Our Mission

Through partnership, innovation, and exceptional leadership, our programs and services will meet the diverse needs of our members.

Divisions of Excellence

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

Division of Administrative Services

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

This division is comprised of the following programs: Regional Management Information Center (RMIC), Information Technology, Health & Safety, Cooperative Purchasing, Technology Integration, E-Rate Coordination, Distance Education, and Professional Development.

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

Division of Risk Management Services

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

There are 56 groups in the school pool and 120 groups in the CCOGA (city/county/other governmental agency) pool.

A highlight for the year was the 2011-12 school insurance pool renewal. ALL groups received a premium decrease--something that hasn’t happened in many years due to the rising costs of health care.

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

Dear Friends of SW/WC Service Cooperative:

The staff, administration, and Board of Directors are committed to providing high quality programs and services to our members! Our mission highlights partnership, innovation, service, and exceptional leadership...we believe this past year demonstrated our commitment to achieving this mission! Our shared services model of delivering services is show-cased through a number of important initiatives outlined in this year’s Annual Report to Our Partners.

SW/WC SC is a membership driven organization...through a number of advisory committees and the Executive Council, our Board of Directors and Administration work collaboratively with our members to bring program and service opportunities that meet their needs. In this Annual Report to Our Partners, you can learn more about some of our programs and services.

As we continue to plan for the coming year, we recognize the challenges facing our members and have a financial plan that reflects the current fiscal challenges. Using a conservative approach to generating revenue through our fee structure, we will continue to challenge ourselves on finding new and innovative ways to deliver programs and services.

Thank you for taking time to review this report. Just as we believe it is important to report to you, our partners, we believe it is equally important that we listen to you. Tell us what you are trying to do and having difficulty getting done...it is our belief that we can work with you to find solutions to your challenges!

Cliff Carmody, Executive Director

Division of Teaching and Learning Services

The Division of Teaching and Learning Services is comprised of the following programs: School Improvement/AYP Services, Student Activities, Curriculum, Assessment & Instruction, Carl Perkins/Career and Tech Education, Math and Science Teacher Partnership, Response to Intervention (RtI), Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS), and Professional Development.

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

Division of Special Education Services

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

The division is comprised of the following programs: Special Education Direct Student Services, Regional Low Incidence, Outreach Clinics, Regional Assistive Technology Lending Library, Autism Training Project, Transitions Outcome Project, Alternative Learning Programs & Settings, and Professional Development.

This division is led by Dr. Mary Palmer, Senior Director of Special Education Services.
In Partnership With Our Members

Highlights from this past year...

Special Education Student Services

- We provide a wide array of direct student services to our member school districts. Services such as occupational therapy, physical therapy, early childhood special education, school psychology, audiology, speech language pathology, and more.
- Our regional assistive technology lending library and demonstration lab continues to lend equipment and materials to school districts which enhance special education learner outcomes and quality of life.
- Regional low incidence consultants provide assistance to school districts in the areas of deaf/hard of hearing, visually impaired, autism, traumatic brain injury, developmental cognitive disability, and more.

School Business Finance Services

- Regional ESS/SMARTeR website gets a new look and feel.
- More districts turn to the Regional Management Information Center (RMIC) for extended Business Management Services.
- Environment Occupational Health & Safety Bid awarded to MacNeil Environmental.

Information Technology

- 32 school districts now rely on SW/WC SC’s IT Department for E-Rate Coordination.
- Shared Technology Coordination Services was provided to 14 districts.
- RUS Grant was received to upgrade ITV classrooms in the Wide Area Network area.
- Wide Area Network Consortium membership increased by 3 districts to 34 members.
- TSIS Student Information System introduces new Graphical Schedulers.
- Cognos Data Warehouse adds cross-district analytic reporting capabilities.
- SMART Technologies Bridgit Conferencing Software was well received by members.
“2010 has proved to be another challenging yet successful year for the SW/WC Service Cooperative. As I reflect back upon this past year, I could not be more proud of the accomplishments of our staff, our Board of Directors, and our members. It is because of the passion and commitment of each and every one of you that the SW/WC SC remains strongly dedicated to our value-based mission statement. With sincere appreciation, I am humbly honored to offer the following quotation of Kahlil Gibran: You give but little when you give of your possessions. It is when you give of yourself that you truly give.”

