

CESAs

IN

WISCONSIN:

Sharing Resources, Supporting Educators,
Serving Students



Serving Wisconsin schools for more than 50 years.

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CESAs IN WISCONSIN

For over a century, school districts in Wisconsin were overseen by county superintendents. In 1963, the Wisconsin Legislature and various school groups concluded that the county system should be replaced with regional service agencies. That year, 19 cooperative educational service agencies, or CESAs, were created. They began operating in 1965 and were reorganized into 12 agencies in 1984. Nationwide, there are over 550 educational service agencies (ESAs) in 45 states, according to the Association of Educational Service Agencies.

CESAs are proud to carry on their tradition of service to the 424 school districts in Wisconsin by sharing resources and providing the school districts they serve with the power of up-to-date information and expertise on national, state and local education issues and best practices. They support educators and students by connecting them with trained professionals, and by equipping educators with valuable programs, professional development and resources including specialized educational professionals.

WHAT IS A CESA?

CESA stands for Cooperative Educational Service Agency. There are 12 CESAs in the state of Wisconsin. The name is long, but what CESAs



do is very simple. Each CESA serves the unique needs of schools and children in a particular region of Wisconsin. CESAs make it possible for schools, regardless of size, to work together to share staff and equipment, save money, and extend educational opportunities to all corners of the state and to all children. CESAs provide these services without mandates, without levying taxes, and with virtually no direct state appropriations.



Q&A

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT CESAs

Q: HOW ARE CESAs GOVERNED?

A: A CESA is not a state agency, but it is considered a government subdivision. It can enter into contracts, and sue and be sued, but CESAs cannot tax. Each CESA is governed by an 11-member board of control elected by a delegate assembly at the CESA annual convention. Delegates adopt bylaws governing the operation of the CESA. The delegate assembly consists of one school board member from each of the school districts in the CESA region, with special provisions made for areas served by union high school or K-8 districts.

Q: WHAT DOES THE BOARD OF CONTROL DO?

A: The board must hold an annual organizational meeting between the second Monday in May and the second Monday in August. The board sets agency policy and sets the budget for agency operations. The board of control is also responsible for authorizing expenditures to operate the CESA, including those for personnel, space and equipment. Each year, it must conduct an inventory. Every three years, the board must provide to the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction an annual report that addresses the efficiency and effectiveness of CESA programs. The Board of Control appoints the CESA administrator and advises him or her regarding services needed by local districts.

Q: ARE CESAs GOVERNMENT UNITS OR BUSINESSES?

A: CESAs are unique public entities, but run much like private businesses. They listen to their customers – schools, colleges and even local governments. They develop services that meet their customers’ needs, for example, cooperative purchasing or sharing of special education teachers. Their customers buy only the services they want. Because CESAs are cooperatives, if they didn’t meet the needs of their member school districts, they could not continue to operate.

Q: HOW ARE CESAs FUNDED?

A: Unlike schools and other local governments, CESAs have no taxing authority and they receive little direct money from the state. They receive about \$21,000 annually to offset administration costs, which is then matched by member school districts. For funding, they rely primarily on the fees from service contracts with member districts, and from federal, state or other grants.

Q: WHAT DO CESAs DO FOR SCHOOL DISTRICTS?

A: Families, businesses and communities have high expectations for schools in Wisconsin. They want local control, equal access and value for their tax dollars. They want schools to cooperate and constantly strive for improvement. They want graduates to be college and career-ready and prepared to contribute to the future prosperity of our state. By working together, CESAs can make these goals attainable. CESA services help districts implement innovative programs and opportunities that keep Wisconsin schools on the leading edge of educational reform.

Q: WHY CHOOSE CESAs?

A: CESAs exist to provide leadership, leverage resources and build regional capacity.

CESAs...

SUPPORT school and district leaders in their work to improve learning for ALL students.

DEVELOP, plan and identify resources needed to lead implementation of statewide initiatives.

SHARE research, best practices and innovative new practices to best serve districts in enhancing learning.

CULTIVATE productive relationships and strategic partnerships for effective implementation of programs.





