

Information Request on Arkansas Educational Service Cooperatives (August 2023) – Summary

Prepared by the Policy Analysis and Research Section at the Bureau of Legislative Research

Overview

According to Arkansas Department of Education (ADE) rules¹, each education service cooperative (ESC) that's established shall include 3-9 counties, 10-35 school districts, and have at least 20,000 students in kindergarten through grade twelve (K-12) average daily membership. Rules further require at least one postsecondary education institution and for there to be no more than 50 miles distance or approximately one hour driving time to the area's main offices for 90% of the school districts. The State Board of Education (SBOE) can adjust boundaries when criteria such as minimum average daily membership and maximum driving distances conflict, but no more than four of the areas formed may contain fewer than 20,000 students, and in no case shall any education service cooperative be established with fewer than 12,000 students.

Any potential impact of ESCs on student growth is not included in this summary since there are no clear methods for objectively and consistently measuring student achievement across school districts served by each ESC.

The table below provides the number of employees for each ESC, as well as the number of districts, schools, students, and teachers they serve. The counties and school districts within each ESC can be found in Appendices A and B, respectfully.

ESC	# Employees*	# Counties	# Districts	# Schools	# Students	# Teachers
1. Arch Ford	391	7	26	98	42,103	2,894
2. Arkansas River	136	3	6	36	14,580	954
3. Crowley's Ridge	121	6	22	76	35,957	2,601
4. Dawson	212	6	22	84	42,625	2,801
5. DeQueen/Mena	115	5	12	36	12,006	909
6. Great Rivers	51	5	10	34	12,101	841
7. Guy Fenter	78	6	22	99	42,988	2,888
8. North Central Arkansas	73	7	16	49	18,701	1,374
9. Northeast Arkansas	94	6	15	43	17,297	1,253
10. Northwest Arkansas	112	3	22	158	96,011	6,164
11. Ozark Unlimited	118	7	16	49	14,628	1,132
12. South Central	70	4	11	37	14,540	1,049
13. Southeast Arkansas	153	9	15	46	15,340	1,225
14. Southwest Arkansas	53	4	9	32	10,966	767
15. Wilbur D. Mills	81	5	16	58	27,374	1,869

Sources: Employees are provided in each co-op's annual report. Employees who are housed at the co-op, but are paid through other sources are included in the totals. All other data elements are from <https://adedata.arkansas.gov/ARK12/coop>.

¹Arkansas Department of Education (ADE). Rules Governing Education Service Cooperatives (May 2018). [https://dese.ade.arkansas.gov/Files/20201102105719_ADE_320 - Education Service Cooperatives.pdf](https://dese.ade.arkansas.gov/Files/20201102105719_ADE_320_-_Education_Service_Cooperatives.pdf)

Organization Structure

Each ESC is governed by a board of directors consisting of one (1) representative appointed by each school district board of directors within the boundary of the ESC². According to Arkansas Code Annotated §6-20-2202, the ESC board must prepare a budget of expenditures and receipts that is filed with the Department of Education by September 30 of each year. Arkansas Department of Education (ADE) current rules state that the board is to function as a public corporate body and shall meet at least eight times each year. They are to “exercise general fiduciary responsibilities for the education service cooperative with regard to policies and practices which guard the integrity of the agency and maintain public trust in its operation.”³

According to current ADE rules, each ESC shall be administered by a director. The directors’ duties are shown below.

- Administering the ESC programs and services;
- Recommending employment of professional and nonprofessional personnel authorized by the ESC’s governing body;
- Preparing the budget for adoption by the ESC’s governing body;
- Directing expenditures of funds within the budget; and
- Performing other duties as required by the ESC’s governing body and the SBOE
-

Each ESC shall also establish a teacher center and a teacher center committee that is composed of at least one representative from the staff of each school district. The teacher center is to “provide, consistent with funds available, curriculum development assistance, educational materials, and staff development services to teachers within the school districts in the service area.” The teacher center committee “shall advise the director and the governing body on the staffing, programs, and operation of the teacher center.” This initial composition of this committee is determined by the ESC’s governing body “to achieve a balance of elementary, middle school, or junior high, and high school personnel and assure that at least one-half (1/2), but not more than two-thirds (2/3), of the members are classroom teachers.” Teachers on this committee must be elected by colleagues in their school district and administrators are appointed by the superintendent. The committee meets at least three times a year. After the board of directors, director, and the teacher center committee, the organizational structures vary widely. Other committees can also be established by ESCs as needed.