~Maydra Maas, Chairperson, SW/WC SC Board of Directors, Westbrook-Walnut Grove Schools
More Highlights...

School Improvement Services

- The School Improvement Team hosted their annual data mines in July and August, as well as on an individual basis for schools as requested. This is the foundation for data driven decision making, and once again, had a very successful turn out.
- We have also been spending valuable time in schools with staff and leadership teams addressing a variety of staff development needs based on Improvement Plans.
- Over 36 administrators and teacher leaders from across the region met for the second annual AYP Leadership Forum, which was a day of sharing, collaborating and networking on topics such as staff consensus, parent involvement, data at the student level and PLCs.

Professional Development Opportunities

- The Technology Conference doubled in size and some districts utilized it as a staff development day.
- The Type III Bus Driver Certification went online with over 250 participants.
- We hosted a Lab Safety Chemical Hygiene Officer Training.
- 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.
- Administrators from around the region participated in the 2010-11 Leadership Cohort. They completed a leadership profile inventory, identified an improvement initiative for the year, and networked with others in the cohort. They met in-person and online throughout the year.

Health Cost Management Program

Twenty-two schools participated in the Health Cost Management Program in 2010-2011. Activities included:
- Biometric screenings (including cholesterol, glucose, blood pressure, body composition, vitamin D, PSA, thyroid, stress, hemoglobin)
- BEGIN Program & Weight Watchers at Work
- Speakers on health & wellness topics (financial, stress, depression, diabetes, healthy cooking, heart health)
- Exercise classes (zumba, yoga, strength training, stretching, water aerobics)
- Pedometer walking programs
- Classroom to 5K running/walking training program

Cooperative Purchasing

- The MSC cooperative purchasing group launched a new website.
- In FY 2010-11, the MSC Cooperative Purchasing program had in excess of $12,000,000 in sales.
- Vendor booths at a variety of statewide conferences in MN and SD.
- New contracts awarded to: Kinetic Leasing, Lan-School, Partstock and CDI, Living Connected, and Plato Learning.
- SW/WC SC Cooperative Purchasing was instrumental in the formation of the SW/WC SC SMART Users’ Networking Group.
- Cooperative Purchasing, together with Tierney Brothers, hosted 2 regional SMART product road shows showcasing the latest SMART products.

“Jackson County has been a member of SW/WC SC since 2004 when we joined the CCOGA Health Insurance Pool. Since then, we have also utilized the service coop for other services, such as cooperative purchasing. We have been happy not only with the cost of the products, but with the service and professionalism of the staff. Joining the SW/WC SC was definitely a great move for us!”

~Jan Franson, SW/WC SC Board Member, Jackson County
Benefits of Membership

Using a shared services model, the SW/WC Service Cooperative provides a number of benefits to our members. From saving money, to gaining economies of scale, our shared services model creates efficiencies while providing access to programs and services not readily available to our members without our efforts.

Working together with the SW/WC Service Cooperative to pool money and staff, school districts gain needed service. Small, rural schools can maximize resources, bringing equal opportunities to all students in southwest and west central Minnesota.

Creativity and innovation, coupled with our stalwart tried and true programs, provide a solid foundation of support for our members.

