Monitoring Services provided sensitive electronic equipment to help schools monitor fuel and heating systems in an effort to reduce cost and pollution as well as increase efficiency.

Special Education Services

Interagency Preschool Facilitator Ages Birth - 3
Regional Facilitator for Program Development for Emotionally and Behaviorally Problemed Students

The Regional Interagency Preschool Coordinator was a 30-day position.

The Regional Facilitator for Program Development for Emotionally and Behaviorally Problemed Students was a two-year state funded project that hired two facilitators.

The Educational Service Centers employed 50 certified professionals.

Staff and Board Notes
Sally Tobey, Director of Administrative Services (from 1985-87)
Kent Sovern, Director of Educational Services
New to Board of Directors:
• Paul Krapf, Jasper
• Joe Thorman, Maynard
• Barbara Herschberger, Ivanhoe

Members
91 public schools
11 non-public schools
56,000 students
5,011 teachers
271 administrators
Administrative Services

The Planning Office staff worked on the first annual Minnesota Rural Education Association Conference.

Educational Services

Social Studies Teacher Improvement Project
Instructional Effectiveness
Project Discovery

Educational Services’ major goal was to assist elementary and secondary schools with curriculum improvement and professional development.

The first Federal Carl Perkins Act was passed by Congress in 1984.

Project Discovery, a transition disabled program providing career exploration and assessments for special population high school students, began.

Special Education Services

Vocational Transition Specialist
Low Incidence Consultants (visually impaired, hearing impaired, emotionally disturbed, physically handicapped and severe/profound/multiply handicapped)

Media Services

Big changes occurred in Media Services: maintenance on the building and the merging of the Fulda and Monte film coops.

Cooperative Purchasing had record sales volume of approx. $2 million (over $700,000 of computer equipment).

Staff, Board and Council Notes

Rachel Quenemoen, Planning & Evaluation Coordinator
Kathy Rupp, Occupational Therapist

New to the Board of Directors:
• George Elliot, Ortonville
• John O’Neill, Olivia
• Robert Rieke, Fairfax
• Delwayne Hahn, New London-Spicer
• Jack Wysong, Hills-Beaver Creek

New to Superintendents’ Advisory Council:
• Brad Madsen, Milan

Editor’s Note: Unless otherwise noted, previous year programs/services were still being offered - only new offerings listed.

1984-85 and 1985-86
Membership Dues
$600 plus 40 cents per student

Members
86 public schools
7 associate members
11 non-public schools
50,280 students
5,011 teachers
271 administrators

Smallest District: Verdi - 94 students
Largest District: Willmar - 3,725 students

Lines of Service
1985-86

Lines of Service

Administrative Services

Energy Management Services

Energy Monitoring Equipment Rental (for boilers and steam traps)

Energy Management Services was the link between schools and CES (Community Energy Systems), which provided building energy saving services to schools.

Planning and Educational Services

Regional Technology Coordinator

Tele-Media

Technology: We won the right to administer instructional computing in regions 6 & 8, which involved district site visits, day long meetings for district technology-computer coordinators, professional development workshops, a major technology conference and a computer programming contest with 29 student teams participating. This was the first year we employed a Regional Technology Coordinator.

Tele-Media: We offered planning assistance for educational and engineering feasibility studies for 7 clusters of 72 districts, as well as planning assistance to the MN Tele-Media Board of Directors. A national Tele-Media Conference was co-hosted in cooperation with MN Valley Tele-Network and American Association of Educational Service Agencies. This was the start of the Public Telecommunications Facilities Program (Southwest Minnesota Telecommunications).

This was the first year of SW & WC ECSU’s Day of Excellence. Nearly 400 people attended and heard keynote speaker, Patti Smith, US Deputy Assistant Secretary from the Office of SPED & Rehab Services.

Media Services

Cooperative Purchasing topped previous year volume with over $2.3 million in sales.

Special Education Services

Special Education Services were split into two areas: Coop Special Education Services and Regional Special Education Services.

• Coop included the educational service centers, SEIMC, and services for non-attending handicapped children.

• Regional included low incidence consultants, the microcomputer project and the regional comprehensive system of personnel development project (R-CSPD).

Staff and Council Notes

Ann Clapper, Teacher Center & NDN Facilitator

John Arneson, Regional Technology Coordinator

Lorraine Bockorny, Director of Regional Special Education Services

Dick Branting, Consultant for PHD and VI (Retired June 2009)

New to Superintendents’ Advisory Council:

• Harold Remme, Tracy

Members

86 public schools
7 associate members
11 non-public schools

Regional Technology Coordinator

Tele-Media Cooperative Purchasing topped previous year volume with over $2.3 million in sales.
The Maternal Child Health Project was a special four-county project with Lincoln, Lyon, Murray Pipestone Public Health. Project TAAP (Team Approach to Assessment and Programming) was a new focus on the team approach to functional community-based assessment and programming of severely handicapped learners. It was a model demonstration project to find the least restrictive environment for the severely handicapped and deaf/blind.

Administrative Services
Insurance Pool
The School Insurance Pool formed in 1986 and had over $2 million in premiums its first year.

ECSU-MIS was in the forefront of Minnesota MIS regions in adopting new technology to meet member needs and in supporting the adoption of technology by member districts themselves.

Planning and Educational Services
Assurance of Mastery Educational Effectiveness
Staff were the Liaison with the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) relative to PER, Assurance of Mastery and other legislation. The goal was to pass information along to districts in a timely manner.

There were 16 schools involved in MEEP - Minnesota Educational Effectiveness Program.

Assurance of Mastery legislation required districts to identify students not making sufficient progress in math and communications. This was a new program for our agency - it was added to the PER legislation/law in 1985 and was enacted in 1989.

Instructional Technology (the regional technology coordinator) made 101 school site visits and conducted 12 meetings of school tech coordinators. Thirty-two mobile tech bus visitations were made which involved hands-on use of the most popular courseware applications. The Spring Technology Conference had 79 sessions and the keynote by an astronaut. Over 500 people attended.

Media Services
Cooperative Purchasing again topped previous year sales with over $2.4 million.

Special Education Services
Maternal Child Health (MCH) Project
Project TAAP

The Maternal Child Health Project was a special four-county project with Lincoln, Lyon, Murray Pipestone Public Health. Project TAAP (Team Approach to Assessment and Programming) was a new focus on the team approach to functional community-based assessment and programming of severely handicapped learners. It was a model demonstration project to find the least restrictive environment for the severely handicapped and deaf/blind.

Members
87 public schools
6 associate members
9 non-public schools

1986-87 Membership Dues
$650 plus 40 cents per student

Staff, Board and Council Notes
Mary Jo Henkel, MIS
Jackie Bockelman, Administrative Assistant (retired March 2010)
Bob Braun, Audiologist

New to Board of Directors:
• Bob Fenske, Marshall

New to Superintendents’ Advisory Council:
• Leroy Domagala, Balaton
• Marvin Niedan, Cedar Mountain

Editor’s Note: Unless otherwise noted, previous year programs/services were still being offered - only new offerings listed.
A new project called the **Tracking System Project** employed a Project Coordinator who worked with interagency committees to design and implement a region-wide computer system to track high risk infants from birth to age 7. This project provided an integrated system and a common database of health and social services.

The **Support Services Facilitator Project** assisted high schools in meeting the prevocational and vocational needs of high school-aged handicapped students (vocational planning, assessment and transition planning).

The **Teacher Assistance Team (TAT) Project** assisted districts in developing a building-level system to provide assistance to teachers in meeting the needs of all students in their classrooms.

The **Low Incidence Development and Improvement Specialist** developed the parent advisory component to ECSU and the implementation of a Developmental Learning Clinic in coordination with Services for Children with Handicaps.