HOW

HOW CESAs HELP LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS

CESAs in Wisconsin provide local services and partner on projects:

LOCAL SERVICES

CESAs primarily provide local, customized services to schools by offering unique services to school districts in each region. For example, if a school cannot afford to hire a full-time teacher for a hearing-impaired student, it shares a CESA teacher with other schools in the area, paying only for the teacher time it needs. If a school district is too small to obtain volume discounts to purchase paper, supplies or computers - and in some cases, even natural gas and employee insurance - it works together with other area districts to buy them through the local CESA. If a student cannot take Calculus or Advanced Placement (AP) History at her own high school, she can take the course via a CESA-supported virtual-learning network.

JOINT PROJECTS

The CESAs and the DPI have partnerships in many areas of educational services to districts. Current and ongoing projects include:

- Academic & Career Planning
- Academic Decathlon
- Accountability Coaches
(for District and School Report Cards)
- Common Core State Standards
- Culturally Responsive Education
- Digital Learning
- Educator Effectiveness
- Early Childhood Regional, Program Support and Leadership
- Herb Kohl Scholarships and Fellowships
- Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Discretionary Grants
- Regional Service Network
- Title I Network
- Transition Improvement Grant
- Wisconsin Google Apps for Education
- Wisconsin Response to Intervention (RtI) Center / Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) Network
- Wisconsin Special Education Mediation System
- Wisconsin Statewide Parent Education Initiative
- WISE Learn Digital Content Project



SERVICES

CESA STATEWIDE SERVICES

In addition to offering local, individualized services to school districts, the CESAs may collaborate to offer additional services.

ACADEMIC & CAREER PLANNING PROJECT

[*cesawi.org/news*](http://cesawi.org/news)

The Academic & Career Planning - Professional Development Design Project was created to develop and implement professional development systems and training modules in preparation for statewide implementation of the ACP process by the 2017-18 school year.

CESA PURCHASING

[*cesapurchasing.org*](http://cesapurchasing.org)

The CESA Purchasing program provides secure volume purchasing discounts through statewide cooperative purchasing agreements and CSN membership in the Association of Educational Purchasing Agencies.

COMMUNICATION AND PUBLIC RELATIONS SERVICES FOR SCHOOLS

[*cesa6.org/products_services/communications*](http://cesa6.org/products_services/communications)

School districts can find assistance with their communication and public relations challenges through this service designed just for schools.

EFFECTIVENESS PROJECT

[*cesa6.org/ep*](http://cesa6.org/ep)

This is a professional evaluation system for teachers, educational specialists, leaders and administrators. The system focuses on both the process and product of high quality instruction, including standards of effective practice and student achievement.

WISEXPLORE PROJECT

[*wise.dpi.wi.gov/wisexplore*](http://wise.dpi.wi.gov/wisexplore)

Through the WISExplore Project, a set of guided analysis processes and tools were developed that school districts can use to analyze school performance data included in Wisconsin's accountability system. Project funds were used to assemble a WISExplore Work Team to design, test, pilot and disseminate the guided analysis tools.

WISE LEARN DIGITAL CONTENT PROJECT

cesawi.org/news

The WISE Learn Digital Content Project coordinates a process in which educators identify and organize high-quality digital resources that align with the Wisconsin Information and Technology Literacy Standards and Wisconsin academic standards. The project team products will be then integrated into the WISE Learn Educator Resource Portal for access by Wisconsin educators.

WISCONSIN GOOGLE APPS FOR EDUCATION

cesawi.org/googleapps

DPI provides virtual space and a statewide agreement with Google. CESAs provide deployment, technical support and ongoing professional development services to help school districts “go Google”.

WISCONSIN RTI CENTER AND PBIS NETWORK

wisconsinrticenter.org and

wisconsinpbisnetwork.org

The programs within this “virtual center” help schools provide high quality instruction and continuous review of student progress through a balanced assessment system. They also offer collaboration among educators, families and the community.

