Southeast Service Cooperative

Annual Report and Plan

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A Year of Growth and a Future of Focused Implementation

As we look back on the past year, we celebrate a period of explosive growth and innovation. Our organization has expanded its reach, launched new programs, and deepened partnerships that have set the stage for an even more impactful year ahead. With a strategic focus on implementation, we will continue to align our efforts to scale regional initiatives at the state level, while leveraging statewide opportunities to strengthen local regions.

- **COMPASS and READ Act:** One of the more significant transitions at SSC has been the implementation of COMPASS (Collaborative Minnesota Partnerships to Advance Student Success), the state's new support system for schools, launched as part of the READ Act by the Minnesota Department of Education in 2024. There are now established teams of specialists at each of the nine Minnesota Service Cooperatives with expertise in the areas of MnMTSS, literacy, math, school climate and culture, equitable access, and culturally responsive leadership. This expands continuous improvement and professional development opportunities to all school districts and builds upon the assistance previously offered through the six Regional Centers of Excellence. Advocate support for ESSA targeted and comprehensive schools are still offered through the regional COMPASS team.

- **STEM Forward:** Participation in STEM Forward has continued to grow, and now includes 24 education partners and 7 community partners! This year, STEM Forward's professional development opportunities resulted in a cumulative number of 535 CEU hours earned by STEM teachers in southeast Minnesota! In addition, SSC launched a Solar Suitcase Lending Library in partnership with We Share Solar (which even made the national NBC news) and we connected 14 students with STEM internships through DEED's High-Tech Kids grant program.

Continued on page 2

Shaping the Future

for communities of leaders and learners

Mission Statement

We mobilize resources, add value, and promote continuous improvement through member-focused solutions.

Core Competencies

- Collaborative Culture
- Customer Focused Service Design
- Intentional Agility

Core Values

Integrity. We carry out our work with high levels of responsibility, accountability, and ethics.

Excellence. We are forward-thinking, competent, efficient, and effective.

Relationships. We facilitate collaboration with respect and a passion to serve.

Recognitions

2024 BEST places to work SOUTHEAST MINNESOTA

msp Wellness CHAMPION

American Heart Association. Well-being Works Better™ 2023 A CULTURE OF HEALTH AND WELL-BEING GOLD

Breastfeeding Friendly

Continued from page 1

At our annual Outstanding Educator Award dinner, we gathered to honor nine STEM teachers in our region, showcasing their amazing impact on students. SSC was also thrilled to coordinate the launch of the Minnesota STEM Ecosystem. And, finally, in partnership with Mayo Clinic and Hormel Institute, new teachers have been trained and ready to use the Mobile Science Labs, and new curriculum units are being developed and deployed to tie key concepts directly to in demand health sciences careers.



Recipient of "Best Places to Work" 2024

- **Career-Connected Learning:** Thanks to legislatively appropriated funding to support work at both the regional and state levels, SSC has fostered stronger connections between education and industry while preparing students for the demands of the modern workforce. The Tekne award-winning Future*Forward* platform now showcases over 450 businesses in southeast Minnesota alone, with additional connections being made across the state. Our Career-Connected Learning Specialists interact with over 7,000 students a year at events such as the SE MN Welding Competition, Middle School Career Academy, Discover Healthcare, Manufacturing Month Tours, as well as the Career, College, and Job Fair.

- **Creative Media Solutions:** In response to the growing need for marketing and communication support, we now offer customized solutions to help elevate content and convey key messages. One of the most popular requests has been for video production, including both pre-production planning and post-production editing. This program has already made significant strides in helping our members amplify their impact.

- **School Health Supports:** Despite reduced funding, SSC continues to coordinate Communities of Practice for school nurses and for school social workers. In addition, we offer an annual School Health Conference to provide high-quality professional development and networking within the region and across the state. The SE MN School Crisis Response Team has continued to provide vital support in times of need and has grown to serve an increasing number of schools.

- **Multilingual Learner Education:** Project MOMENTUM, supported by the U.S. Department of Education Office of English Language Acquisition, has allowed SSC to design, develop, and provide high-quality professional learning opportunities that improve instruction for multilingual learners across the state of Minnesota. This includes FREE access to a comprehensive range of online continuing education courses and micro-credential pathways. In addition, licensed Minnesota educators will now be able to pursue an additional license in Teaching ESL K-12 through our program! SSC also hired a Multilingual Curriculum Specialist thanks to a Closing Educational Opportunity Gaps grant funded by MDE to lead the development, implementation, and dissemination of high-quality instructional materials and resources. This will play a critical role in advancing equitable instructional practices for multilingual learners within Minnesota schools.

- **Student Programs:** We recently introduced Math Masters and a new Changemaker Hub opportunity, while continuing to see growth within Knowledge Bowl and Young Authors Young Artists Conference! These hallmark programs continue to foster creativity, competition, and academic excellence among students.

