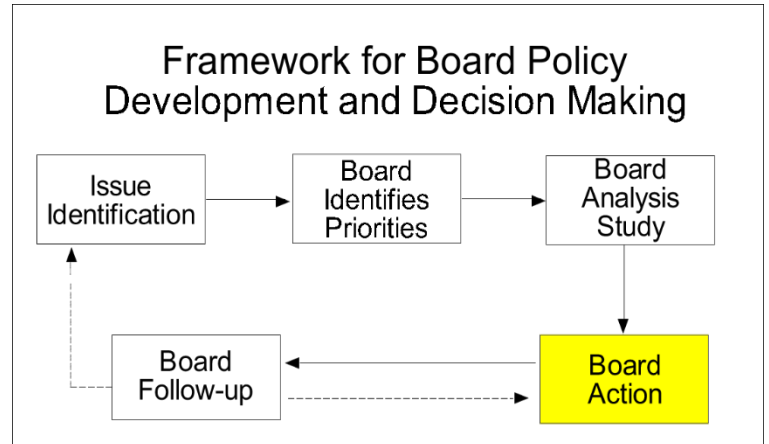


# Iowa State Board of Education

## Executive Summary

March 20, 2025



<b>Agenda Item:</b>	Northwest Area Education Agency (AEA) Budget Review
<b>State Board Priority:</b>	All
<b>State Board Role/Authority:</b>	Iowa Code 273.3(12) requires the State Board to review the proposed budget of each area education agency (AEA) and either grant approval or return the budget without approval with comments of the State Board included. An unapproved budget shall be resubmitted to the State Board for final approval.
<b>Presenter(s):</b>	Kassandra Cline, Chief Bureau of School Business Operations  Dr. Dan Cox, Chief Administrator Northwest AEA  Julie Klein, Business Manager Northwest AEA
<b>Attachment(s):</b>	One
<b>Recommendation:</b>	It is recommended that the State Board approve the Northwest AEA budget as presented.
<b>Background:</b>	Iowa Code 273.3(12) requires the State Board review the proposed budget of each AEA and either grant approval or return the budget without approval with comments by May 1. An unapproved budget shall be resubmitted to the State Board for final approval not later than May 15.



## FY26 Northwest AEA Budget Request and Report

**Submitted by Chief Administrator:** Dan Cox, Ph.D.

**Business Manager:** Julie Klein

**Due:** February 28, 2025 **REVISED 3/10/25**

[Directions for completing the report are highlighted in gray and blue. Directions highlighted in blue may be deleted before submission. Please retain all directions highlighted in gray. The report may be formatted to align with individual AEA communication standards. Additional sections and information can be added, as long as the minimum required headings are maintained.]

**MISSION:**  
**POSSIBLE**  
**NORTHWEST AEA 2.0**

## Table of Contents

Executive Summary .....	3
AEA Overview .....	4
Served.....	4
Districts.....	4
Students .....	5
Teachers .....	6
Others Served.....	6
Programs .....	6
Location .....	8
Capital Assets .....	11
Staff .....	12
Organizational Chart .....	12
BEDS Position Codes.....	13
FY25 to FY26 Staff Changes .....	14
Special Education Support Services Program .....	14
Educational Services Program .....	15
Media Services Program.....	15
Administrative Expenditures .....	16
Administrative Staff by FTE .....	16
Total Administrative Expenditures: FY24 Actual, FY25 Re-Estimated, and FY26 Proposed .....	17
Total Administrative Expenditures: Reduction.....	18
Services.....	19
Centralized Services .....	19
Centers of Excellence .....	20
Fiscal Detail .....	21
General Fund Balance: FY24 Actual, FY25 Re-Estimated, and FY26 Proposed .....	21
Three-Year Comparison for Budgeted Funds: FY24 Actual, FY25 Re-Estimated, and FY26 Proposed ...	22
Additional FY26 Budget Assumptions .....	24

## Executive Summary

[Insert a high-level overview of the information contained in the report.]

This report outlines the financial and operational overview of **Northwest Area Education Agency** for FY24 to FY26, providing insight into the services, expenditures, staffing, and operational aspects of the Agency.

Key highlights include a detailed breakdown of the students, teachers, administrators, and school staff in public school districts and accredited nonpublic schools served by Northwest AEA, as well as a review of capital assets, staffing changes, and administrative expenditures.

The report concludes with comparisons of budgeted funds over a three-year period and the projections for FY26, with an emphasis on administrative cost reductions and service offerings.

Exhibits A, B, and C provide additional detail regarding some of the challenges faced by Northwest AEA.

Exhibit D provides the requested information about Services as found on page 19.

## AEA Overview

Information relating to those served by the AEA, programs offered, location details, and a general description of capital assets is provided below.

### Served

[Enter a summary description of the different groups (e.g., districts, students, teachers, and others) served by the AEA.]

In general, Northwest AEA communities reflect the same characteristics as other parts of rural Iowa. With the exception of Sioux County, sparsity and declining enrollment are prevalent here, evidenced by athletic jerseys emblazoned with identities like MVAOCOU, OABCIG, and MMCRU. Christian education is highly valued from PK-16. There are just under 6,000 students in nonpublic schools, second only to Heartland AEA. Enrollment at Dordt University and Northwestern College continues to grow.

### Districts

[Enter information about the districts served by the AEA. Identify any districts served that are located outside the AEA. Also identify any districts not served by the AEA but that are located within the AEA.]

