Annual Report
To Our Partners 2012-2013
www.swsc.org
Dear Friends of SW/WC Service Cooperative:

“Great people providing great service to great people” - the Board of Directors, staff, and administration are committed to providing high quality programs and services to our members!

This Annual Report to our Partners highlights the SW/WC Service Cooperative’s purpose, values, and commitment to our region. In its pages, you will see how our work has become mission critical to the members we serve. Through partnership, innovation, service, and leadership our purpose is to serve the schools, cities, counties, and governmental agencies in southwest and west central Minnesota.

Our shared services model of delivering services is show-cased through a number of important initiatives outlined in this report. The SW/WC Service Cooperative is a membership driven organization ... through a number of advisory committees and the Superintendents Executive Council, our Board of Directors and Administration work collaboratively with our members to bring program and service opportunities that meet their needs.

Our core values of service, integrity, and respect are the cornerstone to the work we do. At the center of these values is service. We believe service is a commitment to serve our members, potential members, coworkers and others. We care about them, listen to them, and work to address their issues. Satisfying those we serve is a priority for everyone in the agency.

As we plan for 2013-14, we continue to recognize the challenges facing our members. We are grounded and committed to our service approach and will continue to find ways to be innovative in our practice of bringing high quality programs and services to our members.

Thank you for taking time to read the Annual Report to Our Partners and for your support of our region.

From the Executive Director
Cliff Carmody
Service To Our Members
Spanning the 18 counties of southwest and west central Minnesota

Office locations
Marshall, Montevideo, Pipestone, Willmar and Windom

School Locations
Belview, Benson, Cosmos, Pipestone and Windom

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

Our Board of Directors
Maydra Maas, Chairperson, WWG Schools
Kathi Thymian, Vice-Chair, Ortonville Schools
Donald Brugman, Clerk, Windom Schools
Kathryn Kelly, Treasurer, Renville County
Sally Vogt, Canby Schools
Michael Zins, Fulda Schools
Jan Fransen, Jackson County
Tom Walsh, KMS Schools
Carol Morgan, Luverne Schools
Maggie Kluever, Montevideo Schools
Michael O’Brien, New London/Spicer Schools
Steve Schniede, Worthington Schools

Members of the SW/WC Service Cooperative Board of Directors are elected from our membership.

Our Staff
We employ over 280 regular employees throughout the 18 counties of southwest and west central Minnesota.

Our staff are located in one of our offices or school locations, but many are actually housed right in the school districts where they work.

Employee retention is important to us! Our staff average length of service is over 7 years.

The number of employees at the SW/WC SC:
over 20 years: 25
15-19 years: 14
10-14 years: 40

Star denotes office location
Administrative Services
This division, led by Darin Jensen, is comprised of the Regional Management Information Center (RMIC), Health and Safety, Cooperative Purchasing, Information Technology, Distance Education, Technology Integration, and E-Rate Coordination.

One highlight from this past year is the Online Type III Vehicle Training Program which is completing its third year. A Type III vehicle is used to transport 10 or fewer passengers. There were 26 districts (over 550 people) utilizing the program this year. This web-based program can be accessed anywhere 24 hours a day. Another is the Extended Business Office Services created through RMIC to assist districts replacing staff that were retiring after many years in the district. Districts were finding it difficult to find new people to take on the multiple roles this one person had been doing. Our efforts to “fill in the gaps” and offer expertise resulted in 13 districts receiving this service. Districts chose which duties they wanted our staff to maintain and which they would handle in house. Tasks included processing payroll, budgeting assistance, processing bills, printing checks, cash flow projections, pre-audit assistance, and more.

Risk Management Services
This division, led by Doug Deragisch, is comprised of the school insurance pool, the city/county/other governmental agency pool, and the health cost management program (HCMIP). The SW/WC SC operates two health insurance pools on behalf of our members. The School Pool has 56 member schools with a total of nearly 7,500 covered lives. Our City, County and Other Governmental Agencies (CCOGA) Pool has 119 members covering nearly 9,000 lives. The SW/WC SC's renewal success rate is near 95% annually. Over the years the Pools have been successful in serving our members with high quality insurance products as well as educational and support services.

On March 23, 2010, the Affordable Care Act (ACA) was passed by Congress—described as the largest single piece of legislation (2,000 pages) ever passed in the US. Three years later we continue to learn more about the law and its impact on our members. Failure to comply with the regulations can impose fines on our members starting in 2014. We have conducted numerous educational workshops for our members and continue to monitor and provide additional information workshops as needed.

