

2019-20 ANNUAL REPORT

We support and enhance the work of our members by providing programs and services that meet their needs.

GREAT people doing **GREAT** things!

2020-21 EVENT CALENDAR

2019-20: AN UNPRECEDENTED YEAR



Maydra Maas SWWC Board Chair Westbrook -Walnut Grove Schools

An annual report is many things. It is certainly a factual guide for its membership and an historical record of an organization in a particular time and place.

But it is more ...

SWWC's offering is a reflection of our unendingly competent and compassionate work in shaping an amazing world for our kiddos. These pages also bear witness to our staff who posess a tremendous variety of gifts as they serve ALL of our school and public sector members. This is surely cause for celebration and delight ... forget COVID-19!

SWWC is still doing what we do best through our mission, our vision and our core values of service, integrity and respect.

On behalf of the SWWC Board of Directors and our entire organization, I offer you this collective memory. Everyone in it is a treasure. You as a valued member form a part of SWWC tapestry. Sincere appreciation for your continued help, support and encouragement as SWWC continues to move forward in this new normal.



Cliff Carmody Executive Director

Our programs and services exist for one purpose – to support and enhance the mission and work of our members!

This Annual Report highlights the 2019-20 programs, services and accomplishments of SWWC. I hope you will see how our mission is the mission of our members.

Our shared services model of delivering programs and services is the foundation of our existing program and service solutions, as well as, a number of new and existing initiatives from this past year. Entrepreneurial in spirit, we invest in the development of new programs that meet the needs of our members. As a membership driven organization, the SWWC Board and administration work collaboratively with our members to offer programs and services that support, enhance and meet their needs.

Our values of service, integrity and respect form the foundation for the work we do and are embedded in the benefits we provide our members. At the center of these values is service; we believe service is a commitment to serve our members, potential members, co-workers 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.

Of course the last few months of the 2019-20 year were unexpected and unprecedented. Our staff did an outstanding job working through the COVID-19 pandemic by providing consistent, high-quality services during extremely challenging times. The pandemic has impacted our work today and will continue to impact our work tomorrow. However, I am confident that SWWC will continue to address all of these challenges head on and working together, we will all be better!

As we plan for 2020-21, we continue to recognize the needs of our members. We are grounded and committed to our service approach and will continue to find ways to be innovative in our practice of administering high quality, affordable programs and services. The continued impact of the pandemic will require us to adjust where necessary, but we will not waiver from our commitment to providing high quality, affordable and value-added solutions.

Thank you for all that you do in supporting our work together. I look forward to working with you in the coming year as we continue to find ways to meet your needs.

GOVERNANCE



Maydra Maas, Chair Westbrook-Walnut Grove



Dr. Kathryn Kelly, Vice-Chair Renville Co. SWCD



Don Brugman, Clerk Windom



Tom Walsh, Treasurer KMS



Darin Balken Prairie Lakes Youth Program



Jody Bauer Tracy Area



Matt Coleman Marshall



Kari Harding Canby



Michael Hendrickson ACGC



Maggie Kluver Montevideo



Steve Schnieder Worthington



Mike Zins Fulda

We have a highly skilled and talented group of over 450 professionals who embrace our core values in all they do.

Our team members work throughout our 18-county region and are located in our offices and ELCs, as well as right in the school district(s) they serve!

Employee Retention

Average length of service for current staff is 5.6 years!

- 23 have worked over 20 years
- 21 have worked 15-19 years
- 34 have worked 10-14 years

Advanced Education

- 12 staff have a Ph. D
- 159 have a master's degree

INTEGRITY R RESPECT E























INTERVENER MEETS A NEED

SWWC was called to answer a new need at Willmar Public Schools for 2019-20. After a year of assessment and recommendations from specialists at Greater MN Launch PAD (State-Initiated, Federally Funded Special Education Programs) and the Minnesota DeafBlind Project, it was determined that a student needed an intervener.

An intervener is someone who:

- provides consistent one-toone support throughout the instructional day to a student who is deaf-blind.
- is typically a paraeducator with specialized training in deafblindness and the process of intervention.

Intervener services for children who are deaf-blind include:

- providing access to information and communication.
- facilitating the development of social and emotional well-being.