Oversight

According to ADE rules⁴, each ESC shall annually file with the SBOE for their approval. Additionally, each ESC is subject to an annual audit by the Legislative Joint Auditing Committee. The following table shows a summary of legislative audit findings⁵ for each cooperative over the last five years (FY18 through FY22).

² Arkansas Department of Education (ADE). Rules Governing Education Service Cooperatives (May 2018).

³ Arkansas Department of Education (ADE). Rules Governing Education Service Cooperatives (May 2018).

⁴ Arkansas Department of Education (ADE). Rules Governing Education Service Cooperatives (May 2018).

⁵ <https://www.arklegaudit.gov/reports?keyword=cooperative>

	Summary of Legislative Audit Findings FY18 through FY22
ARCH FORD	None
ARK. RIVER	None
CROWLEY'S RIDGE	None
DAWSON	None
DEQUEEN/MENA	None
GREAT RIVERS	None
GUY FENTER	None
NORTH CENTRAL ARK.	FY18: Management Letter - Audit discovered inconsistencies in reports and documentation submitted by an employee working in the Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters Program (HIPPPY). Further review of reports, documents, and other employees revealed "unauthorized/ undocumented compensation and improper mileage reimbursements."
NORTHEAST ARK.	FY19: Material Weakness: "The Cooperative's internal control system did not prevent or detect material errors in the financial accounting records. Such records are utilized in the preparation of the Cooperative's financial statements. The Cooperative incorrectly recorded non-capital expenditures of \$55,833 as facilities acquisition and construction services in the other aggregate funds. The financial statements were subsequently corrected by an adjusting entry during audit fieldwork."
NORTHWEST ARK.	None
OZARK UNLITD	None
SOUTH CENTRAL	None
SOUTHEAST ARKANSAS	<p>FY18: Significant deficiency found within internal control over major federal programs due to "lack of internal controls and management oversight over program expenditures and budget."..."The Cooperative incurred expenditures of \$15,685 from Special Education - Preschool Grants program funds that were not included in the approved budget. These expenditures consisted of employee bonuses of \$15,000 and copier installment contract payments of \$685."</p> <p>FY20: Management letter noted that "an internal control deficiency related to payroll resulted in an overpayment of \$5,917 to and on behalf of an employee; of this amount, the employee received net pay of \$2,694. The cooperative had recovered \$918 of the employee's share of the overpayment as of March 2, 2021."</p>
SOUTHWEST ARK.	FY18: Material Weakness found within internal control. "Deficiencies in the internal control component of control activities adversely affected the Cooperative's ability to initiate, authorize, record, process, and report financial data in accordance with the regulatory basis of accounting such that there was a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the Cooperative's financial statements would not be prevented, or detected and corrected on a timely basis. Financial accounting duties were not adequately segregated among employees. Specifically, the same employee was responsible for adding new employees, processing and preparing payroll checks, and had unrestricted access to the signature facsimile."
WILBUR D. MILLS	FY19: Management letter found the "Cooperative reimbursed an employee \$554 in unallowable expenses related to costs for meals, parking, local transportation, and a spouse's hotel accommodations during a professional development conference. Additionally, we noted a \$3,691 in questionable expenses for conference registration, airfare, hotels, meals, local transportation, and parking, as well as \$59 for transportation to an area theme park during conference hours. Because the employee failed to follow the vendor's requirements to scan the conference badge for each session attended to receive professional development credit hours, we were unable to verify if the employee actually attended the conference."