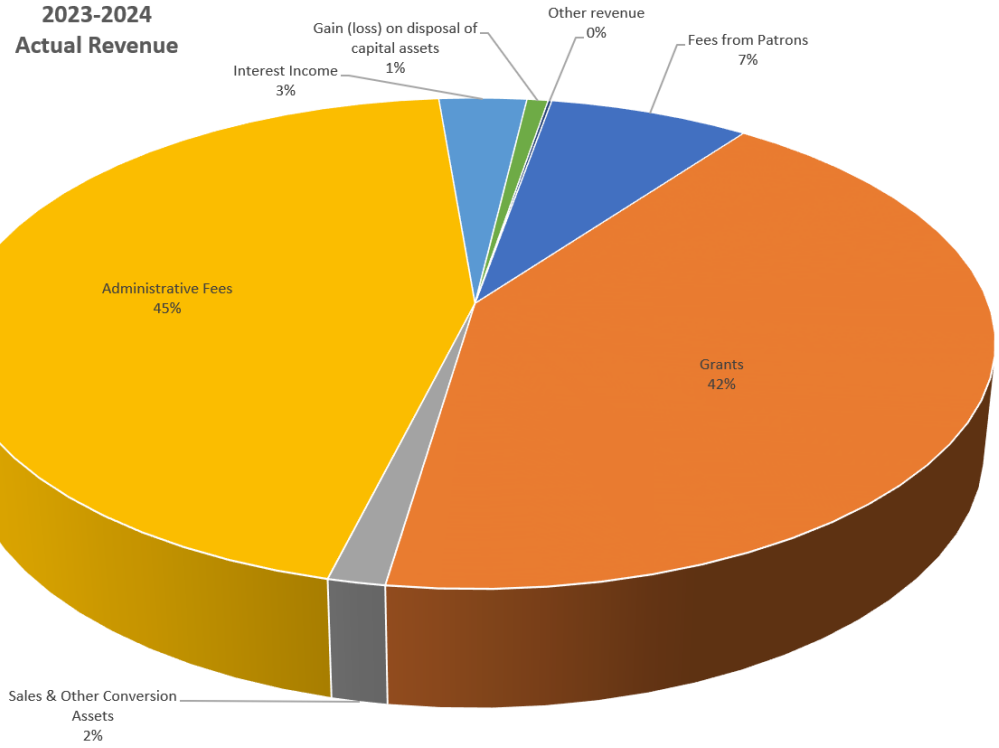
- **Partnerships and Collaborations:** A new collaboration with South Central Service Cooperative has opened new and expanded opportunities for cities and counties in our region. A new partnership with ISG, Inc. and our ongoing partnership with IEA ensures that members have access to expertise related to environmental health and safety and long-range facility planning. Our participation in the Minnesota Healthcare Consortium's statewide health insurance pools continues to provide strong and stable support. A shared position with the City of Farmington, SSC's Regional Funding Manager is onboard to identify, apply, and manage funding opportunities to build on and capitalize on current initiatives. These examples highlight SSC's ability to solidify partnerships that add value for our members!

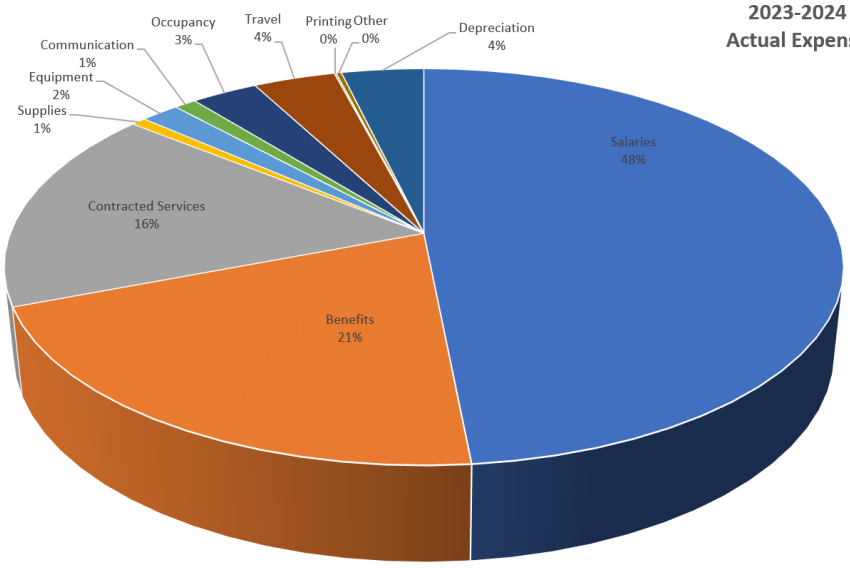
As we move forward, we are committed to fostering deeper partnerships and providing innovative solutions to meet the needs of our members. Through focused implementation, we can ensure sustainable growth and continue to deliver high-impact programs. Together, we will continue to make a lasting difference.