Josh Nelson is SWWC's Intervener. He has a background in American Sign Language Interpreting and experience as a Paraprofessional. Throughout the 19-20 school year, he participated one weekend a month in the Intervener Training Series through the Minnesota DeafBlind Project. He is now working on journal entries and creating a portfolio to fulfill National Intervener Certification.

JULY 2020

SUN MON TUE **WED** THU FRI SAT Independence Day SWWC Closed 7 8 9 10 П 6 12 13 15 14 16 17 18 SWWC Board of Directors Meeting 20 23 19 22 24 25 **SWWC FAST FACT** 27 28 26 29 30 31 Ninety percent of children who are identified as deaf-blind have additional physical, medical and/or cognitive disabilities. Without support, these kids are cut off WWW.SWWC.ORG/SPED

from most, if not all, communication and activities in their environment.

SWWC INSURANCE POOL BENEFITS

- SWWC: Dedicated staff for insurance and wellness
- BCBS: Dedicated Account Executive
- Formulary Insulin: Covered at \$0 deductable
- Omada and Omada Type 2: For those who have, or are at risk for, Type 2 Diabetes and heart disease
- Sharecare: Walk an average of 10,000 steps over 21 days a month - receive a \$20 gift card
- Smartshopper: Shop for services choose the cheapest provider - receive an incentive check
- Blue365: Online discount program for health related items
- Learn to Live: Online program to work through issues such as depression, stress, insomnia, etc.
- **Dr. on Demand:** Online 24/7/365 telehealth with rates lower than in-person
- Livewell Wellness and Incentive Program:
 Two wellness activities + one biometric
 screening = \$500 into member HSA/VEBA
- Further: Preferred pricing on Medical Savings Accounts with dedicated staff
- Quit Tobacco/Vape Program: Work with a coach to quit smoking/vaping
- Maternity Management Program: One-onone support during/after pregnancy



AUGUST 2020

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			PBIS Cohort	16 Training		
2	3	PBIS Cohort 15 Training	5	6	Gathering of Champions at Mall of America	1/8
9	10		SWWC Staff New Employee Orientation	SWWC Staff Fall In-Service 13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
22	First Day of School • ELC - Pipestone	25	SWWC Board	First Day of School • ELC - Cosmos	20	20
23	24	25	of Directors Meeting 26	27	28	Children's
30	First Day of School • ELC - Belview • ELC - Montevideo	SWWC LIVE WELL	Minnesota Healthcare Consortium Porticulary Virtual Direct Company			Children's Vision and Learning Month

WWW.SWWC.ORG/HEALTHINSURANCE WWW.SWWC.ORG/LIVEWELL



FINDING THEIR **PASSION IN LIFE**

The 2019-20 school year proved to be very challenging for spring events. The Science and Nature Conference, the Author/Illustrator Program, and the Awards Ceremony for the Creative Writing Contest were held virtually due to the pandemic. Despite the challenge of moving the events to a virtual environment, students and families were still able to participate and learn from the presenters and other activities.