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**Administrative Services**

**Media Services**

Asbestos Management Services

**Asbestos Management Services** coordinated the services of 10 asbestos inspectors/planners for 92 schools and 51 non-public educational agencies.

**Planning and Educational Services**

Drug Education

The **Drug Education Coordinator** was a new position this year.

**Special Education Services**

Tracking System Project

Support Services Facilitator Project

Teacher Assistance Team (TAT) Project

Low Incidence Development and Improvement Specialist

A new project called the **Tracking System Project** employed a Project Coordinator who worked with interagency committees to design and implement a region-wide computer system to track high risk infants from birth to age 7. This project provided an integrated system and a common database of health and social services.

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The **Low Incidence Development and Improvement Specialist** developed the parent advisory component to ECSU and the implementation of a Developmental Learning Clinic in coordination with Services for Children with Handicaps.

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**Staff and Board Notes**

Sally Tobey, Director of Media Services

Deb Hanson, School Psychologist

Carolyn Olson, Director of Planning and Educational Services

Marv Niedan, Director of Administrative Services (from 1988 - 1995)

New to Board of Directors:

- Norbert Bruegmann, Jackson
- Rose Wold, Dawson-Boyd

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**1987-88 Membership Dues**

$680 plus 40 cents per student

**Members**

87 public schools

6 associate members

9 non-public schools

**Smallest District:** Verdi - 81 students

**Largest District:** Willmar - 3,905 students

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**1987-88 Cost Per Day**

School Psychologist: $215

Coordinator: $210

Teacher: $185
1988-89

Lines of Service

Administrative Services

A new program within ECSU-MIS was an Integrated Data Base. A new staff member was hired for implementation, which was required by MN Statute.

Media Services

Asbestos Management Services became the Health and Safety Coordinator (HSC) Service in the spring of 1989. Cooperative Purchasing had $3.6 million in sales.

Planning and Educational Services

MIDE BANK Interactive Television

AIDS Prevention and Risk Reduction

MIDE BANK was MDE's Test Itembank. It was a computerized collection of test items, designed to aid educators in the development of criterion referenced test instruments.

AIDS Prevention and Risk Reduction was a cooperative effort of MDE and ECSU to assist districts in preparing to meet the requirements of the K-12 AIDS education established by statute.

Interactive Television included 37 districts and two tech institutes that were involved in various stages of network planning assisted by ECSU staff in network development. These districts comprised four additional future networks within the region.

Special Education Services

Members
87 public schools
7 associate members
11 non-public schools

Staff and Board Notes

Sandra Adams, Regional Special Education Services Director
Betty Aune, Associate Director for Personnel (position renamed)
Marilyn Johnson, Associate Director for Business Affairs (position renamed)
Barb Baker, Office Assistant (Retired May 2010)

New to Board of Directors:
• Elmo Volstad, Granite Falls
• Patricia Throlson, New London-Spicer

Editor's Note: Unless otherwise noted, previous year programs/services were still being offered - only new offerings listed.
1989-90

Lines of Service

Administrative Services
1989-90 was the first year ECSU-MIS Region IV supported the **ESV Student System**.

Media Services

**Cooperative Purchasing** also provided in-service training for custodial and food service staff. Asbestos-related custodial supplies was a new growing product line.

**Science PACS** (Project for Activity Centered Science) were elementary hands-on science kits and were piloted during 1989-90. (See image below)

Planning and Educational Services

The **Instructional Technology** program provided in-services/workshops, 19 mobile tech bus visits, two academic competitions for students (computer programming and computer applications) and coordinated the spring tech conference.

Special Education Services

**Education and Administrative Resources**

Did You Know?

The first year we offered elementary hands-on **Science PACS** through our Media Center was 1989-90. The article at right was in the March 1994 issue of the Review.

P = Project
A = Activity
C = Centered
S = Science

A Look Back ...

Members
89 public schools
7 associate members
11 non-public schools

1989-90 Membership Dues
$750 plus 40 cents per student

Staff and Board Notes

Bob Foley, Director of Planning and Educational Services
Nina Conway, Associate Director for Program Development
Deb Horne, COTA
Annette Jorgenson, Accountant (*later Annette Miller*)
Ty Westlie, School Psychologist (*Retired June 2015*)
Lowell Smith, School Psychologist (*Retired December 2011*)

New to Board of Directors:
- Dan Zimansky, Tracy and Jeff Kruse, Marshall
1990-91 was the first full year of the **ESV Student System.**

There were 59 districts in the **Insurance Pool** with premiums of $10.5 million. Districts also bought life insurance (22) and property/liability (47).

**Appletree Institute,** a non-profit, charitable corporation, was organized in 1990 to provide programs and services for governmental units resulting in reduced costs, increased efficiency and effectiveness. Appletree provided insurance programs to schools, cities, counties and other governmental agencies.

**Administrative Services**

**Planing and Educational Services**

**HIV/AIDS Prevention and Risk Reduction**

**Educator Training Project for Prevention**

**Distance Learning**

The **HIV/AIDS Prevention and Risk Reduction** Program employed a 3/4 time position focused on establishing eight hub sites for AIDS education, providing technical assistance to alternative education programs, concentrating on education for risk reduction, and providing consultation to all districts to help them comply with the state mandate.

The **Drug Abuse Prevention** Project was in its fourth year and state allocations sky-rocketed due to the integration of Chapter One formula and drug education funds. Because of that, we offered mini-grants to pooling schools.

The **Educator Training Project for Prevention** was a 2-year grant from the US Department of Education to provide school personnel with training to foster the development of comprehensive programs for prevention of youth alcohol and other drug use.

Interactive Television was renamed **Distance Learning.** We continued to provide administrative and planning support to the region’s six interactive television networks that served over 50 districts.

The Teacher Center was renamed the **Center for Educational Development.**

**Special Education Services**

**Members**

90 public schools
6 associate members
12 non-public schools

**Media Services**

**Mentorship Program for New Teachers**

**Homework Helpline**

(see image at right)

The **Mentorship Program for New Teachers** was organized in 1990 to provide programs and services for governmental units resulting in reduced costs, increased efficiency and effectiveness. Appletree provided insurance programs to schools, cities, counties and other governmental agencies.

**Planning and Educational Services**

The **Homework Helpline** was renamed **Distance Learning.** We continued to provide administrative and planning support to the region’s six interactive television networks that served over 50 districts.

The Teacher Center was renamed the **Center for Educational Development.**

**Staff, Board and Council Notes**

Bobbie Netzke, Secretary (later Bobbie Carmody)

Kim Johnson, Occupational Therapist

Deb Wallert, Teacher of Deaf/Hard of Hearing

New to Board of Directors:
• Karen Novak, Montevideo

New to Superintendents’ Advisory Council:
• Jerald Huber, Marshall

**Editor’s Note:** Unless otherwise noted, previous year programs/services were still being offered - only new offerings listed.
The first statewide issue of *The Review* was published in May 1990. For several years, it was laid out and looked just like a regular newspaper. It was a statewide publication that included pages relevant to the entire state as well as pages dedicated to our regional events and programs. The front cover of the first issue displayed a congratulatory letter from Governor Perpich.

The Homework Helpline began in September 1990. It was a project sponsored by Southwest/West Central ECSU and Blue Cross Blue Shield of Minnesota.

The article at right is from the September 1991 issue of the Review.

The Homework Helpline shut down on February 28, 1997.

### Did You Know?

The Homework Helpline yields 1,600 successes in Southwest/West Central Minnesota.

### Did You Know?

Have you ever heard of the National Diffusion Network? It was a program offered through our agency during the 70s, 80s and 90s.

### Did You Know?

The first statewide issue of *The Review* was published in 2010. (See image at left)
1991-92

**Lines of Service**

**Editor's Note:** Lines of service were reorganized during 1991-92. All current and new programs/services listed under each heading.