Our Members

Public School Members: 55  Charter & Non-Public School Members: 22
City Members: 60  County Members: 16  Other Governmental Agency (OGA) Members: 44

Adrian Schools  •Adult Client Training Service
  •Advance Opportunities
  •Area II MN River Basin Project
  •AGC Schools
  •Belgrade/Brooten/Elrosa Schools
  •Benson Schools
  •BOLD Schools
  •Brevoort Schools
  •Buffalo Lake-Hector-Stewart Schools
  •Butterfield Schools
  •Carby Schools
  •Cedar Mountain Schools
  •Cedar Riverside Community School-Minneapolis
  •Chippewa County
  •City of Adrian
  •City of Appleton
  •City of Anoka
  •City of Benson
  •City of Bird Island
  •City of Canby
  •City of Carver
  •City of Clifford
  •City of Clara City
  •City of Cosmos
  •City of Cottonwood
  •City of DeGraff
  •City of Elsworth
  •City of Fairfax
  •City of Franklin
  •City of Garfield
  •City of Granite Falls
  •City of Greenfield
  •City of Hanley Falls
  •City of Hendricks
  •City of Huron Lake
  •City of Hugo
  •City of Jackson
  •City of Jasper
  •City of Kerkhoven
  •City of Lake Benton
  •City of Lake Elmo
  •City of Lakefield
  •City of Lamberton
  •City of Madison
  •City of Marshall
  •City of Maynard
  •City of Mendota Heights
  •City of Milroy
  •City of Mindoro
  •City of Montevideo
  •City of Mountain Lake
  •City of New Prague
  •City of Newport
  •City of Oak Grove
  •City of Osakis
  •City of Owatonna
  •City of Page
  •City of Park Rapids
  •City of Pella
  •City of Plymouth
  •City of Prior Lake
  •City of Remer
  •City of Rosemount
  •City of St. Cloud
  •City of Scandia
  •City of St. Joseph
  •City of St. Cloud
  •City of St. Peter
  •City of St. Paul
  •City of St. Paul
  •City of St. Paul Park
  •City of Stillwater
  •City of Tyler
  •City of Victoria
  •City of West St. Paul
  •City of Willmar
  •City of Windom
  •Clearfield Area Charter School
  •Cologne Academy
  •Comfrey Schools
  •Community Christian School-Willmar
  •Cottonwood County
  •Cottonwood County DAC
  •Countrywide Public Health
  •Daswani/Boyd Schools
  •E.C.H.O Charter School
  •Eden Valley-Watkins Schools
  •Edgerton Schools
  •Ellsworth Schools
  •Fulda Schools
  •Gibson-Fairfax-Winthrop Schools
  •Glencoe/Silver Lake Schools
  •Heartland Community Action
  •Hendricks Schools
  •Heron Lake/Okabena Schools
  •Hiawatha Manor-Pipestone
  •Hills/Beaver Creek Schools
  •Holy Redeemer School-Marshall
  •Holy Trinity School-Winsted
  • Hospice of Murray County
  • IRA of Jackson
  • IRA of Redwood Falls
  • Hutchinson Schools
  • Ironton Schools
  • Jackson County
  • Jackson County Central Schools
  • KMS Schools
  • Kandiyohi Area Transit
  • Kandiyohi County
  • Kandiyohi County SWCD
  • Lac qui Parle County
  • Lac qui Parle Valley Schools
  • Lake Benton Schools
  • Lake Minnetonka Conservation District
  • Lakeview Schools
  • Lester Prairie Schools
  • Lincoln County
  • Lincoln County SWCD
  • Lincoln/Pipestone Rural Water
  • Lourdes Schools
  • Lynd Schools
  • Lyon County
  • MACCRAY Schools
  • Marshall Area Christian School
  • Marshall Municipal Utilities
  • Marshall Schools
  • Meeker County
  • Mid-MN Devel. Commission
  • Milroy Schools
  • Milroy Area Charter School
  • Minnesota Schools
  • Montevideo Schools
  • Mountain Lake Christian
  • Mountain Lake Schools
  • Murray County
  • Murray Co. Central Schools
  • Murray County DAC
  • New Heights School-Stillwater
  • New Life Treatment Center
  • New London/Spicer Schools
  • Nobles County
  • Nobles County SWCD
  • Odyssey Charter School-Brooklyn Center
  • Ontonagon Schools
  • PACT 4 Families Collaborative
  • Parkview Home-Bevlev
  • Parkview Manor-Elk River
  • Pioneerland Library System
  • Pipestone Area Schools
  • Pipestone County
  • Pipestone County SWCD
  • Prairie Five Community Action
  • Prairie Lakes Youth Programs
  • Prinsburg Schools
  • Prior Lake-Spring Lake Watershed
  • Progress, Inc.
  • Red Rock Central Schools
  • Red Rock Rural Water
  • Redwood Area Schools
  • Redwood County
  • Redwood County SWCD
  • Redwood/Cottonwood Rivers
  • Retired Senior Volunteer Program of SW MN
  • Rock County
  • Rock County DAC
  • Round Lake Schools
  • RTR Schools
  • Rural Enterprises for Acceptable Living
  • St. Anne’s School-Wabasso
  • St. Edward’s School-Minneapolis
  • St. Mary’s School-Bird Island
  • St. Mary’s School & Church-Tracy
  • St. Paul Conservatory for Performing Arts
  • St. Peter’s School – Canby
  • St. Rafael’s School-Springfield
  • Samuel Lutheran School-Marshall
  • Sleepy Eye Schools
  • Southwest Regional Development Comm.
  • Southwest Christian School-Edgerton
  • Springfield Schools
  • SW MN Housing Partnership
  • SW MN Opportunity Council
  • Swift County
  • Swift County-Benson Hospital
  • Tracy Area Schools
  • Wabasso Schools
  • Westbrook Public Utilities
  • Walnut Grove Schools
  • Western Community Action
  • Willmar Schools
  • Willmar Municipal Utilities
  • Winona Schools
  • Worthington Schools
  • Yellow Medicine County
  • Yellow Medicine East Schools