WISCONSIN SAFE & HEALTHY SCHOOLS (WSHS)

wishschools.org

The Wisconsin Safe & Healthy Schools Training and Technical Assistance Center helps Wisconsin school districts implement programs to reduce barriers to learning through prevention and intervention of substance abuse and risky or violent behaviors among students.

CONNECT WITH YOUR LOCAL CESA

Through each local CESA, every school district in Wisconsin has a regional connection to information and resources that support high quality teaching and learning. Each CESA provides training and resources on topics such as educator effectiveness, Common Core Standards, data analysis, cooperative purchasing, instructional strategies, technology integration, special education, literacy, diversity, and much more. Local CESAs also have a network of support available to schools, because they work in partnerships and as a statewide network.

CESA 1 Personalized Learning



THE CHALLENGE

Our current public school system was designed in 1892 to serve a standardized, industrial world. It does many things successfully, but it does not have the capacity to educate all students to high levels. CESA 1 recognized the need to transform our education system so that it prepares all children for college, career and life. The Institute @ CESA 1 was established in 2010 to meet this need and deliver personalized learning solutions.

THE SOLUTION

The Institute @ CESA 1 defines personalized learning as an approach to learning and instruction that is designed around individual learner readiness, strengths, needs and interests. Learners are active participants in setting goals, planning learning paths, tracking progress and determining how learning will be demonstrated. At any point in time, learning objectives, content, method and pacing are likely to vary from learner to learner. The Institute works with a vibrant network of schools and districts that take a personalized approach to educating youth, maximizing the potential of all learners based on their needs, abilities and preferences.

THE OUTCOME

Working at the local, state and national levels, the Institute @ CESA 1 provides a personalized learning framework, offers professional development, resources, support and networking opportunities, and empowers educators to create the conditions that will allow all learners to succeed. District participation continues to grow and personalized learning projects touch virtually every level of the K-12 spectrum.

CESA 2

CESA Purchasing



THE CHALLENGE

School districts in Wisconsin needed a way to lower the costs of purchasing goods and services. CESA Purchasing was developed to meet the needs of smaller school districts. By combining purchasing power, schools can obtain substantial volume discounts on technology, paper, office supplies, and more.

THE SOLUTION

From food service to SMART Boards, CESA Purchasing saves schools money. CESA Purchasing is a cooperative that works with local and national vendors to provide contracts to K12 schools, technical colleges, universities and municipalities. CESA Purchasing makes it easy for districts to take advantage of discounts and deals already negotiated by CESA. Most of our contracts are offered at no cost, with regional and state-wide contracts available.

THE OUTCOME

As an example, the CESA Nutrition Cooperative combines the buying power of more than 60 school districts as well as supports school nutrition directors.

CESA 3

The Southwest Wisconsin Science and Engineering Practices Project



THE CHALLENGE

Elementary science is especially important for educating all students as it creates a foundation for them to learn more complex concepts in later grades, and provides the necessary skills and ways of thinking that are needed to become scientifically literate. Good quality science education prepares students to critically evaluate information and use evidence-based reasoning in decision-making. However, surveys of elementary teachers indicate that the majority feel ill-equipped to teach science, particularly physics and engineering content.

THE SOLUTION

The Project was designed to increase elementary teachers' content knowledge in science, elevate teacher efficacy for supporting student learning of science content and practices, and build social capital through relationships among participating teachers.

THE OUTCOME

A partnership was developed between six school districts and UW-Platteville and facilitated by CESA 3's STEM Consultant, Patricia Schaefer. The Project will provide summer institutes to increase teachers' knowledge of science content and pedagogy, quarterly support seminars for continued learning, networking and support, and an online community in which teachers can share their work from the summer institutes as well as classroom artifacts to promote teacher reflection and discussion.

CESA 4

Service by Design



THE CHALLENGE

In an age of educational reform aimed at higher levels of student learning, school districts are working to implement mandates and initiatives related to higher standards, more rigorous assessments and increased accountability. In most cases, this has required wholesale change in systems and practices. As districts respond to these challenges in different ways, so also exists a need for an external response beyond 'one-size-fits-all' programming.

