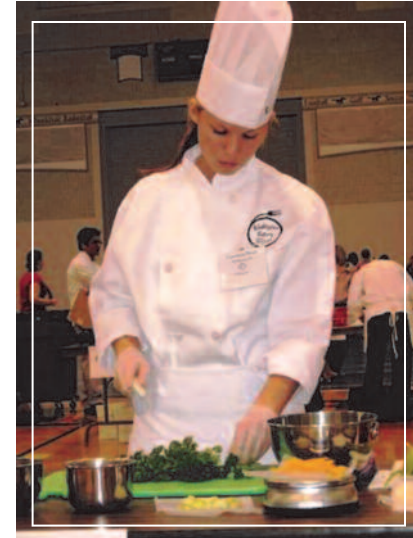


Annual Plan and Report



2008-2009



Partnership. Innovation. Leadership. Service.

Dear Friends of SW/WC Service Cooperative:

The staff, administration, and Board of the SW/WC Service Cooperative are committed to providing high quality programs and services to our members!

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.

Authorized by statute in 1976 as an Educational Cooperative Service Unit (ECSU), the history of the SW/WC Service Cooperative dates back to 1965 when the Southwest and West Central Minnesota Educational Research and Development Council (ERDC) was created. A pilot Educational Service Area (ESA) was established in 1973 and the Legislature authorized our enabling legislation in 1976. Our enabling legislation allows our agency to provide the programs and services to our members that we provide today! A “quasi-governmental agency” we receive no direct state aid, but through contracts and fees for service generate the revenue to support our various programs and services.

We are committed to working collaboratively with our members to bring opportunities, efficiencies, and innovative programs and services to our region. In this report, you will learn more about our programs and services. We are proud to be a partner with our school districts, cities, counties, and other governmental agencies as we embark on providing quality programs and services.

On behalf of our Board of Directors, we want to thank you for taking the time to review our annual report. As we continue to strive for transparency and accountability, we believe it is important to report back to our members the status of our programs and services.

Just as we believe it is important to report to you, we also believe it is important to listen to you! Please feel free to contact us with your thoughts, comments, and concerns!

Sincerely,

Cliff Carmody
Executive Director
SW/WC Service Cooperative



51,348

Number of students within the
SW/WC Service Cooperative
Region

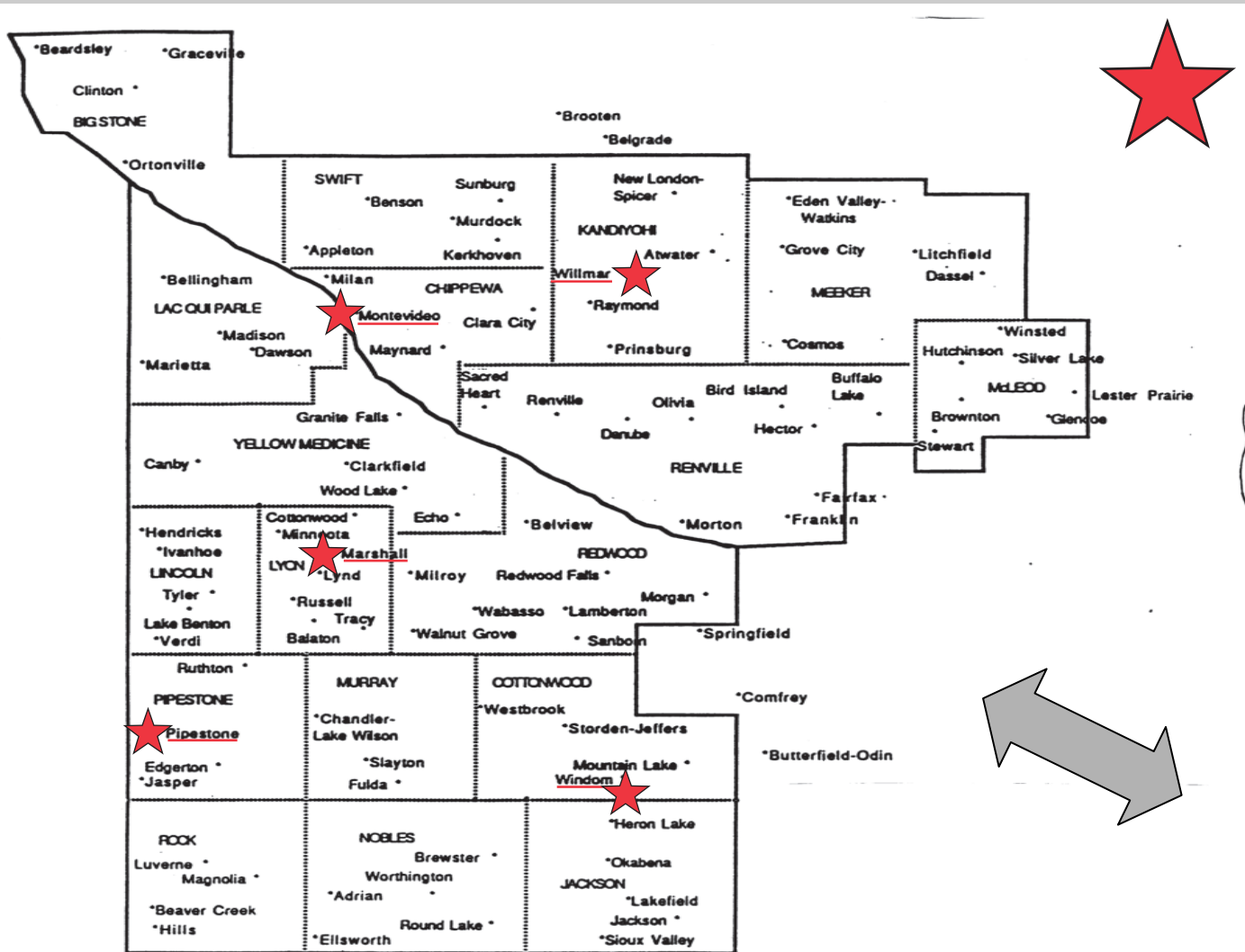
18

Number of counties served by the
SW/WC Service Cooperative

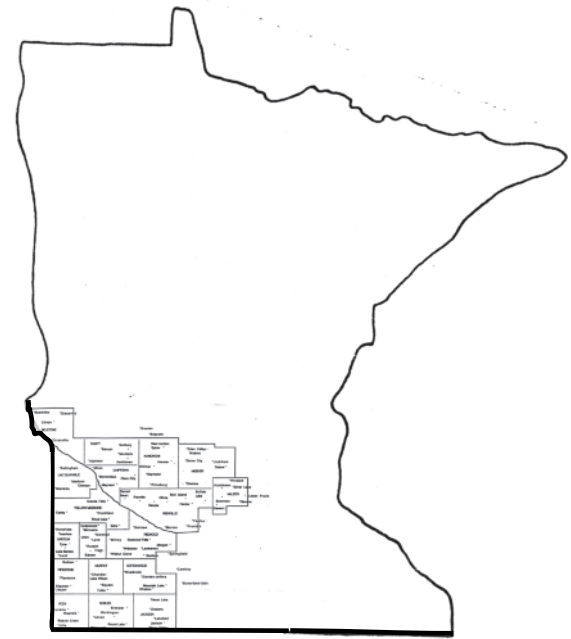
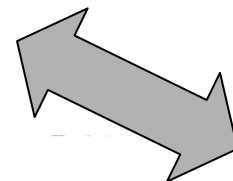
12,500

Square miles in the SW/WC
Service Cooperative Region

Map of the SW/WC Service Cooperative Region



Represents the Service Center locations



A Glimpse of the Past

An adequate history of the SW/WC Service Cooperative is difficult to piece together. Its roots are deep into such places as the Granite Falls Fire Hall, Montevideo's Hotel Hunt, the Cyrus Public School and the Universities at Morris and Marshall.