### Public School Districts (34 + 1)

Akron-Westfield	Lawton-Bronson	Sibley-Ocheyedan
Ar-We-Va	Le Mars	Sioux Center
Boyden-Hull	Maple Valley-Anthon Oto	Sioux City
Central Lyon	Marcus-Meriden-Cleghorn	South O'Brien
Charter Oak-Ute	MOC-Floyd Valley	West Harrison*
Cherokee	OABCIG	West Lyon
Denison	Remsen-Union	West Monona
Galva-Holstein	River Valley	West Sioux
George-Little Rock	Rock Valley	Westwood
Hartley-Melvin-Sanborn	Schleswig	Whiting
Hinton	Sergeant Bluff-Luton	Woodbury Central
Kingsley-Pierson	Sheldon	

\*Green Hills AEA school district that is served by Northwest AEA

### Largest public school district served by Northwest AEA:

Sioux City Community School District (4<sup>th</sup> largest in Iowa) 14,482.1 students

### Smallest public school district served by Northwest AEA:

Whiting Community School District (8<sup>th</sup> smallest in Iowa) 171.7 students

**Accredited Nonpublic Schools (32)**

Bishop Heelan Catholic High School, Sioux City	Rock Valley Christian School
Cathedral Dual Language Academy, Sioux City	Sacred Heart, Sioux City
Danbury Catholic School	Sanborn Christian School
Gehlen Catholic Elementary School, Le Mars	Sheldon Christian School
Gehlen Catholic High School, Le Mars	Sioux Center Christian School
Holy Cross Blessed Sacrament, Sioux City	Siouxland Christian School, Sioux City
Holy Cross St. Michael, Sioux City	St. Mary's Grade School, Remsen
Hull Christian School	St. Mary's High School, Remsen
Hull Protestant Reformed Christian School	St. Patrick's Catholic School, Sheldon
Inwood Christian School	St. Paul's Lutheran School, Sioux City
Ireton Christian School	St. Rose of Lima Catholic School, Denison
Mater Dei Immaculate Conception, Sioux City	Trinity Christian High School, Hull
Mater Dei Nativity, Sioux City	Unity Christian High School, Orange City
Netherlands Reformed Christian School, Rock Valley	Unity Ridge Lutheran School, Denison
Northwest Iowa Protestant Reformed School, Doon	Western Christian High School, Hull
Orange City Christian School	Zion-St. John Lutheran School, Paullina

**Largest accredited nonpublic school served by Northwest AEA:**

Sioux Center Christian School	499 students
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**Smallest accredited nonpublic school served by Northwest AEA:**

Northwest Iowa Protestant Reformed School, Doon	24 students
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*Students*

[Enter information about the students who are served by the AEA.]

Public Schools: 39,415

Accredited Nonpublic Schools: 5,777

Total: 45,192

### *Teachers*

[Enter information about the teachers who are served by the AEA.]

Public Schools: 2,489\*

Accredited Nonpublic Schools: 432\*

Total: 2,921\*

\*This reflects the number of teachers who have updated their AEA Learning Online profile to indicate that they work in a school served by Northwest AEA

### *Others Served*

[Enter information about others who are served by the AEA.]

Families: In Early ACCESS, we serve 205 families. This fluctuates. At the October count, we served 246 children/families on IFSPs.

### **Programs**

[Highlight the general programs offered by the AEA as well as the programs offered that differentiate this AEA from others.]

#### **Special Education Services**

Northwest AEA employees work in partnership with local school teams, community providers, and area families to conduct Child Find, assist teams in the development and implementation of Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) and Individualized Family Service Plans (IFSPs), and deliver high-quality support and related services to eligible individuals.

Support is provided to educators, families, and learners through:

- Early ACCESS services for families with children from birth to age three
- Early Childhood services to area preschools and daycares for children aged three to five
- School-based special education strategists with backgrounds in school psychology, school social work, and special education consultation
- Specialized support services, including those provided by occupational and physical therapists, speech-language pathologists, hearing specialists, and vision specialists
- Literacy, math, social-emotional behavioral health, instructional technology, and specially designed instruction teams
- Assistance with compliance for the provisions of the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and State of Iowa Administrative Rules of Special Education

Services are provided for children from birth through the age of 21 and can be accessed through requests made by parents or school personnel.

## **Educational Services**

Northwest AEA content consultants provide support to teachers, teacher leaders, leadership teams, and school administrators to improve the performance outcomes and well-being of all learners. The areas of support include Early Literacy Implementation (ELI), Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) designations, implementation science, instructional coaching, Iowa Core implementation, mentoring and induction, Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS), and professional growth planning.

Our agency provides:

- Administrative, teacher leader, and teacher networking opportunities across all schools
- Consultation and instructional coaching in the Iowa Core content areas of literacy, mathematics, science, and social studies
- Consultation and instructional coaching in the student-centered areas of Career and Technical Education (CTE), classroom management, competency-based education, early childhood, English Language Learners (ELL), equity, Future Ready, school counseling, and talented and gifted (TAG) services
- Consultation and instructional coaching in the educator-centered areas of school improvement, licensure renewal, mentoring and induction, and curriculum coordination

One program that differentiates Northwest AEA from the other AEAs is our participation in the NASA Space Settlement Design Competition at the Johnson Space Center in Houston. For the past 25 years, students in Western Hills AEA (now Northwest AEA) high schools have been able to take part. Our science consultant takes care of all of the organizational details.

## **Media and Technology**

For nearly 20 years, Northwest AEA and Prairie Lakes AEA have operated a combined library/media collection. It was centralized to the Northwest AEA office in Sioux City in the summer of 2023. We also jointly operate a shared Science kit collection.

Supplemental classroom resources are available to all public and accredited nonpublic school staff within the two AEAs. They also have access to classroom resources from the other seven AEAs through our statewide van delivery system.

