

# High-Quality Services

As a regional cooperative serving local school districts, the work of Cooperative Educational Service Agency (CESA) #1 directly affects students and educators. Consequently, a cornerstone of our mission is our commitment to quality. We take this responsibility seriously and put forth significant effort to attract and retain knowledgeable, dedicated, and respected educators and to develop and facilitate best-in-class educational programming for our members.

## Agency-Wide Quality Indicators

While we use several strategies to measure quality, perhaps the most telling indicators are the feedback we receive collectively from our member districts. Membership in CESA #1 is voluntary, yet **all districts continue to participate** due to the quality programming they receive. In addition, southeastern Wisconsin is rich with educational service providers, but our members continue to turn to us to provide the support they need. We work hard to earn and keep their trust by providing high-quality, cost-efficient services.

We appreciate the feedback and support that we receive on a state and national level as well. For example, we receive over **\$2 million in grants annually** from state and national organizations that believe in our work and in our commitment to meet and exceed grant requirements with integrity. In 2010 – 2011 we also partnered with numerous businesses and foundations to further the work of our member districts. In these tough economic times, these organizations are especially thoughtful when selecting partners, and it was the **quality of our staff and our programming** that gave them the confidence to invest in CESA #1 and the work we do.

## We Employ Quality Educators

A key step in building quality programming is finding and retaining the best staff. The CESA #1 team includes educational experts who are published authors, state and national speakers, award winners, and professors. Here are just a few examples. The work of our directors has been published, they speak at national conventions, and they've been asked to consult nationally. Our autism consultant studied at Johns Hopkins University, where she helped develop their autism curriculum as part of her master's thesis, and our coordinator of English Language Learners (ELL) serves on a state-wide task force to facilitate ELL support throughout the state.

We're proud of our team and the phenomenal work they do. And like all quality educators, our profession is our mission. It lights the fire in our hearts and minds and keeps us energized. As a result, we've gained a reputation for quality that compels many top-notch educators to seek us out to join our team. When it comes to attracting excellent staff, we've become a self-sustaining organization – quality attracts quality.



## Mission

CESA #1 provides **high-quality**, cost-effective programs and services that are responsive to the dynamic needs of our members, clients, and the students they serve. As a regional cooperative, we leverage local, state, and national resources to support schools in providing quality learning opportunities for *all* students.

*"Your teachers are truly fabulous and well suited for their jobs. The encouragement given to my child is outstanding."*

*Parent of At Risk Student*

## We Offer Quality Programs

Through our quality team, we're able to offer superior educational programs. For example, several of our staff members have developed and led the Personalized Learning Initiative, through which a regional action network has been mobilized to support districts in implementing personalized learning projects to transform education in their district. Because of our success in this effort, this team is now being called upon to provide guidance to other states through keynote presentations, ongoing research, and consulting.

Our Proficiency Based Licensure program has been recognized as a state-wide leader in alternative certification programs. In fact, the Department of Public Instruction stated in its last review that "the PBL Program provides a quality performance-based program that supports candidates in developing the knowledge and skills to become effective educators."

Our consulting services receive high marks as well. For example, feedback from member districts indicates that without our help, they would not have been able to move forward with implementing the Common Core State Standards. Another district said, "the Response to Intervention consultation and support we've received has made a significant difference in our district. Thank you CESA #1!"

CESA #1 programs for special education, at-risk and expelled students continue to set the standard for alternative programming. It's especially important to remember the context in which we provide these services, as we support some of the most challenged students in the region, including students who have severe emotional/behavioral disabilities and students who have been expelled. However, our staff and programs continue to exceed the expectations of our member districts, their parents, and the students themselves. For example, after evaluating our alternative program for K-8 students who have severe emotional/behavioral disabilities, the external evaluator indicated that the Turning Point team had successfully implemented the Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) strategy to such a degree that the program could be a state-wide model for implementing PBIS in an alternative setting.

Children are the most important asset of our region, and they deserve the best possible education. That's why the CESA #1 team remains committed to employing only the highest quality staff and to providing the best possible services, because we know that it's the children who will most benefit.

*"It has been my pleasure to work with CESA #1 personnel for over twenty years. The individuals that I have gotten to know and work with have always been most professional and most committed to their work. Instructional personnel have demonstrated a dedication to young people, many of which are challenges in the mainstream and in regular settings. I believe CESA #1 staff live out their mission and their professional commitment to children and school districts they serve."*

*Keith Marty, Ed.D.  
Superintendent  
School District of Menomonee Falls*