Cooperative activities in the 1960s included a series of meetings beginning in Morris in 1965, that led in 1966, to the creation of the Southwest and West Central Minnesota Educational Research and Development Council (ERDC). The ERDC was independently organized by area school superintendents who were willing, without federal support, to develop a dues structure to fund the council.

The ERDC was succeeded in 1973 by a pilot organization authorized by the State Legislature, the Southwest and West Central Educational Service Area (ESA). The Educational Media Center, begun by the Montevideo School District with a 1965 Title II grant, was donated to the ESA and was one of the first services offered by the ESA.

The ESA was so successful that in 1976 the Legislature expanded the concept to all regions of the state, and renamed the agencies ECSUs (Educational Cooperative Service Units). Governor's Planning Regions 6 & 8 combined to form one administrative entity and the SW/WC ESA became the SW/WC ECSU on July 1, 1976. The rest of the governor's planning regions formed their own ECSUs, as well, making a total of nine ECSUs in Minnesota.

The purpose of the ECSUs was to perform educational planning on a regional basis and to assist in meeting children's specific educational needs that may be better provided for by an ECSU than by the individual districts.

The 1992 State Legislature changed the enabling legislation for ECSUs to include providing services to cities, counties, and other governmental units. This legislative change reflects the state's attitude toward government operating in an efficient manner.

On July 1, 1995, through legislative action, the Minnesota ECSUs became Service Cooperatives. The Service Cooperative's Board of Directors officially named Regions 6 and 8 the Southwest/West Central Service Cooperative on August 23, 1995.

“The SW/WC Service Cooperative provides students in southwest Minnesota with more opportunities than any single district could provide on their own.”

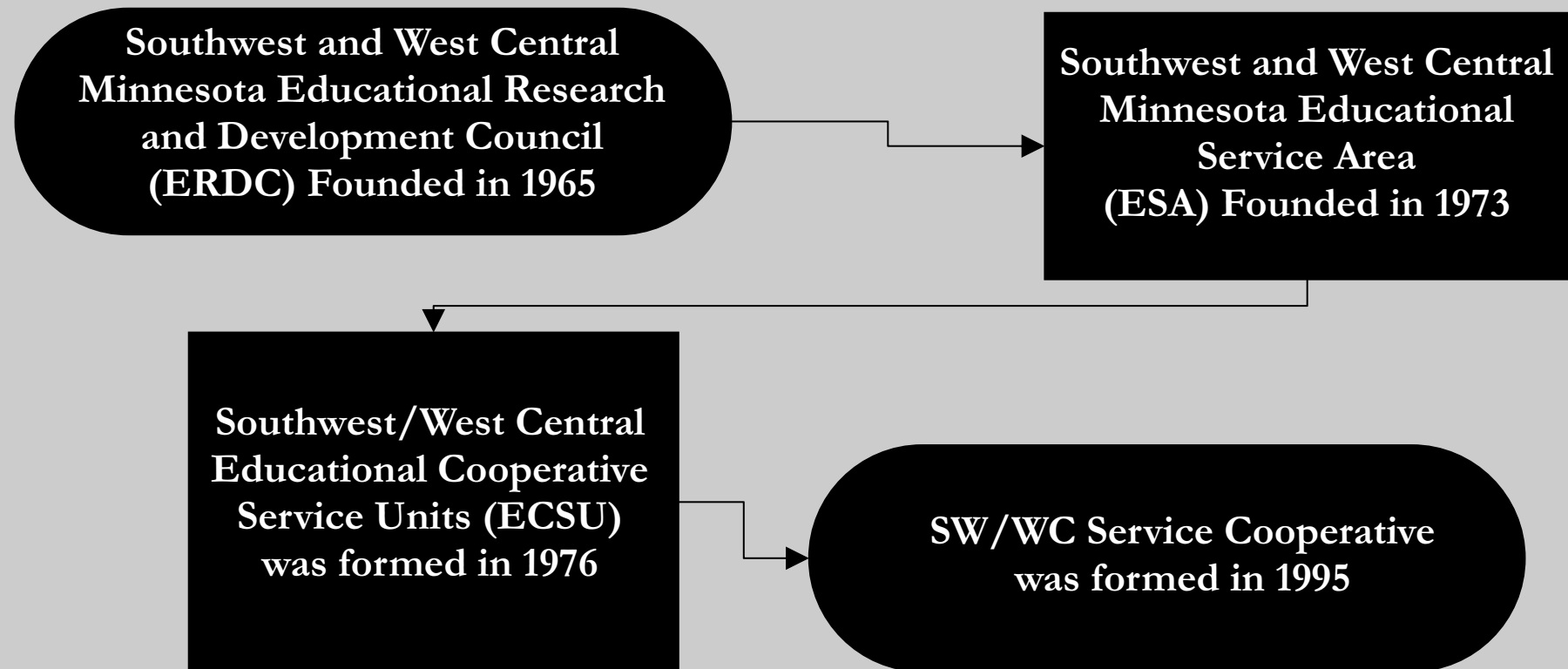
~ *Jim Lentz*

Superintendent

Pipstone Public Schools



SW/WC Service Cooperative's Name Timeline



“For 24 years I have enjoyed working with the SW/WC Service Cooperative and the services that are provided to the schools. The SW/WC SC staff are knowledgeable and a wonderful resource for school administrators and school staff. SW/WC SC has a history of providing technical information that helps the cooperating schools stay current with changing laws and instructional practices.”

~David Bankol

Superintendent

Montevideo Public Schools

SW/WC Service Cooperative's

Divisions Of Excellence

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

Mission

Through partnership, innovation, and exceptional leadership, our programs and services will be challenged with meeting the diverse needs of our members.

Vision

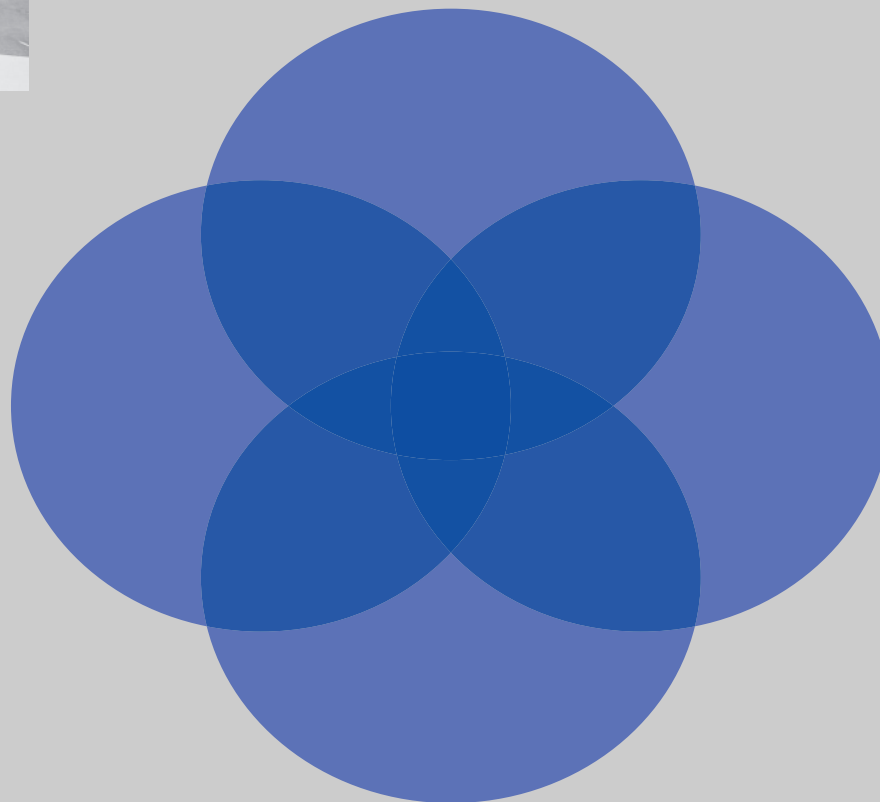
We will be known as the agency of choice that provides high quality, flexible, responsive, and innovative services to our school, city, county and other governmental agency members.

