



Annual Report

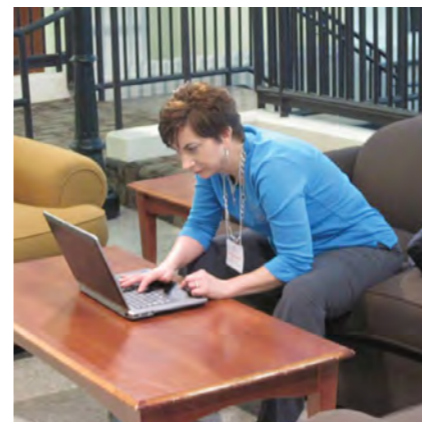
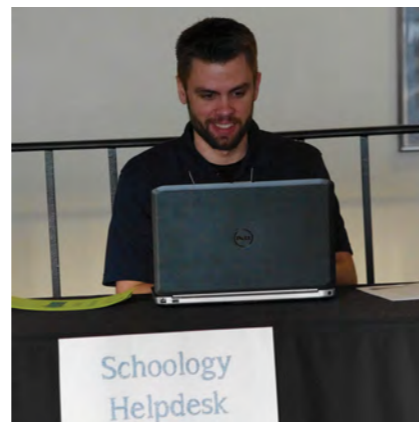
To Our Partners **2013-2014**

Partnership.

Innovation.

Leadership.

Service.



From the Executive Director Cliff Carmody



Friends of SW/WC Service Cooperative:

“Partnership, Innovation, Leadership, and Service”

The SW/WC Service Cooperative Board, administration, and staff focus on providing programs and services that meet the needs of our members!

This *Annual Report to our Partners* illustrates the core mission, values, and commitment our agency has for our region. As you review this report, I hope you will see how our programs and services are critical to, and support the work of, the members we serve.

Our shared services model of delivering services is demonstrated through the new and existing initiatives highlighted in this report. We are a membership driven organization...through the use of a number of advisory committees, our Board and administration work collaboratively with our members to offer programs and services that support, enhance, and meet the needs of our members.

Our core values of service, integrity, and respect form 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, 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.

As we plan for 2014-15, 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 administering high quality programs and services.

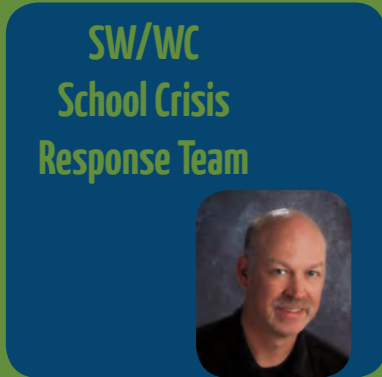
Thank you for your support of our collaborative work and I look forward to working with you to address the challenges of the new year!

Partnership

Uniting with members to meet needs

Innovation

Researching and initiating new programs and services



The School Crisis Response Team is comprised of over 70 trained individuals from schools in our region who are either mental health professionals or licensed support team members. The team provides support to students and staff through the facilitation of debriefings, defusing, and crisis management briefings following the protocol of the CISM (Critical Incident Stress Management) model. The team is coordinated by Brian Skogen from Canby Public Schools (pictured above), with additional leadership support from Jason Kratochvil from the SW/WC SC. Since the team's creation in 2010, the 2013-14 school year proved to be the most tragic, with countless hours of support provided to districts by the team members. We thank Brian Skogen for the exceptional leadership he provided in the region this past year--working days, nights and weekends to meet school needs.

Located in Willmar, the North Central Learning Center (NCLC) completed its first year of operation in the Spring of 2014. The North Central Learning Center is a program that serves students with special education and therapeutic mental health needs. The program has grown and additional staff have been added. We look forward to continued growth and collaboration with our member districts. The program employs three teachers, three mental health workers and four paraprofessionals. The North Central Learning Center will be adding a part-time administrator for the 2014-2015 school year.

This past year, the SW/WC SC partnered with SafeSchoools to offer three exciting programs to our member districts. The three programs include:
 *Online Staff Training and Tracking Program. This program allows a district to see where they can increase compliance, offer easy to use training, and save time and money.
 *Online (M)SDS Management Program. This program is an affordable and easy way to access Safety Data Sheets by creating and storing virtual binders.
 *Bullying Reporting and Tracking Program. This program is a great way to receive and track tips reported via phone, text, email, and web.