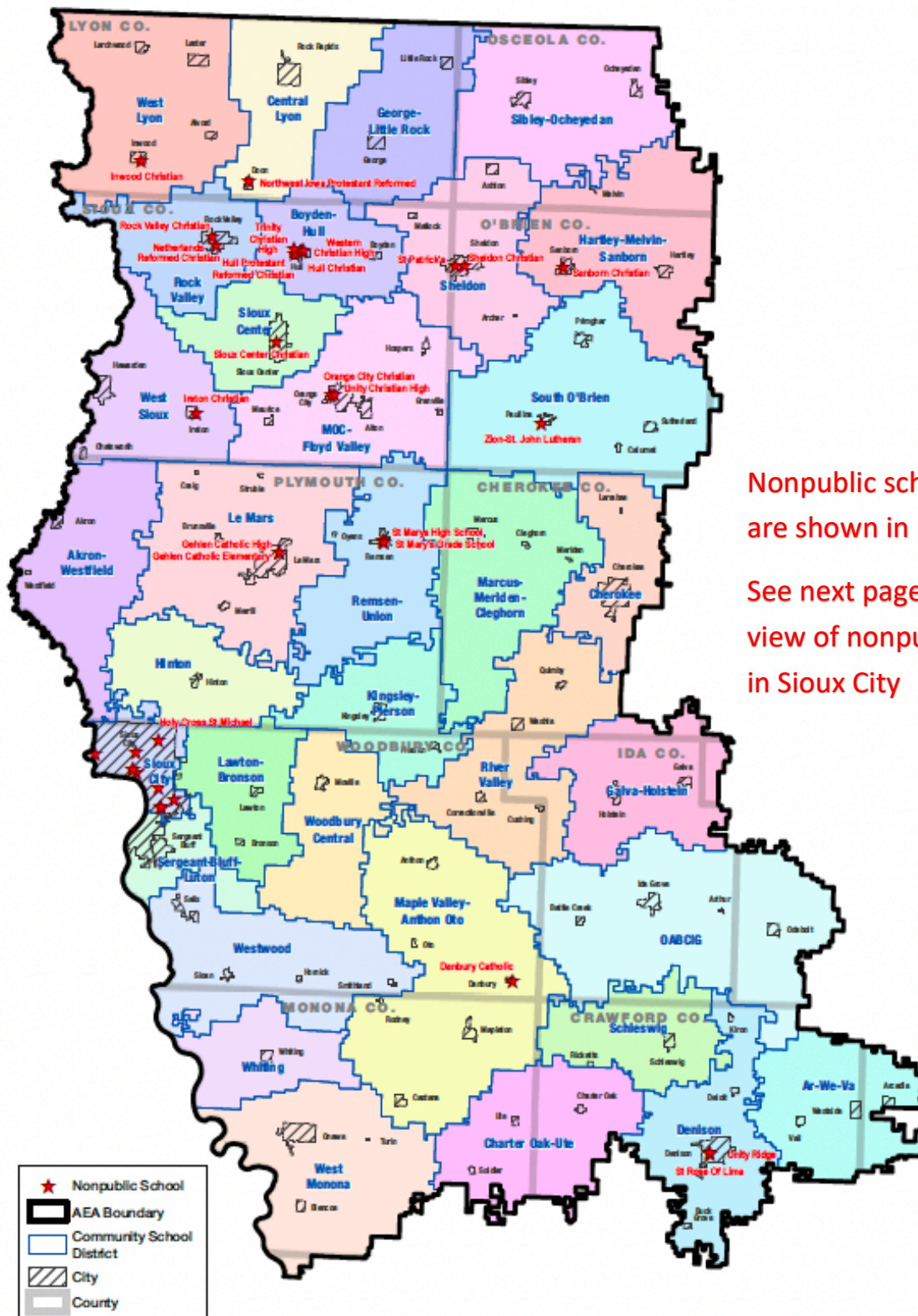
Students and teachers can use instructional resources on Iowa AEA Online for free. The Media Catalog has audiobooks, books, book kits, DVDs, labs, equipment, magazines, and much more for all grade levels.

Combined Creative Services operations are located at the Prairie Lakes office in Pocahontas. Through the statewide ordering and delivery system, school staff also have access to unique product offerings that are not produced in the Pocahontas location.