The priorities of the SW/WC Service Cooperative:

- ↗ Develop a process for evaluating and developing services that incorporates a continuous assessment of our members' needs.
- ↗ Identify new partnership opportunities and evaluate current partner relationships; in an effort to develop new services, as well as, to enhance and make more efficient our current services.
- ↗ Continue to support the development and delivery of programs and services that meet the needs of all students.
- ↗ Develop additional programs and services for our city, county, and other governmental agency (CCOGA) members.
- ↗ Develop and implement a health insurance model of delivering services that focuses on education, prevention, and innovation.
- ↗ Utilize new and existing technologies to support and enhance all aspects of the work we do.



Division of
Special Education
Services



Division of
Teaching & Learning
Services

Division of
Risk Management
Services

Division of
Administrative
Services



Division of Special Education Services



Teresa Ostlie
Director of Special Education
Montevideo Service Center



Dave Lammers
Director of Special Education
Pipestone Service Center



Dr. Mary Palmer
Director of Special Education
Willmar Service Center



Erv Marquardt
Director of Special Education
Windom Service Center

Number of students served through
Special Education Service Centers:
~Over 4,400

Number of students who received
hearing screenings through audiology
services:
~987

Number of students who graduated
from Red Rock Ridge School, Windom,
in May 2009:
~24

Number of students receiving assess-
ments through the regional assistive tech-
nology project:
~July 07-June 08 = 37
~July 08-April 09 = 26

Special Education Service Centers

The Special Education Service Centers, located in Montevideo, Pipestone, Willmar and Windom, provide direct services to students and member school districts. The service centers employ occupational therapists, speech language pathologists, school psychologists, and many other specialists.

Each center provides numerous training and workshop activities on a variety of topics, as well as bring a number of staff development activities to the region. The service centers continue to find ways to collaborate on regional activities, as well as customizing training activities for the schools in their center.

All of the service centers utilize a web-based IEP software system. The Special Education Forms software is a valuable tool for special education teachers in the region. The service centers also oversee the third party pay system and to date have helped the districts access millions of dollars in revenue from this system. The service centers continue to assist the member districts in completing their applications for state and federal funding. In addition, the information for the state EDRS system was reported by the service centers to ensure local funding for special education programs. The service centers created a web based TSES Manual (Total Special Education System).

Educational Resource Library

The Educational Resource Library, housed in the Montevideo Service Center, is available to staff in participating school districts. By working with regular and special education teachers, the resource library will assist district staff in locating and using valuable instructional support materials for their classroom, such as teaching machines, instructional kits, videos, multi-media kits, games and books, and computer programs; all of which are designed to facilitate learning programs for children with special needs.

Alternative Learning Programs

Another part of the special education service centers are the following programs: Red Rock Ridge School in Windom, Belview Learning Center in Belview, Heartland Girls Ranch School in Benson, and the Glencoe Alternative Programs in Glencoe. These programs provide educational settings for a wide range of students with varying abilities.

Interpreter Training & Mentoring Project

This project is designed to assist interpreters to obtain training and certification, and to offer certification test opportunities. It is a partnership with MN West in the development of a Deaf Studies Program.

Developmental Cognitive Disability (DCD) Training and Network Project

This project establishes networking activities for individuals serving DCD students. It provides instruction in behavioral strategies specific to DCD, training opportunities in the area, a state DCD network, and training for paraprofessionals relating to the DCD student.

Speech Language Tele-practice

A new service provided this year is Speech Language Tele-practice. Using interactive voice and video technologies, an ASHA certified speech language pathologist provides individualized speech language services at the child's school during the school day. The speech language pathologist is located in the Benson School District.

Special video equipment paired with Internet technology enables the child and speech language pathologist to see and hear each other during live interactive speech language sessions. Additional programs, pictures or Internet pages may be shared to elicit communication. Both speech and language skills may be addressed.

Autism Training Project

This project provides customized training for teams at the local district level, with a goal of establishing teams in each district with expertise in Autism Spectrum Disorder. This is a collaborative effort between all the local districts, SW/WC Service Cooperative, and MDE.

Regional Assistive Technology Project

The Assistive Technology Lending Library and Demonstration Lab lends equipment and materials to school districts which enhance special education learner outcomes and quality of life. Items are available for short-term loan to assist the school team in determining the effectiveness of specific forms of technology. The Lab provides on-site assistance in enhancing a special needs learner's outcomes through consultation, training and demonstration. The Lab is located at the Marshall office, and also works with Project Discovery to help assure appropriate accommodations in vocational assessments of students with disabilities. The Used Equipment Referral Project assists school districts and families who have assistive technology equipment they are no longer using and desire to sell.

Outreach Clinics

Gillette Outreach Clinics are available to anyone (people of all ages with disabilities, families, therapists, teachers, counselors, social workers, etc). Clinics can provide general information, demonstrations, hands on work and/or training for many types of assistive technology, as well as, discussing specific needs and product recommendations.

Transition Outcomes Project

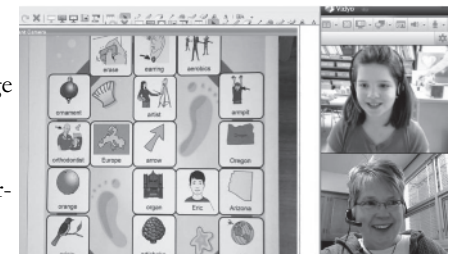
This is a 6-phase project aimed at improving transition services for junior high and senior high students with Individual Education Plans (IEPs). The project provides training to special education teachers, families, and agency staff to develop practical transition plans using a student-centered process.

Regional Low Incidence

Project Consultants serve as ongoing resources for school personnel, families and others serving students with Low Incidence handicaps. Regional Low Incidence staff relies on a multidisciplinary approach to meeting the student's education needs. Students served range in age from birth to 21.

The consultants are available to assist with: in-service, consideration of assistive technology, reviewing progress, developing educational strategies, for organization related skills, effective design of the physical environment, self-advocacy skills, evacuation plans, mobility issues, access to curricular and education experiences, transition planning from one setting to another as well as transition to life after high school.

Low Incidence refers to children who are: deaf/hard of hearing, visually impaired, deaf/blind, physically impaired, autistic, other health impaired, have a developmental cognitive disability, or have a traumatic brain injury.



