

ASSOCIATION OF COOPERATIVE EDUCATIONAL SERVICES (ACES)

Purpose:

As established in the draft of the constitution, the purpose for a state-wide organization is as follows:

1. To provide for closer cooperation between the Boards of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES) in the State of Wyoming.
2. To provide constant improvement of educational services delivered by BOCES, and;
3. TO provide information and assistance to BOCES and their employees.

Uniformity of Reporting:

Beyond the merit of its purpose, ACES would help establish consistency in interpretation of statute. The inconsistency and confusion related to interpretation of W.S. 21-20 has created many questions relating to statewide compliance with the laws. Each BOCES interprets differently, therefore each report differently. ACES would improve auditory reporting practices and is supported in theory by Tom Burns, Business Manager, SCSD#1 and John Mortenson, auditor, SCSD#1 and BOCES.

Equalization Issue:

BOCES are not specifically mandated by statute to provide like services/basket of goods. Individual BOCES Agreements determine services provided. BOCES are not legally bound to provide equalized services with equalized revenues as is true for school districts. Therefore, BOCES would not be subject to equalized distribution of funds by the state like the school districts are.

Lobbying Power/ Organization:

However, should the equalization of revenues or other issues come under scrutiny of the state, a statewide organization would allow for a means to address the issues. For example, ACES could invite someone from the State Attorney General's office to explain legislative intent of W.S. 21-20. Further, ACES would give a political voice to otherwise politically unorganized entities. As a group, ACES would address the issues, preferably before becoming state issues.

WSBA Affiliation:

While this is not definite yet, affiliation with the WSBA could help provide assistance to BOCES. This issue will be addressed with the WSBA at their convention on November 21st. For small BOCES in particular, assistance with employee benefits programs, etc, could be extremely beneficial.

Conclusion:

As evidenced by the vague language of W.S. 20-21, each BOCES was intended to be autonomous, designing and declaring its own purpose, each providing educational services dictated by the cooperating partners that comprise the BOCES. It is not the purpose or intent of ACES to undermine, in any way, that autonomy, but rather to serve as a support mechanism to further individual programs.

The Constitution and By-Laws

ASSOCIATION OF COOPERATIVE EDUCATIONAL SERVICES CONSTITUTION

Article I – Name

Then name of this organization shall be the Association of Cooperative Educational Services hereinafter referred to the Association.

Article II – Purpose

1. To provide for closer cooperation between the Boards of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES) in the State of Wyoming.
2. To provide constant improvement of educational services delivered by BOCES in the State of Wyoming.
3. To provide information and assistance to BOCES and their employees.

Article III – Membership

Section 1

Members are comprised of Boards of Cooperative Educational Services formed through W.S. 21-20 Cooperative Educational Services. Each member BOCES may be represented by as many of its employees Board members as decided by the member BOCES.

Section 2

All active members will pay annual dues as specified in Article II of the By-Laws. Only those members whose dues are paid will be eligible to vote at meetings of the Association.

Section 3

BOCES eligible for membership shall be those BOCES who are formed by partnerships between local school districts and community colleges. Each member BOCES shall appoint two (2) voting delegates. I the event only one delegate is appointed, the delegate is entitled to cast two (2) votes.

Section 4

Membership in the Association is voluntary and compliance with all rules, policies, and regulations shall be on a voluntary basis.

Article IV – Offices

Section 1

The offices of this Association shall be President, Vice-President, Treasurer and Secretary. Members eligible to hold office shall be BOCES administrators or staff. No two officers may represent the same member BOCES.

Section 2

All officers shall hold office for a one year period. Officers shall assume their duties at the conclusion of the annual conference at which they were elected.

Article V – Election of Officers

Section 1

At the annual conference nominations will be received from the floor for each office.

Section 2

In the event a vacancy occurs in the office of President the Vice-President shall assume the duties of President. A new Vice-President-elect will be selected as provided in Section 1 of this article.

Article VI – Standing Committees

Section 1

The Standing Committee of the Association shall consist of a Membership Committee and a Conference Committee. Committee members shall be appointed by the President upon his/her installation to office. Members must be selected from the dues paying members and serve at the discretion of the President.

Section 2

The Membership Committee shall be charged with recruiting new members.

Section 3

The Conference Committee shall be charged with setting up the annual conference for the Association.

Article VII – Special Committees

Section 1

Special committees shall be appointed by the President of the Association as he/she deems necessary. The President shall appoint the membership and designate the tasks of these committees and they shall serve at his/her pleasure. All special committees will automatically be dissolved with the expiration of the term of the President by whom they were appointed.