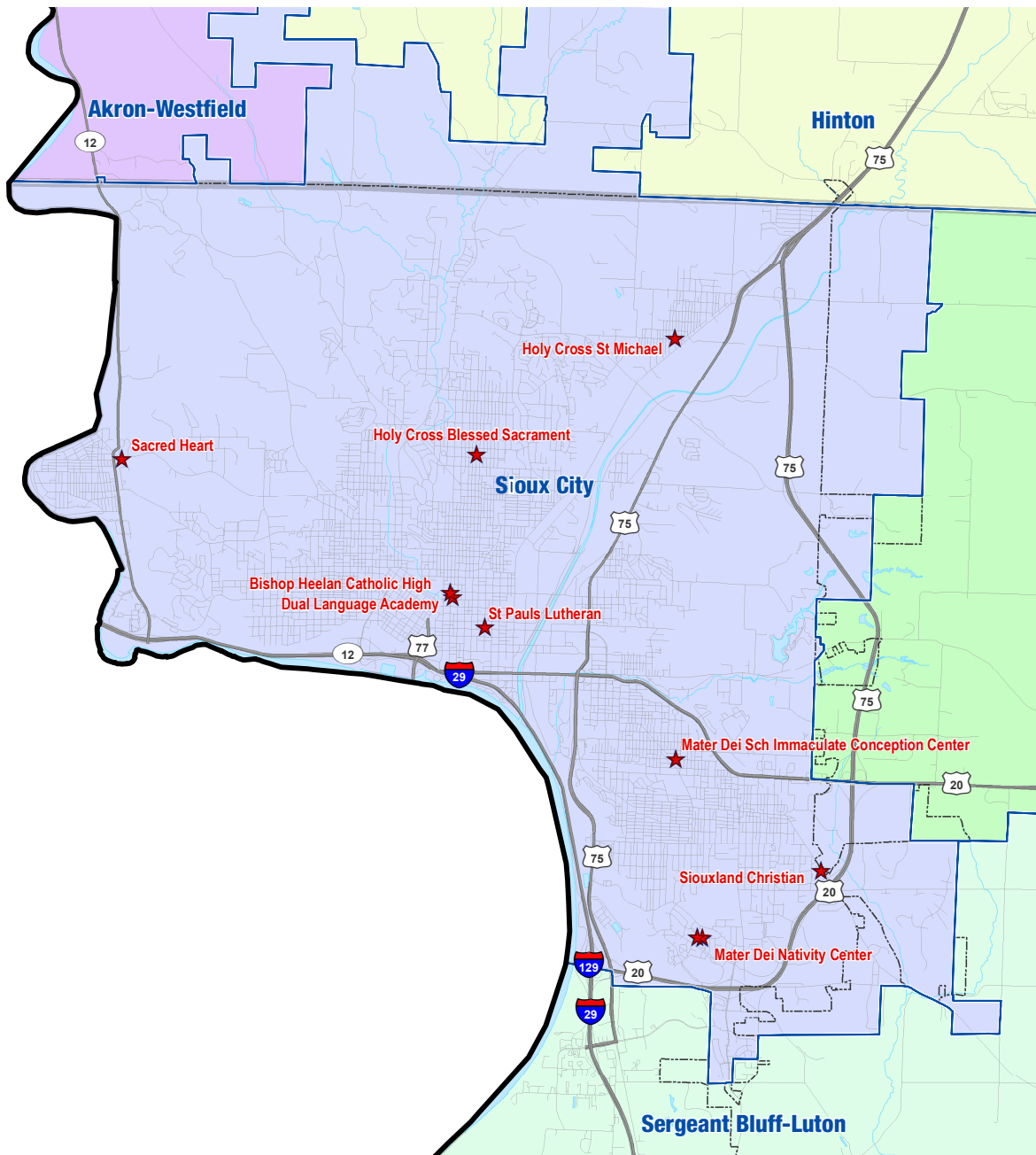
## Location

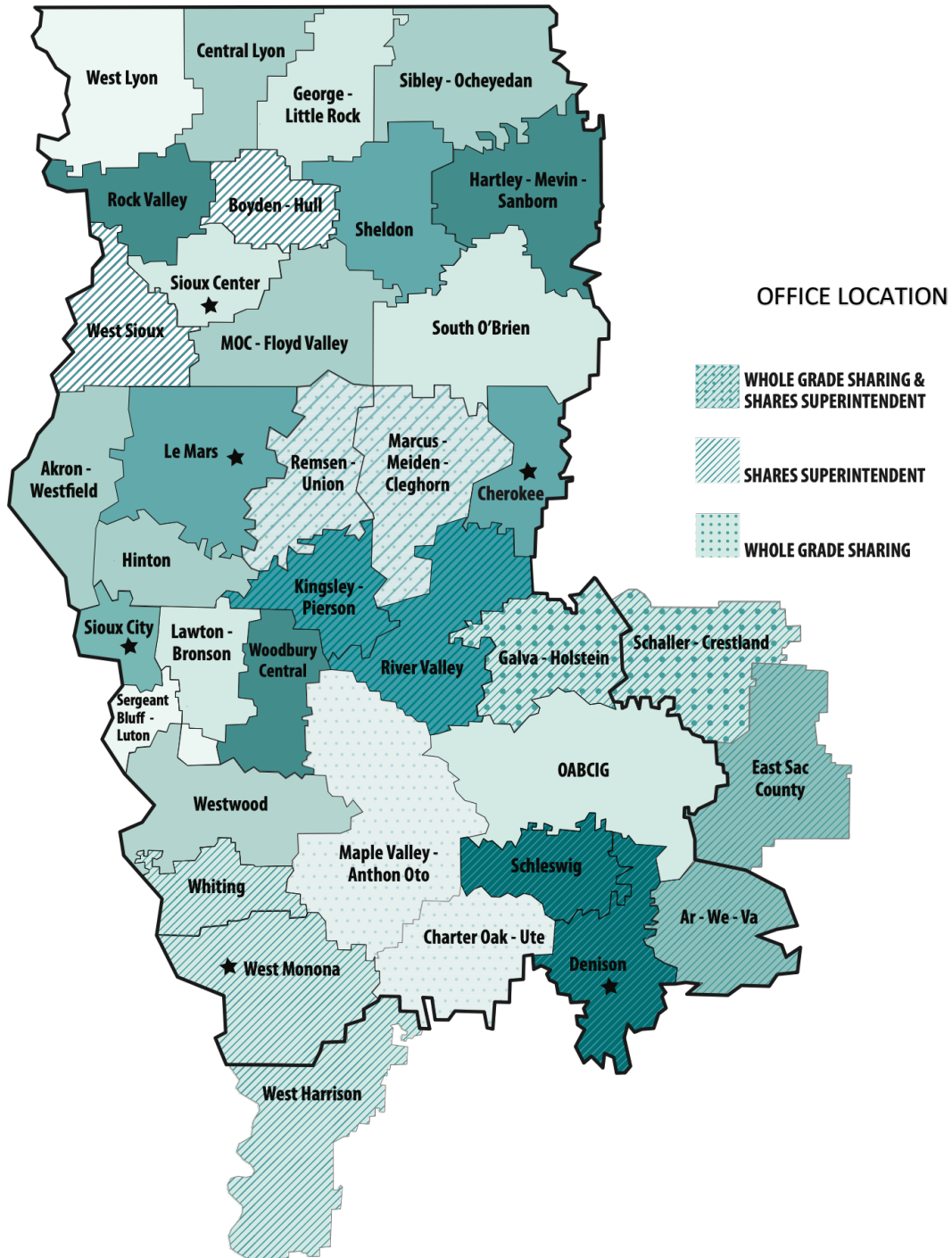
[Insert a map of the AEA, map of the AEA building locations, and provide a narrative surrounding each.]



Nonpublic school names are shown in red.

See next page for close-up view of nonpublic schools in Sioux City





Updated 7/23/2024



Northwest AEA owns the regional offices in **Denison** and **Onawa** as well as the main office in **Sioux City**.

We have needed to lease space at the Administration building in **Le Mars** for the past 18 years because they have no room for us in their schools.

In 2023, we sold our **Sioux Center** regional office to Northwest Iowa Community College. We are leasing back a portion of it while NCC converts the building into their Sioux County Career Center.

We sold our **Cherokee** regional office in 2023 and are leasing it back until June 30, 2025. It is shown in gray because we may not keep an office location here. We are awaiting a potential recommendation by the AEA Task Force before finalizing our plans for 2025-26.

There are hearing booths in **Cherokee**, **Denison**, **Sioux Center**, and **Sioux City**.

### Capital Assets

[Provide a summary description of the AEA's capital assets.]

Denison Regional Office	2008 Hwy 50 South, Denison, Iowa 51442
Onawa Regional Office	801 10 <sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 300, Onawa, Iowa 51040
Discovery Center	5800 Discovery Blvd, Sioux City, Iowa 51111

2013	Ford E-250 Cargo Van
2015	Ford E-150 Transit Van
2016	Chevrolet Express 2500 Van
2019	Ford F-650 Box Truck

## Staff

Information about the AEA's organizational structure, including specific positions, staff changes from FY25 to FY26, and administrative expenditures is provided below.

