

Greenbush: Thirty Years of Service

Each child is unique. An individual. With individual needs. The same goes for each agency Greenbush serves, from the very small to the very large. That's why Greenbush offers agencies the chance to choose services and programs that best meet those individual needs. It's been that way since the Education Service Center (ESC) began in 1976, and was nicknamed Greenbush after the tiny, unincorporated town in which it is located.



The main building of the Greenbush campus originally was known as Greenbush Elementary School, and was part of USD 248 Girard. When it closed in December 1975, the district offered the building to the ESC, which had been housed in a mobile home on the parking lot of Erie High School. At the time, there were three ESC employees: Dave DeMoss, Janet Perron, and Peggy Shepard.

Now, with more than 600 employees, Greenbush offers programs that are otherwise unavailable, unaffordable, or just more effective and efficient through a cooperative effort. By forming consortiums, Greenbush allows districts to pool resources to stretch funding even further. Whether the need is for office supplies, professional training, technical support, a consortium means increased purchasing power and more bang for the buck. Greenbush forms partnerships with agencies, businesses, and universities to further resources and personnel.

Greenbush is classified as Interlocal No. 609. It has all the rights and privileges of a school district, except the power to levy taxes. So earning competitive grants, private charitable donations, and providing services to member agencies is important to the mission. In other words, Greenbush is only as good as the last program delivered. The need for accountability means those served are assured of consistent quality, efficiency, and value.

Greenbush is governed by a board consisting of one representative from each of the five original, or "charter" districts: Erie, Girard, Yates Center, Riverton, and Fort Scott Community College. The board serves as at-large representatives for those served. If two or more districts request a service, a Greenbush department will create a program and exceed expectations.

Many programs have been the subject of broadcast news segments, specials such as McNeil-Leher News Hour, Sunflower Journeys, and hundreds of printed news pieces. The campus has expanded to include more than 500 acres of land, divided in use between campus and facilities, natural areas for study by students, teachers, and scientists, agricultural test plots, camping and recreation areas, and tenant-leased land.

What remains unchanged is the quality of service, the attention to customer needs, and the attitude with which programs are delivered. Greenbush is well known for "finding a way to say yes", and it shows!

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