### Administrative Services

**Insurance Pool**

Sixty-two groups purchased health insurance through the school insurance pool. In addition, 55 districts purchased property/liability insurance.

### Educational Media Services

**Media Service**

Electronic Equipment Repair & Printing

**Cooperative Purchasing**

Health and Safety Management Services

**Health and Safety Management Services**

offered ASHAA (Asbestos School Hazard Abatement Act) Loan/Grant Application Writing, Handicapped Accessibility Inventories and Asbestos Project Design and Management.

**Printing Services**

used an offset press and platemaker and printed things such as newsletters, carbonless forms, brochures, report cards, etc.

### Management Information Services

**ECSU-MIS**

In 1992, MIS (Management Information Services) was renamed to **RMIC (Regional Management Information Center)**. The RMIC provides finance, human resource, payroll, and student administrative support services to districts and educational cooperatives.

### Regional Special Education Services

**Regional Low Incidence Project**

**Regional Early Childhood Project**

**Low Incidence Development and Improvement Specialist**

**R-CSPD**

### Prevention Services

**Rural Partners in Prevention**

Educator Training Project Learner at Risk/Drug Abuse Prevention

**Student Support Services**

Rural Partners in Prevention was a 5-year federal grant to establish coalitions or enhance established alcohol and drug prevention coalitions in 10 project sites.

The Learner at Risk/Drug Abuse Prevention program created peer helper programs, prevention programs, etc.

**Student Support Services**

was a one-year project funded by the US Department of Education (which was renewed for 92-93) that provided training to school psychs, social workers, nurses and counselors to help identify and provide services for students who were at risk for ATOD (Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs) use or had ATOD use problems or family ATOD problems.

### Staff, Board and Council Notes

**Bob Braun,** Regional Special Education Services Director

**Marilyn Johnson,** Director of Administrative Services and Business Affairs (position renamed)

**Bob Newman,** Acting Director of Prevention Services

**Betty Aune,** Director for Human Resources (position renamed)

**Mary Anderson,** Administrative Assistant (Retired July 2014)

New to Board of Directors:
- Sally Vogt, Canby
- Joan Hunter, Windom
- Henry Huhnerkoch, Redwood Falls
- Robert O’Fallon, New London-Spicer

New to Superintendents’ Advisory Council:
- Steve Kjorness, Westbrook
- Dick Orcutt, Heron Lake/Okabena/Lakefield
- Brad Madsen, Dawson/Boyd

**Editor's Note:** Lines of service were reorganized during 1991-92. All current and new programs/services listed under each heading.

**Health and Safety Management Services**

offered ASHAA (Asbestos School Hazard Abatement Act) Loan/Grant Application Writing, Handicapped Accessibility Inventories and Asbestos Project Design and Management.

**Printing Services**

used an offset press and platemaker and printed things such as newsletters, carbonless forms, brochures, report cards, etc.

**Regional Special Education Services**

**Regional Low Incidence Project**

**Regional Early Childhood Project**

**Low Incidence Development and Improvement Specialist**

**R-CSPD**

**Prevention Services**

**Rural Partners in Prevention**

**Educator Training Project Learner at Risk/Drug Abuse Prevention**

**Student Support Services**

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Planning and Educational Services

NDN
Regional Technology Program
PER
MIDEBANK

MEEP
Assurance of Mastery
Distance Learning
Center for Educational Development
(Student Enrichment Activities)

In the Fall of 1991, staff started cleaning road ditches through the Adopt-A-Highway program with the Minnesota Department of Transportation. (See image below)

Special Education Services

Educational Service Centers
SEIMC

Services for Non-Attending Handicapped Children

ODDM comes to SW/WC Minnesota

Sixty Minnesota ECSU, education district, and local district staff, (fifteen from SW/WC ECSU) are participating in twenty days of intensive training in the OUTCOMES DRIVEN DEVELOPMENTAL MODEL for Outcome-Based Education which was developed in the Johnson City, New York school system. These people, when they have completed their training, will be "certified trainers" in the ODDM model, and will work with interested school districts throughout the state.

A Look Back ...

The first year SWWC took part in the Adopt-A-Highway program was 1991.

The picture at right is from the October 2006 issue of the Review. The group is celebrating 15 years of cleaning ditches!

Did You Know?

Do you recognize anyone in the image? Several are still with SWWC today!

Student Enrichment Notes

This was the first year of the Student Inventors Congress event. The Citizen Bee was offered in 1991-92 and 1992-93. Math Masters was offered during 1991-92 and 1992-93. 1991-92 was the first year of the Spelling Bee.

Members

89 public schools
7 associate members
9 non-public schools
The major focus of **Distance Learning** was the development of a multiple agency partnership (higher ed, health and human services, criminal justice, libraries, hospitals and K-12) to secure funding and develop a comprehensive regional telecommunications network in the 18 county area.

The **Educator Training Project for Prevention** was funded in October 1992 to provide training and consultation to schools to increase the capacity to create environments that support health growth and development of youth – particularly to reduce the demand for an use of alcohol and other drugs. There were 10 training sites in the region.

The **Quality Schools Program** provided training in Outcomes-Driven Developmental Model (ODDM). Thirty-five schools participated in 1992-93. (See image on page 31)

The **Violence Prevention and Education in Schools** was a one-year grant from MDE to develop and deliver programs that help students learn how to resolve conflicts in non-violent ways.

**Administrative Services**

Sixty-four groups purchased health insurance through the school insurance pool with premiums equaling $16 million.

In addition, 57 districts purchased property/liability insurance and 30 purchased life insurance.

During the 1992 legislative session, legislation passed that enabled ECSUs to serve cities, counties and other governmental units (CCOGAs).

(See Review article from November 1992 at right)

**Educational Media Services**

Media services included Science PACs, mobile planetarium, anatomically correct dolls, CPR training units, loon and wolf curriculum kits and much more.

(See Science PAC image on page 27 and Curriculum Kits image on page 35)
The Special Education Service Centers provided special education administration, child study coordinators, school psychs, OT and speech.

Low incidence services included hearing, audiology, vision, POHI, early childhood education and autism.

Regional Interagency Systems Change Project (RISC) promoted change and improvement through community transition interagency committees for kids with disabilities.

The First Annual Young Authors Conference was held in March 1993 for grades 3-6. The following year, the Young Authors Conference expanded to two strands - one for grades 3-5 and one for grades 6-8. The Conference for Young Authors was held in two locations during the 1994-95 and 1995-96 school years - Marshall and Willmar. The Conference for Young Authors was renamed as the Conference for Young Writers for its 10th annual event.

A History Day event was offered during the 1992-93 and 1993-94 school years.

Staff, Board and Council Notes
Bob Newman, Rural Partners in Prevention Director
Lee Warne, Deputy Executive Director
New to Board of Directors:
• Jim Schmidt, Westbrook
New to Superintendents’ Advisory Council:
• Palmer Anderson, Lakeview

Members
88 public schools
7 associate members
8 non-public schools
Smallest District: Marietta/Nassau - 46 students
Largest District: Willmar - 4,442 students

Editor’s Note: All previous year programs/services still being offered unless otherwise noted.
1993-94

Lines of Service

Administrative Services

Sixty-six school districts, 11 South Dakota schools and seven units of government participated in the group insurance pool. Property/liability insurance was purchased by 52 districts as well. The five city members were Adrian, Jackson, Ortonville, Montevideo and Glencoe. County members included Kandiyohi, Meeker and Rock. CCOGA members were Heartland Community Action and Willmar Regional Treatment Center. CCOGA members could take part in insurance, health and safety services and cooperative purchasing services. Participation in the insurance pool represented 863 contracts and $2.8 million in premiums.