ESCs must also be evaluated at least once every five years. Evaluations are performed by an evaluation committee of at least nine members. The committees and its chairpersons are appointed by the Commissioner of Education and include the following:

- An ADE staff person;
- A teacher;
- An administrator;
- A college staff member;
- Present or former staff member of an area education service agency;
- Member of an ESC district's school board;
- Representative from business or industry in the ESC area; and
- School parent from each of the two districts

The evaluation committee provides each ESC an evaluation ranking between Levels 1-5, shown below. The evaluations include, without limitation, investigation of user satisfaction, service adequacy, extent of local financial support, staff qualifications, and performance and administration effectiveness. The final evaluation must be filed with the ESC, constituent districts of each ESC, and the SBOE. The SBOE must also acknowledge receipt of the report and comment on any deficiencies identified in the report that should be corrected for the ESC to remain eligible for funding.

- Level 5: ESC of excellence
- Level 4: ESC exceeding standards
- Level 3: ESC meeting standards
- Level 2: ESC on alert
- Level 1: ESC in needs of immediate improvement

The ESC must complete an annual report to ADE that is also published on the ESC's website that includes both the final evaluation and self-evaluation (which is done 15 days prior to the evaluation by the committee). The following table shows a summary of the most recent evaluations conducted for each ESC. This includes only evaluations that were available on the ESC's website or through select recent SBOE meetings. The rubric used in these recent evaluations is shown in Appendix C.

The intent of the evaluation is "to provide a means for school districts to express their concerns about the operation of their education service cooperative and to ensure that each education service cooperative remains alert and responsive to the needs of the schools it serves." The committee can also recommend to the SBOE that the ESC be dissolved.

The SBOE is authorized to dissolve any ESC upon request of a majority of its districts school boards or upon recommendation of evaluation committee. Additionally, ESCs can be placed in fiscal distress by ADE (with approval from the SBOE) if it meets select criteria.

ESC	Evaluation Available Online	Most Recent Evaluation	Overall Evaluation Score
Arch Ford	Yes	2023	5
Arkansas River	Yes	2022	5
Crowley's Ridge	Yes	2019	Not Available
Dawson	Yes	2022	5
DeQueen/Mena	Yes	2023	5
Great Rivers	Yes	2022	3
Guy Fenter	Yes	2022	5
North Central Arkansas	Yes	2022	5
Northeast Arkansas	Yes	2023	5
Northwest Arkansas	Yes	2022	5
Ozark Unlimited	Yes	2022	5
South Central	Yes	2022	5
Southeast Arkansas	Yes	2022	5
Southwest Arkansas	Yes	2023	4
Wilbur D. Mills	Yes	2023	5

Note: Last Updated September 8, 2023

Budgets and Funding Mechanisms

Education service cooperatives receive both restricted and unrestricted funding, including unrestricted revenue from state and local sources, restricted revenue from state and federal sources, and other sources of funds such as indirect cost reimbursement.⁶ The 2021-2022 actual expenditures for all ESCs can be found in the Appendix D. Additionally, the 2021-2022 fund balances for each ESC can be found in Appendix E.

Programs and Services

According to ADE rules⁷, the programs and services of each education service cooperative shall be based upon the needs of the school districts included in its service area and upon the educational priorities of the state. Rules further state that each education service cooperative shall provide a teacher center as its basic curriculum and staff development capability.

Education service cooperatives may provide shared educational programs and services such as needs assessment and school improvement planning, staff development, curriculum development, itinerant teachers, instructional materials, adult and vocational education, programs for gifted and talented, education for children with disabilities, alternative educational programs, secondary area vocational centers, community-based education programs and other services which the State Board of Education may approve or which school districts may support with local funds.

There are many common programs and services provided across all education service cooperatives, but some offer unique programs. It's important to note that not all districts within an education service cooperative participates in every program, and the number of participating districts varies widely.

⁶ See Annual Statistical Reports published at <https://dese.ade.arkansas.gov/Offices/fiscal-and-administrative-services/publication-and-reports/annual-statistical-reports>

⁷Arkansas Department of Education (ADE). Rules Governing Education Service Cooperatives (May 2018).

