

2020 Annual Report on Educational Service Centers



December 2020

Introduction

Ohio's strategic plan for education, [Each Child, Our Future](#), envisions each student is challenged, prepared and empowered for his or her future success. A core principle of bringing this vision to life is the importance of partnerships. Partnerships play a key role in delivering services that enable schools to meet the needs of the whole child, thereby reinforcing the other core principles of equity for all students and quality schools. Partnerships allow the education system to be stronger and more effective.

The Ohio Department of Education partners with many entities at the state and regional levels to implement its initiatives. At the local level, districts and schools work with organizations and businesses in their regions and communities to improve educational opportunities for students. These partnerships bring resources, funding and technical expertise to bear on the common goal of promoting academic achievement and excellent schools.

Ohio's 51 educational service centers (ESCs) stand at the center of this network of partnerships. Educational service centers assist the Department in implementing state-level efforts at the regional and local levels. Districts and schools rely on educational service centers for professional development, specialized instructional programs, behavioral and health services, technology, and fiscal and administrative services. The unique position of educational service centers makes them valuable partners in supporting and improving schools across the state.

The General Assembly, in House Bill 166, directed the Department to submit a report describing how the Department partnered with educational service centers to deliver services in Fiscal Year 2020.¹ The Department's partnerships with educational service centers has an overarching goal of developing quality schools. Some partnerships focus broadly on that larger context, while other partnerships have a narrower scope and address individual components of quality schools. This report includes information on all the Department's partnerships with educational service centers. Additionally, in accordance with the law, it describes the funding allocated for each partnership and how each partnership furthers the state's goals in one or more of the following areas (each of which is described in detail beginning at page 4):

Quality Schools

- State Support Teams
- Regional Staff Specialists

Academic Standards

- Ohio's Plan to Raise Literacy Achievement
- Striving Readers Federal Grant Implementation
- Early Childhood Education Grant Implementation
- Math Modeling and Reasoning Workshops
- Project-Based Learning for World Languages
- Spanish Visiting Teacher Program and Chinese Guest Teacher Program
- World Languages
- Career Pathway Development Specialists
- Agricultural Education Team
- Business Advisory Councils
- National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs

¹ Section 265.505 of House Bill 166 of the 133rd General Assembly.

Educator Preparation

- Ohio Teacher Evaluation System
- Educator Effectiveness
- Regional Field Specialists
- Teacher Clarity Project
- Prevention Education Professional Development Grant
- Federal School Climate Transformation Through Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports
- McKinney-Vento Homeless Children and Youth Federal Program
- Graduation Requirements Trainers
- Elementary and Secondary Education Act Title III Consortia

Accountability and Report Cards

- Data Literacy and Value-Added Data

Funding for Educational Service Centers

There are several sources of funding for educational service centers.

Client School District Funding: Each school district with an enrollment of 16,000 or fewer students must contract with an educational service center for services agreed to by the district and service center. School districts with larger student populations may opt in to this type of arrangement. Districts that have service agreements with educational service centers are known as “client school districts.” The Department of Education deducts \$6.50 per student enrolled in a client school district (or a higher amount if specified in the contract) from the district’s state aid and pays that amount to the educational service center as reimbursement for the services provided.² All but one school district in Ohio is affiliated with an educational service center in this manner.

Direct State Subsidy Funding: The state provides financial support to each educational service center through a direct per-pupil payment for each student enrolled in the service center’s client school districts. In FY20, each educational service center received \$26 per pupil in direct state funding. This general state support typically represents a very small portion of an educational service center’s total operating budget.

District Contract: An educational service center also may contract with a school district, community school, STEM school or political subdivision on a fee-for-service basis and receive payment in accordance with the contract.

Specific Services Funding: Finally, through partnerships with the Department, educational service centers receive state and federal funds to support policy priorities. Educational service centers may act as a fiscal agent within a region of the state for state-level initiatives. In that role, an educational service center disburses funds to other entities engaged in project-related work and exercises fiscal oversight of the project in exchange for an administrative fee. In other cases, the Department may pay an educational service center directly for services provided to students, such as preschool classes or special education, or for professional development for educators.

² Ohio Revised Code 3313.843.