Annual Report 2023-2024

SSC is a membership organization and is statutorily designated as a public entity, independent school district. SSC has no levy authority or tax base and does not receive local, state, or federal aid. This is important in comparing SSC's financial statements with other public entities. Revenue is generated to provide services and programs, and a reserve fund helps to ensure continuing operations and programming. The following data is summary information, and does not include health premiums and claims. Complete financial data is available from the fiscal audit at www.ssc.coop.

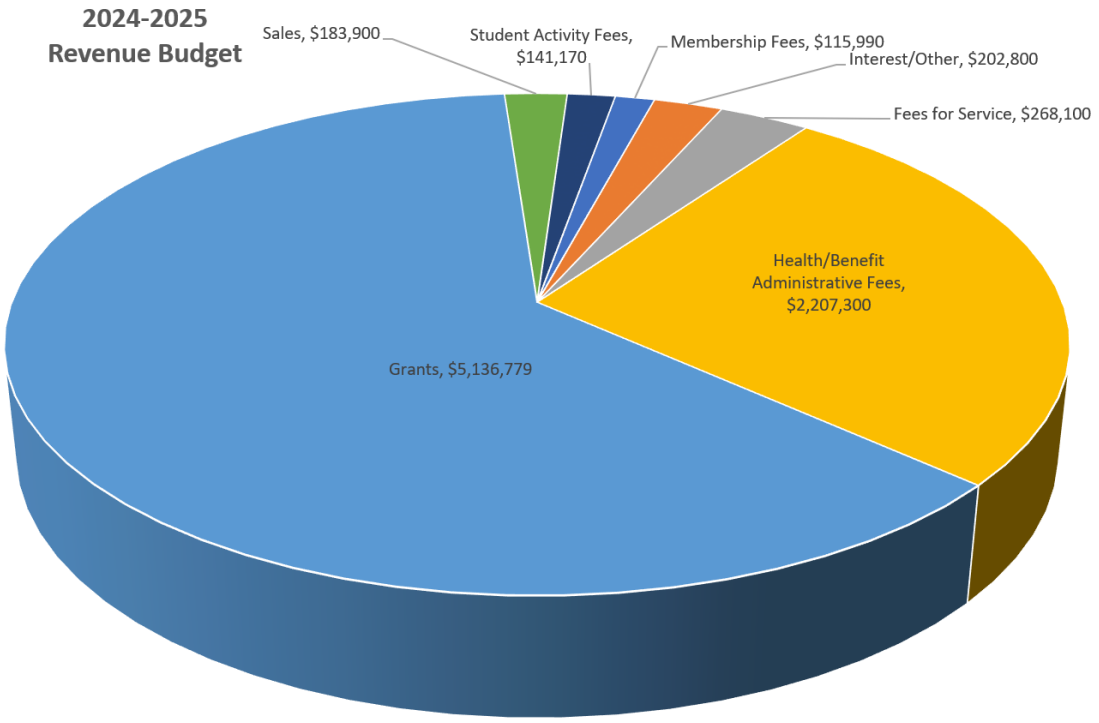


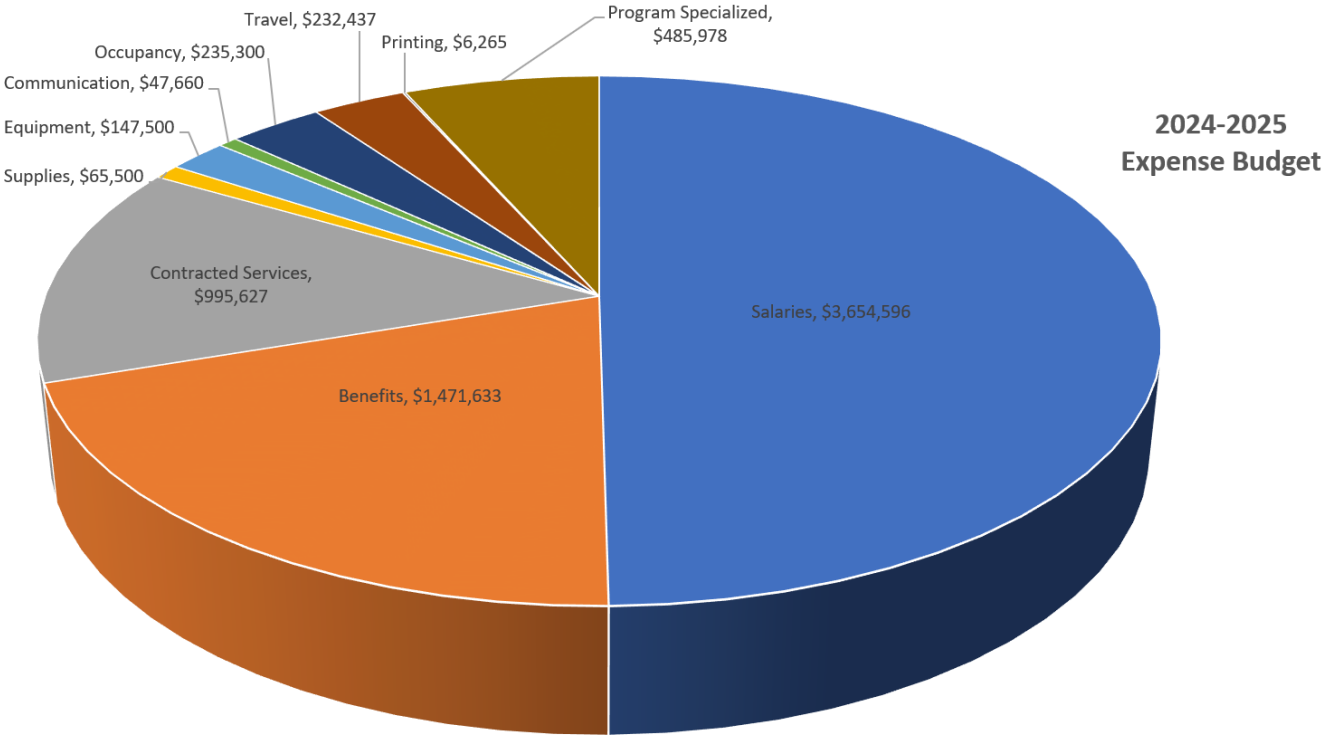


Annual Plan 2024-2025

Budget goals:

- Build program participation in all programs post-pandemic
- Use reserves to support funding gap with career and technical ed work
- Maintain health insurance reserves at needed levels
- Support the continuation of marketing SSC to membership
- Continuing technology upgrades and improvements
- Stay responsive to member needs





Board of Directors, Advisory Groups, and Staff Information

Current Board of Directors

Bree Maki, Chair, Lewiston-Altura Public Schools
Jean Roth, Vice-Chair, Zumbrota-Mazeppa Public Schools
Jason Marquardt, Treasurer, Mabel Canton Schools
Monica Sveen-Ziebell, Clerk, Plainview-Elgin-Millville Public Schools
Theressa Arrick-Kruger, Houston County
Lynn Gorski, City of Farmington
Brian Grudem, City of Zumbrota
Don Leathers, Austin Public Schools
Mary Urch, Retired Steele County



Staff Volunteer Day

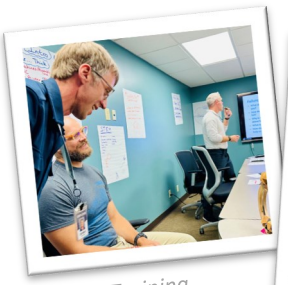