Division of Teaching and Learning Services

We strive to be a valuable partner with our member districts in their efforts to provide quality education by:

- Recognizing and responding to local needs of member schools and districts
- Building effective relationships with administration and teaching staff
- Building capacity and creating sustainability for a continuous school improvement process
- Working collaboratively with other SW/WC SC programs and staff

Number of:

- Teachers at Teaching & Learning Conference: **1,390**
- Districts Receiving School Improvement/AYP Services:
21 schools in **15** school districts
- Schools in Minnesota West Carl Perkins/Tech Prep Consortium: **41**
- Schools Participating in Math Science Teacher Academy: **19**

Number of students attending:

Children's Author & Illustrator Program: **5,066**

Science and Nature Conference: **1,332**

Conference for Young Artists: **677**

Conference for Young Writers: **510**

Culinary Skills Challenge: **240**

Technical Skills Challenge: **38**



Bob Braun
Director of Teaching
and Learning



Student Activities

SW/WC Service Cooperative plans and coordinates quality programs, conferences and competitions for students in the eighteen counties of southwest and west central Minnesota. The activities are for all students including regular ed, students with special needs, gifted and talented, home schooled, etc. The popularity of these activities is evident by the continued growth in participation with over 24,000 participants last year.

Conferences

- *Conference for Young Artists (grades K-8)
- *Conference for Young Writers (grades 3-8)
- *Science & Nature Conference (grades K-8)

Competitions

- *Creative Writing Contest (grades 3-12)
- *Culinary Skills Challenge (grades 9-12)
- *Junior High Knowledge Bowl (grades 7-9)
- *Senior High Knowledge Bowl (grades 7-12)
- *Regional Chess Tournament (grades K-12)
- *Spelling Bee (grades 5-8)
- *Technical Skills Challenge (grades 9-12)
- * “Water is Life” Art Contest (grades 9-12)



Other Programs

- *Career Exploration Days (grade 10)
- *Children’s Author & Illustrator Program (elementary schools)

Math & Science Teacher Academy (MSTA) Grant

The Math and Science Teacher Academy (MSTA) is a new addition to the Division of Teaching and Learning this past year. We hired a math specialist to coordinate the project and provide services to participating districts and teachers. The first year of the project worked specifically with grades 5-8 math teachers on the Algebra Module Grade 6-8 Algebra Connected to Number. This project is in partnership with the Minnesota River Valley Education District (MRVED) and Southwest Minnesota State University (SMSU). Nineteen districts (91 teachers) participated in the project’s first year.

Curriculum, Assessment and Instruction Services

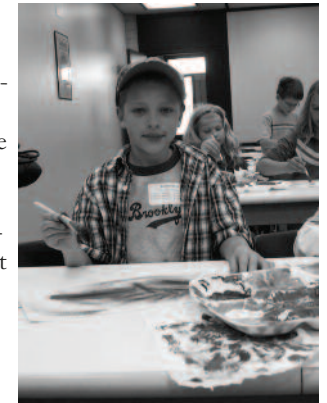
The SW/WC Service Cooperative can provide many services in the area of curriculum, instruction, and assessment to our member districts. This past year, we worked with a group of districts to coordinate curriculum mapping software and textbook purchases. We also provide professional development opportunities in a wide variety of areas. Additionally, we can contract with a district to provide direct services within a district, such as curriculum mapping, curriculum coordination, staff development, standards alignment and more. We strive to meet the needs of our districts in the most efficient, cost effective manner possible.

Carl Perkins and Technical Education

The Minnesota West Carl Perkins Consortium is comprised of 40 high schools and MN West Community and Technical College, our post-secondary partner. The consortium works very closely with other agencies that serve the area, regional businesses, another consortiums throughout the state.

High schools that participate in the Southwest Minnesota Carl Perkins/Tech Prep Consortium receive an annual entitlement to be used for improvement of state approved career and technical education (CTE) programs. Participating high schools complete a brief application that specifies the approved programs that will be making the purchase and the bill is paid by the SW/WC Service Cooperative, the consortium’s fiscal host. Each year over \$200,000 worth of improvements are made to CTE programs. Examples of improvements include: new text books that link to industry standards, consulting services, mileage and sub fee reimbursement for staff development, commercial grade equipment, industry based software, instructional videos, etc. Many schools in the region use their Carl Perkins funds to purchase career assessment instruments and on-line career information systems. The consortium also works with many agency and post-secondary partners to provide career and education planning experiences through an interactive “Career Expo” and through our “Project Discovery” career assessment and exploration program.

Having students demonstrate what they have learned and develop leadership skills is a central goal for schools in the consortium. Our consortium provides strong support to student organizations (FCCLA, BPA and FFA) and is proud to have some of the strongest in the state. We also host two very popular regional competitions: “Culinary Skills Challenge” and the “Technical Skills Challenge”. These events are led by our industry partners and provide students the opportunity to learn about industry standards and participate in competitions that help them reach for those standards.



School Improvement Project

This is the third year of the AYP Coordination Grant from MDE to employ school improvement specialists to work with schools not meeting Adequate Yearly Progress. Our first goal for the project are to assist schools and district teams to increase their knowledge and skills in the school improvement process. We assist schools in conducting needs assessments and use the findings to plan professional development and other strategies for school improvement. We have school improvement staff trained to provide specific assistance to districts in areas such as: data retreats, 3 Minute Walk Through, NWEA, Curriculum Mapping, Assessment Processes, and Leadership Development/PLCs. We can help coordinate the provision of professional development, including workshops and on-site consultation, on the school improvement process to school teams. Our second goal is for schools and districts to identify and implement effective strategies for improvement. We help them build internal capacity, through data/assessment retreats and curriculum mapping. This allows them work with their own data to make decisions regarding student achievement and progress. We also provide support and needed research for schools as they analyze their own performance and their student achievement, and continue to build relationships with leadership teams in order to support internal efforts at school improvement.

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.

“The SW/WC Service Coop is a great organization that makes all of our school districts life much easier as we move through these difficult times. But even more valuable than the expertise of the organization, is how the staff and leadership of the Service Coop make all of us feel like they are truly here to serve us and will do anything they can to help us be successful. That is the true beauty of belonging to this organization.”

~Dave Marlette
Superintendent
Tracy Public Schools

Number of people attending:

Technology Conference: 120

School Business Conference: 150

SMARTBoard Conference: 120



Dr. Luther Heller
Director of Administrative Services

RMIC

Regional Management Information Center (RMIC) provides finance, human resource, payroll, and student administrative support services to districts and educational cooperatives.

SMART Finance and UFARS/Accounting Services are provided to contracted districts and educational cooperatives. Besides assisting the districts with maintaining their school district records, our staff provide advice and assistance with accounting and bookkeeping procedures and overall assistance with SMART Systems software, Finance and eR Modules, along with serving as regional liaison between districts and the Minnesota Department of Education. Accounting assistance services may be purchased as an alternative to hiring an accountant or contracting with an auditing firm.

SMART HR services are provided to the districts that use SMART Systems HR/payroll and eR Modules, which produce payroll, retirement, direct deposit, leave, quarterly and year-end tax reports. The program is also capable of storing and reporting a wide range of human resource information, as well as tracking employee flexible benefit and leave information. An online employee self service website is available for employees to view pay and leave detail, tax, flex info, emergency contact and licensure information.

STAR (Staff Automated Reporting) consists of reporting licensed and non-licensed school staff data to the Minnesota Department of Education. The data reported on STAR will be used to determine licensure violations, to complete supply and demand studies, and to fulfill state and federal reporting requirements.

MARSS (Minnesota Automated Reporting Student System) consists of automated reporting of student data to the Minnesota Department of Education. Data elements are maintained and reported by school districts for each student attending a public school in Minnesota. The primary focus of MARSS information is the accurate accounting of students resulting in payment of state and federal dollars.