Planning and Educational Services

A new activity for the Violence Prevention and Education in Schools Program was the play TOUCH, a sexual abuse prevention play for elementary students. The play was performed in 27 schools. (See image below)

There were eight schools involved in phase one of the Quality Schools Program efforts with the Outcomes Driven Developmental Model (ODDM) and 30 schools were in phase two. (See image at right)

The Climb Theater was the keynote at the Day of Excellence.

The first annual Education Banquet was held.

Regional Management Information Center/Technology

Educational Media Services

The Equipment Repair/Maintenance program combined with WC ECSU’s program and was housed in the Montevideo office.

Health and Safety Services began a Management Assistance Program on behalf of MDE that provided every school district with assistance and planning in the area of health and safety.

Special Education Service Centers

TSES, the Total Special Education System, was implemented in the Montevideo and Red Rock Ridge Education Service Centers.

Regional Special Needs Projects

Adaptive Learning Technology Project
Regional Technology Lending Library (assistive tech)
Used Equipment Referral Service

Parent Information Helpline
Parent Support Project
Carl Perkins

Did You Know?

As part of our Violence Prevention Program back in the early 1990s, a troupe performed the TOUCH play at schools throughout the region.

A Look Back ...

Editor’s Note: All previous year programs/services still being offered unless otherwise noted.
Rural Partners in Prevention

Ten sites were involved with Rural Partners in Prevention:

1. Beardsley-Brown Valley, Clinton, and Graceville
2. Belview, Danube, Renville and Sacred Heart
4. Jackson County
5. Litchfield
6. Marshall
7. Montevideo
8. Pipestone County
9. Tracy
10. Willmar

Staff and Board Notes

David Freiborg, Career/Tech Ed Coordinator
Corinne Baker, Secretary (Retired May 2006)
New to Board of Directors:
• Dan Benson, KMS

Student Enrichment Notes

The Young Authors Conference expanded to two strands - one for grades 3-5 and one for grades 6-8.

Junior High Knowledge Bowl was organized during the 1992-93 year and was operational for the 1993-94 school year. There were 46 teams the first year.

Members

- 85 public schools
- 7 associate members
- 9 non-public schools
- 5 cities
- 3 counties
- 2 OGAs

1993-94 Membership Dues

$835 plus 43 cents per student
1994-95

Lines of Service

Administrative Services
There were 71 schools in the school insurance pool with premiums equaling $18 million. In addition, 37 bought life insurance and 52 bought prop/liability insurance.

Regional Management Information Center/Technology
The Technology Services Department was created in Spring of 1994. Distance Learning and the Regional Technology Project moved from Planning and Educational Services to this department. Services included:
- Distance Learning - seven networks serving 60 school districts and post-secondary units.
- INTERNET Connectivity: By partnering with Communication for America (CFA) and Minnesota Equal Access Network Services, Inc (MEANS), we offered INTERNET connectivities and training at a reasonable price.
- Regional Technology Project

Educational Media Services
Baby Think It Over Dolls were purchased for the Media Center in February 1995. (See image page 39)

Special Education Service Centers
There were statewide efforts to address Third Party Billing in March 1995.

Planning and Educational Services

Rural Partners in Prevention

Regional Special Needs Projects
ESL Short-Term Training Project
Gillette Outreach Clinics

Student Enrichment Notes
The first Conference for Young Artists was held in November 1994 for grades 3-8. (See image page 41)
The first annual “Exploring Science Conference” for K-3rd graders was held in February 1995.
The Conference for Young Authors was held in two locations during the 1994-95 school year - Marshall and Willmar.
An Honors Banquet was held from 1986-87 through 1994-95.

Staff and Board Notes
Mark Manning, Director of Administrative Services
Carol Svingen, Coordinator of Educational Programs (Retired June 2010)
New to Board of Directors:
- Robert Krcil, Glencoe
- Shirley Buschena, Fulda
- Alvin Gruis, Worthington

1994-95 through 2011-12 Membership Dues
$1,172 plus 45 cents per student
1995-96

Introducing...

The 1995 Legislature changed the "educational cooperative service units" to "service cooperatives". Our updated logo is shown at right.

Lines of Service

Administrative Services

Regional Management Information Center/Technology

Educational Media Services

Special Education Service Centers

Rural Partners in Prevention

Planning and Educational Services

The 1996 Day of Excellence Conference was the largest in the history of the conference - over 500 people attended.

Regional Special Needs Projects

Family Support Project

First Call for Help

Student Enrichment Notes

The Conference for Young Authors was held in two locations during the 1995-96 school year - Marshall and Willmar.

A pilot program called "Arts on Tour" was held on March 14, 1996. MACCRAY was the pilot site.

We held a Summer Kid Fest in June of 1996 for grades 3-8 focused on writing, art and science.

Two hundred students attended the first annual Conference for Young Musicians was held in May 1996. It ended up being the first annual and ONLY year it was held. (See image at left)

Staff and Board Notes

Lee Warne, Interim Director of RMIC/Technology

Ed VanDerHeiden, Audiologist (Retired August 2013)

Marianne Brenckman, Occupational Therapist (Retired June 2016)

New to Board of Directors:

• Kathi Thymian, Ortonville

Did You Know?

Young musicians gather for conference in Marshall

Editor’s Note: All previous year programs/services still being offered unless otherwise noted.

A Look Back...
Through the HR/Personnel Department, training was offered on Total Quality Management (TQM) and other personnel management topics to schools and CCOGAs.

1997 was the SMART Software roll-out with Benson as the pilot school district.

E-Rate started in 1996 to help ensure schools and libraries could obtain high-speed Internet access and telecommunications at affordable rates.

The Technology Department provided Local Area Network and Wide Area Network evaluation, design, installation and support for members.

The 3rd Annual Conference on Exploring Our World ... Science and Nature expanded from only serving K-3rd grade to adding a strand for 4th – 6th graders.

The Homework Helpline shut down on February 28, 1997.

A CyberKnowledge Competition was held.

The Elementary Prevention Program, built on the Developmental Assets identified by Search Institute, was an intensive program to seek out "incipiently at-risk" students and connect them with community assets.

The Safe Orderly Schools Program worked to enhance the capacity and power of schools and community to prevent children from engaging in unhealthy, violent behavior.

Staff and Council Notes

David Peterson. Special Education Director in both Montevideo and Windom
Bob Newman, Director of Resource Development
Lee Warne, Executive Director & Director of RMIC/Technology
New to Superintendents’ Advisory Council:
• Fred Nolan, EVW
• Corny Smit, MCC
• John Widvey, Worthington

Editor’s Note: All previous year programs/services still being offered unless otherwise noted.
1997-98
Lines of Service

Administrative Services
A Pilot Project for CCOGA Staff Development included:
• An Intro to TQM
• An Intro to Leadership Styles for Government Managers
• An Intro to Participatory Decision Making
• An Intro to Compression Planning

Regional Special Needs

Planning and Educational Services
Deandre Stanton was the keynote at the 1998 Day of Excellence.

Southwest Telecommunications Cooperative

The Southwest Telecommunications Cooperative (SWTC) was a collaborative organization of 44 public schools, Redwood County Tele-Network, Southern Exposure Tele-Network, Des Moines River Valley Tele-Media, and Southwest/West Central Service Cooperatives. The focus was on distance learning which was provided through interactive television and wide area data networking. SWTC covered 12 counties in southwest Minnesota, with offices/network operations center located in Windom. We provided regional, statewide, national and international videoconferencing capabilities through a network of fiber optic, microwave and leased digital circuits.

Member schools received many services relating to distance learning. SWTC provided maintenance of ITV connections, studios, and switching centers, and provided ITV class scheduling and distribution of teaching materials such as textbooks and workbooks to member districts. Each member district was connected to a vast wide area network which provided several types of data access such as inter-district, regional record keeping, finance, payroll, and Internet.