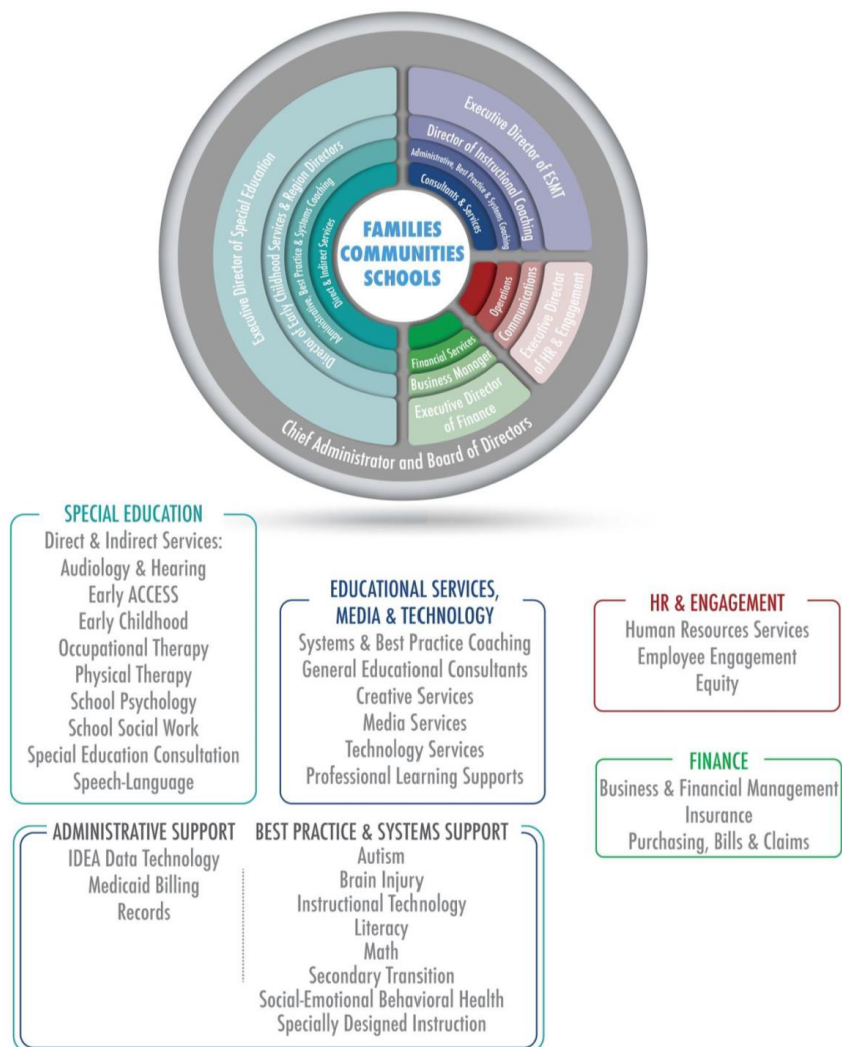
### Organizational Chart

[Insert an organizational chart and enter a related narrative.]

**FAMILIES, COMMUNITIES, & SCHOOLS** are at the center of everything we do. We emphasize that in the organizational chart (below) created in 2021. In it, our certified staff are “closest to the center” of the work we do while supervisors, administrators, classified staff, and the board are wraparound supports.

Note: Due to late resignations, retirements, and requests to be released from contracts at the end of 2023-24, the Executive Director of Special Education position and the Executive Director of ESMT (Educational Services, Media, & Technology) position were combined into one role with a new title: the Executive Director of Integrated Services. In addition, the Executive Director of Finance position was eliminated.

The graphic will be updated this spring to reflect those changes and any additional ones for 2025-26.





## BEDS Position Codes

[Complete the table below and enter a narrative related to variances for staff.]

**Table Name: AEA BEDS Position Codes (All Staff)**

Position Name	Position Code	FY25 FTE Count	FY26 FTE Count	Variance
Paraprofessionals (2 Audiometrists, 4 Juvenile Home Teacher Assistants, and 7.5 SLPAs)	101	13.5	13.5	0
Other Support	107	11.6	9.6	-2
Technology Support	121	3	2	-1
Sign-Language Interpreters	132	5	5	0
HR/Personnel Manager	134	1	1	0
Other Professional	137	5	5	0
School Administrative Support	153	6.8	5.8	-1
Transportation – Other than pupil	175	3	1	-2
Operations and Maintenance	181	2.4	1.4	-1
Chief Administrator	510	1	1	0
AEA Regional/Zone Coordinator	533	5	5	0
Supervisor	534	1	1	0
School Business Official	612	1	1	0
Special Education Consultant	616	27	27	0
Content/Curriculum Consultant	618	23	7	-16
Social Worker	624	15	15	0
Director/Coordinator/Department Head	633	1	0	-1
Special Education Support (10 OTs, 6 PTs, 50 SLPs, 4 Audiologists, and 13 School Psychs)	660	83	83	0
Nurse	698	2	1	-1
Counselor	721	1	1	0
Teacher/Librarian / Media Specialist	722	1	.5	-0.5
Itinerant Teacher	731	4	4	0
Early Childhood Special Education	736	18.8	19.8	+1
Juvenile Home Teacher	746	3	3	0
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>238.1</b>	<b>213.6</b>	<b>-24.5</b>

The narrative regarding variances in staffing are addressed in the subsections that follow.

### FY25 to FY26 Staff Changes

Staff changes from FY25 to FY26 are detailed below for each position in the following programs: special education support services, educational services, and media services.

#### *Special Education Support Services Program*

[Complete the table below and enter a narrative related to variances for staff in the special education support services program.]

**Table Name: AEA BEDS Position Codes (Special Education Support Services Program)**

Position Name	Position Code	FY25 FTE Count	FY26 FTE Count	Variance
Paraprofessionals (2 Audiometrists, 4 Juvenile Home Teacher Assistants, and 7.5 SLPAs)	101	9.5	9.5	0
Other Support	107	9.6	9.6	0
Sign-Language Interpreters	132	5	5	0
Other Professional	137	5	5	0
School Administrative Support	153	2	2	0
AEA Regional/Zone Coordinator	533	5	5	0
Supervisor	534	1	1	0
Special Education Consultant	616	27	27	0
Social Worker	624	11.6	11.6	0
Special Education Support (10 OTs, 6 PTs, 50 SLPs, 4 Audiologists, and 13 School Psychs)	660	83	83	0
Nurse	698	2	1	-1
Counselor	721	1	1	0
Itinerant Teacher	731	4	4	0
Early Childhood Special Education	736	18.8	19.8	+1
Juvenile Home Teacher	746	3	3	0
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>187.5</b>	<b>187.5</b>	<b>0</b>

We have several special education vacancies right now, and our intent is to fill all of them. Positions are posted and interviews will be ongoing throughout the spring.