The SW/WC SC became a partner in the Minnesota Partnership for Collaborative Curriculum (MPCC) on behalf of its school district members. MPCC is a grassroots initiative among schools to create comprehensive open education resources, with the overall goal to create course work in a digital format in the four core subject areas for grades 3-12. Membership benefits to districts include:
 *Access to high quality curriculum aligned to standards and available at minimal cost;
 *Local control to edit, remove, add, or customize the content;
 *Improved capacity for personalized learning; and
 *Training opportunities for teachers to develop digital content and become skilled in delivering personalized learning through digital content.

The MDE monitoring process is an on-going endeavor for all 46 school districts who purchase special education coordinator/director services from the the SW/WC SC. This year, for the first time, all 46 school districts were on the same schedule and thus, had to complete a "Self-Review". Janet Dirksen, Coordinator of Special Education, was assigned to facilitate and oversee the process for all of our districts. This marked the first time one coordinator was assigned to the entire process -- with the hope that the process would be streamlined and more efficient for all districts. Of the 676 files reviewed, a variety of citations were found but overall the districts did very well. We are now in the process of making corrections and getting ready for the next step next year.

The SW/WC SC is home to a new Regional Center of Excellence: the Southwest Prairie Regional Center of Excellence. The goal is "to assist and support school boards, school districts, school sites, and charter schools in implementing research-based interventions and practices to increase student achievement within a region". The Center will serve all schools by providing training in dropout prevention, transition to postsecondary education and employment, and statewide curriculum standards implementation. This partnership with MDE allows dissemination of information to our schools through a regional training format. MDE Specialists conduct the initial training session and center directors create additional training modules to assist school districts through the implementation process.



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, grow and lead.

Students as Leaders--through our student enrichment programs, we offer students a variety of educational and leadership opportunities outside of the classroom. A parent recently sent us this note: "My children are former students of your various conferences. Two of my children have now graduated. Your conferences were amazing and my children learned so much. Sometimes the learning came from making contacts with other adults and kids of like mind. Two of my children (I have four) won first place in their science fair projects in Mankato. They were given ideas and advice on how to run a successful project. These two children are continuing their adulthood education in the medical field and engineering. My other daughter fell in love with German and Linguistic and my last one is still an art fanatic and the tips she received helped her to explore so much more on her own. She loves animation and pottery. Thank you so much for having these opportunities offered to our students in the regions. They learned so much".

Teachers as Leaders--through professional development, partnerships, and other collaborative ventures, we work to provide every kind of teacher the opportunity and ongoing support to be a great leader.

Staff as Leaders--through a variety of leadership opportunities, our staff can serve as mentors to new staff, serve on various committees, provide support, assistance and leadership to our member school districts, work as teachers in our alternative programs, and so much more.

Leaders in the Region--through active listening and experienced facilitation, our agency strives to provide leadership in the region through innovative and collaborative new ventures.

2013-14 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

Dr. Amy Christensen, Interim Director of the Southwest Prairie Regional Center of Excellence

Service

Serving the 18 counties of southwest and west central Minnesota

Office locations

Marshall, Montevideo, Pipestone, Willmar, and Windom

School Locations

Belview, Benson, Cosmos, Pipestone, Willmar, and Windom

Our Mission

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

Our Vision

By striving to be innovative, collaborative and responsive, we will be the premiere service agency for our members.



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
- Michael Zins, Fulda Schools
- Jan Fransen, Jackson County
- Tom Walsh, KMS Schools
- Maggie Kluver, Montevideo Schools
- David Kilpatrick, New London/Spicer Schools
- Jody Bauer, Tracy Schools
- Steve Schnieder, Worthington Schools

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

Board of Directors -- listed/pictured as of 6/30/14

Our Staff

We employ 291 regular employees throughout the 18 counties of southwest and west central Minnesota.