Teaching & Learning Services
This division, led by Bob Braun, includes school improvement, student enrichment activities, curriculum coordination, the Carl Perkins Consortium, math and science teacher partnership, RTI, and PBIS.

One highlight this year is the continued success of the Math and Science Teacher Partnership. This year focused on content training and pedagogy support in K-2 Early Childhood Mathematics in Number and Operation and Grades 3-5 Integrating Science through Literacy and Mathematics in Earth and Space Science. Five math districts and five science districts (44 teachers) took part in Lesson Study PLC training, math content workshops, science content workshops, and teacher support. Another highlight is in Student Enrichment Activities, where over 31,000 students participated this year. Our goal is to help students discover their passion in life by offering various activities that allow them to experience things that are not normally available in our region. Activities include student conferences (Young Artists, Young Writers and Science & Nature); competitions (Spelling Bee, Jr. & Sr. High Knowledge Bowl, Creative Writing, Culinary Skills and Sumdog Math Contest); and other programs (Children’s Author & Illustrator, Career Expo and Project Discovery).

Special Education Services
This division, led by Dr. Mary Palmer, is comprised of direct student services, regional low incidence programs, outreach clinics, autism training project, transitions outcome project, and the alternative learning programs and settings.

One highlight from this past year is the growth of targeted services. Targeted services include grades K-8 after school and summer programming. This year, we expanded to include additional sites for the following school districts: ACGC, BBE, BOLD, Cedar Mountain, and KMS.

The SW/WC Service Cooperative is excited to announce that we will be opening a new program for special education students with behavioral and mental needs. North Central Learning Center will be located in the Willmar area and will serve students from school districts in the area. Staffing of the program will include teachers and behavioral aides, as well as two full-time mental health professionals. The North Central Learning Center will open its doors for the 2013-2014 school year.
“Providing the same educational opportunity for all students is not a simple process. Education is more demanding. Finances remain a constant issue. Collaboration and coordination become the investment tools needed to secure the education and success of students in the region. Through dedication, commitment and the desire to exceed, the SW/WC Service Cooperative continues to remain an invaluable resource to its membership to help meet educational needs in our region.”

~Maydra Maas, SW/WC SC Board Chair
Innovation

Researching and initiating new programs and services

Education Resource Library
A newly redesigned library - ERL - where engagement starts with our webpage—a lively and interactive place to explore and connect—which serves as the entry point to three digital resources: KOHA, Infinitec and Learning Space. Our ERL KOHA system delivers core library services: searching and checking out resources that delivers core library services: search-
digital resources: KOHA, Infinitec and serves as the entry point to three place to explore and connect--which webpage--a lively and interactive where engagement starts with our ways.

North Collaborative Pilot
This was Year 1 for the North Col-
laborative Pilot which included the dis-
tricts of ACGC, BBE, BOLD, BLHS, KMS, Lester Prairie and MACCRAY. This is a 3+ year pilot to collaborate profession-
al development and resources, based on data and common needs. The main focus of Year 1 was to establish effec-
tive Leadership and Data Teams, iden-
tify areas of strength and those that
need improvement, develop a Princi-
pals’ Collaborative, and bring content
area teachers together to network and share best practices. These districts have committed to three common staff development dates for 2013-14, a joint data mine, and professional development in the content areas of Social Studies, Math, ELA, and Physical Education, along with an RtI network-
ing group. There is also a South Col-
laborative Pilot which includes Cedar Mountain, HLO, Milroy, and Wabasso.

Project SEARCH
During the summer of 2011, our agency explored the possibility of de-
veloping a transition high school for students with disabilities. Hearing that Advance Opportunities was also work-
ning on a similar initiative, a new part-
nership emerged. Project SEARCH, a successful, international transition high school program, was chosen as the model to use in our region. The overall goal is to assist youth with disabilities reach their goal of com-
unity employment. Avera Marshall will serve as the host business partner for the 2013-14 school year and will provide a variety of 8-10 week intern-
ship rotations that best meet student
interests, experiences and abilities. A
job coach, program instructor, and de-
partment staff work with the students
and (IEP team) to help develop neces-
sary interpersonal and job skills to gain meaningful employment.

HCMP & Wellness Institute
The Health Cost Management Program (HCMP) was developed in 2008 as a way to help school districts fund the develop-
ment of, as well as financially support-
ing, ongoing wellness initiatives. Since
then, the HCMP has expanded to offer
funding to implement biometric screen-
ings, which might include labs such as
cholesterol, glucose and blood pressure. Currently, there are 36+ groups in
the pool participating in the HCMP. The fund-
ing for these initiatives come from the Drug Rebate Dollars.

