

Arkansas Education Service Cooperatives

Established by Act 349 of 1985

Cooperative Mission

The Arkansas Education Cooperatives are committed to assisting and supporting schools as they strive to deliver a high quality education to each and every student in the state. We stand ready and willing, as one of the state's primary assets, to help implement all the requirements calling for increased quality and accountability in our education system. It is our desire to be recognized as one of the premiere state systems of ESAs in the U.S.

It is the mission of the Arkansas Education Cooperatives to enhance teaching, learning, and leadership in Arkansas schools by providing high quality support services targeted toward improving the achievement of all Arkansas students.

Cooperative Values

Leadership	Efficiency
Service	Innovation
Quality	Partnerships
Diversity	

Cooperative Vision

- Cooperatives are a nationally recognized educational support system characterized by adequate resources to design, deliver, and evaluate their programs, products, and services.
- Policy makers, citizens, and stakeholders have a clear and full understanding about the role and importance of education service cooperatives as an essential statewide support system for Arkansas schools.
- Cooperatives are seen and recognized as innovative leaders in improving student achievement and implementing educational reform.
- The Arkansas Department of Education and the Cooperatives are recognized nationwide for their successful partnership that features effective communication and joint planning for meeting the support needs of schools.
- Cooperatives are at the forefront of the national school reform movement through their focused leadership as positive "change agents" for improved student achievement.
- School districts possess and utilize the latest, emerging technological tools to assist learners in the acquisition and application of knowledge – anytime, anywhere!
- Cooperatives are recognized for their unique ability to listen to, respond to, and communicate with their "customers and stakeholders."

Demographics

Arch Ford Education Service Cooperative

- Location: Plumerville
- Districts: 28
- Teachers: 4,007
- Students: 63,553

Arkansas River Education Service Cooperative

- Location: Pine Bluff
- Districts: 8
- Teachers: 1,324
- Students: 21,514

Crowley's Ridge Education Service Cooperative

- Location: Harrisburg
- Districts: 22
- Teachers: 3,258
- Students: 37,625

Dawson Education Service Cooperative

- Location: Arkadelphia
- Districts: 23
- Teachers: 3,189
- Students: 42,818

DeQueen/Mena Education Service Cooperative

- Location: Gillham
- Districts: 12
- Teachers: 1,143
- Students: 12,865

Great Rivers Education Service Cooperative

- Location: West Helena
- Districts: 11
- Teachers: 2,741
- Students: 15,593

Northcentral Education Service Cooperative

- Location: Melbourne
- Districts: 16
- Teachers: 1,630
- Students: 18,865

Northeast Education Service Cooperative

- Location: Walnut Ridge
- Districts: 14
- Teachers: 1,134
- Students: 17,434

Northwest Education Service Cooperative

- Location: Farmington
- Districts: 16
- Teachers: 6,506
- Students: 82,932

Ozarks Unlimited Resources Cooperative

- Location: Harrison
- Districts: 16
- Teachers: 1,455
- Students: 14,886

South Central Education Service Cooperative

- Location: Camden
- Districts: 11
- Teachers: 1,327
- Students: 15,967

Southeast Education Service Cooperative

- Location: Monticello
- District: 14
- Teachers: 1,844
- Students: 17,091

Southwest Education Service Cooperative

- Location: Hope
- Districts: 9
- Teachers: 1,169
- Students: 11,994

Western Education Service Cooperative

- Location: Branch
- Districts: 22
- Teachers: 3,969
- Students: 44,151

Wilbur Mills Education Service Cooperative

- Location: Beebe
- Districts: 16
- Teachers: 2,263
- Students: 28,427

Review of Cooperative Revenues

The fifteen (15) Education Services Cooperatives were established by the State Board of Education under the authority of Act 349 of 1985 (A.C.A.) 6-13-1002). The cooperatives are designed to be an intermediate service unit for the state's elementary and secondary education system. They were established to provide assistance in meeting standards, equalizing education opportunities, using resources more effectively and promoting coordination between school districts and the Department of Education.

According to data provided by the Education Service Cooperatives on the Annual Statistical Report for FY13 (Most recent statistical report available), the cooperatives received a total of \$102 million in revenues. The sources of revenue to the cooperatives consisted of funds received from the state, school districts, miscellaneous local revenue, funds received from the federal government, and resale of supplies. The funding from the state also included those federal funds that are passed through the Arkansas Department of Education.

Funding for the Education Services Cooperatives can also be defined as unrestricted and restricted. Of the \$102 million in revenues, approximately \$6.13 million could be considered unrestricted revenues, and the remainder would be restricted.

Unrestricted funding is primarily the Base Operating Grant (\$408,000 per co-op) from the State, which totaled \$6.13 million in FY13. Although these funds are generally considered to be unrestricted they are restricted to some degree. Act 384 of 1985 specifies that the Base Operating Grant is to be utilized to fund the director's office, business office and teacher center coordinator office as well as provide for overhead costs. Restricted funds are those state, federal and local funds which must be used for the specific program established by the grant award.

Restricted funds are for consolidated programs administered through the cooperatives in an effort to use resources more effectively. Examples of restricted funding for consolidated programs would be Literacy, Math, and Science Specialists and Technology Coordinators, Special Education Supervisors, and Career and Technical Education Coordinators. If these programs were not provided through the cooperatives, they would be required at either the state level or school district level. Both cases would increase the costs of the services.

Professional Development

During the past few years, Education Service Cooperatives have made a concerted effort to offer more extended PD sessions with follow up, which meant many sessions lasted multiple days. This effort has decreased the number of sessions offered statewide though participation has remained consistent in these quality offerings. Another factor impacting session offerings was the legislative mandate in 2013-14 that all licensed staff had to receive adequate training in the new Teacher Excellence Support System (TESS). These trainings (approximately 24 hours) took place at district sites and did not count toward sessions offered at co-ops around the state.

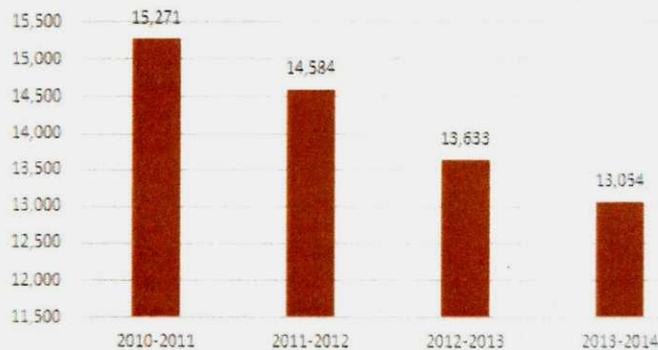
Primary Services Provided

Arkansas Educational Service Cooperatives generally provide the following services:

- Wide range of professional development offerings and in-district technical support
- Curriculum planning and support provided by cooperative content specialists
- Gifted and Talented coordinator services
- Development and purchasing of educational materials
- Instructional intervention programs
- Early childhood special education services
- ABC/Hippy preschool programs
- K-12 special education supervisory services
- Behavior and transition specialist services
- Access to resources and services of the Arkansas Department of Education
- Career and technical education coordination services
- Partnership and collaboration with state education organizations such as AAEA and Arkansas Leadership Academy
- Technology planning and support
- Cooperative purchasing

Professional Development Data

Education Service Cooperatives Professional Development Offerings



Professional Development Session Attendees