Did You Know?

The Media Center first purchased Baby Think It Over dolls during the 1994-95 school year.
The dolls were available for school check-out and described as a way to “enhance a school’s parenting curriculum.”

A Look Back ...

Special Education Services

Staff and Council Notes
Bruce Haug, Director of RMIC/Technology (Bruce served as the leader of Business Services/Technology/Administrative Services from 1997 - 2005).

Rod Wrege, Director of SWTC

New to Superintendents’ Advisory Council:
• Luther Heller, Springfield
1998-99

Lines of Service

**Business Affairs**
- Accounting
- Technology Services
- Region IV RMIC

**Administrative Services**
- CED
- Prevention Programs
- Grants
- Special Projects
- Web Site Development

- Operations
- CCOGA
- CP
- Delivery
- Media
- Health & Safety
- Special Projects
- Human Resources

**Southwest Telecommunications Cooperative**
- Video/Data Network
- Program Support

This was the first year we offered **American Sign Language** classes through Interactive Television (ITV).

**Regional Special Needs**
- Low Incidence
- Low Incidence Resource Library
- Carl Perkins
- School to Work
- Assistive Technology

**Risk Management**
- School Insurance Pool
- CCOGA Insurance Pool

**Board Notes**
New to Board of Directors:
- Kathy Reiber, Marshall
- Wayne Friedrich, Spicer

Ex-Officio CCOGA Representative to the Board of Directors: Mark Jorgenson, Lyon County

**Editor’s Note:** All current and new programs/services listed under each heading.
1999-2000

Lines of Service

Administrative Services
Long Distance/Cellular

Southwest Telecommunications Cooperative
Video/Data Network  Program Support

Risk Management
School Insurance Pool  CCOGA Insurance Pool

Information Technology Services
Region IV RMIC  Technology Services

Regional Special Needs
Low Incidence  School-to-Work
Carl Perkins  Assistive Technology  R-CSPD

Special Education Cooperatives
Educational Service Centers  Services for Non-Attending Handicapped Children
SEIMC

The SEIMC put their library online.

Staff Notes
Cliff Carmody, Director of Administrative Services
Teresa Ostlie, Special Education Director in Montevideo
Mike Sullivan, Special Education Director in Windom

Did You Know?

The very first Conference for Young Artists was held on November 29, 1994.
Over 800 students, parents and teachers were in attendance!

A Look Back ...
Going online! The February 2001 issue of The Review was the last printed version that was distributed to members. Providing the newsletter online continued through November 2003, when it was again printed and mailed to members.

Editor’s Note: All current and new programs/services listed under each heading.
Student Enrichment Notes

The Conference for Young Authors was renamed Conference for Young Writers for its 10th annual event.

A Future City Competition (FCC) was offered through Student Activities from 2001-02 through the 2005-06 school year for 7-8 graders.

2001-02 was the first year of the Children’s Author and Illustrator Program. It was previously coordinated by Southwest Minnesota Arts and Humanities Council and Southwest State University.

The Day of Excellence keynote speaker was Teacher of the Year Guy Doud.

2002 was a year of firsts. We held our first annual Office Assistants Seminar (see image below) and the first annual Summer Superintendents Conference.

Members
56 public schools
7 associate members
6 non-public schools
53 cities
13 counties
25 OGAs

Editor's Note: All previous year programs/services still being offered unless otherwise noted.
## Fiscal Host

We were the fiscal host for two integration collaboratives beginning July 1, 2002:
- Cottonwood River Integration Collaborative (through 6/30/15)
- West Central Integration Collaborative (through 6/30/14)

## Members

- 56 public school members
- 7 associate members
- 7 non-public schools
- 53 cities
- 13 counties
- 33 OGAs

## Board and Council Notes

New to Board of Directors:
- Mike Zins, Fulda
- Don Brugman, Windom

New to Superintendents’ Advisory Council:
- Ted Suss, Lincoln HI
- Dave Baukol, Montevideo
- Gery Arndt, Jackson County Central
- Kathy Leedom, Willmar

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## Lines of Service

### Educational Services

- Cooperative Purchasing
- Grants/Resource Development
- Distance Learning
- Tech Integration Training
- Training & Development
- Curriculum & Instruction
- Prevention/Child Guide
- Media
- Prevention
- Student Activities
- Website Development

### Information Technology Services

- Business Affairs
- RMIC
- Technology
- Health and Safety

**Health & Safety Services** moved to Information Technology Services.

### Risk Management

- School Insurance Pool
- CCOGA Insurance Pool

### Southwest Telecommunications Cooperative

- Wide Area Network Services
- Local Area Network Services
- Video Network Services
- Voice Network Services
- E-rate Submission

### Business Affairs

- RMIC

### Technology

- Health and Safety

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Special Education

Montevideo
Pipestone
Willmar

Windom
SEIMC

Regional Special Needs

Developmental Cognitive Disability Training and Network Project
Educational Pathways Project
Used Equipment Referral Project
ESL Quality Initiative Project
Autism Training Project
Interpreter Training and Mentoring Project
Assistive Technology Capacity Building Project
Teacher of Color Program
Carl Perkins/Tech Prep Regional Low Incidence Projects
School-to-Work Initiative

The Autism Training Project was a new program to address the dramatic increase in the number of Autism Spectrum Disorder students in Regions 6 and 8. The project was designed around customized training for teams at the local district level. Our goal was to establish teams in each district with the expertise in the area of Autism Spectrum Disorder.

Student Enrichment Notes

The first annual Student Activities Celebration Luncheon was held. This event was held annually through the 2008-09 school year.

The first annual Technical Skills Challenge was held. (See image at left)

Beginning in 2002-03, Career Exploration Days were held for high school sophomores and juniors. It was a partnership between our agency and the five MN West campuses and SMSU.

Editor’s Note: All current and new programs/services listed under each heading.
2003-04

Lines of Service

General Operations
- Human Resources
- Facilities Management
- Marketing
- Accountability
- Accounting

Business Affairs
- Service Center
  - RMIC
  - Cooperative Purchasing
  - Internal Tech Support
  - Resource Development
  - Health and Safety
  - CCOGA
The first district the RMIC provided Business
Management Services to was Murray County
Central in 2004. (In 2015, 14 districts were receiving
some form of Business Management Services).

Regional Educational Services Center
- Regional Low Incidence
- Carl Perkins/Tech Prep
- Assistive Technology
- Outreach Clinics
- Curriculum, Assessment & Instruction
- Prevention Programs
- Student Activities
- Teacher Resource Center
  (online learning/resource libraries)

Telecommunications Service Center
- SW Telecommunications
- Cooperative
- Video/Data Network
- External Tech Services
- Emerging Technologies

Risk Management
The Care Support Program and Worksite
Wellness Program were new offerings.
We worked in partnership with Appletree Institute
for our two health insurance pools. The school pool
included 60 groups and the CCOGA pool consisted
of 128 groups.

In 2003, the research and development of VEBA
products was completed, with availability of the
VEBA plan for schools in July 2003 and CCOGAs
in January 2004. A VEBA is a health reimbursement
arrangement that allows an employer to contribute
money to a trust on behalf of their employees.
The funds in this account can be used to help pay
for eligible medical expenses. The VEBA plan gives
employees more control over if, and when, they
spend health care dollars.

Staff and Board Notes
Cliff Carmody, Deputy Executive Director
Ann Wendorff, Principal at Red Rock Ridge ALC
New to Board of Directors:
- Paul Henriksen, Russell
- Maydra Maas, Westbrook-Walnut Grove
- Loren Mathews, New London-Spicer

Members
- 56 public schools
- 7 associate members
- 7 non-public schools
- 53 cities
- 33 OGAs
- 13 counties
The annual paraprofessional conference was held in two sites for the first time - one site in the northern part of our region and one in the southern part.

