



Projects, Programs and Services

Accountability and
Assessment for Students with
Disabilities (AASD)

Safe and Drug Free Schools

Evenstart

FDLRS

FDLRS/
Instructional Technology

Florida Education
Channel

Florida Learning Alliance

FloridaLearns Academy

Gateway Educational
Computing Consultants -
Finance and Payroll Services

Migrant - Title 1 Regional
Physical Education - USDE

PAEC Professional
Development Center
Regional Consortium, F.S. 1001.451

Reading Coaches

Research/Development
Evaluation & Accountability
Services

RM/Group Health

RM/Property & Casualty

SEDNET

Teaching American History,
USDE

Title 1 Administration
Support

21st Century Community
Learning Center

PAEC: Florida's First Educational Consortium

The Panhandle Area Educational Consortium grew from an early recognition in the advantages of cooperation by Northwest Florida school superintendents. With federal funding, the Chipola Area Education Project was formed in 1959 to improve testing, evaluation and guidance services in Calhoun, Gulf, Holmes, Jackson, Liberty, Walton and Washington counties. The collaboration worked, and in 1967, superintendents from these small, rural counties explored other ways to improve services and reduce expenses. After inviting participation from neighboring Bay and Franklin counties, the Panhandle Area Educational Cooperative (now Consortium) was founded.

PAEC survived when four other cooperatives established by the same initial funding failed. Why? The key to its success is that responsibility and leadership reside – then and now – in the hands of county superintendents. PAEC does not assess annual membership fees from participating counties; it serves at their pleasure under the guidance of school superintendents who serve collectively as its Board of Directors. Since its inception, PAEC has depended entirely on grants to fund its operations.

Lester Kitchens was the first PAEC Executive Director and served 13 years. During his tenure, PAEC organized Florida's first multi-district Teacher Education Center. After his retirement, Dr. David Bidwell led PAEC in establishing the multi-district risk management self-insured property and casualty program. In 1987, Ms. Paula Lovett Waller became Executive Director and led PAEC to its status as a nationally-recognized provider of educational services. In 2000, PAEC and Dish Network launched the Florida Educational Channel (FEC), which delivers training and best practices to schools and homes nationwide. That year, PAEC also created the FloridaLearns Academy, a user-friendly professional development system for teachers, administrators and staff accessible via FEC, the Internet or traditional instruction, all managed by the electronic Professional Development Center (ePDC).

PAEC • 753 West Boulevard • Chipley, FL • (850) 638-6131
www.paec.org