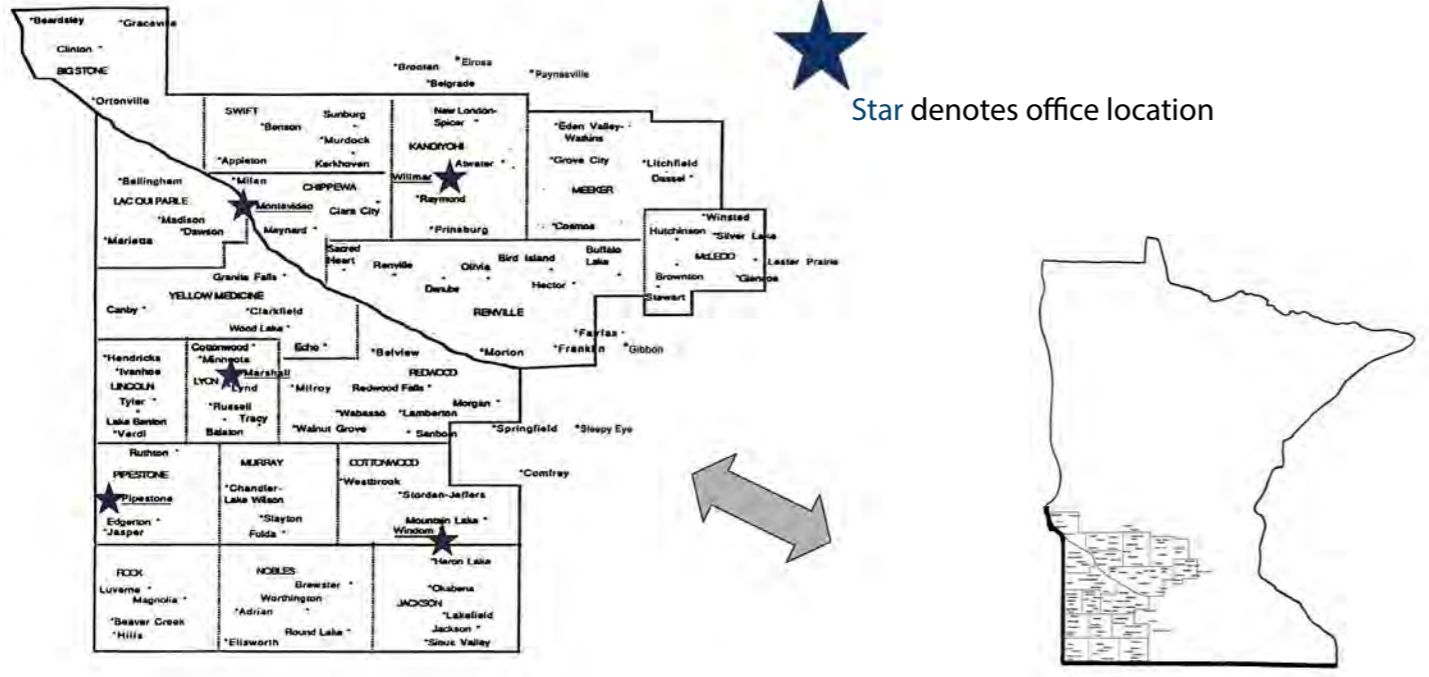
Our staff are located in one of our office or school locations, and many are housed right in the school district where they work.

Employee retention is important to us!

The average length of service for our current staff is over 7.15 years.