Members as of June 30, 2011

• denotes risk management member only
New Initiatives and Continued Growth

**SW/WC School Crisis Response Team**
During the 2010-11 school year, a lot of planning resulted in the creation of a critical incident stress management team to support school districts during a time of crisis. Over 30 school psychologists, counselors, social workers and other school personnel from throughout our 18 county region were trained in School Crisis Response in January 2011.

**Special Ed Restructuring**
The Division of Special Education Services went through a major restructure/paradigm shift this past year. The benefits of the restructure were many, but most importantly our members saw a more efficient and effective use of resources, and received access to more and better services.

**Shared Curriculum Services**
Lake Benton, Luverne, Lynd, Minneota, and Pipestone analyzed curriculum and instruction through the process of curriculum mapping. The teachers from these districts examined data and aligned the content, skills, and assessments to the state standards. Teachers also revised their maps by eliminating repetitive units and creating new ones. Great year for all!
Telepractice

Our Speech-Language Telepractice Program won a MN Rural Education Association Profiles of Excellence Award.

Telepractice is being used weekly to connect students with hearing loss. Students share experiences and “compare notes” related to their hearing loss. Two students living over 100 miles apart knew each other at first site because they had met previously via telepractice.

SW-PBIS

The School-Wide Positive Behavioral Interventions and Support (SW-PBIS) initiative in southern Minnesota has grown from 4 schools participating in 2008 to 50 schools by the end of the 2011-12 school year. During the 2010-11 school year alone, 15 new schools were added.