Appendix A – Counties by Co-Op

ESC	Counties
1. Arch Ford	Cleburne, Conway, Faulkner, Perry, Pope, Van Buren, Yell
2. Arkansas River	Arkansas, Grant, Jefferson
3. Crowley’s Ridge	Craighead, Crittenden, Cross, Jackson, Mississippi, Poinsett
4. Dawson	Clark, Garland, Grant, Hot Spring, Pike, Saline
5. DeQueen/Mena	Howard, Little River, Montgomery, Polk, Sevier
6. Great Rivers	Crittenden, Lee, Monroe, Phillips, St. Francis
7. Guy Fenter	Crawford, Franklin, Johnson, Logan, Scott, Sebastian
8. North Central Arkansas	Baxter, Cleburne, Fulton, Independence, Izard, Sharp, Stone
9. Northeast Arkansas	Clay, Craighead, Greene, Jackson, Lawrence, Randolph
10. Northwest Arkansas	Benton, Madison, Washington
11. Ozark Unlimited	Baxter, Boone, Carroll, Madison, Marion, Newton, Searcy
12. South Central	Calhoun, Columbia, Ouachita, Union
13. Southeast Arkansas	Arkansas, Ashley, Bradley, Chicot, Cleveland, Dallas, Desha, Drew, Lincoln
14. Southwest Arkansas	Hempstead, Lafayette, Miller, Nevada
15. Wilbur D. Mills	Lonoke, Prairie, N. Pulaski, White, Woodruff

Note: All but five ESCs, DeQueen/Mena, Guy-Fenter, Northwest Arkansas, South Central, and Southwest Arkansas cross counties. Arkansas, Baxter, Cleburne, Craighead, Crittenden, Grant, and Jackson have more than one ESC that provides services to districts within those counties. While Pulaski County school districts aren’t assigned to a specific education cooperative, several ESCs provide services to the districts within that county.

Appendix B – School Districts by ESC

ESC	School Districts
1. Arch Ford	Atkins, Clinton, Conway, Danville, Dardanelle, Dover, East End, Greenbrier, Guy-Perkins, Heber Springs, Hector, Mayflower, Mt. Vernon-Enola, Nemo Vista, Perryville, Pottsville, Quitman, Russellville, Shirley, South Conway County, South Side, Two Rivers, Vilonia, West Side, Western Yell County, Wonderview
2. Arkansas River	Arkansas Correctional School, Arkansas School for the Deaf, Pine Bluff, Sheridan, Stuttgart, Watson Chapel, White Hall
3. Crowley's Ridge	Armored, Bay, Blytheville, Brookland, Buffalo Island Central, Cross County, Earle, East Poinsett County, Gosnell, Harrisburg, Jonesboro, Manila, Marion, Marked Tree, Nettleton, Newport, Osceola, Riverside, South Mississippi County, Trumann, Valley View, Wynne
4. Dawson	Arkadelphia, Bauxite, Benton, Bismarck, Bryant, Centerpoint, Cutter-Morning Star, Fountain Lake, Glen Rose, Gurdon, Harmony Grove (Saline), Hot Springs, Jessieville, Kirby, Lake Hamilton, Lakeside (Garland), Magnet Cove, Malvern, Mountain Pine, Ouachita, Poyen, South Pike County
5. DeQueen/Mena	Ashdown, Caddo Hills, Cossatot River, DeQueen, Dierks, Foreman, Horatio, Mena, Mineral Springs, Mount Ida, Nashville, Ouachita River
6. Great Rivers	Barton, Brinkley, Clarendon, Forrest City, Helena-West Helena, KIPP Delta, Lee County, Marvell-Elaine, Palestine-Wheatley, West Memphis
7. Guy Fenter	Alma, Booneville, Cedarville, Charleston, Clarksville, County Line, Fort Smith, Future School of Fort Smith, Greenwood, Hackett, Lamar, Lavaca, Magazine, Mansfield, Mountainburg, Mulberry/Pleasant View, Ozark, Paris, Scranton, Van Buren, Waldron, Westside
8. North Central Arkansas	Batesville, Calico Rock, Cave City, Cedar Ridge, Concord, Highland, IZARD County, Mammoth Spring, Melbourne, Midland, Mountain Home, Mountain View, Norfolk, Salem, Southside (Independence), Viola
9. Northeast Arkansas	Corning, Greene County Tech, Hillcrest, Hoxie, Jackson County, Lawrence County, Marmaduke, Maynard, Paragould, Piggott, Pocahontas, Rector, Sloan-Hendrix, Westside Consolidated
10. Northwest Arkansas	Arkansas Arts Academy, Bentonville, Decatur, Elkins, Farmington, Fayetteville, Gentry, Gravette, Greenland, Huntsville, Lincoln, Pea Ridge, Prairie Grove, Rogers, Siloam Springs, Springdale, West Fork
11. Ozark Unlimited	Alpena, Bergman, Berryville, Cotter, Deer/Mt. Judea, Eureka Springs, Flippin, Green Forest, Harrison, Jasper, Lead Hill, Omaha, Ozark Mountain, Searcy County, Valley Springs, Yellville-Summit
12. South Central	Bearden, Camden-Fairview, El Dorado, Emerson-Taylor-Bradley, Hampton, Harmony Grove (Ouachita), Junction City, Magnolia, Parkers Chapel, Smackover-Norphlet, Strong
13. Southeast Arkansas	Crossett, Dermott, DeWitt, Drew-Central, Dumas, Fordyce, Hamburg, Hermitage, Lakeside (Chicot), McGehee, Monticello, Cleveland County, Star City, Virtual Arkansas, Warren, Woodlawn
14. Southwest Arkansas	Blevins, Fouke, Genoa-Central, Hope, Lafayette County, Nevada County, Prescott, Spring Hill, Texarkana
15. Wilbur D. Mills	Augusta, Bald Knob, Beebe, Bradford, Cabot, Carlisle, Des Arc, England, Hazen, Jacksonville, Lonoke, McCrory, Pangburn, Riverview, Rose Bud, Searcy, White County Central