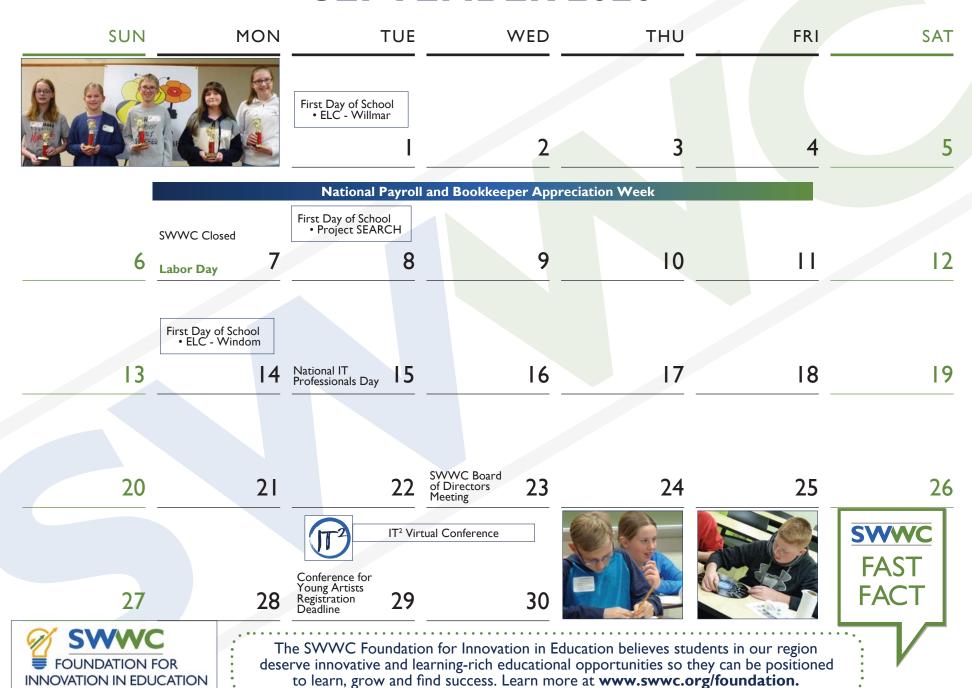
2019-20 Student Participation

- Conference for Young Artists: 961
- Conference for Young Writers: 543
- Science & Nature Conference: Over 2,500 visits to virtual conference website
- Regional Spelling Bee Grades 5-8
 - School Participation: 27 districts
 - Student Participation/Local Bees: 5,287
- Junior High Knowledge Bowl
 - 33 schools
 - 83 teams 424 students
- Senior High Knowledge Bowl
 - 37 schools
 - 101 teams 522 students
- Author & Illustrator Program Grades K-6
 - Over 1.000 views of virtual author/ illustrator visits
- Creative Writing Contest Grades 3-1218 schools and 20 families

 - 178 students 256 entries

www.swwc.org/studentactivities

SEPTEMBER 2020





APPROPRIATE FACILITIES FOR STUDENTS

"SWWC believes that students with disabilities deserve the best education we can provide ... and that includes an appropriate facility that allows them to be as successful as they can be." This statement from SWWC's Executive Director Cliff Carmody guides the work being done at our Educational Learning Centers across the region.

In September, our brand new building in Montevideo opened (shown above), showcasing a learning space designed to meet the needs of students in Setting IV programs. With flexible zones for learning, lots of natural light, secure entrances, and numerous safety and accessibility features, the building is a model for our other educational learning center sites.

Repurposing the learning space at ELC - Cosmos and ELC - Pipestone occurred during the 2019-20 school year. Secure entrances were added, glass and other objects that could be dangerous for staff and students were removed, and flexible learning spaces were created to enhance learning for students.

Facility work continues to progress across the region and our vision remains strong - to provide appropriate facilities that allow our students to be as successful as they can be.

OCTOBER 2020

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	тни	FRI	SAT
National Principals Month	National Physical Therapy Month	National Audiology Awareness Month		IT ² Virtual Conference	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	Columbus Day 12	I3	14	MEA Conference 15	16	17
18	19	APTRETS 20	2 I	22	23	24
25	26	27	Author/Illustrator Program Registration Deadline SWWC Board of Directors Meeting 28	29	30	31

WWW.SWWC.ORG/ELC
WWW.SWWC.ORG/FACILITIES

ORIENTATION AND MOBILITY

Orientation and mobility is described as safe and efficient travel through an environment ... and it is a critical component of the education of students who are blind/visually impaired.

O&M evaluation and instruction should begin in infancy by a licensed O&M specialist. Vision provides the primary motivation for infants to begin moving their bodies. Significant delays and differences in meeting milestones can impact overall development.

Students need to know how classrooms or other environments are arranged in order to independently move with confidence.

As the student gets older, they need more advanced age-appropriate travel skills, such as street crossings, bus travel and community experiences. Students benefit from instruction that facilitates purposeful movement and increases independence to the greatest degree possible.

How can an O&M Specialist help a student in your district who is blind/visually impaired?

- Help a student explore a sport/court/arena to help them understand a difficult-to-grasp concept.
- Teach a student how to cross two busy streets to get to his school/home.
- Instruct a student in the use of a GPS device
- Teach long cane travel skills so the student can maneuver independently through schools and communities (shown at right).
- Orient an older student with a dog guide to her new college or job site.
- Motivate an infant to engage in purposeful movement towards a musical toy.
- Provide sensitivity training on visual impairments.