Health and Safety

The Health and Safety Management Assistance Program provides consultation and coordination of services related to the management of environmental health and safety concerns for school districts. These services may include: assist schools in identifying and prioritizing health and safety plans and programs, assist districts in planning to manage, monitor and improve Attachment 99 emphasized areas, conduct on-site management assistance work for a minimum of two site visits per district per fiscal year, interpretations of mandatory requirements from MDE, assistance completing mandatory reports such as Attachment 99, IAQ information and development, machine guarding, etc., ability to recommend approval of Health & Safety projects up to \$10,000 with MDE criteria, interpretations of regulatory agencies, mock OSHA building walk-through, assistance with Machine Guarding, and Playground Safety Inspection.

The Environmental/Occupational Health and Safety Management Program Contract, operated jointly by the SW/WC Service Cooperative and MacNeil Environmental, Inc., provides program assistance, including hazard surveys, written management plans, employee training, regular program visits and record keeping in the following areas: Personal Protective Equipment, Bloodborne Pathogens, Lockout/Tagout, Community Right-To-Know, Mock OSHA Audits, Radon, Hearing Conservation, Confined Space Entry, Respiratory Protection, Compressed Gas Safety, Chemical Hygiene Planning, Asbestos Operations & Maintenance, Lead in Water/Paint/Soil, Hazardous Materials Management, Employee Right-To-Know, Underground/Aboveground Storage Tanks, and Indoor Air Quality Management.

Cooperative Purchasing

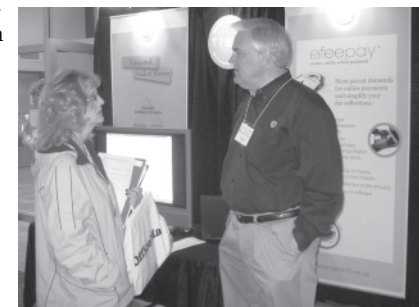
The Cooperative Purchasing Program is dedicated to combining the collective purchasing power of our members in order to receive the best value in goods and services. By working cooperatively, on a regional and statewide level, each of our members benefit by purchasing goods and services at a lower cost than if individually purchased. By combining the purchasing power of the members of SW/WC Service Cooperative, we achieve volume pricing on quality products and services from reputable vendors. All programs are a result of bids or negotiated contracts. The Cooperative Purchasing Program is dedicated to providing our members with the best price, quality and service available, and ensuring that our members have the best experience possible when purchasing from our partnered vendors.

Technology

The demands and necessity of quality Technology resources continue to expand year after year. As the demands of our organization and our members continually change we have been taking action to provide the highest quality services possible to our members. In the current times of economic hardship we have continuously found new ways to expand our shared services offerings in the technology field such as Technology Coordination and Integration Services. The bottom line in both of these services is not necessarily providing the absolute cheapest solution available, but providing your district or organization full access to a staff of IT professionals who are available at your fingertips to help out with planning and issues as needed. We are confident that the access that we provide you with to these services will provide the best value you can find anywhere. Our Technology Coordination program, while probably not unique, has become the talk and envy of districts across the state which will be allowing us to work through our partners statewide and expand the availability and dedicated expertise that is available through SW/WC Service Cooperative's IT Department. Topping off our Technology Coordination Service is the incorporation of our Technology Integration Program, which will provide training and mentoring in the use of your IT resources to operate more effectively and provide the greatest impact for the use of technology for instruction.

We continue to expand the functionality of our Student Information System, TSIS, and Data warehouse Application, Cognos, through our partnership with TIES, based in St. Paul. The developments and new features added to this reliable and robust system are continually making it the top choice for Student Information Systems and Data Driven Decision Making tools in Minnesota. Feedback from our district users has been continuously accepted by TIES and incorporated into program upgrades, giving our districts a true voice in the application development.

Two of our veteran programs, the Wide Area Network and Distance Learning continue to thrive. Our Wide Area Network continues to perform at a very satisfying level, and as we prepare for the introduction of Internet 2 to our Wide Area Network Region, we continue to reap the benefits of the bandwidth that is available to us. Without this robust Wide Area Network, schools in our region would not have the connectivity, collaboration capabilities or the added cost savings of shared head-end equipment that we have put in place. And with a number of new programs and services that need to be addressed such as Email Archival and Disaster Recovery, our member districts will continue to take part in money-saving opportunities through our shared offerings available on the Wide Area Network.



Division of Risk Management Services

The Goal of the SW/WC Service Cooperative's Health Insurance Pool Program is to:

1. Reduce the individual risk for our member groups.
2. Stabilize rates for our members on a year-to-year basis.
3. Negotiate with the claims administrator, on behalf of our members, a competitive price, product design options, and services.
4. Provide educational trainings and workshops for our members and their employees.

Our Risk Management Team:

Cliff Carmody, Executive Director
Doug Deragisch, Director of Risk Management
Bobbie Carmody, Administrative Assistant
Kari Bailey, Health Cost Management Coordinator
Annette Miller, Director of Finance
Shelly Maes, Manager of Member Services
Dan Weir, Consultant

~Our School Pool has 60 groups totaling 4,700 members.

~Our CCOGA Pool (cities, counties and other governmental agencies) has 122 groups totaling 5,800 members.

“I am very impressed with the smooth transition and seamless transfer of operations from an outside vendor to our current operation by the Service Cooperative. From my vantage point, the entire team with this very complex endeavor has done an excellent job. A huge thank you goes out to the Risk Management Team for making this happen.”

~*David Bankol*

Superintendent

Montevideo Public Schools

School Pool Advisory Committee Chair



Doug Deragisch
Director of Risk Management

History of the Pools

In 1985, the SW/WC Service Cooperative entered into its first operating agreement to provide a school district insurance pool for its members. Since that time, the risk management services have focused on a “minimum premium plan” that provides a self-insured health insurance product for schools, cities, counties, and other governmental agencies.

In 2003, the research and development of VEBA products was completed, with availability of the VEBA plan for schools in July, 2003, and cities, counties, and other governmental units in January, 2004. In 2008, Health Savings Account (HSA) became an available plan option for all groups. The development of new programs and services continued with the advent of the Care Support Program focusing on the management of chronic conditions, and an emphasis on health and wellness initiatives through the Worksite Wellness Program.

Today, risk management services provide a cost-efficient health insurance option for our members. With flexibility and choice of plan design, a complete network with deep discounts, low administrative and stop-loss fees, and new consumer-directed health products, we believe our school pool and city/county/

other governmental agency pool have worked in helping our members find the best option for their health insurance dollar.



New Health Cost Management Program Available

With approval from the School Pool Advisory Committee the SW/WC Service Cooperative initiated a Health Cost Management Program (wellness) for the 2008-09 school year. The intent of the program is to assist school groups in developing and implementing an employee health cost management program. Incentive grants were made available based on school size to help groups offset the cost of running their program. The overall goals of the program are to have; 1) healthier individuals with improved self-esteem, 2) employees that perform optimally at work and home, 3) lower health plan utilization.

In the first year of the program 15 districts took advantage of the Health Cost Management Program with approximately 32% of all employees in the pool involved in this year's program. We are looking forward to continuing the effort of improving employees overall health.