Note: Pulaski County school districts do not belong to an ESC, but some do utilize services provided by the education service cooperatives.

Appendix C – Evaluation Rubric

Section 1: User Satisfaction and Service Adequacy	
1A. Annual User Satisfaction survey results (all personnel of member districts) (22.2) <i>User Satisfaction Survey - Please show evidence that the survey was sent to all in the ESC area. Focused effort on Superintendent and key personnel who utilize or facilitate PD. Please identify the percentage of districts that responded to your Survey.</i>	
90% or greater satisfied/very satisfied	5 Excellence
80-89% or greater satisfied/very satisfied	4 Exceeding Standards
70-79% or greater satisfied/very satisfied	3 Meeting Standards
60-69% or greater satisfied/very satisfied	2 Alert
50-59% or greater satisfied/very satisfied	1 In Need of Improvement
1B. Summative PD [Professional Development] (22.2)	
3.8 or higher on 4.0 scale	5 Excellence
3.4 to 3.7 on 4.0 scale	4 Exceeding Standards
3.0 to 3.3 on 4.0 scale	3 Meeting Standards
2.6 to 3.2 on 4.0 scale	2 Alert
2.5 or below on 4.0 scale	1 In Need of Improvement
1C. Annual Survey and Needs Assessments (17.00) <i>One professional development needs survey with evidence that the survey was reviewed by ESC leadership and evidence on on-going input of district needs. (survey, agenda, results, follow-up evidence, etc.</i>	
Meets 4 of the 4 criteria AND Reports survey and needs assessment results to member districts and the Department AND Reports any duplications to the Department (How was information shared with DESE)	5 Excellence
Meets 4 of the 4 criteria AND Reports survey and needs assessment results to member districts	4 Exceeding Standards
Meets 4 of 4 criteria listed below. Evidence that: 1. A PD Needs Survey was administered 2. The survey data was reviewed by cooperative leadership 3. Ongoing input of district needs from various groups (i.e. Teacher Center Committee, job alike groups, etc.) 4. Works with the Department to conduct surveys that complement rather than duplicate the work	3 Meeting Standards
Meets 3 of 4 criteria	2 Alert
Meets 2 or less of the 4 criteria	1 In Need of Improvement
1D. Provide Assistance (4.2) <i>District Cost Analysis connected to examples provided.</i>	
Meets 3 of the 3 criteria AND Provides evidence that exceeds the expectation in at least two (2) areas such as exceeding accreditation standards and equalizing education opportunities AND A cost analysis study of coordinated service	5 Excellence
Meets 3 of the 3 criteria AND Provides evidence that exceeds the expectation in at least one (1) areas such as exceeding accreditation standards and equalizing education opportunities OR a cost analysis study of coordinated services	4 Exceeding Standards
Meets 3 of the 3 criteria listed below: 1. Assist member districts in meeting or exceeding accreditation standards and equalizing educational opportunities; 2. Using educational resources more effectively through cooperation among school districts; and 3. Promoting coordination between school districts and the Department in order to provide services that are consistent with the needs identified by school districts and the education priorities of the state	3 Meeting Standards
Meets 2 of the 3 criteria	2 Alert
Meets 1 of the 3 criteria	1 In Need of Improvement