### *Educational Services Program*

[Complete the table below and enter a narrative related to variances for staff in the educational services program.]

**Table Name: AEA BEDS Position Codes (Educational Services Program)**

<b>Position Name</b>	<b>Position Code</b>	<b>FY25 FTE Count</b>	<b>FY26 FTE Count</b>	<b>Variance</b>
Paraprofessionals/Aides	101	4	4	0
Other Support	107	1	0	-1
School Administrative Support	153	1	0	-1
Content/Curriculum Consultant	618	21	7	-14
Social Worker	624	3.4	3.4	0
Director/Coordinator/Department Head	633	1	0	-1
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>31.4</b>	<b>14.4</b>	<b>-17</b>

Through a combination of retirements, resignations, and Reductions in Force that will take place in April (if necessary) there will be 17 fewer employees in the Educational Services program. Factoring out the 4 Paraprofessionals/Aides working as Juvenile Home Teacher Assistants and the 3.4 Shared Social Workers assigned to schools, we hope to have 7 content specialists to support the professional learning needs of staff in the schools we serve. The impact of this reduction in the Educational Services Program is significant and may not fully be known in the short-term.

### *Media Services Program*

[Complete the table below and enter a narrative related to variances for staff in the media services program.]

**Table Name: AEA BEDS Position Codes (Media Services Program)**

<b>Position Name</b>	<b>Position Code</b>	<b>FY25 FTE Count</b>	<b>FY26 FTE Count</b>	<b>Variance</b>
Other Support	107	1	0	-1
Transportation – Other than pupil	175	3	1	-2
Content/Curriculum Consultant	618	2	0	-2
Teacher/Librarian / Media Specialist	722	1	.5	-0.5
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>7</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>-5.5</b>

A few rural districts within Northwest and Prairie Lakes AEAs have added access to the physical library collection and van delivery to their Service Plan for next year. The income from those requests might support a half-time position. Our two AEAs are still working out possible scenarios in light of limited funding. Several superintendents are waiting until SSA is set before they commit to services. In the end, we may not be able to retain any staff funded by Media dollars.

In addition, we are discontinuing our shared Science Kit program and eliminating the Material Handler position (Other Support 107). Projected revenues fall short of the actual costs of operating the service.



## Administrative Expenditures

Administrative expenditures include costs related to administration and administrators, as defined by HF2612 Sec. 17 (Iowa Acts 2024), which includes chief administrators, directors and department heads, regional administrators, regional and zone coordinators, district coordinators, and human resources and personnel managers. This section includes FY24 actual, FY25 re-estimated, and FY26 proposed administrative staff levels and administrative expenditures.

### Administrative Staff by FTE

[Complete the table below and enter a narrative related to variances.]

Table Name: AEA Administrative Staff by FTE

Administrative Staff	FY24 Actual	FY25 Re- Estimated	FY26 Proposed	FY24-FY26 Variance Amount	FY24-FY26 Variance Percent
Chief Administrator	1	1	1	0	0
Directors and Department Heads	4	2	1	3	-75%
Regional Administrators	7	6	6	1	-14.29%
Regional and Zone Coordinators	0	0	0	0	0
District Coordinators	2	1	1	1	-50%
Human Resources	1	1	1	0	0
Other Administrative Positions	4	2.4	2.4	1.6	-40%
<b>Total FTE</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>13.4</b>	<b>12.4</b>	<b>6.6</b>	<b>-34.74%</b>

As of the submission of this report, Northwest AEA will experience a 34.74% decrease in administrative staff by the end of this fiscal year due to resignations and retirements. The roles that no longer exist include:

1. Executive Director of Special Education
2. Executive Director of Educational Services, Media, and Technology
3. Director of Instructional Coaching
4. Executive Director of Finance
5. Circulation Coordinator
6. Coordinator of Communications and Creative Services
7. .60 FTE of our Maintenance Supervisor

Duties performed by the employees in roles 1-3 have been divided up and added to the existing duties of the Chief Administrator, Executive Director of HR, and/or Region Directors.

### Total Administrative Expenditures: FY24 Actual, FY25 Re-Estimated, and FY26 Proposed

Total administrative expenditures, detailed below by administration and administrative staff, are required to be reduced by at least thirty percent **by July 1, 2026 (the start of FY27)**

[Complete the table below and enter the related narrative.]

**Table Name: Administrative Expenditures: Administration and Administrative Staff FY24 Actual, FY25 Re-Estimated, and FY26 Proposed**

<b>Expenditures: Administration</b>	<b>FY24 Actual</b>	<b>FY25 Re-Estimated</b>	<b>FY26 Proposed</b>	<b>FY24 to FY26 Reduction Amount</b>	<b>FY24 to FY26 Reduction Percent</b>
General Administration (Function 2300-2399)	1,024,739.50	705,910.00	419,048.00	-605,691.50	-59.11%
School Administration (Function 2400-2499)	2,454,199.25	2,092,972.00	2,047,026.00	-407,173.25	-16.59%
Business and Central Administration (Function 2500-2519, 2540-2599)	1,678,284.12	1,468,968.00	1,409,678.00	-268,606.12	-16.00%
Purchasing, Distributing, Printing (Function 2520-2539)	504,615.26	151,453.00	57,091.00	-447,524.26	-88.69%
<b>Total Expenditures: Administration</b>	<b>5,661,838.13</b>	<b>4,419,303.00</b>	<b>3,932,843.00</b>	<b>-1,728,995.13</b>	<b>-30.54%</b>
<b>Expenditures: Administrative Staff (Object 100-299)</b>	<b>FY24 Actual</b>	<b>FY25 Re-Estimated</b>	<b>FY26 Proposed</b>	<b>FY24 to FY26 Reduction Amount</b>	<b>FY24 to FY26 Reduction Percent</b>
Chief Administrator	333,322.44	343,241.00	268,466.26	-64,856.18	-19.46%
Directors and Department Heads	788,008.71	403,994.00	177,330.06	-610,678.65	-77.50%
Regional Administrators	1,285,872.03	1,134,992.00	1,157,691.84	-128,180.19	-9.97%
Regional and Zone Coordinators	-	-	-	-	-
District Coordinators	226,679.76	119,703.00	122,097.06	-104,582.70	-46.14%
Human Resources	186,250.16	189,650.00	193,443.00	7,192.84	3.86%
Other Administrative Positions	474,462.59	263,321.20	268,587.62	-205,874.97	-43.39%
<b>Total Expenditures: Administrative Staff</b>	<b>3,294,595.69</b>	<b>2,454,901.20</b>	<b>2,187,615.84</b>	<b>-1,106,979.85</b>	<b>-33.60%</b>