The Southwest ALC became the Red Rock Ridge ALC in the fall of 2003. The first class graduated from the RRR ALC in the spring of 2004.

The Belview Learning Center opened its doors on September 15, 2003, as a Setting IV Day Treatment program. The program was established under the umbrella of the Redwood County Collaborative and SWWC served as the fiscal host. The Collaborative provided startup funds and oversight for the program through June 30, 2011. At that time, SWWC assumed full oversight and operations of the program.

Editor's Note: All current and new programs/services listed under each heading.
Student Enrichment Notes

The Exploring Our World Conference officially changed to "Science and Nature Conference" in 2005. (See image at right)

The first Culinary Skills Challenge was held April 2005.

The Student Inventors Congress program was canceled in 2005 due to low registrations.

The Creative Writing Contest started in the Spring of 2005.

Members

56 public schools
8 associate members
10 non-public schools
59 cities
45 OGAs
15 counties
54,999 students

Editor’s Note: All current and new programs/services listed under each heading.
Did You Know?

A student conference for kids grades K-3 began in February 1995. It was called the Exploring Science Conference.

In its third year, the conference became the Exploring Our World...Science and Nature Conference. It expanded from only serving grades K-3 to an additional strand for grades 4-6.

The name of the conference was officially changed starting with the 2004-05 school year to the Science and Nature Conference.

A Look Back...

2004 Newspaper Article!

What a great article from the Montevideo newspaper about our Montevideo office!
2005-06

Lines of Service

**Business Affairs Service Center**
- Business Services
- Health and Safety
- Cooperative Purchasing
- RMIC
- Resource Development
- CCOGAs

**Teaching/Learning Center**
- Regional Low Incidence
- Regional Staff Development
- ESL
- Assistive Technology
- School to Work
- Carl Perkins
- Student Activities
- Learning Resources
- Prevention Programs
- Online Learning

**Special Education Service Centers**
- Montevideo
- Pipestone
- Willmar
- Windom

**General Operations**
- Human Resources
- Accounting

**Telecommunications Service Center**
- SW Telecom Cooperative
- Video/Data Network
- Internal Tech Support
- External Tech Support
- Emerging Technologies

**Members**
- 60 public schools
- 7 associate members
- 10 non-public schools
- 67 cities
- 15 counties
- 45 OGAs
- 52,434 students
- 7,647 teachers

**Staff, Board and Council Notes**
Cliff Carmody was in charge of RMIC/CP and H&S from 2005-07.
Erv Marquardt, Special Education Director in Windom
New to Board of Directors:
- Michael O’Brien, New London-Spicer
- Stephanie Cordes, RTR
New to Superintendents Advisory Council:
- Dave Deragisch, Hills-Beaver Creek
- Dave Marlette, Tracy
- Larry Peterson, Eden Valley-Watkins
- Dwayne Strand, Yellow Medicine East

**Editor’s Note:** All current and new programs/services listed under each heading.
August 2005 was the first BIG Teaching and Learning Conference. Guy Doud was the keynote.

On April 20, 2006, we held the first annual Public Service Announcement Challenge at SWWC. Twenty high school students from Canby competed. (See image at right)

The first annual technology integration conference was held in March. This conference would later be named This is IT².

The Day of Excellence conference was canceled due to 7.5” of snow in the region. This was the first and only time in 27 years the conference was canceled.
When the Belview Learning Center started in 2003, we served only middle school and high school students. The program expanded in 2006 to include an elementary program - making BLC a K-12 facility.

This was the first year SWWC received funding for school improvement specialists.

We became a licensed Immersion Presents site in 2006. Students came to our office in Marshall to watch as renowned ocean explorer Dr. Robert Ballard and an interdisciplinary team of scientists explored the fascinating underwater landscape of the Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary (FGBNMS).

Editor's Note: Lines of service were reorganized during 2006-07. All current and new programs/services listed under each heading.

### Center for Teaching and Learning Services

- Student Activities
- Carl Perkins: Career and Technical Education
- School Improvement and Professional Development

This was the first year SWWC received funding for school improvement specialists.

We became a licensed Immersion Presents site in 2006. Students came to our office in Marshall to watch as renowned ocean explorer Dr. Robert Ballard and an interdisciplinary team of scientists explored the fascinating underwater landscape of the Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary (FGBNMS).

### Center for Special Education Services

- Special Education Service Centers
- Educational Pathways Project
- Interpreter Training & Mentoring Project
- Developmental Cognitive Disability (DCD) Training and Network Project
- Autism Training Project
- Regional Assistive Technology Project
- Outreach Clinics
- Southwest MN Assistive Technology Capacity Building Project
- Used Equipment Referral Project
- Transitions Outcome Project

When the Belview Learning Center started in 2003, we served only middle school and high school students. The program expanded in 2006 to include an elementary program - making BLC a K-12 facility.

### Student Enrichment Notes

#### Conferences
- Conference for Young Artists (grades K-8)
- Conference for Young Writers (grades 3-8)
- Science and Nature Conference (grades K-8)

#### Competitions
- Creative Writing Contest (grades 3-12)
- Culinary Skills Challenge (grades 9-12)
- Junior High Knowledge Bowl (grades 7-9)
- Senior High Knowledge Bowl (grades 7-12)
- Spelling Bee (grades 5-8)
- Technical Skills Challenge (grades 9-12)

#### Collaborative Programs
- CORE - Center of Rural Entrepreneurship (grades K-12)
- Junior Achievement (K-12)
- Reading Rainbow Young Writers and Illustrators Contest (grades K-3)
There were 60 school districts and 128 cities/counties/other governmental agencies in the two insurance pools.

On June 30, 2007, SWWC relieved Appletree Institute of its role in managing the health insurance pools.

In February 2007, we announced that construction of the new high-speed Wide Area Network for 31 school districts in southwest Minnesota was complete. The network was designed, constructed and tested by Trillion Partners, verified by our IT staff and deemed completely implemented. (See image at right)

Center for Risk Management Services

There were 60 school districts and 128 cities/counties/other governmental agencies in the two insurance pools.

On June 30, 2007, SWWC relieved Appletree Institute of its role in managing the health insurance pools.

Staff and Council Notes


Cliff Carmody named Executive Director effective January 1, 2007.

Shelly Maes, Manager of Development and Communications

New to Superintendents' Advisory Council:
• John Brennan, Springfield

In the Fall of 2006, we added a Development and Communications Office.
In October 2007, the SEIMC and Media Services Library were combined and renamed the Educational Resource Library. A student-run business, InStitches, started as part of the Heartland Ranch School.

In 2007-08, we entered into a Speech-Language Telepractice pilot project with Bismark State College.

Beginning in the Fall of 2007, four new schools were added to the Willmar Special Education Cooperative bringing the total to 13 schools. The new schools were BLH, GSL, LP and McLeod West - known as the Crow River Schools.

The Setting IV Program, formerly operated by the Glencoe-Silver Lake School District, became part of our agency. It was housed in the Lincoln building in Glencoe. (This program would eventually become the Cosmos Learning Center.)

The 1st Annual Special Education Opener was held in Lamberton.

After five years of operation, the Red Rock Ridge ALC graduated 112 students. (See image at right)

Two new services were added in the Technology Department: Technology Integration Services and TSIS (TIES Student Information System).

A new training lab was operational in October 2007. It was complete with 16 student workstations, one teacher workstation, a SMARTBoard and ITV.

There were 62 groups in the school pool and 124 in the CCOGA pool.
Did You Know?

SWWC sponsored a Regional Chess Tournament for students from 2008 - 2011.