“I cannot begin to tell you how enthusiastic and receptive the staff and NL-S has been when it comes to participation in our new worksite wellness program! Our most recent program, The Ultimate Spring Melt-down, could not have been the success it was if it was not for the grant money we received through the SW/WC Cooperative. The funding we received allowed us to contract with a local health care facility and provided on-site VO2 sub maximal testing to help staff and faculty with their weight management concerns. The exercise physiologist was able to give each individual a detailed workout program geared to meet their personal weight loss goals as well as provide education on healthy eating and weight loss. The recent downward spiral of the economy has really made people think twice about taking preventative measures when it comes to their health. Through the on-site testing we have been able to provide to our staff and faculty through our worksite wellness program, our staff is able to stay on top of their health before it starts to slip away!”

~Kelly Mace
Wellness Coordinator
New London-Spicer Schools

Benefits of Pooling

Strength and Security in Numbers. Statewide, there are over 500 groups who partner with their regional service cooperative for health care coverage.

Leveraged Purchasing Power. Partnering with the SW/WC Service Cooperative protects your employees and your bottom line. Public employer groups of all sizes achieve purchasing power usually reserved for very large employers. This collective group participation maximizes your limited health benefit dollars.

Great Stability Through Shared Risk. Pooling results in more stable and predictable health care rates. With insurance pooling, your risk is spread among similar public employer groups participating in the plan. This reduces the need for sizable rate increases following a year of high claims, and promotes a willingness to pay a little more in years of low claims. Smaller yearly rate fluctuations contribute to greater stability, enhanced risk management, and long-term financial security for your organization.

The Health Plans People Want. The SW/WC Service Cooperative, along with the other Minnesota Service Cooperatives, have teamed with Blue Cross Blue Shield to offer the state's most comprehensive health care coverage. The array of benefit plans features innovative and flexible plan designs, competitive pricing, member health management and improvement programs, and dedicated customer service and support.

Preserving Your Group's Autonomy. When you join forces with other public employer groups in your area, you maintain your group's independence and local autonomy.

Keeping Your Health Care Local. BCBS has the state's largest provider network, in addition to dedicated customer service, operations, sales and account management teams.

Good Health is Good Business. There are many health plan support programs and services through BCBS.

Lower Costs. There are lower administrative fees, a 20-25% lower stop loss rate than the commercial market, lower target loss ratio for stop loss claims, and consumer directed plans such as VEBA and HSAs.

Fiscal Integrity

SW/WC Service Cooperative is a public agency.

*No state or local tax dollars are used
to fund our programs and services.*

*Operating revenue is derived
from membership fees and grants.*

*We invite corporate and foundation sponsorship
of student and adult
enrichment programs and services.*

“The term Service Cooperative has really meant something this past year. The office folks at the Coop are simply an extension of our own people. Help is only a phone call away. I am very appreciative of the many additional services that have been added in the areas of helping with our math, reading, and writing skills. The Service Cooperative has been a big help in bringing many of our districts together to work in shared services.”

~Loy Woelber

Superintendent

Balaton Public Schools

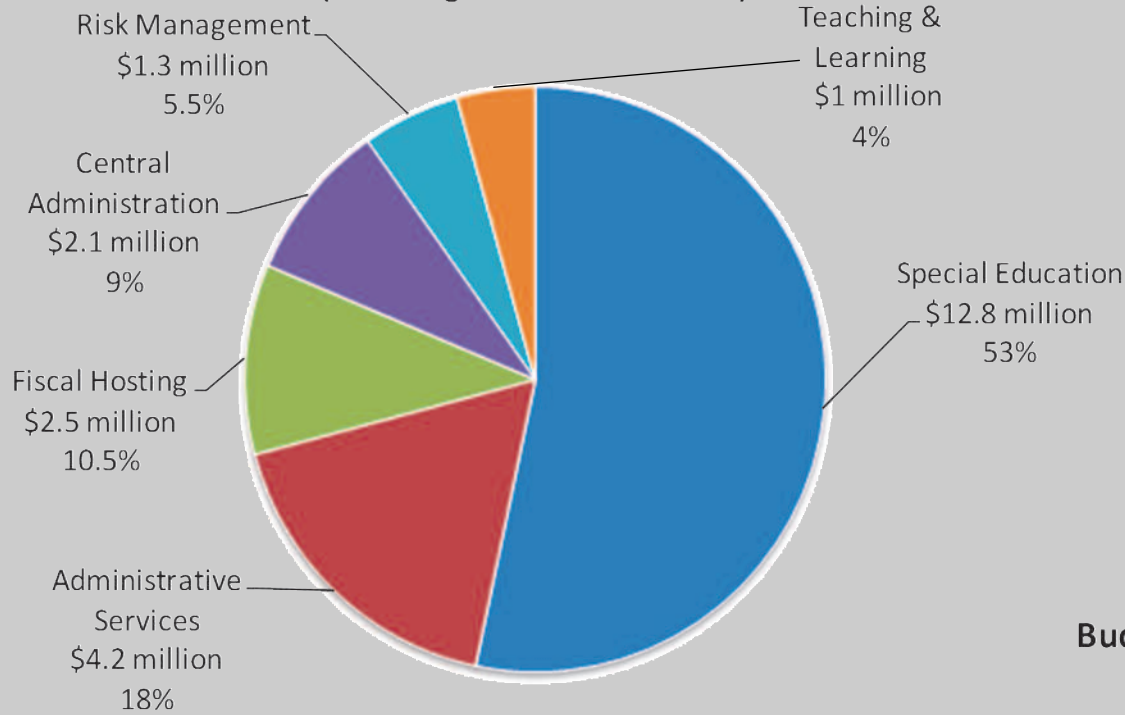
Westbrook/Walnut Grove

Public Schools



Annette Miller
Director of Finance

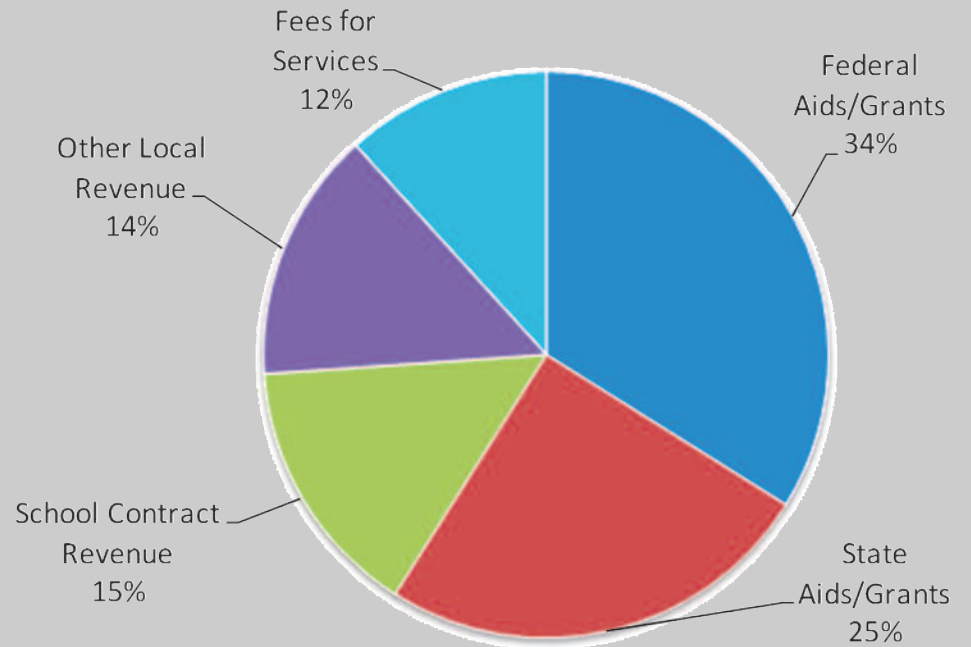
Budgeted 2008-09 Annual Expenditures - \$23.9 million
(Excluding Insurance Premiums)



“The work done by the SW/WC Service Cooperative to promote the field of culinary education is exemplary. Working with your organization to implement the MN ProStart Invitational culinary competition has been almost stress free due to your well developed event planning process. This competition is a valuable experience for our high school students and we thank you for helping to make it happen.”