NOVEMBER 2020

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	J FRI	SAT
			PBIS Cohort I	6 Training		
Daylight Saving Time Ends	T&L Shared Services 2 Common In-Service	3	4	Spelling Bee Registration Deadline	PBIS Cohort 15 6	7
8	9 	10 nerican Education We	Veteran's Day	ology Awareness We		14
			Education Support Professionals Day			
15	16	17	SWWC Board of Directors Meeting	19	Substitute Educators Day	21
				SWWC Closed	SWWC Closed	
22	23	24	25	Thanksgiving 26	27	28
29	30	THE REPORT OF THE PARTY OF THE				FAST FACT
www.sww	C.ORG/SPED	During the 2 to si	2019-20 school ye ix different school	ar, SWWC prov I districts across	ided O&M services the region.	



SWWC EDUCATION CONSULTANTS

Support schools with:

- Data Mining and Analysis
- Unpacking of Standards and Development of Learning Targets
- Curriculum Selection, Alignment and Implementation
- Instructional Strategies and Instructional Coaching
- PLC Development and Implementation
- Standards Based Grading
- Guided Reading

Coordinate these services:

- North Collaborative
- South Collaborative (shown left)
- Shared Services (shown below)
- Guided Reading
- Data & Intervention
- Instructional Coaching

DECEMBER 2020

SUN MON TUE **WED** THU FRI SAT National Special Education Day **Nominations** Conference for Young Writers Registration Deadline **JHKB** Registration Deadline П 12 10 SWWC Board of Directors Meeting 13 14 18 16 19 SWWC Closed JHKB Region 8 Sub-Region JHKB Region 6 Sub-Region 22 23 26 Christmas Day **SWWC FAST FACT** 27 28 29 30 31 WWW.SWWC.ORG/ T&L also has instructional coaching training with the New Teacher Center AND one of MN's first Alternative Teacher Preparation Programs.

TEACHINGANDLEARNING



A TECHNOLOGY-PACKED RESPONSE TO THE PANDEMIC

Technology has always been an important part of our work. For most people, it operates in the background and when we need it, is expected to work. When it doesn't, the "techs" get a call. Never before has the critical role of technology in everything we do been more visible to us all than March 2020 - when COVID-19 shut down our schools, our communities, our lives.

SWWC has a strong technology department that rose to the challenges the pandemic created. One great example of our increased dependence on technology to our operations is prior to the pandemic, our average video conferencing utilization was an impressive 26 hours a day. After the March 15 announcement of school closures for distance learning planning and later the stay-at-home order, the average video conferencing utilization increased to 325 hours a day. The SWWC technology department had built an infrastructure that allowed a relatively seamless transition to the "new norm," allowing staff to care for their families while working remotely. SWWC technology staff were instrumental in the planning and training that took place in our member schools and at SWWC, as shown above, additional training was provided to 180 special education professionals from across the SWWC region on the utilization of the SWWC Telepractice Model in preparation for the Distance Learning Period.

JANUARY 2021

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					SWWC Closed New Year's Day	2
3	4	5	JHKB Super Regional	CONFERENCE FOR YOUNG WRITERS	8	9
10	T&L North & South	12	13	14	Creative Writing Contest Submission Deadline	16
17	T&L North & South Collabs Common In-Service Day Martin Luther King Jr. Day	19	20	21	22	23
24/31	25	26	SWWC Board of Directors Meeting 27	28	29	30

WWW.SWWC.ORG/TECHNOLOGY

Watch MDE's website for Paraprofessional Recognition Week!