The number of employees who have worked at the SW/WC SC

- over 20 years: 25
- 15-19 years: 19
- 10-14 years: 32



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

Public, Private and Charter Schools

| | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Adrian | Milroy |
| ACGC | Milroy Area Charter |
| BBE | Minneota |
| Benson | Montevideo |
| BOLD | Mountain Lake |
| Buffalo Lake-Hector-Stewart | Mountain Lake Christian |
| Butterfield-Odin | Murray County Central |
| Canby | New Heights, Stillwater |
| Cedar Mountain | New London-Spicer |
| Central MN Christian, Prinsburg | Odyssey Charter, Bklyn Center |
| Clarkfield Area Charter | Ortonville |
| Cologne Academy | Paynesville |
| Comfrey | Pipestone Area |
| Dawson-Boyd | Prinsburg |
| E.C.H.O Charter | Red Rock Central |
| Eden Valley-Watkins | Redwood Area |
| Edgerton | Renville County West |
| Ellsworth | Round Lake - Brewster |
| Fulda | RTR |
| Gibbon-Fairfax-Winthrop | St. Anne's, Wabasso |
| Glencoe-Silver Lake | St. Edward, Minneota |
| Hendricks | St. James |
| Heron Lake-Okabena | St. Mary's, Bird Island |
| Hills-Beaver Creek | St. Mary's, Tracy |
| Holy Redeemer, Marshall | St. Mary's, Worthington |
| Holy Trinity, Winsted | St. Michael's, Morgan |
| Hutchinson | St. Paul Conserv. for Perf. Arts |
| Immanuel Lutheran, Lakefield | St. Rafael's, Springfield |
| Ivanhoe | Samuel Lutheran, Marshall |
| Jackson County Central | School of St. Peter, Canby |
| KMS | Sleepy Eye |
| Lac qui Parle Valley | Southwest Christian, Edgerton |
| Lake Benton | Springfield |
| Lakeview | Tracy Area |
| Lester Prairie | Wabasso |
| Luverne | Westbrook-Walnut Grove |
| Lynd | Willmar |
| MACCRAY | Windom |
| Marshall Area Christian | Worthington |
| Marshall | Yellow Medicine East |

Governmental Agency Members

| | |
|--|---|
| Cottonwood County Developmental Achievement Center | PACT 4 Families Collaborative |
| Countryside Public Health | Parkview Home |
| Des Moines Valley Health & Human Services | Pioneerland Library System |
| Hospice of Murray County | Pipestone County Soil and Water Conservation District |
| Housing and Redevelopment Authority of Redwood Falls | Pipestone County Medical Center |
| Jackson Housing and Redevelopment Authority | Prairie Lakes Youth Programs |
| Kandiyohi Area Transit | Red Rock Rural Water System |
| Kandiyohi Soil and Water Conservation District | Redwood County Soil and Water Conservation District |
| Lake Minnetonka Conservation District | Redwood-Cottonwood Rivers Control Area |
| Lincoln County Soil and Water Conservation District | Renville County Hospital and Clinics |
| Lincoln/Pipestone Rural Water | Renville County Soil and Water Conservation District |
| Marshall Municipal Utilities | Southwest Regional Development Commission |
| Mid-Minnesota Development Commission | Swift County-Benson Hospital |
| Murray County Developmental Achievement Center | Westbrook Public Utilities |
| Nobles County Soil and Water Conservation District | Willmar Municipal Utilities |
| | Windom Housing and Redevelopment Authority |

NonProfit Members

| | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| Adult Client Training Service | Progress, Inc. |
| Advance Opportunities | Retired Senior Volunteer Program of SW MN |
| Area II MN River Basin Projects | Southwest Minnesota Broadband Services |
| Chippewa River Watershed | SW MN Housing Partnership |
| Heartland Community Action | SW MN Opportunity Council |
| Hiawatha Manor | Western Community Action |
| New Life Treatment Center | |
| Prairie Five Community Action | |

City Members

| | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Adrian | Hanley Falls | Newport |
| Appleton | Hendricks | Oakdale |
| Atwater | Heron Lake | Pipestone |
| Benson | Jackson | Renville |
| Bird Island | Kerkhoven | Rosemount |
| Buffalo Lake | Lake Benton | Round Lake |
| Canby | Lake Elmo | Sacred Heart |
| Carver | Lakefield | Slayton |
| Clara City/Nursing Home | Madison | Spicer |
| Cosmos | Marshall | Springfield |
| Cottonwood | Maynard | St. Paul Park |
| Ellsworth | Mendota Heights | Stillwater |
| Fairfax | Milroy | Tyler |
| Franklin | Minneota | Vadnais Heights |
| Fulda | Montevideo | West St. Paul |
| Granite Falls | Mountain Lake | Willmar |
| Greenfield | New Prague | Windom |

County Members

| | |
|---------------|-----------------|
| Chippewa | Meeker |
| Cottonwood | Nobles |
| Jackson | Pipestone |
| Kandiyohi | Renville |
| Lac Qui Parle | Rock |
| Lincoln | Yellow Medicine |

South Dakota Cooperative Purchasing Members

Over 70 schools and agencies located in South Dakota are members of our Cooperative Purchasing Program, taking advantage of the best pricing available from our vendors.

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 some examples of the exceptional work being done day in and day out in the region by our staff.

Ongoing education and continuous improvement is important to our staff--8 have PhDs and 93 have an MS or MA degree.