~Betty Fisk
Admin. Assistant/ProStart Coordinator
Hospitality Minnesota

Budgeted 2008-09 Annual Revenues - \$23.8 million
(Excluding Insurance Premiums)



“The Southwest Initiative Foundation has the opportunity to work, and partner with, the SW/WC Service Cooperative on Jr. Achievement, Youth Entrepreneurship and the Student Enrichment Fund. Their access to resources, tools, and connections along with their knowledge and commitment is a testament that they are a valuable asset to our region. Thank you for all that you do!”

~Jackie Turner-Lovsness
Program Specialist
Southwest Initiative Foundation

Valuing Employees

“I am now completing my forty-first year of working for the Service Cooperative. I am very grateful that I was given the opportunity to work for such a wonderful organization. The board of directors and my supervisors and my fellow employees have all made this a great place to work. I have always been treated with dignity and respect and I have always felt like Service Coop employees are just like one big family, and I do know something about big families. Thanks to everyone for making my whole working life seem like a home away from home. I wouldn't ever want to work anywhere else.”

~*Dave Lammers*

Director of Special Education-
Pipestone Service Center
41 years of dedicated service



Edna Gossen
Operations Manager

The SW/WC Service Cooperative employs a wide range of employees.
 Below is a sampling of some of the varied professionals we have on staff.
 Out of 226 employees...



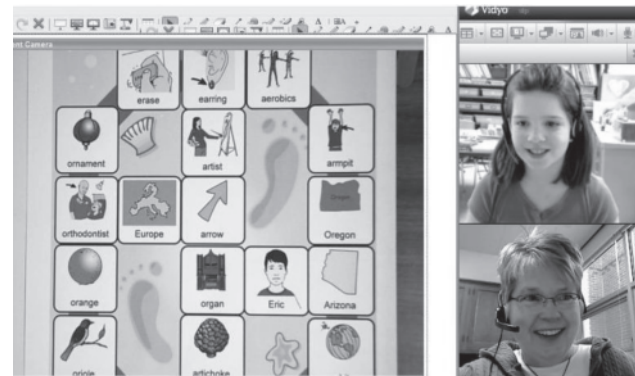
2009 Business Conference
 Jim Lilleberg, Cliff Carmody, Josh Sumption, Shelly Maes

**We value
 and practice
 initiative, ingenuity,
 and creativity.**



Student visit at St. Cloud State University
 Mohamed Hassan

<u>Title</u>	<u>Number of Employees</u>
ALC Teacher.....	3
Audiologist.....	2
Autism Consultant.....	2
Bilingual Paraprofessional.....	5
Career and Tech Project Coordinator.....	1
Coordinator of Educational Programs.....	5
Cultural Liaison.....	4
Curriculum, Assessment, Instruction Coord.....	1
ECSE Coordinators/Teachers.....	6
Health Cost Management Coordinator.....	1
Heartland Girls Ranch Teacher.....	2
Integration Collaborative Coordinator.....	3
ITV American Sign Language Teacher.....	1
LAN/PC Specialist/Technicians.....	3
LI Consultant for Severe/Multiply Impaired.....	1
MARSS/Student Services Coordinator.....	1
Math Specialist.....	1
NWEA Regional Trainer.....	1
Occupational Therapist/COTAs.....	19
Physical Therapist/Physical Therapist Assistant.....	4
Sales and Marketing Coordinator.....	1
School Improvement Specialist.....	1
School Psychologist.....	13
School Social Worker.....	9
Special Education Teacher/Paraprofessional.....	26
Speech/Language Pathologist.....	11
Teacher of Deaf and Hard of Hearing.....	6
Technology Integration Specialist.....	1
UFARS Specialist.....	1



Speech-Language Telepractice session
 Deb Moorse

“Working with the SW/WC Service Cooperative to help develop the Speech-Language Telepractice has been an exciting professional growth opportunity. This program has been fully supported by Josh Sumption and the IT department, area schools and administrators, and parents of children who are receiving services through this program. The technology allows students to receive speech-language services that are of equal quality to traditional services, and significantly reduces transition time between schools. Site visits also allow me to become familiar with each of the school’s unique situations, and be a team member of the Child Study process.”

~Deb Moorse

Speech-Language Pathologist
 1 year of dedicated service

The SW/WC Service Cooperative serves as fiscal host and provides HR and Administrative Services to the following two programs:
 CRIC-Cottonwood River Integration Collaborative, New Ulm
 WCIC-West Central Integration Collaborative, Willmar

Member Services

59

Number of Regular Public School Members

24

Number of Charter and Non-Public School Members

64

Number of City Members

16

Number of County Members

46

Number of Other Governmental Agency (OGA) Members

“The Luverne Schools have benefitted tremendously from the support of the SW/WC Service Cooperative. The programs they offer provide our staff opportunities to grow professionally, provide new innovative teaching strategies, and also support our special education staff. Ultimately they bring these things back into the classrooms which in turn has a positive effect on our students. Our philosophy is, ‘How can we help students?’....the service cooperative helps us meet that goal.”

~Gary L. Fisher

Superintendent’s Advisory Council Chair
Superintendent
Luverne Public Schools

“A big thanks to the SW/WC Service Cooperative! You all do outstanding work. You’re friendly, responsive and experts at what you do. It is clear to me that you exist for the benefit of our schools and the students under our care.”

~Bill Strom,

Superintendent

Mountain Lake Public Schools

“The SWSC SC is a positive organization that takes the approach of ‘Can Do!’ The organization is very willing to work on behalf of school districts in Southwest Minnesota, with the philosophy of providing quality service to member districts. Keep up the Great Work!”