REBUILDING CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

MN West Carl Perkins Consortium

• 38 high schools and five post-secondary campuses

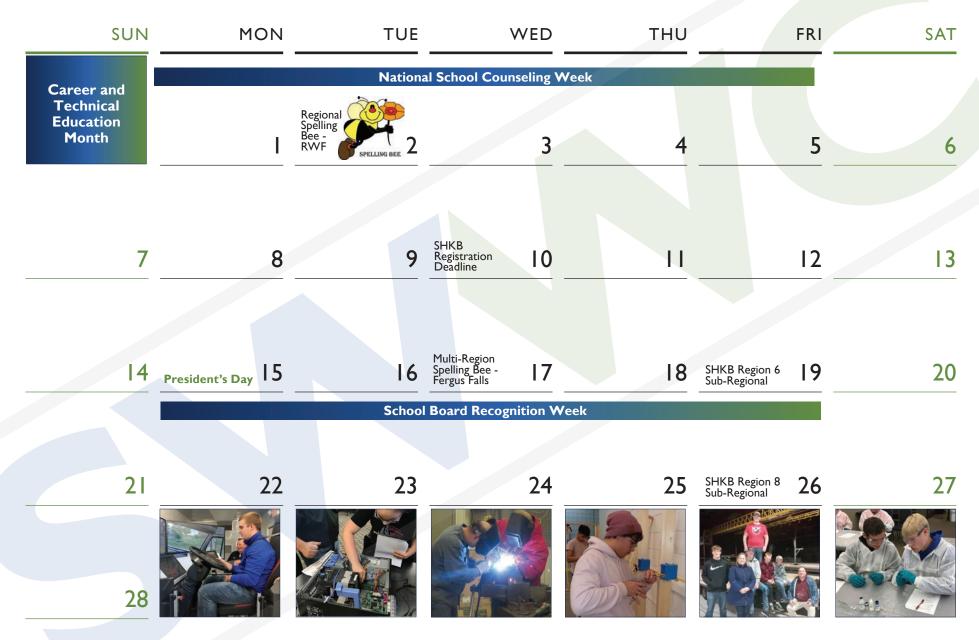
Major Student Events

- Digital Photography Competition
 - 52 students 5 school districts
- Southwest Minnesota Career Expo
 - 1,843 students 32 school districts
- Culinary Skills Challenge
 - Canceled due to pandemic

LYFT Career Pathways

- 38 funded projects
- 3000+ students in LYFT Pathways-funded CTE courses/projects
- 405 students earned 1,097 college credits to date
- 250+ business partners
- \$1.5 million remaining to fund projects for FY21 and FY22

FEBRUARY 2021



WWW.SWWC.ORG/CARLPERKINS WWW.LYFTPATHWAYS.ORG



RECRUIT. RETAIN. DEVELOP.

During 2019-20, SWWC hired over 40 people in the following positions:

- Behavior Analyst
- Behavior Therapist
- Special Education Teacher
- Paraprofessional
- School Psychologist
- Speech Language Pathologist
- Occupational Therapist
- Physical Therapist
- Business Services Specialist
- Network Coordinator

Many of these positions are hard to fill, so one of our strategies for finding candidates was travelling to universities across the midwest to broaden SWWC's reach of diverse candidates. Over the year, we developed relationships with over 100 candidates in multiple disciplines.

We also provided recruiting services to our members in the following ways:

- Advertising Services
- Referral Services
- Career Placement Website

MARCH 2021

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Brain Injury Awareness Month	SHKB Region 8 Sub-Regional	PBIS Cohort 15 Training National S	PBIS Cohor 3 School Social Worker	t 16 Training 4	National Employee Appreciation Day 5	6
		National	School Social Worker	Week		
7	SHKB Region 8 Regional	9	10		12	13
Daylight Saving 4 Time Begins	15	16	17	18	SHKB Region 6 Regional	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31	The state of the s		Middle Level Education Month



And I Would Work 300 Miles Away: Managing the Remote Worker

SOUTHWEST WEST CENTRAL SERVICE COOPERATIVE



Education & Administrative Resources

Presenters:

Amber Bruns, MS, BCBA, LBA
Clinical Director of Behavioral Health Services

Jason Dybsetter, MA, BCBA Behavior Analyst Lead Service. Integrity. Respect.

EXPANDED BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES

The behavioral health service needs of our member districts have consistently increased over the last decade. To meet that need, we've added both staff and programming. In fact, our staffing has grown from 0.5 FTE in 2011-12 to 26 FTEs in 2019-20.