Staying current with technology and social media are also important to us. We maintain an active presence on Facebook and Twitter.

www.swsc.org/social

Doug Deragisch, Senior Director of Risk Management Services, was elected to a 4-year term representing Agency-Statewide South Zone on the Minnesota Rural Education Association Board of Directors. Doug is also taking part in the Association of Educational Service Agencies' Executive in Residence Program. In May of 2014, Doug spent a week visiting Capital Region BOCES (Board of Cooperative Educational Services) in Albany, New York.

Our staff plan many conferences in the region, including This is IT2, the School Business Conference, the Summer Leadership Conference, the Paraprofessional Conference, the Summer Principal Summit, the Annual Health Conference, and many other workshops and trainings. Conferences, workshops and in-service trainings are held throughout the year in locations across our 18 county region.



Hazel Ashbeck



Kathleen Fischer



Kayla DeJong



Ryan Groeneweg



Paige Fossum



Diane McCarron

Hazel Ashbeck received national certification as a Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA). This required passing a national board exam after having completed a minimum of 1,500 hours of supervised work in the field and multiple accredited courses in Applied Behavior Analysis.

Kathleen Fischer completed training through Salus University (Pennsylvania) that allowed her to receive her vision teaching license. The Salus Program is very rigorous and difficult to complete. Kathleen is now serving students in our member districts who have vision needs.

Kayla DeJong completed the Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Disorder (FASD) Studies certificate program from the University of Minnesota, which allowed her to become the FASD consultant for the agency. Kayla is available to districts for consultation on how to assess and help children with FASD academically and behaviorally. Kayla also is available to educate staff on FASD and how to assist children with this diagnosis.

Ryan Groeneweg, Certified Behavior Analyst, was presented with the Heartland Association for Behavior Analysis (HLABA) Award of Excellence. The Award of Excellence is given to one individual in the area that has made a significant contribution to the advancement of the field of behavior analysis in our area.

Paige Fossum, a Licensed Graduate School Social Worker, was selected as the Patrick L. Redinius Spirit Award recipient for 2014, an honor given by the Center for Disabilities in Sioux Falls. This award is presented annually to a former trainee who has exemplified the following: enthusiasm and commitment to disability issues, a high level of energy for work in the field of disabilities, and compassion and respect for all.

Diane McCarron was named the 2014 New Special Education Leader by the Minnesota Administrators for Special Education (MASE). She was honored for her commitment to students with disabilities and their families, and her active involvement in professional and community affairs.



Learning is a treasure that will follow its owner everywhere.
~Chinese proverb



From the Board Chair Maydra Maas

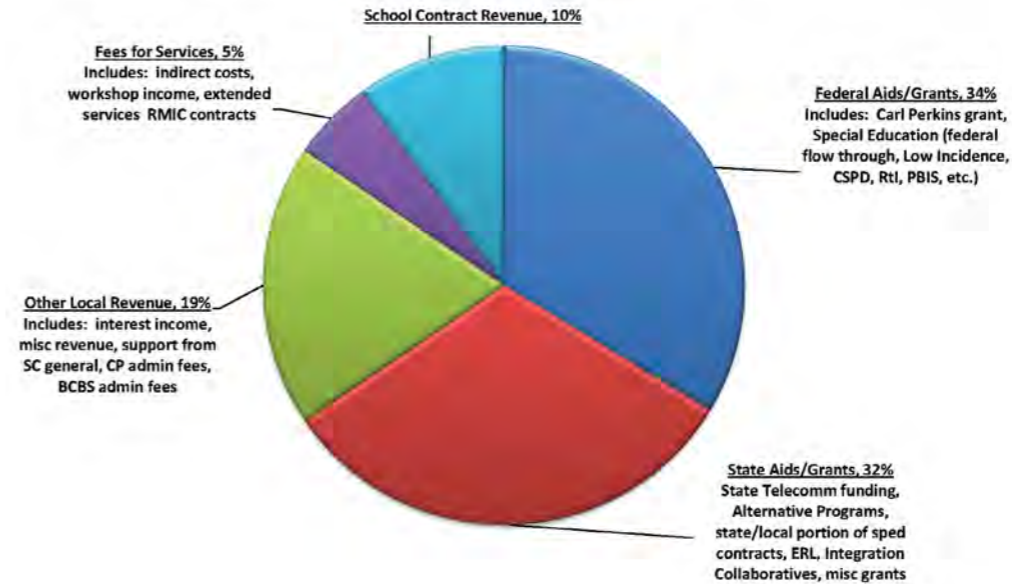
Today, I picture my grandson while sitting at the Westbrook-Walnut Grove School's "Little Charger" table. I want the absolute best for him. I want him to feel loved, stay healthy as he grows, and be ready for a lifetime of learning. I want this for **ALL** children in the SW/WC Service Cooperative area.