Staff Recreation Day

SSC Staff—Rochester Team

Steve Sallee	Executive Director	507-281-6673	ssallee@ssc.coop
Alicia Bredesen	Meeting Center Coordinator	507-281-6666	abredesen@ssc.coop
Christi Fosland	Educational Support Coordinator	507-281-6684	cfosland@ssc.coop
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Nicole LaChapelle-Strumski	Manager of Wellness Programs	507-696-9476	nlachapelle@ssc.coop
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Sarah Ness	Manager of Workforce Development	507-281-6678	sness@ssc.coop
Kristina Robertson	Multilingual Education Curriculum Specialist	507-884-8540	krobertson@ssc.coop
Melissa Russie	Project MOMENTUM Licensure Pathways Specialist	507-910-2808	mrussie@ssc.coop
Emily Saed	MN STEM Ecosystem Director	507-701-1975	eased@ssc.coop
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Claudia Tabini	Project MOMENTUM Community Engagement Coordinator	507-202-6925	ctabini@ssc.coop
Dale Walston	Director of Operations	507-281-6675	dwalston@ssc.coop
Nick Wobig	Career-Connected Learning Specialist	507-273-9661	nwobig@ssc.coop

SSC Staff COMPASS Team

Isabella Anderson Eggen	COMPASS Equitable Access Specialist (Multilingual Learners)	507-696-4047	ieggen@ssc.coop
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Gina Morken	COMPASS Regional Supervisor	507-208-8137	gmorken@ssc.coop
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Sarah Mikkelson Zeigler	COMPASS School Advocate	507-696-0277	szeigler@ssc.coop


Metier Training


Industry Partner of the Year


Healthcare Event



Cannon Falls Career Fair


YAYA Elementary