	FY24 Actual	FY25 Re-Estimated	FY26 Proposed	FY24 to FY26 Reduction Amount	FY24 to FY26 Reduction Percent
<b>Total Administrative Expenditures</b>					
Total Expenditures: Administration	5,661,838.13	4,419,303.00	3,932,843.00	-1,728,995.13	-30.54%
Total Expenditures: Administrative Staff	3,294,595.69	2,454,901.20	2,187,615.84	-1,106,979.85	-33.27%
<b>Total Administrative Expenditures</b>	5,661,838.13	4,419,303.00	3,932,843.00	-1,728,995.13	-30.54%

The significant drop in expenses for Function codes 2520-2539 reflects the closure of the Creative Services department at Northwest AEA. Orders now are fulfilled primarily by Prairie Lakes AEA with some assistance from other AEAs.

#### **Total Administrative Expenditures: Reduction**

[Provide narrative for progress made toward administrative expenditure reduction.]

We will have achieved the 30% reduction in administration and administrative expenses by July 1, 2025. The challenge over the next three months for our Agency Leadership Team members is to thoughtfully realign employee roles and responsibilities to ensure that we continue to live out our core values: **Relationships. Responsiveness. Results.**

## Services

[Insert a table and a narrative description of services provided, the recipients of those services, and associated cost to the entity purchasing the service (e.g., rates, fee schedule), if applicable, and the cost to the AEA to provide the service.]

See **Exhibit D**

### Centralized Services

[Include a narrative to describe the AEA's centralized services, which are defined for this purpose as staff and services that are centralized and shared with other AEAs.]

For approximately 20 years, Northwest AEA and Prairie Lakes AEA have operated a combined **Library/Media collection** across multiple locations. The origins of the shared program date back to when Lakeland (AEA 3), AEA 4, Arrowhead (AEA 5), and Western Hills (AEA 12) were separate agencies. The chief administrators and boards of directors of those agencies showed visionary leadership by joining forces to provide expanded opportunities for the students, teachers, and school staff they served.

When Northwest AEA moved into its new location in May 2023, the physical library collections in Pocahontas and Sioux City were centralized to the new site. One year later, **Creative Services** operations were centralized to Pocahontas.

The two AEAs have operated a shared **Science Kit** service for many years, housed in Sioux City.

During the 2024-25 school year, Northwest AEA began sharing our **ELL/Title III grant coordinator**, our two **Instructional Tech consultants**, and our **Professional Learning Coordinator** with Prairie Lakes. Our two AEAs also are paired together for **Technology**.

All nine AEAs share the following statewide services: Braille production support, Canvas user network, data support, Counseling network, Curriculum network, Educational Technology network, ELL network, media checkout, online digital resources, print, Principals' network, TAG network, Special Education Leadership network, and van delivery.

Note: Since Northwest, Prairie Lakes, and Heartland have **hearing booths** near one another, there are parents who choose to utilize services at the location nearest to their home regardless of the AEA in which they reside.

## Centers of Excellence

[Include a narrative to describe the AEA's centers of excellence, which are defined for this purpose as content expertise and capacity in a targeted special education service area with statewide impact.]

The nine AEAs are working as a system to establish at least one Center of Excellence in each AEA over the next sixteen months. We expect to launch a Center of Excellence at Northwest AEA no later than July 1, 2026. The focus will be *Instruction for Learners with Significant Cognitive Disabilities*.

Center of Excellence	Lead AEA	Partnering AEAs	Implementation Date
Recruitment, Retainment, Onboarding, Mentoring, and Professional Learning for AEA Special Education Staff (School Psychologists)	Heartland AEA	Systemwide	July 1, 2025
Early ACCESS	Keystone AEA & Central Rivers AEA	Systemwide	July 1, 2025
Assistive Technology Support for Learners with Disabilities	Green Hills AEA & Heartland AEA	Systemwide	July 1, 2026
Leadership for Closing the Achievement Gap for Learners with Disabilities	Mississippi Bend AEA	Systemwide	July 1, 2026
Explicit Instruction Practices for Learners with Disabilities	Prairie Lakes AEA	Systemwide	January 1, 2026
Assessment, Linkages, and Instructional Programming Practices for Successful Post-Secondary Transition for Learners with Disabilities	Grant Wood AEA	Systemwide	July 1, 2026
Instruction for Learners with Significant Cognitive Disabilities	Northwest AEA	Systemwide	July 1, 2026
Language and Literacy for Learners with Disabilities	Great Prairie AEA	Systemwide	January 1, 2026

## Fiscal Detail

[Enter narrative of information provided in the section.]

### General Fund Balance: FY24 Actual, FY25 Re-Estimated, and FY26 Proposed

[Include narrative to explain fund balance type (e.g., non-spendable, restricted, committed) reflected in the table below, including reasons for purposeful balances and plans for use.]

**Table Name: General Fund Balance Detail FY24 Actual, FY25 Re-Estimated, and FY26 Proposed**

General Fund Balance Detail	FY24 Actual	FY25 Re-Estimated	FY26 Proposed
Non-Spendable Fund Balance, Special Education Support Services			
Non-Spendable Fund Balance, Other	22,680.00		
Restricted Fund Balance, Special Education Support Services			
Restricted Fund Balance, Other	116,346.00		
Committed Fund Balance, Special Education Support Services			
Committed Fund Balance, Other			
Assigned Fund Balance, Special Education Support Services			
Assigned Fund Balance, Other			
Unassigned Fund Balance, Special Education Support Services	2,126,369.00	2,598,298.00	2,614,569.00
Unassigned Fund Balance, Other	4,016,336.00	1,987,762.00	1,855,630.00
<b>Total General Fund Balance</b>	<b>6,281,731.00</b>	<b>4,586,060.00</b>	<b>4,470,199.00</b>

The Non-Spendable Fund Balance, Other for FY24 relates to prepaid expenses.