Another Successful Chess Turney

By the Board:

Another Successful Chess Turney

By the Board:

Doug Deragisch, Director of Risk Management Services
Bob Braun, Director of Teaching and Learning Services
Dr. Luther Heller, Director of Administrative Services

New to Board of Directors

- Lynn Suter, KMS
- Bonnie Barnhardt, Avera (CCOGA rep)
- Janice Fransen, Jackson County (CCOGA rep)

New to Superintendents' Advisory Council:

- Kathy Leedom, Willmar
- John Kraker, Minneota
- Gary Fisher, Luverne

Editor’s Note: All previous year programs/services still being offered unless otherwise noted.

A Look Back ...

Members

59 public schools
21 charter/nonpublic schools
68 cities
16 counties
46 OGAs
51,109 students

Staff, Board and Council Notes

Doug Deragisch, Director of Risk Management Services
Bob Braun, Director of Teaching and Learning Services
Dr. Luther Heller, Director of Administrative Services

New to Board of Directors

- Lynn Suter, KMS
- Bonnie Barnhardt, Avera (CCOGA rep)
- Janice Fransen, Jackson County (CCOGA rep)

New to Superintendents' Advisory Council:

- Kathy Leedom, Willmar
- John Kraker, Minneota
- Gary Fisher, Luverne

Members

59 public schools
21 charter/nonpublic schools
68 cities
16 counties
46 OGAs
51,109 students
In August 2008, the first annual Back to School Workshop was held in Marshall. There were 60 groups in the school pool and 122 groups in the CCOGA pool. The intent of the Health Cost Management Program was to assist school groups in developing and implementing an employee health cost management program. The overall goals of the program were to have; 1) healthier individuals with improved self-esteem, 2) employees that perform optimally at work and home and 3) lower health plan utilization.

The first Annual Health Conference was held in the Fall of 2008. In 2008-09, there were 20 courses offered through the Distance Education Program. In the Fall of 2008, the first annual SMARTBoard User Conference was held with over 140 people attending. The conference was also held the following year. After that, a SMARTBoard User Group was formed and additional training sessions were integrated into the This is IT2 Conference.

The tagline Partnership. Innovation Leadership. Service. was created.

Members
59 public schools
24 charter/nonpublic schools
64 cities
16 counties
46 OGAs
51,348 students

Staff, Board and Council Notes
Deb Moorse, Speech Language Pathologist for Telepractice
Kari Bailey, Health Cost Management Coordinator
New to Board of Directors
• Kathryn Kelly, Renville County SWCD (CCOGA rep)
New to Superintendents’ Advisory Council
• Allen Stoeckman, Yellow Medicine East
• Ted Suss, Wabasso

Editor’s Note: All previous year programs/services still being offered unless otherwise noted.
Dave Lammers, Director of Special Education, retired June 30, 2010. He began with the agency during the 1968-69 school year as a Speech Therapist. He also worked as the Supervisor of the Pipestone Service Center from July 1969 to June 1973. From July 1973 until he retired, Dave was the Director of Special Education in the Pipestone Office.

Darin Jensen, Director of Administrative Services

New to Board of Directors
• Carol Morgan, Luverne

New to Superintendents’ Advisory Council:
• Loren Hacker, Canby

Members
56 public schools
22 charter/nonpublic schools
61 cities
16 counties
44 OGAs

The second application from the FLY Consortium was submitted to MDE and was approved. This would lead to a six-year partnership between SW/WC and the consortium of 20+ school districts in southwest Minnesota.
2010-11

Divisions of Excellence

**Division of Teaching and Learning Services**

Response to Intervention (RtI)  Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS)

The Southern Regional PBIS grant (funded through the Minnesota Department of Education) began and served the southern tier of Minnesota. We were the lead agency in this partnership with South Central Service Cooperative and Southeast Service Cooperative.

This was the final year of the Day of Excellence conference. It was held on March 7, 2011, and Kevin Honeycutt was the keynote speaker.

This was the last year of the Chess Tourney.

Project Discovery relocated from Balaton back to the Marshall office.

**Division of Special Education Services**

The Division of Special Education went through a restructuring process during the 2010-11 year. Dr. Mary Palmer became the Senior Director of Special Education Services.

The Pipestone Education Service Center moved to the Pipestone Middle School/High School in the Fall of 2010.

In February 2011, the Belview Learning Center added a behavior program to serve students experiencing educational and behavioral issues.

We were awarded a Minnesota Rural Education Association Profiles of Excellence Award of Distinction for our Speech Language Telepractice Program.

Crisis Prevention Institute (CPI) Training was revamped to offer a comprehensive system of delivery to better ensure those who are trained meet certain levels of competence before using restraint with a student.

**Division of Administrative Services**

The ESS/SmartHR website was redesigned.

Type III Bus Driver Certification went online with over 250 participants.

The Minnesota Service Cooperatives' Cooperative Purchasing Connection launched new website.

**Division of Risk Management Services**

There were 56 groups in the school pool and 120 groups in the CCOGA pool.

A lot of planning resulted in the creation of a critical incident stress management (CISM) team to support school districts during a time of crisis. Over 30 school psychologists, counselors, social workers and other school personnel from throughout the region were trained for a School Crisis Response Team in January 2011.

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**Staff Notes**

Mary Weber, SEIMC Coordinator, retired in August 2011. She began with the agency in August 1970.

Diane McCarron, Director of Special Education in Willmar

Tammy Stahl, Director of Special Education in Pipestone

Erv Marquardt retired after working at the agency since August of 1980.

**Members**

55 public schools

22 charter and non-public schools

60 cities

16 counties

44 OGAs

**Editor’s Note:** All previous year programs/services still being offered unless otherwise noted.
We started promoting SumDog during the 2011-12 school year.

In the Fall of 2011, a transition “apartment” was constructed in the Marshall office.

During 2011-12, we launched the Member Services Database which allowed members to search services purchased and find contact information for our staff who were assigned to their school.

We officially entered the social media world with an agency Facebook page and Twitter account.

Board and Council Notes
New to Board of Directors
• Maggie Kluver, Montevideo
• Steve Schneider, Worthington
• Tom Walsh, KMS

New to Superintendents' Advisory Council
• Ann Wendorff, Heron Lake-Okabena
• Jerry Kjergaard, Willmar

Cooperative Purchasing sales topped $3.6 million.

This was the first year that school districts contracted for regular technology integration facilitation services.

On July 1, 2011, the Wide Area Network transitioned internet services to SDN Communications. Trillion's infrastructure was updated by June 2012.

Behavior Analytic Services was new and we employed a 0.5 FTE Behavior Analyst. We provided services to eight school districts plus the Belview Learning Center, the Blue Mound Learning Center, the Cosmos Learning Center and the Red Rock Ridge Learning Center. Throughout the year, an additional 20 school districts added services and committed to purchasing behavior analytic services the following year.

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

All members of the school insurance pool received a premium decrease this year.

Members
55 public schools
18 charter and non-public schools
58 cities
16 counties
45 OGAs
2012-13

Divisions of Excellence

Division of Teaching and Learning Services
North Collaborative

This was Year 1 for the North Collaborative pilot which included the districts of ACGC, BBE, BOLD, BLHS, KMS, Lester Prairie and MACCRAY. This was a 3+ year pilot to collaborate professional development and resources based on data and common needs.

Division of Special Education Services
Education Resource Library

The Education Resource Library (ERL) was redesigned to better meet member needs.
The Blue Mound Learning Center moved from Luverne to Pipestone.

Staffing for behavior analyst services increased to 1.5FTE to meet the growing demand for services. Approximately 30 districts received services and we also started promoting services in South Dakota. Contract days at our alternative learning programs also increased. This was the first year Functional Behavioral Assessment/Behavior Intervention workshops were offered.

