

Education Service Center (ESC)

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What is an Education Service Center?

Education Service Centers (ESCs) are member-owned organizations. The services offered by each ESC, as well as those utilized by its members, are at the discretion of the membership and its board of directors. [Title 20-A MRS Chapter 123](#) was enacted into law in 2018 as a set of provisions specifically for the development of Education Service Centers.

Education Service Centers are operated by members for members to provide the support that will improve opportunity and access for Maine students by economizing on and maximizing educational services.

Formation of an Education Service Center

Two or more School Administrative Units (SAUs) may choose to form an Education Service Center to collaborate services for cost savings or better educational outcomes.

Application Part I – This is a letter of intent submitted at any time to Maine DOE.

Application Part II – More details of the plan including the member signed Interlocal Agreement must be submitted prior to November 30th for a start date of the next fiscal year.

Communication between the lead SAU and Maine DOE.

Services

An Education Service Center must certify each year that each member is purchasing at least 2 services in at least 2 different categories.

Category 1 – Appropriate instructional services in the least restrictive settings that comply with federal regulations and state rules, including:

- Special education programs and administration
- Gifted and talented programs and administration
- Alternative education programs and administration
- Shared educational programs or staff
- Educational programs such as summer school, extended school year, tutoring, advanced placement and other programs that serve students and improve student

Services Continued

An Education Service Center must certify each year that each member is purchasing at least 2 services in at least 2 different categories.

Category 2 – Education support services, including:

- Substitute teacher and staff augmentation
- Technology and technology support
- Staff training and professional development
- Regional school leadership academies
- Shared support services programs
- Shared extra-curricular or co-curricular programs

Services Continued

An Education Service Center must certify each year that each member is purchasing at least 2 services in at least 2 different categories.

Category 3 – Central office services including:

- Accounting, payroll, financial management services and procurement
- Reporting functions
- Food service planning and purchasing
- Superintendent Services

Services Continued

An Education Service Center must certify each year that each member is purchasing at least 2 services in at least 2 different categories.

Category 4 – Facilities and transportation system services including:

- Transportation, transportation routing and vehicle Maintenance
- Energy management and facilities Maintenance

Funding Model

Education Services Centers can sell services to Members, Associate Members, other public entities or non-profit entities.

Members and Associate Members may pay the Education Service Center dues/assessments based on the determined cost sharing method in the Interlocal Agreement.

Other public entity* and non-profit entity would function using a fee for service payment method.

*If an SAU belongs to an ESC and they want to purchase a service from a different ESC that they are not a member of, they can only if the ESC they belong to does not offer that same service.

Maine DOE Support to Education Service Centers

Must adhere to the reporting requirements to receive Maine DOE support

- 55% of Education Service Center Executive Director salary & benefits; Capped at the state's average Superintendent salary and benefits calculated each year.
- Accounting/Payroll System/Financial Software Support

Joining an Education Service Center

There are now [14 Education Service Centers](#) across Maine.

See what Services are being offered.

Have local discussions.

Each Education Service Center (ESC) is governed by a unique Interlocal Agreement that specifies how new members join the ESC.

Maine DOE Support to Education Service Center Members

Must purchase two services from two different service categories to receive Maine DOE support

- Members of an Education Service Center are considered a conforming unit; therefore, the Maine DOE will pay for the SAUs Student Information System directly. Questions regarding this support would go to Kimberly.a.hall@maine.gov.
- Members of an Education Service Center are provided an [allocation on the ED279](#). This allocation provides support for Education Service Center membership dues and assessments.

Research & Conversations

Do the research and have conversations internally and externally.

Does it make sense to form a new Education Services Center, join an already existing one, or share services through an Interlocal Agreement?

Stay in touch with the Maine DOE.

Questions?

- Denise Towers
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- 207-624-6863

- [Education Service Center Statute](#)
- [Education Service Center Webpage](#)
- [Contact an Education Service Center Webpage](#)

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