



# AESAs

ASSOCIATION OF  
EDUCATIONAL SERVICE AGENCIES

## **Vermont House Education Committee**

### **Education Service Agencies (ESAs) History, Governance, Finance & Impact**

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# Purpose of Today's Testimony

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- ◆ Provide neutral, national context on ESAs
- ◆ Share governance and funding models
- ◆ Highlight services and efficiencies
- ◆ Focus on rural sustainability

# What are Education Service Agencies?

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- ◆ Regional shared-service organizations
- ◆ Operate between districts and the state
- ◆ Exist in 44 states - a variety of names

# Why ESAs Were Created

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- ◆ Small and rural districts lack scale
- ◆ Rising complexity and compliance
- ◆ Need for shared expertise

# National ESA Footprint

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- ◆ 44 States have ESAs
- ◆ Over 500 ESA throughout the USA
- ◆ Critical partners in public education

# Governance Models

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- ◆ Superintendent-led boards
- ◆ School board representation
- ◆ Mixed governance models
- ◆ Publicly elected boards

# Voluntary vs Mandatory Participation

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- ◆ Voluntary: fee-for-service
- ◆ Mandatory: baseline equity
- ◆ Many states evolved over time

# How ESAs Are Funded

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- ◆ State-funded baseline
- ◆ Entrepreneurial/Fee-for-service models
- ◆ Blended/hybrid approaches
- ◆ Taxing Authority



# Start-Up & Operating Costs

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- ◆ Leverage existing facilities
- ◆ Shared Staffing
- ◆ Phased service implementation

# Core ESA Services

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**Special Education Supports**



**Professional Development**



**Technology & Cybersecurity**



**Business Services**



**Cooperative Purchasing**

# State Examples

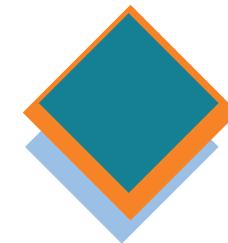
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Wisconsin: \$50M+ health insurance savings



Texas: Statewide professional development & initiatives rollout



Iowa: 20-25% cooperative purchasing savings



Pennsylvania: Regional special education & Compliance

# Rural Sustainability

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- ◆ Shared specialists
- ◆ Lower administrative burden
- ◆ Cost avoidance, not consolidation

# Key Considerations

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- ◆ Governance fit
- ◆ Balanced funding
- ◆ Clear accountability
- ◆ Phased approach

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# AESA

# Thank You!

Join the conversation!