The Wellness Institute is a program
that has just completed its second year. This program began as a pilot activities-
based program as a way to financially incentivize employees on the groups
health-plan for participation in wellness activities.

Email Archival System
Through months of collaboration with the Wide Area Network Advisory Com-
mittee, demonstrations by vendors, and collaboration at Technology Lead-
ership Workshops, the SW/WC Service Cooperative Technology Department
began a new Email Archiving Service in early 2013. Our Email Archival ser-
vice will allow all members of the SW/WC Service Cooperative meet data
retention laws and standards in a cost
effective manner. This service works
with on-premise or cloud based Email
environments with the exception of,
supported with a number of email retention options, or a custom retention sched-
ule can be setup for an organization’s email environment.

Partnership
Uniting with members to meet needs

Growth of SW-PBIS
SW-PBIS, which stands for School Wide Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports, has grown by leaps and
bounds in the south central and west
central region since 2008, when we partnered with two other cooperatives to provide training and support to
the southern tier of the state. At that time, there were no schools in our region implementing SW-PBIS—now we have
24.

The premise behind SW-PBIS is to
shift from a reactive and adversative approach to managing the behaviors to one that is preventive and positive.
It is comprised of a broad range of systems and individual strategies for achieving important social and learn-
ing outcomes while preventing prob-
lem behaviors for all students. SW-
PBIS is a schoolwide initiative which focuses on all students in all school locations.

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Learning is a treasure that will follow its owner everywhere.

~Chinese proverb
Over the course of a year, Jake Guy received three sports related concussions which changed his life. Jake, his parents and a team of educators developed a 504 Accommodation Plan to support re-entry and success in school. Jake has been sharing his story with others, recently presenting with his mother and Darwin Dyce (the SW/WC SC Traumatic Brain Injury consultant) at the Minnesota Brain Injury Conference. Jake has received many speaking requests from people in SD and MN to learn more about sports related concussions.

Our core values
Service
Integrity
Respect

We have a highly skilled and talented group of professionals at the SW/WC Service Cooperative who embrace our core values in all they do. Here are a few examples of the exceptional work being done day in and day out in the region by our fantastic staff!

Ongoing education and continuous improvement is important to our staff. We have 7 PhDs working among us and 89 employees with an MS or MA degree.
Staying current with technology and social media are also important to us. We are active on Facebook, Twitter, Google+, LinkedIn and Pinterest. Links to the pages can be found on the homepage of our website.

Dr. Mary Palmer, Senior Director of Special Education Services, took part in a year-long program through the Association of Educational Service Agencies called Executives in Residence. The program addresses collaborative and cooperative work on a regional and national level. The program includes a strong mentor component, access to a variety of leadership experiences, networking, and communication. Mary's host agencies were SERRC (Alaska) and HPREC (New Mexico).

Cliff Carmody, Executive Director, has been active on the Association of Educational Service Agencies (AESA) Executive Council since the 2008-09 school year. This past year, he served as AESA Executive Council President.
Our staff are active in a wide variety of state and national associations. The benefits of ongoing training, professional networking, and leadership opportunities help maintain a highly qualified and educated staff.

Our staff are continually looking for ways to further their skills and knowledge. Dr. Eric Ose (above left) and Dr. Brett DeJager (above right) are two of them. Eric works at the Heartland Ranch School and received his Ed.D. from Bethel University in November 2012. Brett is a School Psychologist serving the Montevideo School District who received his Doctor of Psychology (Psy.D) degree from Minnesota State University, Mankato, in May 2013.

Garry Wickerd, (pictured above) a Behavior Specialist/Autism Specialist, received his Ph.D. in school psychology from the University of South Dakota in December 2012. He, along with Ryan Groeneweg, Behavior Analyst, conducted a poster session at the 39th Annual Association for Behavior Analysis International (ABA) Convention. Their "Go Green" Program, an intervention package designed for use in lower elementary classrooms to reduce student disruption while increasing targeted positive behaviors, was the topic.

Three of our SPED staff presented at the 27th Annual Association of Educational Service Agencies Conference in Florida. Tammy Stahl (Director of Special Education), Jackie Budden (Assistant Director of Special Education), and Mary Margaret Mathers (Coordinator of Special Education) conducted a session on how to develop special education assessment teams, which they have done in 12 local school districts. They outlined the process for developing a team and shared practical experiences and lessons learned.

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Leadership
Providing opportunities for all

Whether it be in the area of student conferences, school finance, insurance, or workshops for teachers, the SW/WC Service Cooperative strives to provide opportunities for all to learn and grow.