Project Discovery

Project Discovery was relocated from the Balaton school building to the SW/WC Service Cooperative offices in Marshall. The program provides career assessment and exploration services (and soon independent living skills assessment) to high school students with disabilities. Despite the difficult winter weather, the program served a record numbers of students this year.
Maximizing Financial Resources

- Our members are under no obligation to use or purchase our services; thus, quality, cost effectiveness and relevance are necessary to our operations.
- SW/WC Service Cooperative’s approach to sound fiscal management is prudent and efficient, allowing the agency to respond to the diverse needs of our members.
- In today’s economic environment, creating financial savings by developing economies of scale is core to our purpose. As our members experience continued budget reductions, we provide fiscal efficiencies so members can focus on success.
Members of the SW/WC SC are afforded many opportunities to provide educational services to students and staff by contracting for services of enthusiastic professional employees. Rural districts, particularly, benefit from the arrangement. The staff and administration of SW/WC SC consistently seek and encourage use of cutting edge educational practices and equipment, providing training to ease the transition to new ideas. County and other governmental agencies also benefit from similar services as well as insurance pools to provide coverage for their employees. SW/WC SC, in my view, is a multi-service, highly successful entity focused on improving education and employment life in rural Minnesota.

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

Staff

We employ over 240 staff throughout the 18 counties of southwest and west central Minnesota. Our staff are located in one of our 5 office locations, but many are actually housed right in the school districts they work in!

Employee retention is important to us!

~The average length of service for all SW/WC SC employees is 7.57 years.
~We currently have 24 employees who have been with the SW/WC SC for over 20 years.
~Thirty-seven employees have between 15-19 years of service, while there are 69 employees who have 10-14 years of service.

Ongoing education and continuous improvement is important to our staff. We have four PhDs working among us, and 82 employees who have an MS or MA degree.

2010-11 Agency Leadership Team

• Cliff Carmody, Executive Director • Deecy Jesse, Executive Assistant
• Annette Miller, Director of Finance • Bob Braun, Sr. Director of Teaching and Learning Services
• Darin Jensen, Sr. Director of Administrative Services • Diane McCarron, Interim Director of Special Education
• Doug Deragisch, Sr. Director of Risk Management Services • Edna Gossen, Operations Manager
• John Willey, Principal of Red Rock Ridge School • Josh Sumption, Manager of Information Technology
• Mary Palmer, Sr. Director of Special Education Services • Shelly Maes, Manager of Member Services
• Teresa Ostlie, Director of Special Education • Tammy Stahl, Director of Special Education

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

L-R, front: Jan Fransen, Jackson County; Carol Morgan, Luverne Schools; Paul Henriksen, RTR Schools; Mike O’Brien, New London-Spicer Schools; Loren Mathews, Glencoe-Silver Lake Schools

L-R, back: Kathryn Kelly, Renville County SWCD; Lynn Suter, KMS Schools; Mike Zins, Fulda Schools; Maydra Maas, Westbrook-Walnut Grove Schools; Don Brugman, Windom Schools; Sally Vogt, Canby Schools; Richard Vroman, Milroy Schools; Kathi Thymian, Ortonville Schools

Superintendent Executive Council

• Dan Deitte, Chair, Minneota Public Schools
• Bill Strom, Past-Chair, Mountain Lake Public Schools
• Rick Clark, Buffalo Lake-Hector-Stewart Public Schools
• Chris Sonju, Glencoe-Silver Lake Public Schools
• Chris Fenske, Lakeview Public Schools
• Klint Willert, Marshall Public Schools
• Paul Carlson, New London-Spicer Public Schools
• Lance Bagstad, Renville County West Public Schools
• Ted Suss, Wabasso Public Schools
• John Landgaard, Worthington Public Schools
• Michael Van Keulen, Minnesota West

• Keith Kottke, Vice-Chair, Springfield Public Schools
• Roger Graff, Adrian Public Schools
• Loren Hacker, Canby Public Schools
• Daron VanderHeiden, Hutchinson Public Schools
• Greg Schmidt, MACCRAY Public Schools
• Luther Heller, Montevideo Public Schools
• John Brennan, Red Rock Central Public Schools
• Dave Marlette, Tracy Area Schools
• Loy Woelber, Westbrook-Walnut Grove Public Schools
• Carol DeSmet, Holy Redeemer School
• Sharon Kabes, Southwest Minnesota State University

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

Visit us online at www.swsc.org

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