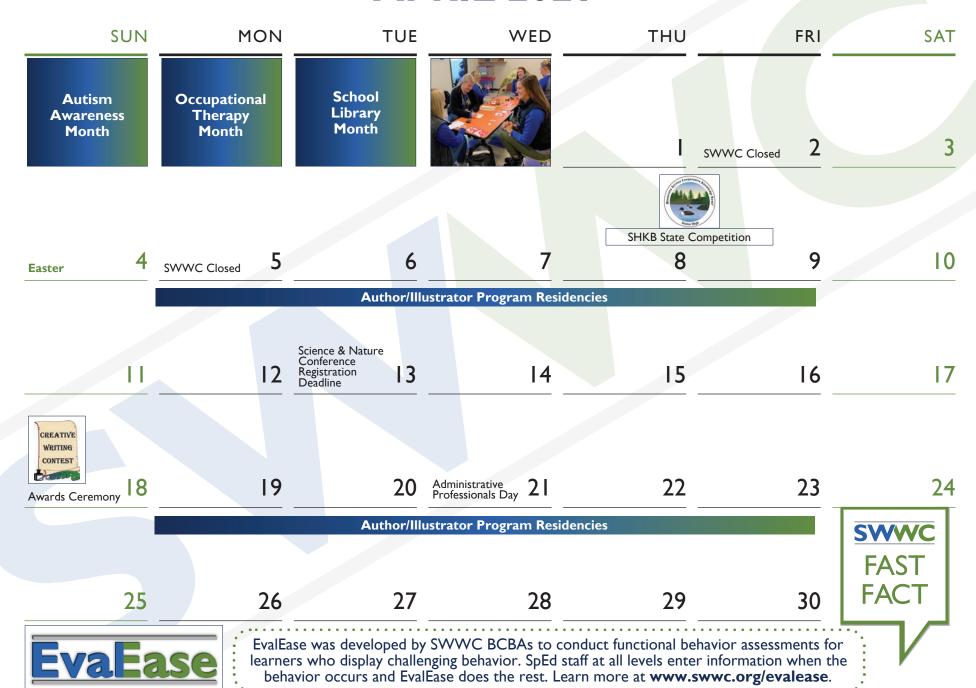
Beginning September 2019, exciting, life-changing services were added to support groups of people previously without support.

- The Ready Clinic (TRC): Early intervention Applied Behavior Analysis therapy to children up to age 6, diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder or a related condition. In 2019-20, TRC opened at the ELCs in Montevideo and Pipestone. In 2020-21, TRC will open at ELC - Cosmos.
- Mental Health Services: Services and supports to help individuals and care providers in schools, governmental agencies and whenever needs may arise.

These new services and team members join our core service of providing Applied Behavior Analysis support to students and teachers in our member districts and at the SWWC Educational Learning Centers.

As behavioral health needs of the population continue to rise, Behavioral Health Services at SWWC remains committed and able to support those in our region and beyond.

APRIL 2021





SWWC TECH INTEGRATION

SWWC's Educational Learning Centers and member school districts rely on our technology integration services for teacher trainings and 21st Century Skill learning for students. Through our technology integration services, we offer training to teachers on GSuite for Education tools, Promethean and SMART Boards, Digital Citizenship instruction, and new curriculum and technology ideas to use in the classroom. Teachers have opportunities to grow through one-on-one, small-group, and large-group trainings on a variety of educational tools.

SWWC also offers students differentiated instruction through team building, critical and creative thinking, and enhanced digital learning. Students at our member schools learn to code, create 3D printer pens, explore the world through VR kits and Google Expeditions, cooperate in Breakout EDU games, receive training on Google Chromebooks, participate in Mystery Skypes across the globe, become digital citizens, and build projects through our STEAM curriculum. We always encourage students to create and explore, and we offer as many new 21st century opportunities in learning.

During 2019-20, SWWC's Technology Integration Specialist, David Berner (shown left), worked directly with five school districts and SWWC's Educational Learning Centers. David has the following certifications: Level I and Level 2 Certified Educator with Google for Education, Promethean Certified Teacher, Common Sense Educator and SMART Certified Trainer.

MAY 2021

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		Tead	cher Appreciation We	eek		
2	3	National Teacher Day	5	National Children's Mental Health Awareness Day	7	1/8
9	10	Charles & Nature Confession	National School 12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
10	17	10				
23	24	25	26	27	Better Hearing and	Global Employee
30	SWWC Closed Memorial Day 3		RIENDS	225	Speech Month	Employee Health and Fitness Month



MEMBERS ARE OUR BUSINESS

We aim to assure that students in rural districts have access to educational opportunities that students in larger districts experience. By working together with SWWC to pool money and staff, members gain needed service -- allowing small, rural districts to maximize resources, bringing equal opportunities to all students. Membership provides access to educational and administrative programs and services AND members receive preferred pricing on professional development opportunities.