THE SOLUTION

In addition to its catalog of pre-planned services and networking opportunities, CESA #4 works to design personalized services for schools or districts. These are bundled into a package that typically includes consultation and planning, specially created professional development for teaching and/or administrative staff, and ongoing in-district support. We call this Service by Design.

THE OUTCOME

Service by Design has propelled CESA #4 to become the place districts call first when they are faced with an internal need. We are seen as being sensitive and responsive to the individual needs of districts and as a primary source of support in the ongoing quest to ensure high levels of learning for all.

CESA 5 FlexiSCHED



THE CHALLENGE



Schools have been searching for the right solution to allow staff to flexibly schedule students into the right intervention/enrichment period to meet their needs. This solution also needs to take attendance and hold students accountable for being in the right place at the right time. In addition, teachers need to be held to a higher standard, and request that struggling students come in for more direct support and track how often that happens.

THE SOLUTION

All of this can be accomplished with the use of FlexiSCHED® - a simple cloud based “scheduler” that allows more targeted and robust intervention periods in middle or high school.

THE OUTCOME

FlexiSCHED® is the perfect complement to any school wanting to offer intervention, enrichment, and club activities, and seek an easy, web based way to manage it. For more information, visit flexisched.net.

From a High School Principal who uses FlexiSCHED®:

“We were looking for a scheduling tool that was flexible enough to provide more learning time for students who need it and more choices for students who don’t need the additional instruction. FlexiSCHED® was the tool that made this possible for us!”

CESA 6 Communication and Public Relations Services for Schools



THE CHALLENGE

School districts need help communicating with the public and media about all the good things happening in their districts, as well as public relations support for referendums and during open enrollment. A communication strategy, incorporating tactics like the district's website, social media, materials and survey development, needs dedicated support from a communications professional to be fully successful.



COMMUNICATION AND
PUBLIC RELATIONS
SERVICES

THE SOLUTION

CESA 6 launched communication and public relations services that focus on internal and external communication planning for school districts. Services range from developing specific, short-term communication efforts for singular issues like school or district newsletters, to launching a district-wide strategy for proactive communication and school public relations.

THE OUTCOME

The CESA 6 Communication and Public Relations team now works in districts statewide. Today, you'll find our experts supporting districts with communication audits, website content development, social media strategy, crisis communication, referendum information planning and much more.
cesa6.org/products_services/communications

CESA 7 WISExplore Project



THE CHALLENGE

School districts in Wisconsin need education research and data analysis to better understand and improve educational outcomes for Wisconsin students. The Wisconsin Information System for Education (WISE) was created to offer



specific tools for districts to use education data as a primary tool to see how students, schools, and policies are working, track progress and make adjustments.

THE SOLUTION

The purpose of the WISExplore Project is to design, develop, pilot and disseminate a consistent data inquiry process for use by school boards, administrators and classroom educators to improve student achievement in Wisconsin.

THE OUTCOME

Beginning in 2013, the WISExplore project provided WISEdash data inquiry training for staff in the twelve CESAs to facilitate WISExplore Data Retreats for school leadership teams statewide. Through WISExplore training, each CESA has also established a “help desk” to provide technical assistance with WISEdash. Online e-Learning modules that teach the process of data inquiry with available WISEdash dashboards continue to be developed and posted, along with other professional learning resources. For more information, visit wise.dpi.wi.gov/wisexplore.

CESA 8 Comprehensive Continuous Improvement



THE CHALLENGE

Currently, Wisconsin school districts face some of the greatest challenges we have witnessed in our careers. Numerous initiatives, reduced resources, increased scrutiny and a call for a more transformative leadership approach are all aspects present in the current context of change.

THE SOLUTION

CESA 8 is leading the development of a comprehensive continuous improvement model, ensuring that reasonable progress occurs consistently throughout our region. Additionally, school districts engage in a heightened level of networking to build a collective capacity to address the work.

THE OUTCOME

CESA 8 staff partners with superintendents, faculty and staff of local districts to prototype improvement solutions that work. The tools, templates, professional development and leadership utilized brings an inspiring, constructivist model to what had appeared as a daunting scenario.

CESA 9 Personalized Learning Action Network (P.L.A.N.)