Division of Administrative Services

In the Fall of 2012, a Public Utilities Commission (PUC) grant provided funding to put new ITV systems in each elementary school in the WAN (36 total).

Division of Risk Management Services

There were 56 groups in the school pool and 119 groups in the CCOGA pool.

Staff Notes

Cliff Carmody was President of the Association of Educational Service Agencies (AESA).
Tish Rops, Administrator of Alternative Programs

Editor's Note: All previous year programs/services still being offered unless otherwise noted.
During 2013-2014, we employed 3.0 FTE of Behavior Analysts. This increase in staffing was due to increased contract days at our learning centers (Belview, Blue Mound, Cosmos, North Central and Red Rock Ridge). We also started expanding services into South Dakota.

The first annual Meeting the Challenge Behavior Conference was held.

The first Low Vision Clinic was held in our Marshall office with 10 students attending.

2013-14 was the first year ever that all 46 of the districts subscribing to special education services were on the same monitoring schedule by MDE. Janet Dirksen was reassigned to head the special education monitoring efforts for the agency.

Avera Marshall served as the host business partner for Project SEARCH, a transition high school for students with disabilities, and provided a variety of 8-10 week internship rotations to help students develop necessary interpersonal and job skills to gain meaningful employment.

The North Central Learning Center opened in Willmar to serve special education students with behavioral and mental health needs.

We were selected as one of three new sites for the expansion of the Regional Centers of Excellence (RCE) initiative through the Minnesota Department of Education. The RCE in Marshall was named the Southwest Prairie RCE.

In July 2013, we held the first annual Summer Principal Summit with St Marys University in Winona.

The Conference for Young Writers was canceled due to the weather.

We bought into Minnesota Partnership for Collaborative Curriculum (MPCC) on behalf of our members in the spring of 2014.

The Cooperative Purchasing Connection Express (online ordering site) was launched.

There were 55 groups in the school pool and 109 groups in the CCOGA pool.

During 2013-2014, we employed 3.0 FTE of Behavior Analysts. This increase in staffing was due to increased contract days at our learning centers (Belview, Blue Mound, Cosmos, North Central and Red Rock Ridge). We also started expanding services into South Dakota.

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This school year proved to be the most tragic since the creation of the School Crisis Response Team - with countless hours of support provided to districts by team members.

This was the first year of our employee recognition program - GROW.

Giving Recognition for Outstanding Work!
2014-15

Divisions of Excellence

**Division of Teaching and Learning Services**
The first annual **Regional Math Conference** was held.

**Division of Administrative Services**
**SMART Systems** worked hard to create tools from within the software to provide districts with the tools needed for ACA reporting and requirements. Three days of training by our staff was needed to get districts prepared to use the new module.

**Division of Risk Management Services**
There were 51 groups in the school pool and 105 groups in the CCOGA pool.

**Staff Notes**
Lisa Gregoire, Director of Teaching and Learning Services
Penny Cammack, who started with the agency in August of 1979 as a speech clinician, retired. She also served as an Autism Consultant from 1999 - 2015.
Tish Kalla, Director of Alternative Programs (*position renamed*)

**Division of Special Education Services**
- Education Resource Library
- Youth Mental Health First Aid
  *(Program ended 6/30/15)*

Assets of the **Education Resource Library** (ERL) were distributed to member districts.
Paige Thompson, School Social Worker, received training on **Youth Mental Health First Aid** and provided training to SWWC staff and member districts.

**Behavior Analyst** services expanded to include 4.0 FTE serving 32 districts (including one FTE sold to one district). Services were continued at the alternative learning centers. South Dakota schools also purchased contracts for services, and a South Dakota date/location was added for the 2nd Annual Meeting the Challenge Behavior Conference.

**Members**
- 55 public schools
- 12 charter/non-public schools
- Over 150 cities, counties and OGAs that subscribe to risk management services.

**Editor’s Note:** All previous year programs/services still being offered unless otherwise noted.
Communications Notes

The Review changed its focus in the Fall of 2014 to "Celebrating Students".

A new publication, the Professional Development Catalog, was created starting in the fall of 2014. There are three issues per year highlighting upcoming professional development opportunities.
2015-16

Divisions of Excellence

Division of Teaching and Learning Services

We were one of the regional hosts for the planning and development of the 2015 Regional Workforce Summit focused on strengthening industry and education partnerships. The conference was held at Southwest Minnesota State University in October 2015.

The Minnesota West Carl Perkins Consortium includes 38 high schools and Minnesota West Community and Technical college as the post-secondary partner. The number of schools has decreased over the years due to high schools consolidating/closing and some shifting between consortia.

Division of Special Education Services

We held the first annual two-day Special Education Law Conference in Sioux Falls, SD. Behavior analyst services continued to grow and we had 4.0 FTE of Behavior Analysts on staff. We continued providing services to our alternative learning programs, as well as 40 schools in Minnesota and nine in South Dakota. In addition to holding the third annual Meeting the Challenge Behavior Conference in two locations, we provided Behavior Tools workshops.

We were awarded Honorable Mention in the Minnesota Rural Education Association Profiles of Excellence Award of Distinction for Project SEARCH. (See image on following page)

Student Entrepreneurs

Belview Learning Center high school students created a heat-press business called Bel-Youth Press.

Setting IV high school students at the Red Rock Ridge Learning Center started a business called Glassy Treasures.

Division of Administrative Services

Division of Risk Management Services

2015-16 Membership Dues
$150 for schools under 1,000 students
$250 for schools over 1,000 students

Members

55 public schools
12 charter/non-public schools
Over 150 cities, counties and other governmental agencies that subscribe to risk management services

Editor’s Note: All previous year programs/services still being offered unless otherwise noted.
In the fall of 2014, we started a “One Agency Branding” initiative to create an organization with a recognizable brand, logo and service promise. The new logo was just one part of our effort to create “one agency”.

As seen in this booklet, we have had a myriad of names used for some or all of the programs under the Southwest West Central Service Cooperative umbrella, such as ECSU, Little Crow Special Education Cooperative, Regional Management Information Center, Crow River Special Education Cooperative and Southwest Telecommunications Cooperative. It was definitely time to build a strong brand for SWWC.

The alternative learning centers also received a new look this year. Maintaining school pride and identity during our “One Agency Branding” initiative was very important to us. In the end, the existing learning centers logos were either refreshed or redesigned. All of their materials, such as webpages, clothing, brochures, forms and handbooks, were co-branded to include the learning center logo as well as the SWWC logo.

As part of the celebration of our history, this 50th anniversary book was created. Many hours of reading through old annual reports, brochures, files, newsletters and conversations with staff resulted in over 70 pages showcasing our history. A series of “Did You Know? A Look Back ...” graphics were created and shared on our social media sites to give a glimpse into our past. Those graphics are included throughout this booklet.

Staff and Board Notes

Edna Gossen retired on December 31, 2015, after working at the agency since August of 1973.

Tammy Stahl, Director of Human Resources
In March of 2016, we topped 300 employees.

New to Board of Directors
• Matt Coleman, Marshall
• Darin Balken, Prairie Lakes Youth Programs
The Evolution of The Review
Annual Plans and Reports
Information for this booklet was obtained from annual reports, agency brochures, issues of The Review, HR documentation and staff recollections. Please excuse any errors or omissions.

Board Members: All board members are listed the year they were elected to the board.

Superintendents’ Advisory Council: Superintendents who have retired in the last ten years were listed in this booklet.

Not all staff and positions could be listed in this booklet. Therefore, the following criteria was used to determine which staff and which positions were included:

• All staff employed at SWVWC as of 6/30/16 and hired prior to 1990.
• Staff who retired between 2005 and 2016 - and employed at SWWC over 10 years.
• All administrator positions.