

# **West Virginia School Boards Association (WVSBA)**

## **Needs assessment regarding shared services**

This needs assessment instrument has been developed by a working group of county boards of education members and county schools superintendents having attending various West Virginia School Board Association (WVSBA) session wherein the topic of shared regional services has been discussed.

The intent of this instrument is three-fold:

- To ascertain the various services provided by the Regional Education Service Agency (RESA) in which the county is/was a member as well as services received from another RESA or RESAs (or other entities);
- To determine how these services may be procured if the RESA in which the county board is/was a member will no longer provide these services, including use of Educational Services Cooperatives (ESCs) or cooperative arrangements between two or more county boards – or other arrangements;
- To provide a listing of concerns various county board members and the county superintendent may have.

Simply stated, the Needs Assessment is a foundational document WVSBA envisions county boards to utilize for procuring WVSBA regional shared services, although the other documents WVSBA provides may be considered “stand-alone” if this process is not utilized.

To assist in reviewing services provided by each county board refer to the attached document, “Matrix of RESA Programs and services as of June 2016 FY16.” This document was prepared by Nick Zervos, RESA 6 acting director.

When working with needs assessment determination, county boards also are encouraged to review the “U.S. Regional Education Service Cooperative/Agency Functions & Services.” This document was prepared for WVSBA by Dr. Ronald S. Fielder. Dr. Fielder serves as a consult to the national Association of Education Service Agencies, among other consulting work.

County boards and county superintendents should note some services are not applicable in West Virginia due to various state laws, polices, rules and regulations. In reviewing the listing and if interested in a particular service, county boards are encouraged to seek legal counsel. Moreover, county boards and county superintendents having an interest in a particular service or service which may require revisions in state laws or various policies, rules and regulations should convey such to their or a particular County Superintendents’ Advisory Council Quadrant.

As stated in §18-5-13b(3)(e), “County Superintendents’ Advisory Council, purpose, reports”:  
At least one meeting in each geographic quadrant annually shall include on the meeting

agenda a discussion of any recommendations of the county boards in the quadrant for changes in laws or policies needed to better empower them to meet the state’s education goals. A report of these recommendations, if any, shall be included in the annual report to Legislative Oversight Commission on Education Accountability and the Governor...”

Lastly, county boards may wish to refer to the “Cooperative Agreement FAQ” provided by the state Department of Education’s Office of School Finance.

Here is the electronic link to House Bill 2711, which became effective July 7, 2017:”

- Dr. Tammy Samples, chair of the WVSBA Needs Assessment Working Group. Dr. Samples is President of the Upshur County Board of Education.

What, in rank order, are the needs of your county currently provided by the Regional Education Service Agency (RESA) in your area and/or another RESA or RESAs?

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In making this determination which stakeholder group or groups should be involved in this process?

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What, if any, funding sources are available for your county board to provide services currently or previously provided through the RESA in your area and another RESA or RESAs?

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In addition to the services listed above, what are some other avenues that may provide for a desired service (state, federal funds, grants, etc.)?

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What is the most efficient and effective manner to obtain services as listed above - Educational Services Cooperative (ESC), agreements between and among two or more county boards, or some other arrangement?

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Areas of concern relative to shared services:

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Through participating in this process, what suggestions, if any, does your county board have for referral to the County Superintendents' Advisory Council?

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