The Restricted Fund Balance, Other is carryover for Teacher Salary Supplement and TQ professional development.

The Unassigned Fund Balance, Special Education Support Services supports special education.

The General Fund Balance will support Northwest AEA programs and services in FY26.

### Three-Year Comparison for Budgeted Funds: FY24 Actual, FY25 Re-Estimated, and FY26 Proposed

[Include narrative of the budget detail. Summarize the FY26 proposed budget assumptions mentioned earlier in the report (e.g., districts served, programs offered). Explain the assumptions used to estimate revenues and expenditures. Additionally, include any assumptions used to generate the budget that were not already covered in the report narrative above (e.g., types of contracts for services, programs, sharing agreements, capital purchases).]

**Table Name: Resources, Expenditures & Financing Uses, and Funds Balance FY24 Actual, FY25 Re-Estimated, and FY26 Proposed**

<b>Resources: Revenues, Other Financing Sources, and Beginning Funds Balance</b>	<b>FY24 Actual</b>	<b>FY25 Re-Estimated</b>	<b>FY26 Proposed</b>
Taxes (Controlled Funding)	9,530,641	6,088,860	3,766,998
Tuition/Transportation	110,050	50,768	50,000
Earnings on Investments	333,594	224,400	120,000
Nutrition Program Sales	-	-	-
Student Activities & Sales	-	-	-
Other Revenues from Local Sources	1,025,390	413,026	1,089,123
Intermediate Revenues	-	-	-
State Aid (Controlled Funding)	9,571,809	9,566,680	9,487,737
Juvenile Home Tuition Aid	999,862	1,128,769	1,128,769
Other State Revenues	2,258,377	1,997,452	2,000,033
IDEA Federal Grant	11,611,242	11,448,534	11,658,534
Other Federal Revenues	1,309,577	537,810	208,000
Long-Term Debt Proceeds	-	-	-
Interfund Transfers In	218,086	57,453	57,500
Proceeds of Fixed Asset Dispositions	48,772	-	-
Other Financing Sources	-	-	-
Beginning Funds Balance	6,488,297	6,281,732	4,586,060
<b>Total Resources</b>	<b>43,505,697</b>	<b>37,795,484</b>	<b>34,152,754</b>
<b>Expenditures &amp; Other Financing Uses</b>	<b>FY24 Actual</b>	<b>FY25 Re-Estimated</b>	<b>FY26 Proposed</b>
Instruction	980,531	991,271	1,021,506
Student Support Services	14,175,844	13,544,425	13,760,349
Instructional Staff Support Services	13,010,034	11,293,927	8,247,205
General Administration	1,024,739	705,910	419,048
School Administration	2,530,465	2,176,114	2,135,705
Business & Central Support	1,682,032	1,472,866	1,409,678
Purchasing, Distributing, Printing, Duplicating	504,615	151,453	57,091
Plant Operations & Maintenance	746,525	670,649	548,513
Student Transportation	-	-	-
Other Support Services	24,800	-	-
Non-Instructional Programs	-	-	-
Facilities Acquisition & Construction	160,710	-	-
Debt Service	57,453	57,453	57,550
Interfund Transfers Out	2,326,217	2,145,356	-

Other Financing Uses	-	-	2,025,960
<b>Total Expenditures &amp; Other Financing Uses</b>	<b>37,223,965</b>	<b>33,209,424</b>	<b>29,682,555</b>
<b>Funds Balance</b>	<b>FY24 Actual</b>	<b>FY25 Re-Estimated</b>	<b>FY26 Proposed</b>
Total Resources	43,505,697	37,795,484	34,152,754
Total Expenditures & Other Financing Uses	37,223,965	33,209,424	29,682,555
<b>Ending Funds Balance</b>	<b>6,281,732</b>	<b>4,586,060</b>	<b>4,470,199</b>

FY26 Proposed Revenue is based on a 0% Supplemental State Aid increase and the continuation of the \$32.5 million dollar cut to the AEAs.

We have not budgeted any state revenue for Educational Services or Media.

We do not anticipate any changes to the IDEA federal grants. Title I and Title III grants have been reduced to amounts similar to the FY25 funds. FY26 revenue has declined in comparison with FY24 revenue by \$7.2 million (19.60%).

FY26 Expenditures have decreased in comparison with FY24 expenditures by \$7.5 million (20.26%). Staffing at Northwest AEA will be reduced by 24.50 FTE.

For FY26, salaries for all employee groups reflect a 2.0% increase. We are in the third year of a three-year agreement with our Certified Staff union, and it stipulates a raise for FY26 that is equal to the SSA increase or 2.0%, whichever is higher.

Property and liability insurance includes a 10% increase due to current market conditions. All other expenses have been sensibly budgeted.



## **Additional FY26 Budget Assumptions**

[Please insert narrative on additional assumptions informed by potential opportunities and challenges not otherwise detailed in the report.]

### **BUDGETARY OPPORTUNITIES**

**Nonpublic schools** could be a budgetary opportunity for us. Accredited nonpublic schools generated just over \$600,000 in Educational Services and Media dollars in 2024-25, and their enrollment continues to grow. Principals/Heads of School have been grateful to have specific allocations this year **and** complete control over how it is spent. We are hopeful they will continue to have allocated dollars for professional learning and media services.

### **BUDGETARY CHALLENGES**

**Timing** is one of the challenges not addressed elsewhere in the report. HF 2612 did not include a date by which schools need to commit to AEA services, but it did include a March 1 deadline for AEAs to submit a budget for the coming school year. School superintendents are sympathetic to our need to know the projected income we will have in our fee-for-service (formerly Educational Services and Media) supports so we can submit an accurate number for the budget, yet many of them are waiting to commit until the Legislature sets Supplemental State Aid for next year.

**“Mini AEAs”** are a second challenge springing up across the state. The AEA system (1975 – 2025) was designed to provide effective, efficient, and economical services in which students, teachers, and administrators in urban and rural areas alike had access to the expertise of highly qualified individuals. We are on track to return to the days of “haves and have nots” as subsets of public school districts form consortia and hire away those experts for themselves. See **Exhibits A, B, & C**.