Article VIII – Meetings

Section 1

The Association shall hold one (1) annual conference per year.

Section 2

The President in consultation with the officers may call a special meeting of the Association whenever he/she may deem necessary.

Section 3

The date and place of all meetings of the Association will be determined by the Conference Committee.

Article IX – Amendments and Revisions

Section 1

The Constitution may be amended at the annual conference of the Association by a two-thirds vote of members provided that the proposed amendment was presented in writing.

Article X – Affiliations

Section 1

This Association is an affiliate member of the Wyoming School Boards Association and as such is subject to the By-Laws if that organization as they pertain to membership in good standing. As an affiliate member this Association is eligible for all rights and benefits associated with such memberships.

BY-LAWS
Article 1 – Duties of Officers

Section 1

It shall be the duty of the President to preside at all meetings, and in conjunction with the officers, prepare the agenda for the meetings of the Association. The President shall have the authority to appoint all committees not otherwise provided for and shall serve as a non-voting member on all committees.

Section 2

It shall be the duty of Vice-President to serve in the absence of the President for all meetings of the Association. The Vice-President shall also serve as Chairman of the Conference Committee.

Section 3

It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to keep all financial records for the Association. The Treasurer shall issue a financial report at the annual meeting and conference of the Association. Banking business shall be conducted in the community in which the Treasurer resides.

Section 4

It shall be the duty of the Secretary to keep official minutes of the proceedings of each meeting and the annual conference of the Association.

Article II – Dues

The dues of the Association shall be set as a percentage of the revenue generated by mill levy for each member BOCES. Dues shall be assessed on the following scale:

Mill Levy Revenue \$0 - \$99,000.....	\$ 50.00
Mill Levy Revenue \$100,000 - \$199,000.....	100.00
Mill Levy Revenue \$200,000 – 299,000.....	200.00
Mill Levy Revenue \$300,000 – 399,000.....	300.00
Mill Levy Revenue \$400,000 - \$499,000.....	400.00
Mill Levy Revenue \$500,000+.....	500.00

The dues year will be considered to be the same as the fiscal year, July 1 – June 30. The Treasurer shall issue a bill to each member BOCES for dues and shall be payable upon receipt.

Article III – Rules of Order

Rules of Order for the Association shall follow Roberts Rules of Order.

Article IV – Amendments

The By-Laws may be amended at the annual conference of the Association by a majority of members eligible to vote.

ACES Meeting
October 27, 2010
Teleconference

Present: Heidi Lively, Mike Williams, Donna Lozier, Karla Behunin, Dave Throgmorton

1. Dave faxed out a letter from the Director of WSBAIT that talked about a serious potential deficit in the insurance pool that may need to be made up with a mid-year rate increase. This affects only CCHEC, Oyster Ridge and Powel Valley Community Education. Nonetheless, we will keep everyone apprised as the WSBAIT insurance pool may be an option in the future for other BOCES.
2. Heidi continues to keep the ACES financial records and so far it is flawless. There is approximately \$26,000 in the account.
3. Mike's mill levy is up for a vote on November 2nd. He is not losing a lot of sleep over it but..
4. The Executive Committee convened (Dave: President; Heidi: Vice President; Donna: Secretary Treasurer) and voted to suspend ACES dues for all members for the 2011-2012 fiscal year.
5. There was a lively discussion about ways to breathe new life into ACES to ensure that the organization genuinely serves the needs of the member BOCES:
 - As per the by-laws, we must have an annual meeting but we agreed that quarterly meetings would probably be a good thing for a while.
 - Perhaps ACES could become a member of some of the interesting rural higher education organizations around the country so that our member organizations could participate in webinars and such from rural education organizations around the country. Dave will send out a few url's or rural higher education organizations.
 - ACES should become a clearinghouse for BOCES charters in the state of Wyoming; we all serve different needs in our counties, and understanding what the various BOCES are doing around the state will be useful. Dave will send out letters to all the state BOCES asking for copies of their charters. (Does anyone have such a list? I have a student intern working on putting one together, but I hate to reinvent the wheel...)
 - ACES should devise a way to ensure that member organizations are made aware of legislation or pending legislation that will have an impact on BOCES around the state.
 - Other ideas?
6. It was decided that ACES will pay the LERN membership dues for all member organizations for the 2011-2012 fiscal year. (Mike moved, Heidi seconded, unanimous)
7. We decided to meet as a group within the next 30 days to put form to the ideas about how we will use ACES to best serve our individual organizations.