~John Landgaard

Superintendent

Worthington Public Schools



Shelly Maes
Manager of Member Services

2008-09 Southwest/West Central Service Cooperative Members

Adrian Schools	City of Ivanhoe	Clarkfield Area Charter School	Luverne Schools	Redwood County
Adult Client Training Service	City of Jackson	Comfrey Schools	Lynd Schools	Redwood County SWCD
Advanced Opportunities	City of Jasper	Cottonwood County	Lyon County	Redwood-Cottonwood Rivers
Area II MN River Basin Projects, Inc.	City of Kerkhoven	Cottonwood County DAC	MACCRAY Schools	Control Area
Atwater/Cosmos/Grove City Schools	City of Lake Elmo	Countryside Public Health	Marshall Area Christian School	Renville County
Augsburg Fortress Publishing	City of Lakefield	Dawson/Boyd Schools	Marshall Municipal Utilities	Renville County SWCD
Avera Marshall Regional Medical Center	City of Lamberton	E.C.H.O Charter School	Marshall Schools	Renville County West Schools
Balaton Schools	City of Lismore	Eci' Nompa Woonspe School	McLeod West Schools	Rock County
Belgrade/Brooten/Elrosa Schools	City of Madison	Eden Valley/Watkins Schools	Meeker County	Rock County DAC
Bellingham Schools	City of Marshall	Edgerton Schools	Mid-MN Development Commission	Round Lake Schools
Benson Schools	City of Maynard	Ellsworth Schools	Milroy Schools	Russell-Tyler-Ruthton Schools
BOLD Schools	City of Mendota Heights	Fulda Schools	Milroy Area Charter School	Rural Enterprises for Acceptable Living/SWCIL
Brewster Schools	City of Milroy	Gibbon-Fairfax-Winthrop Schools	Minneota Schools	St. Anne's School-Wabasso
Buffalo Lake/Hector Schools	City of Minneota	Glencoe/Silver Lake Schools	Montevideo Schools	St. Edward's School-Minneota
Butterfield Schools	City of Montevideo	Heartland Community Action	Mountain Lake Christian School	St. Mary's School-Bird Island
Canby Schools	City of Mounds View	Hendricks Schools	Mountain Lake Schools	St. Mary's School & Church-Tracy
Cedar Mountain Schools	City of Mountain Lake	Heron Lake/Okabena Schools	Murray County	St. Paul Conservatory for the Performing Arts
Cedar Riverside Community School- Minneapolis	City of New Prague	Hiawatha Manor-Pipestone	Murray County Central Schools	St. Peter's School & Church-Canby
Chippewa County	City of Newport	Hills/Beaver Creek Schools	Murray County DAC	St. Raphael School-Springfield
City of Adrian	City of Oak Grove	Holy Redeemer School-Marshall	New Heights School-Stillwater	Samuel Lutheran School-Marshall
City of Appleton	City of Oakdale	Holy Trinity School-Winsted	New Life Treatment Center	Sleepy Eye Schools
City of Atwater	City of Pipestone	Hospice of Murray County, Inc.	New London/Spicer Schools	South Metro Firefighters
City of Benson	City of Plymouth	HRA of Jackson	Nobles County	Southwest Regional Development Commission
City of Bird Island	City of Prior Lake	HRA of Redwood Falls	Nobles County SWCD	Southwest Christian School-Edgerton
City of Buffalo Lake	City of Renville	Hutchinson Schools	Odyssey Charter School-Brooklyn Center	Springfield Schools
City of Canby	City of Rosemount	Ivanhoe Schools	Ortonville Schools	SW MN Housing Partnership
City of Carver	City of Round Lake	Jackson County	Ortonville Area Health Services	SW MN Opportunity Council (SMOC)
City of Cosmos	City of Russell	Jackson County Central Schools	PACT 4 Families Collaborative	Swift County
City of Cottonwood	City of Sacred Heart	Kerkhoven-Murdock-Sunburg Schools	Parkview Home-Belview	Swift County-Benson Hospital
City of DeGraff	City of Scandia	Kandiyohi Area Transit	Parkview Manor-Ellsworth	Tracy Area Schools
City of Ellsworth	City of Slayton	Kandiyohi County	Paynesville Schools	Wabasso Schools
City of Fairfax	City of Spicer	Kandiyohi County SWCD	Pioneerland Library System	Westbrook Public Utilities
City of Franklin	City of Springfield	Lac qui Parle County	Pipestone Area Schools	Westbrook/Walnut Grove Schools
City of Fulda	City of St. Paul Park	Lac qui Parle Valley Schools	Pipestone County	Western Community Action
City of Granite Falls	City of Stewart	Lake Benton Schools	Pipestone County Medical Center	Willmar Schools
City of Greenfield	City of Stillwater	Lake Minnetonka Conservation District	Pipestone County SWCD	Willmar Municipal Utilities Comm.
City of Hanley Falls	City of Tracy	Lakeview Schools	Prairie Five Community Action	Windom Schools
City of Hendricks	City of Tyler	Leota Christian School	Prairie Lakes Youth Programs	Worthington Schools
City of Heron Lake	City of Vadnais Heights	Lester Prairie Schools	Prinsburg Schools	Worthington Area Language Academy
City of Hugo	City of Waconia	Lincoln County	Progress, Inc.	Yankton Country Charter School
	City of West St. Paul	Lincoln County SWCD	Red Rock Central Schools	Yellow Medicine County
	City of Willmar	Lincoln/Pipestone Rural Water	Red Rock Rural Water Systems	Yellow Medicine East Schools
	City of Windom		Redwood Area Schools	
	Clara City Nursing Home			
	Clarkfield Area Charter School			

Governance

*An elected board of directors
representing our membership governs us.
Advisory committees provide
planning and evaluation input.
We operate as a regional system
delivering programs and services
responsive to our members and others.*

2008-2009 Superintendent Advisory Council

Gary Fisher, Chair, Luverne Public Schools
Bill Strom, Vice-Chair, Mountain Lake Public Schools
Lance Bagstad, Renville County West Public Schools
David Baukol, Montevideo Public Schools
John Brennan, Red Rock Central Public Schools
Rick Clark, Buffalo Lake/Hector Public Schools
John Cselovszki, Round Lake/Brewster Public Schools
Dan Deitte, Minneota Public Schools
Carol DeSmet, Holy Redeemer School
Rick Ellingworth, Redwood Area Public Schools
Martin Heidelberger, KMS Public Schools

Luther Heller, SW/WC Service Cooperative
Bruce Houck, RTR Public Schools
Steve Jones, Murray County Central Public Schools
John Joosten, Minnesota West-Granite Falls
Sharon Kabes, Southwest Minnesota State University
David Marlette, Tracy Public Schools
Greg Schmidt, MACCRAY Public Schools
Allen Stoeckman, YME Public Schools
Ted Suss, Wabasso Public Schools
Robert Tews, Cedar Mountain Public Schools
Klint Willert, Marshall Public Schools



“By joining together, the school and agency members of the SW/WC SC provide their districts and constituents with access to services, cost saving, shared programs and technology. The Board appreciates your support and invites active participation to assure that SW/WC SC continues to add value to your membership.”

~Sally Vogt

Canby Public Schools
SW/WC Service Cooperative Board Chair

Board of Directors



Sally Vogt, Board Chair
Canby Public Schools



Michael Zins, Vice-Chair
Fulda Public Schools



Richard Vroman, Clerk
Milroy Public Schools



Maydra Maas, Treasurer
Westbrook/Walnut Grove
Public Schools



Don Brugman
Windom Public Schools



Stephanie Cordes
RTR Public Schools



Jan Fransen
Jackson County
CCOGA At-Large Representative



Paul Henriksen
RTR Public Schools



Kathryn Kelly
Renville County SWCD
*New Member as of
April, 2009*



Loren Mathews
Glencoe/Silver Lake
Public Schools



Michael O'Brien
New London/Spicer
Public Schools



Lynn Suter
Kerkhoven-Murdock-Sunburg
Public Schools



Kathi Thymian
Ortonville Public Schools



Daniel Zimansky
Tracy Public Schools

SW/WC Service Cooperative
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Marshall, MN 56258
507.537.2240
Fax 507.537.7663

Montevideo Service Center
306 North First Street
Montevideo, MN 56265
320.269.9243
Fax 320.269.7132

Willmar Service Center
611 Southwest 5th Street
Willmar, MN 56201
320.231.5184
Fax 320.231.5302



Pipestone Service Center
PO Box 69, 713 6th Street Southeast
Pipestone, MN 56164
507.825.5858
Fax 507.825.4035

Windom Service Center
North Highway 71, PO Box 265
Windom, MN 56101
507.831.2936
Fax 507.831.2938

Visit us online at:

www.swsc.org

Our website offers a general guide to programs and services, information about training opportunities, special events, employment openings, education news, and much more!

This report is published for members, educators, legislators, and business/government partners who enable us to provide relevant, cost-efficient, and high quality services throughout the 18-county southwest and west central Minnesota region. You'll see throughout the pages of this document why we are proud of who we are and what we do to make a difference every day in schools and communities.