1E. Teacher Center Committee and 10.00 Other Necessary Committees (9.0)	
Meets 5 of the 5 criteria AND Lists the other committees and the purposes or responsiveness to member districts AND Best practices are shared publicly	5 Excellence
Meets 5 of the 5 criteria AND Lists the other committees and the purposes or responsiveness to member districts	4 Exceeding Standards
Meets 5 of the 5 criteria listed below: 1. A teacher center will provide, if funds are available, curriculum development assistance, educational materials, and staff development services to teachers within the area 2. A teacher center committee is composed of at least one (1) representative from the staff of each school district 3. At least one-half (½), but not more than two-thirds (⅔) of the members are classroom teachers 4. The committee meets at least three (3) times per year; and 5. Other committees of local school personnel are convened to be responsive to the member districts.	3 Meeting Standards
Meets 4 of the 5 criteria	2 Alert
Meets 3 or less of the 5 criteria	1 In Need of Improvement
1F. Liaison with Postsecondary Institutions (16.00) Publicly shared Postsecondary partnerships.	
Collaborates with more than two (2) postsecondary institutions or other recognized educational agencies on a regular basis AND Best practices are shared publicly	5 Excellence
Collaborates with more than one (1) postsecondary institutions on a regular basis	4 Exceeding Standards
Shall cooperate with the state-supported postsecondary institution located within its area	3 Meeting Standards
Cooperates with one (1) postsecondary institution within the state	2 Alert
Does not cooperate or collaborate with a postsecondary institution	1 In Need of Improvement
Section 2: Staff Qualifications and Administration Effectiveness	
2A. Director; personnel; general policies, rules and regulations; policies, procedures, expenditures, reports, and audits. (11.00, 12.00, 14.00, 21.00)	
Meets 5 of the 5 criteria AND All audit findings are addressed AND Best practices are shared publicly	5 Excellence
Meets 5 of the 5 criteria AND All audit findings are addressed	4 Exceeding Standards
Meets 5 of the 5 criteria listed below: 1. All positions requiring licensure are occupied by personnel possessing licensure or approved alternatives. 2. Evidence of staff formal evaluations including performance evaluation of director 3. Personnel policies are in place and current 4. Annual reports are compiled and disseminated to individuals and entities required by statute 5. There is no evidence of fiscal distress as witnessed by any one of criteria in 27.00 of the Rules	3 Meeting Standards
Meets 4 of the 5 criteria	2 Alert
Meets 4 of the 5 criteria	1 In Need of Improvement
2B. Board of Directors and Executive Committee – Documentation of Board of Directors meetings according to rubric.	
The Board of Directors meet more than eight (8) times each year, and written policies and procedures for operation are filed with the State Board AND Records of internal improvement in efficiency of operation are available upon request or MAY Substitute: The executive committee and board of directors meets more than required.	5 Excellence
The Board of Directors meet more than eight (8) times each year, and written policies and procedures for operation are filed with the State Board MAY Substitute: The executive committee or board of directors meets more than required.	4 Exceeding Standards
The Board of Directors meet at least eight (8) times each year, and general fiduciary responsibilities for the cooperative are documented OR The executive committee meets at least	3 Meeting Standards

