



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

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

What are Education Service Agencies?

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

Why ESAs Were Created

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

Governance Models

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

Voluntary vs Mandatory Participation

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

How ESAs Are Funded

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

Start-Up & Operating Costs

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

Core ESA Services



Special Education Supports



Professional Development



Technology & Cybersecurity



Business Services

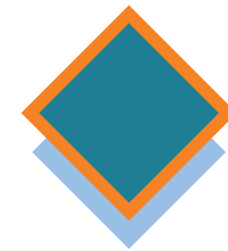


Cooperative Purchasing

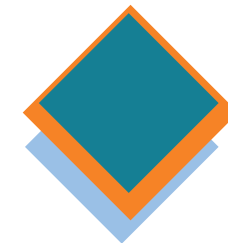
State Examples



Wisconsin: lowered health insurance costs



Texas: Statewide professional development & initiatives rollout



Iowa: 20-25% cooperative purchasing savings



Pennsylvania: Regional special education & Compliance

Rural Sustainability

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

Key Considerations

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

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Thank You!

Join the conversation!