We would like to say thank you to the SW/WC Service Coop for making these conferences available for students. With limited resources in smaller rural schools the extra programming for some students is very limited. It was an additional learning experience beyond what was offered in the regular classroom. We attended many over the years and, they were always energizing and fun. We hope you are able to continue to host these opportunities for upcoming students.

—Al and Cindy Grosklags, Parents, Renville County West School District

This workshop was very informative and entertaining at the same time. I am excited for the school year to start so we can begin implementation.

—Teacher

I feel the SW-WC SC is the best coop in the state. Without it, I know we would not be able to offer the programming we can offer now.

—Superintendent

I hope the SW/WC SC continues to offer professional development in the areas of math, reading and science. With tight budgets it is difficult for small schools to send teachers to trainings in the cities. Schools in SW and WC MN benefit from the SC when the SC offers high quality professional development in the region. The SC trainers are excellent and can offer a lot of insight to what "Best Practices" are and how these strategies can have an impact on teaching and learning.

—Superintendent

2012-13 Executive Director's Cabinet
Cliff Carmody, Executive Director
Deecy Jesse, Executive Assistant
Annette Miller, Director of Finance
Shelly Maes, Manager of Member Services
Edna Gossen, Operations Manager
Darin Jensen, Senior Director of Administrative Services
Doug Deragisch, Senior Director of Risk Management Services
Dr. Mary Palmer, Senior Director of Special Education Services
Bob Braun, Senior Director of Teaching and Learning Services
Members are our focus. We have a unique understanding of the strengths and needs of our members and use these insights to positively impact and improve how our members do their work.

Benefits of Membership
- Provides access to the various programs and services offered through our agency
- Allows members to operate more efficiently and cost effectively through creative program development and partnerships
- Creates access to programs and services not readily available to members without cooperation and coordination
- Helps members maximize dollars and realize cost savings by pooling money and resources

School Members
- Adrian
- ACGC
- BBE
- Benson
- BOLD
- Breverst
- Buffalo Lake-Hector-Stewart
- Butterfield
- Canby
- Cedar Mountain
- Cedar Riverside, Minneapolis
- Clarkfield Area Charter
- Cologne Academy
- Comfrey
- Dawson-Boyd
- E.C.H.O Charter
- Eden Valley-Watkins
- Edgerton
- Edgerton Christian Elem.
- Ellsworth
- Fulda
- Gibbon-Fairfax-Winthrop
- Glencoe-Silver Lake
- Hendricks
- Heron Lake-Oakabena
- Hills-Beaver Creek
- Holy Redeemer, Marshall
- Holy Trinity, Winsted
- Hutchinson
- Immanuel Lutheran, Lakefield
- Ivanhoe
- Jackson County Central
- KMS
- Lac qui Parle Valley
- Lake Benton
- Lakeview
- Lester Prairie
- Luverne
- Lynd
- MACRAYS
- Marshall Area Christian
- Marshall
- Milroy
- Milroy Area Charter
- Minnesota Montevideo
- Mountain Lake
- Murray County Central
- New Heights, Stilwater
- New London-Spicer
- Odyssey Charter, Brooklyn Center
- Ortonville
- Paynesville
- Pipestone Area
- Prinsburg
- Red Rock Central
- Redwood Area
- Renville County West
- Round Lake
- RTR
- St. Anne’s, Wabasso
- St. Edward, Minnesota
- St. Mary’s, Bird Island
- St. Mary’s, Tracy
- St. Michael’s, Morgan
- St. Paul Conservatory for Performing Arts
- St. Peter’s, Canby
- St. Rafael’s, Springfield
- Samuel Lutheran, Marshall
- Sleepy Eye
- Southwest Christian, Edgerton
- Springerton
- Tracy Area
- Wabasso
- Westbrook-Walnut Grove
- Willmar
- Windom
- Worthington
- Yellow Medicine East
- Chippewa
- Cottonwood
- Jackson
- Kandiyohi
- LakeQuParle
- Lincoln
- Lyon
- Meeker
- Murray
- Nobles
- Pipestone
- Pipestone
- Rock
- Swift
- Yellow Medicine
- Yellow Medicine
- Rock
- Swift
- West St. Paul
- Willmar
- Windom
- Maynard
- Mendota Heights
- Milroy
- Minnesota
- Montevideo
- Mountain Lake
- New Prague
- Newport
- Oakdale
- Pipestone
- Renville
- Rosemount
- Round Lake
- Russell
- Sacred Heart
- Scandia
- Slateon
- Springfield
- St. Paul Park
- Stillwater
- Vadnais Heights
- Victoria
- West
- Willmar
- Windom