THE CHALLENGE

A one-size-fits-all model of learning no longer meets the needs of today's learners. To remain relevant in a world where learning opportunities occur 24/7, 365 days a year, educators today must personalize learning with their students and need support to do so successfully.

THE SOLUTION

CESA 9's Personalized Learning Action Network (P.L.A.N.) began in 2014 to support the ongoing needs of educators working to more meaningfully engage learners using a personalized approach to instruction. CESA 9 P.L.A.N. is grateful for the learning and support we have received from Jim Rickabaugh, PhD, and the staff at the Institute @ CESA 1, as we have begun our regional journey in personalized learning.

THE OUTCOME

The Personalized Learning Action Network offers a variety of supports to educators, including boot camps to build background knowledge on personalized learning, facilitated online book studies, professional learning seminars, networking opportunities and site visits to personalized learning classrooms. The program is open to any educator, school or district in CESA 9. For more information, contact Karen Wendorf-Heldt, Agency Administrator, (715) 453-2141.

CESA 10

Facilities Management



CHALLENGE

The condition and efficiency of school facilities affect school financing, functioning, and student achievement. Properly lit, heated and cooled facilities with good indoor air quality have a measurable impact on student achievement and facility costs; however, when school budgets are tight, maintenance costs are often the easiest thing to defer.

SOLUTION

CESA 10 Statewide Facilities Management provides facilities solutions for more than 130 districts throughout the state. Services include Energy Management Shared Savings, Environmental Health and Safety, Performance Contracting, Facilities Consulting, Long Range Facilities Planning/Investment Grade Audits and Project Management.

OUTCOME

CESA 10's wide range of facilities services save districts valuable funds. Since 2006, CESA 10 Energy Management customers have saved more than \$5 million on utility bills.

CESA 10's facility experts can help with all facilities so that schools do not fall into disrepair and cause potential achievement and liability issues. If funds are an issue, the Revenue Limit Exemption for Energy Efficiency Projects is available.

Call CESA 10 today at 888-947-4701 to learn more, or visit our website at www.cesa10.k12.wi.us/fm.

CESA 11

Reading Teacher Licensure



THE CHALLENGE

With the expanded roles and responsibilities of a reading teacher, including the school report cards and student achievement, CCSS, Educator Effectiveness, RtI, and IDEA - SLD rule, having certified reading teachers in your school is an educational benefit.

THE SOLUTION

CESA 11, in partnership with Viterbo University, is offering a 316 Reading Teacher (PK-12) Licensure Program. This program follows the rigor of the DPI endorsed coursework for licensure purposes. Six university courses are offered in a blended learning format with two face-to-face meetings required for each course, and the majority of the learning taking place online. A one-credit practicum is also a requirement for licensure.

THE OUTCOME

Program schedules were developed so educators may start the licensure program during any semester. Registration and additional information is available on the CESA 11 website.

CESA 12 The North School District Trust



THE CHALLENGE

CESA 12 recognizes the challenge school districts face in controlling the rising cost of health and dental care, while providing equal or better benefits. The North School District Trust helps contain and control cost by establishing and developing an insurance fund balance, while at the same time offering stability and high quality service.

THE SOLUTION

CESA 12 established the Northern School District Trust more than 28 years ago. It is a consortium of 13 regional school districts that utilized group volume to leverage competitive rates. The consortium controls the plan design and cost structures, as well as establishing individual fund balances.

THE OUTCOME

The 13 member school districts have a total fund balance of over \$8.176 million dollars and have enjoyed competitive rates as well as the ability to have complete access to all their individual insurance information.

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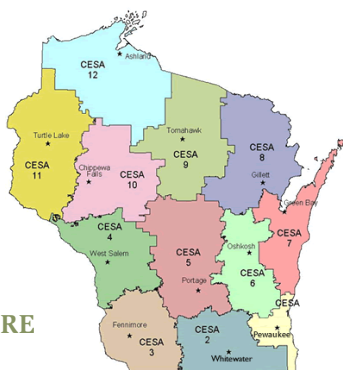
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