The SW/WC Service Cooperative doesn't do anything alone. Setting our children up for success is no different. It takes people in the rural communities across our region -- family, friends, neighbors, volunteers and our entire SW/WC Service Cooperative membership of cities, counties, governmental agencies and schools -- to raise a child.

I hope you will consider what you can do for each and every child. Gather with the excellent SW/WC Service Cooperative administration and staff. Push each other to think outside the box. Think big about what can be tackled together.

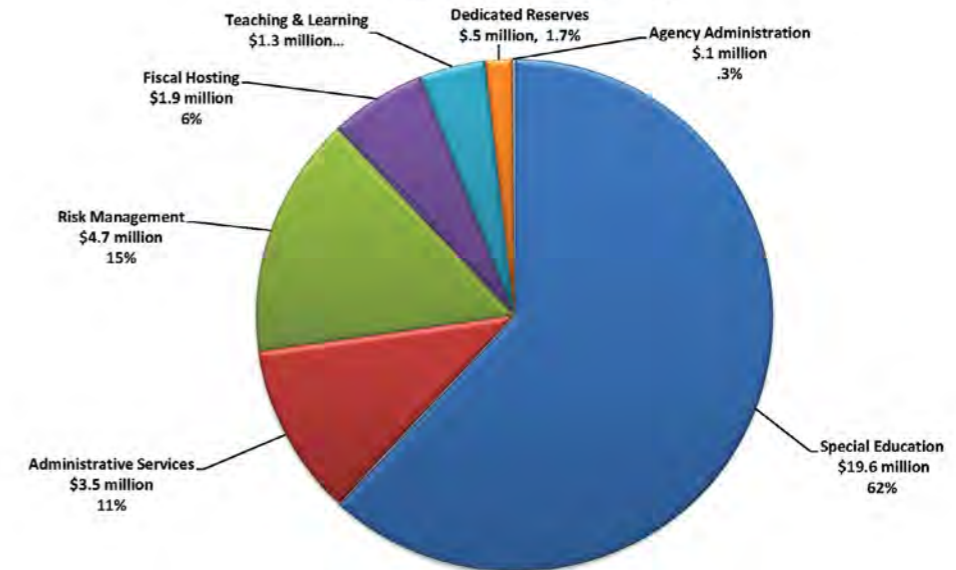
Thank you, one and all, for being part of the SW/WC Service Cooperative. There's always an open seat in true collaboration.

Budgeted 2013-14 Annual Revenues - \$30.2 million
(Excluding Insurance Premiums)



“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”
~Cliff Carmody
Executive Director

Budgeted 2013-14 Annual Expenditures - \$31.6 million
(Excluding Insurance Premiums)



Superintendents' Executive Council 2013-14

Chair: Jerry Kjergaard, Superintendent, Willmar

Vice Chair: Jim Lentz, Superintendent, Pipestone Area

Past Chair: Luther Heller, Superintendent, Montevideo

John Dotson, Superintendent, BOLD

Luther Onken, Superintendent, Fulda and Murray County Central

Chris Sonju, Superintendent, Glencoe-Silver Lake

Ann Wendorff, Superintendent, Heron Lake-Okabena

Todd Meyer, Superintendent, Jackson County Central

Chris Fenske, Superintendent, Lakeview

Klint Willert, Superintendent, Marshall

Dan Deitte, Superintendent, Minneota

Bill Strom, Superintendent, Mountain Lake

Robert Windel, Superintendent, Mountain Lake Christian

John Brennan, Superintendent, Red Rock Central

Ray Hassing, Superintendent, Round Lake-Brewster

Loy Woelber, Superintendent, Westbrook-Walnut Grove

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.



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