nine (9) times per year, and the board of directors meets at least three (3) times annually. The president of the board shall serve as chair of the executive committee	
The Board of Directors meet less than eight (8) times each year, and/or general fiduciary responsibilities for the cooperative are minimally documented	2 Alert
The Board of Directors meet less than eight (8) times each year, and/or general fiduciary responsibilities for the cooperative are not adequately documented	1 In Need of Improvement
Section 3: Extent of Local Financial Support	
3A. Program Services; participation of local districts; extent of local financial support; technology center; Math and Science Center (18.00, 19.00, 22.2, 24.00, 25.00)	
Meets 3 of the 3 criteria AND Programs and services are documented based on needs assessment and evaluation is reported AND Resources of the educational service cooperative are enhanced by forming support networks among the member schools to provide extended services, provide new services and combine funding to support programs such as group purchasing, thus maximizing local school district funding. 90% or more of member districts participate by purchasing services and providing release time for staff to engage in specialized training & services AND Cost analysis study has been performed for 1/3 of member districts annually and the findings have been shared in a face-to-face meeting with the superintendent AND Best practices are shared publicly	5 Excellence
Meets 3 of the 3 criteria AND Programs and services are documented based on needs assessment AND 50% or more of member districts support the cooperative in offering extended services in two (2) or more activities or events or purchased services with local funds AND At least one (1) cost analysis study has been performed and the findings have been shared in a face-to-face meeting with the superintendent(s)	4 Exceeding Standards
Meets 3 of the 3 criteria listed below: 1. Programs and services are based on the needs of the member districts and priorities of the state 2. Each member district is entitled to participate in programs and services that are fully supported by state funds 3. Programs and other services may be supported by local funds	3 Meeting Standards
Meets 2 of the 3 criteria	2 Alert
Meets 1 or less of the 3 criteria	1 In Need of Improvement
Total Evaluation Score	
Must receive a majority score of 5 on categories (at least 6 out of 9 categories); and NO scores below 3	5 Excellence
Must receive at least 6 scores of 4 or some combination of 4 or 5; and NO scores below 3	4 Exceeding Standards
Must receive at least 6 scores of 3 or some combination of 3, 4, or 5; may include only one score of 2 (if some combination of 4 or 5 was assigned) with no additional scores below 3	3 Meeting Standards
Scores 2 in 2 or more categories	2 Alert
Scores 1 in 1 or more categories	1 In Need of Improvement

Appendix D – Expenditures

Revenue	2021/2022 Actual	2022/2023 Budget
Unrestricted Revenue from State and Local Sources:		
1 Area in Square Miles	0	
2 ADA	0	
4 4 Qtr ADM	0	
5 Prior Year 3 Qtr ADM	0	
6 Assessment	0	
7 M&O Mills	0.00	
8 URT Mills	0.00	
9 M&O Mills in Excess of URT	0.00	
10 Dedicated M&O Mills	0.00	
11 Debt Service Mills	0.00	
12 Total Mills	0.00	
13 Total Debt Bond/Non Bond	106,183	
14 Property Tax Receipts (Incl URT)	0	0
15 Other Local Receipts	64,310,616	60,937,454
16 Revenue From Interm Srcs	0	0
17.1 Foundation Funding (Excl URT)	0	0
17.2 98% of URT X Assessment less Net Revenues	0	0
18 Student Growth Funding	0	0
19 Declining Enrollment Funding	0	0
20 Consolidation Incentive/Assistance	0	0
21 Isolated Funding	0	0
22 Enhanced Transportation Funding	0	0
23 Other Unrestricted State Funding	195,654	36,800
24 Total Unrestricted Revenue from State and Local Sources	64,506,271	60,974,254
Restricted Revenue from State Sources:		
25 Adult Education	2,265,015	0
Regular Education:		
26 Professional Development	0	0
27 Other Regular Education	13,127,707	13,508,739
Special Education:		
28 Gifted And Talented	515,710	390,000
29 Alt. Learning Environment (ALE)	0	0
30 English Language Learner (ELL)	0	0
31 Enhanced Student Achievement Funds (ESA)	0	0
32 Other Special Education	1,454,528	2,175,280
33 Career Education	1,216,419	1,054,909
34 School Food Service	0	0
35 Educational Service Cooperatives	20,987,196	19,472,727
36 Early Childhood Programs	20,077,657	20,183,970
37 Magnet School Programs	0	0
38 Other Non-Instructional Program Aid	920,912	797,125
39 Total Restricted Revenue from State Sources	60,565,144	57,582,749
40 Total Restricted Revenue from Federal Sources	40,824,439	59,492,581

