

# North Central ESD

## Mission of North Central ESD

The goals of North Central Education Service District (NCESD) are to assist component school districts in meeting the requirements of state and federal law, to improve student learning, to enhance the quality of instruction provided to students, to provide professional development to component school district employees, to enable component school districts and the students who attend schools in those districts to have equitable access to resources, and to maximize operational and fiscal efficiencies for component school districts. North Central ESD meets the challenge of its mission by providing services to its constituent districts. Serving about 700 students in a 3,500 square-mile geographically challenging area requires a commitment to education.

## Core Services – Technology Services

The North Central ESD Technology Department provides a variety of network services to its component school districts. Network support provided by North Central ESD includes the local area network as well as the wide area network. This support takes on many roles including design, installation, configuration, utilization monitoring, and troubleshooting of network switches, routers, firewalls, wireless access points, mail scanning, spam filtering, and antivirus updates. The ESD also provides basic network infrastructure support.

The Technology services provided also include helpdesk support. This service includes on-site computer setup, software installation, troubleshooting, hardware installation, and Q&A. The support is typically initiated via an online ticketing system, and response is rather immediate through the use of remote desktop assistance capabilities within the system.

The technology team at North Central ESD also supports the student information services software. All districts use SchoolMaster for student information services. The ESD also provides support for the Special Education data system currently used (SEAS).

## Core Services – Administrative and Support Services

North Central ESD provides core administrative and support services in many areas including administrative services, home schooling, and truancy.

Services include, but are not limited to services designed to consolidate component school district business functions, liaison services between the Department of Education and component school districts and registration of children being taught by private teachers, parents or legal guardians pursuant to ORS 339.035.

North Central ESD provides Attendance/Truancy services to the component districts within North Central ESD per ORS 339.040 (1). This service involves contacting the affected families and informing them of the laws regarding compulsory attendance. The ESD also assists districts in notification of concerned agencies – County Juvenile Department, local law enforcement agencies, and Department of Human Services (Services to Children and Families). If necessary,

North Central ESD also has the authority to issue citation under ORS 339.020 and 339.990 (failure to maintain a child in school).

## Core Services – School Improvement Services

School Improvement services are provided by a school improvement specialist who regularly meets and assists districts in implementing research-based practices that address Common Core State Standards to ensure a quality education for all students. This person provides technical assistance and professional development to teachers in curriculum, instruction, and assessment. The specialist assists with all levels of instruction, regardless of ability or grade level.

The school improvement specialist works with districts to analyze data, review best practices, and plan implementation strategies for improving student achievement. This person also coordinates and provides content workshops for school staff, as well as facilitates opportunities for mentoring and/or content area cohorts within and between component districts. Professional development opportunities afforded by this position are based on data analysis and best practices, and is offered both within the schools and at the ESD.

Another component of this position is to assist districts in the development, writing, implementation, and continual refinement of the Continuous Improvement Plan. As the Oregon Department of Education demands more and more of the districts in terms of reporting and evaluation, the position lends itself to assisting districts with these demands.

## Programs for Children with Special Needs

The ESD assists local school districts in providing Special Education services for students. The service will include Special Education instructors, Speech Pathologists, paraprofessionals, ESD Administration of staff, O & M, and fiscal services. Program responsibility, however, ultimately rests with the component districts outside the staffing limits provided within the budget of this service and funding constraints. The services may include, depending on individual needs, testing, referral, coordination with other agencies for services, staffing, professional development opportunities, and consultation, as well as System Program Review and Improvement for the Oregon Department of Education. North Central ESD will assist local districts by providing diagnostic services in speech and language, initial hearing screening for students residing in the county, and provide therapy services for speech and language handicapped students in the schools within North Central ESD.

## EI/ECSE

North Central ESD Child Find provides services for all of the six districts. This is a state-mandated program that is the district responsibility, but is provided by the ESD. This involves the screening of children below school age for special education services which is accomplished by our Early Education office, EI/ECSE office, and WIC working together.

## Library Services

The ESD provides library supervision by a HQ Media Specialist for all districts. This service meets the state standards and helps the library assistants in the districts with technology, software, books and other purchases as needed by the district.

## Legislative Services

The ESD purchases the services of a lobbyist to serve the districts and the ESD in Salem and in other situations throughout the year. This service has been used by a number of districts when legislation was needed or legislation was harmful to small districts.

## Instructional Support Services

Instructional Support Services is a resolution that provides non-special education supports to improve instruction within schools. These supports are in the form of additional course offerings (historically Health, EMR, Fire Sciences, Anatomy and Physiology, and Medical Terminology), CTE instructional coordination for Perkins eligible programs, grant writing coordination and services, and classroom supports. Classroom supports may include instructional assistants and costs associated with support and training of assistants.

## Entrepreneurial Services

North Central ESD provides technology services and Internet connectivity to the county offices of Gilliam, Sherman, and Wheeler Counties. This work is done through an agreement with all three counties and an individual contract with each county. The ESD also runs a Print Shop available to component districts as well as outside agencies and individuals.

Fiscal services are provided to two of the six component districts. These include payroll, accounts receivable, accounts payable, and associated duties.

North Central ESD also offers consulting services in the areas of curriculum, instruction, and assessment. These services are offered on a cost-recovery basis.