



900 S.W. Jackson Street, Suite 102
Topeka, Kansas 66612-1212
(785) 296-3201
www.ksde.gov

To: Chair Estes and Members of the House Committee on Education

From: Frank Harwood, Deputy Commissioner
Gabrielle Hull, Legislative Coordinator

Date: February 25, 2025

Re: Education Service Centers

Chair Estes and members of the House Committee on Education:

K.S.A. 72-13,100 authorizes boards of education to enter interlocal cooperation agreements.

"In the event the boards of education of any two or more school districts enter into a school district interlocal cooperation agreement for the purpose of jointly and cooperatively performing any of the services, duties, functions, activities, obligations or responsibilities which are authorized or required by law to be performed by school districts of this state."

The primary purpose for interlocal cooperative agreements is to more efficiently and effectively provide special education services. There are two types of interlocal cooperation agreements, cooperatives and interlocals.

- Cooperative – One district serves as the fiscal agent.
 - 24 Coops with 103 member districts
- Interlocal – A separate governing board is created and the interlocal is the fiscal agent.
 - 17 Interlocals with 150 member districts

Service Centers are Interlocals that provide more than special education services. Additional services range from professional learning to pooled insurance groups. KSDE often contracts with Service Centers to provide professional development and training as well as other support services to school districts. Below are the education Service Centers in Kansas:

- Southeast Kansas Education Service Center (Greenbush) – Girard & Lawrence
- Educational Services and Staff Development Association of Central Kansas (ESSDACK) - Hutchinson
- Keystone Learning Services - Ozawie
- Orion Education and Training – Clearwater
- Smoky Hill Education Service Center – Salina & Hays
- Southwest Plains Regional Service Center - Sublette
- Northwest Kansas Educational Service Center - Oakley

For more information, contact:

Gabrielle Hull
Legislative Coordinator
Division of Fiscal and Administrative Services

Kansas leads the world in the success of each student.

Gabrielle.Hull@ksde.gov
(785) 296-7840

Frank Harwood
Deputy Commissioner
Division of Fiscal and Administrative Services
Frank.Harwood@ksde.gov
(785) 296-3871