City Members
- Adrian
- Appleton
- Atwater
- Benson
- Bird Island
- Buffalo Lake
- Canby
- Carver
- Cosmos
- Cottonwood
- Ellsworth
- Fairfax
- Franklin
- Fulda
- Granite Falls
- Greenfield
- Hanley Falls
- Hendricks
- Heron Lake
- Jackson
- Jasper
- Kerkhoven
- Lake Benton
- Lake Elmo
- Lakefield
- Madison
- Marshall
- Pipestone
- Redwood
- Renville
- Rosemount
- Round Lake
- Russell
- Sacred Heart
- Scandia
- Slateon
- Springfield
- St. Paul Park
- Stillwater
- Vadnais Heights
- Victoria
- West St. Paul
- Willmar
- Windom

County Members
- Adult Client Training Service
- Advance Opportunities
- Area II MN River Basin Projects
- Chippewa River Watershed
- Clara City Nursing Home
- Cottonwood County DAC
- Countryside Public Health
- Heartland Community Action
- Hiawatha Manor
- Hospice of Murray County
- HRA of Redwood Falls
- Jackson HRA
- Kandiyohi Area Transit
- Kandiyohi SWCD
- Lake Minnetonka Conservation District
- Lincoln County SWCD
- Lincoln/Pipestone Rural Water
- Marshall Municipal Utilities
- Mid-Minnesota Development Commission
- Murray County DAC
- New Life Treatment Center
- Nobles County SWCD
- PACT 4 Families Collaborative
- Parkview Home
- Parkview Manor Nursing Home
- Pioneerland Library System
- Pipestone County SWCD
- Pipestone County Medical Center
- Prairie Five Community Action
- Prairie Lakes Youth Programs
- Progress, Inc.
- Red Rock Rural Water System
- Redwood County SWCD
- Redwood-Cottonwood Rivers Control Area
- Renville County Hospital and Clinics
- Renville County SWCD
- Retired Senior Volunteer Program
- Rock County Opportunities
- Rural Enterprises for Acceptable Living (SWCLL)
- SW Health & Human Services
- SW Minnesota Broadband Services
- SW MN Housing Partnership
- SW MN Opportunity Council
- SW Regional Development Commission
- Swift County-Benson Hospital
- Westbrook Public Utilities
- Western Community Action
- Willmar Municipal Utilities
- Yellow Medicine

Other Governmental Agency Members
- Advance Opportunities
- Area II MN River Basin Projects
- Chippewa River Watershed
- Clara City Nursing Home
- Cottonwood County DAC
- Countryside Public Health
- Heartland Community Action
- Hiawatha Manor
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- SW Regional Development Commission
- Swift County-Benson Hospital
- Westbrook Public Utilities
- Western Community Action
- Willmar Municipal Utilities
- Yellow Medicine

Leadership
- Innovation
- Partnership
- Integrity
- Respect

Members
- City Members
- County Members
- Other Governmental Agency Members
- School Members
- Benefits of Membership

Members are our focus. We have a unique understanding of the strengths and needs of our members and use these insights to positively impact and improve how our members do their work.
Superintendents Executive Council 2012-13

Chair: Luther Heller, Superintendent, Montevideo
Vice Chair: Jerry Kjergaard, Superintendent, Willmar
Past Chair: Keith Kottke, Superintendent, Springfield
Rick Clark, Superintendent, Buffalo Lake-Hector-Stewart
Luther Onken, Superintendent, Fulda and Murray County Central
Chris Sonju, Superintendent, Glencoe-Silver Lake
Ann Wendorff, Superintendent, Heron Lake-Okabena
Chris Fenske, Superintendent, Lakeview
Greg Schmidt, Superintendent, MACCRAY
Klint Willert, Superintendent, Marshall
Bill Strom, Superintendent, Mountain Lake
Robert Windel, Superintendent, Mountain Lake Christian
Paul Carlson, Superintendent, New London-Spicer
Jim Lentz, Superintendent, Pipestone Area
John Brennan, Superintendent, Red Rock Central
Loy Woelber, Superintendent, Westbrook-Walnut Grove and Tracy
John Landgaard, Superintendent, Worthington
Al Stoeckman, Superintendent, Yellow Medicine East
Sharon Kabes, Education Dept. Chair, Southwest MN State University
Michael Van Keulen, Manager, Minnesota West

The Superintendents Executive Council provides advice and support to the
SW/WC Service Cooperative Administration and Board of Directors.