Other Sources of Funds:

41 Financing Sources	0	0
42 Balances Consol/Annexed District	0	0
43 Indirect Cost Reimbursement	6,196,018	7,550,217
44 Gains & Losses - Sale Fixed Assets	80	0
45 Compensation - Loss Of Fixed Assets	20,103	0
46 Other	13,461	0
47 Total Other Sources of Funds	6,229,662	7,550,217
48 Total Revenue and Other Sources of Funds from All Sources	172,125,517	185,599,801

Note: The \$106,183 referenced above in Line 13: Total Debt Bond/Non Bond includes North Central ESC (\$16,893), South Central ESC (\$89,020), and Southeast ESC (\$270)

Appendix E: Fund Balances (2021-2022)

ESC	Activity	Building	Federal	Food Services	Legal/ Operating	Matrix Funding	Combined Fund Balances	Total Actual Revenue	Current Expenditures
Arch Ford	\$0	\$0	\$299,407	\$0	\$7,523,147	\$0	\$7,822,554	\$36,216,115	\$35,076,261
Arkansas River	\$5,646	\$0	\$229,466	\$10,654	\$3,413,384	\$0	\$3,659,149	\$12,979,927	\$11,678,929
Crowley's Ridge	\$0	\$0	\$1,514,993	\$0	\$5,378,659	\$0	\$6,893,652	\$9,767,754	\$8,935,239
Dawson	\$0	\$0	\$2,567,226	\$0	\$4,883,151	\$0	\$7,450,377	\$21,849,229	\$20,350,872
DeQueen/Mena	\$12,209	\$400,000	\$1,775,525	\$37,392	\$3,480,995	\$0	\$5,706,121	\$11,562,913	\$9,609,003
Great Rivers	\$0	\$0	\$257,979	\$0	\$2,195,961	\$0	\$2,453,941	\$7,119,435	\$7,070,930
Guy Fenter	\$0	\$0	\$519,357	\$0	\$2,273,056	\$0	\$2,792,413	\$7,000,169	\$6,313,718
North Central Arkansas	\$366	\$278,906	\$364,763	\$0	\$1,133,666	\$670,966	\$2,448,668	\$5,930,930	\$5,237,686
Northeast Arkansas	\$5,194	\$1,114,200	\$1,432,490	\$0	\$2,917,372	\$0	\$5,469,255	\$6,237,596	\$5,206,516
Northwest Arkansas	\$22,550	\$450,000	\$351,657	\$0	\$2,779,332	\$402,344	\$4,005,882	\$8,788,109	\$7,917,362
Ozark Unlimited	-	\$1,275,598	\$1,535,530	\$0	\$1,201,399	\$0	\$4,012,527	\$9,205,055	\$7,658,364
South Central	-	-	\$913,010	\$0	\$1,850,892	\$0	\$2,763,901	\$4,980,461	\$4,241,532
Southeast Arkansas	\$689	\$4,140,492	\$271,134	\$0	\$5,424,623	\$1,498,742	\$11,335,680	\$15,833,042	\$15,093,915
Southwest Arkansas	\$0	\$0	\$145,105	\$0	\$2,117,111	\$0	\$2,262,216	\$6,285,479	\$6,228,105
Wilbur D. Mills	\$3,117	\$0	\$746,536	\$0	\$2,966,217	\$0	\$3,715,871	\$8,369,303	\$7,264,903

Data Sources: Arkansas Public School Computer Network ([APSCN](#)) FY22 Fund Balance Reports and FY22 ADE [Annual Statistical Report](#).

Note: The legal fund includes combined balances for the teacher salary fund, operating fund, and debt service fund. No cooperatives had fund balances within the teacher salary and debt service funds.