Full members: Public school districts, cities, counties and other governmental agencies within the SWWC service area (economic regions 6 and 8).

Associate members: Nonpublic schools, partnership agencies and nonprofit organizations within the SWWC service area AND schools, cities, counties, partnership agencies, nonprofits and other governmental agencies outside our service area.

JUNE 2021

SU	UN N	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			<u> </u>	2	3	4	5
	6	7	8	9	SWWC Staff Spring In-Service	11	12
	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
	13	17	15	10	17		
	20	21	22	23	24	25	26 SWWC FAST
	27	28 :		30	a time \$25 member		FACT
WWW.SWW	VC.ORG/MEM	BERS	Associat	e members pay a one	e-time \$25 membe one-time \$50 mer	mbership fee.	



FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Our core values of service, integrity and respect are the foundation for all we do, including our efforts to be great financial stewards of the resources we are given to serve our members.

2019-20 REVENUES

\$ 4,817,223
12,973,228
10,757,359
8,905,551
\$ 37,453,360

Budgeted revenues increased 0.25% from previous year.

The insurance pool revenue decreased 12% from previous year to \$67 million.

2019-20 EXPENDITURES

General Administration (10%)	\$ 4,210,802
Teaching and Learning (7%)	3,232,984
Educational Learning Centers (34%)	14,903,788
Special Education (36%)	15,945,801
Behavioral Health (5%)	2,338,248
Administrative Services (8%)	3,348,234
TOTAL	\$ 43,979,857

Expenditures include the planned spend down for building improvements.

2019-20 SUPERINTENDENTS' EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Chair: Kevin Enerson, Pipestone Area Vice-Chair: Scott Monson, Marshall Past Chair: Ryan Nielsen, Canby Paul Bang, Heron Lake-Okabena Dan Deitte, Minneota & Ivanhoe Dr. Chris Fenske, Lakeview David Hansen, Dawson-Boyd Dr. Luther Heller, Montevideo John Landgaard, Worthington Dennis Laumeyer, Benson Joe Meyer, MCC Dr. Michelle Mortensen, Renville County West Craig Oftedahl, Luverne Nels Onstad, ACGC Greg Schmidt, LqPV Richard Schneider, YME

Chris Sonju, Glencoe-Silver Lake Wayne Wormstadt, Windom Area Dr. Sonya Vierstraete, Southwest Minnesota State Dr. Terry Gaalswyk, Minnesota West

The Superintendents' Executive Council provides advice and support to SWWC Administration and Board of Directors.





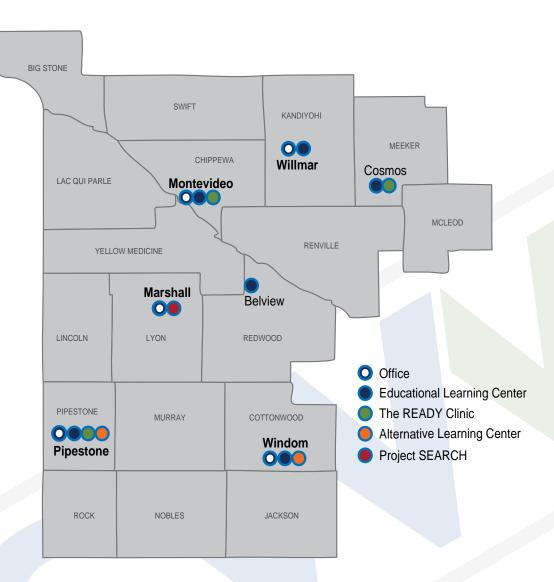
2020 MASA Region 3
Administrator of Excellence

Wayne Wormstadt Windom









SWWC is dedicated to providing unparalleled education and administration services, innovative solutions and uncompromising support to our members and the communities we serve with integrity, respect and responsive action.

OUR SERVICE AREA

Our geographic boundaries cover the 18 counties of southwest and west central Minnesota, but our programs and services span beyond those boundaries.

WWW.SWWC.ORG



SWWC Main Office 1420 East College Drive Marshall, MN 56258 507-537-2240



SWWC is a member of The Minnesota Service Cooperatives, an association of nine educational service agencies in Minnesota.