PARTNERSHIPS WITH EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CENTERS

Quality Schools

The Department of Education's Office for Improvement and Innovation, along with the Offices for Exceptional Children, Early Learning and School Readiness, Integrated Student Supports, and Approaches to Teaching and Professional Learning work together to provide a Statewide System of Support to schools. This system is described in state law (Ohio Revised Code Section 3312.01). This system is a regional structure that includes state support teams, educational service centers and regional staff specialists. The Department's partnerships within this structure create a coherent and aligned support system to implement Ohio's strategic plan for education with a focus on school improvement plans and initiatives.

Comprised of 16 regions, the system supports state and regional education initiatives and efforts to improve school effectiveness and student achievement. Services provided to school districts and community (charter) schools emphasize special education and related services, literacy, school culture and climate, early learning and continuous improvement. As stated in the law, it is the General Assembly's intent that the system "reduce the unnecessary duplication of programs and services and provide for a more streamlined and efficient delivery of educational services without reducing the availability of the services needed by school districts and schools."³

State Support Teams

Each of the 16 regions in the Statewide System of Support has a state support team. The Department identifies educational service centers to serve as fiscal agents for the oversight of the state support teams. The Department then enters into a performance agreement with the fiscal agent to establish a collaborative structure for the delivery of services.

The overarching work of each state support team is school improvement. This work integrates initiatives in the following three focus areas: *organizational leadership practices, capacity building and professional capital, and inclusive instructional practices*. All key areas support the 10 strategies, three core principles and four equal learning domains of Ohio's strategic plan for education. The improvement framework used by state support teams, school districts, buildings and teacher teams is known as the [Ohio Improvement Process](#).

The Department targets services to school districts and buildings in two main categories. The first is districts and buildings identified as needing support in the Department's differentiated accountability system, which is primarily based on academic performance data from the Ohio School Report Cards. The second category is districts and buildings identified by the Office for Exceptional Children as *Needs Assistance, Needs Intervention or Needs Substantial Intervention* for issues related to special education. Districts and buildings targeted for services include:

- Ohio's eight urban school districts;
- Districts in **Academic Distress**;
- Districts identified for **intensive support** based on the following criteria:
 - An overall grade of "F" on the report card;
 - A four-year graduation rate at or below 67%; or
 - A grade of "F" on the Gap Closing component of the report card for two straight years.
- Districts identified for **moderate support** based on the following criteria:
 - An overall grade of "D" on the report card; or
 - A grade of "D" or "F" on the Gap Closing component of the report card for two straight years.

³ Ohio Revised Code 3312.01

- **Priority Schools, Focus Schools and Watch Schools** (when these schools are located within a district identified for intensive or moderate support);
- Districts and schools in **support status** within the State Systemic Improvement Plan or in **Needs Intervention** status, based on the performance of students with disabilities as identified by the Office for Exceptional Children.

State support teams provide high-quality services including coaching, technical assistance, support with leadership and instructional tools and resources for each district targeted for support and services. Coaching and technical assistance focus on building the capacity of the district to improve instructional practices and student learning in each school within the district, with expertise provided in the following areas:

- Literacy;
- Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports;
- Family engagement;
- Universal Design for Learning to meet the unique needs of all students;
- Special education;
- Transitions from secondary school to adulthood for students with disabilities;
- Early learning;
- Inclusive and organizational leadership aligned within a continuous improvement process.

State support teams allocate no more than 10% of their human and fiscal resources to providing universal support to all districts, partners and other relevant organizations in the region. Universal support is support that improves equitable access to high-quality instructional practices for **all** students and student groups.

Funding

Please see funding regarding the state support team partnerships in Appendix A.

Regional Staff Specialists

The Department employs two of four regional staff specialists. The Educational Service Center of Central Ohio and Hamilton County Educational Service Center each employ a Department-funded regional staff specialist. The regional staff specialists work to coordinate with and assist the state support teams in providing support and resources to the districts they serve. Together, they focus on Priority Schools, which are the state's lowest-performing schools as determined by report card grades, graduation rate and student subgroup performance. Regional staff specialists and state support teams work with Priority Schools to implement the [Ohio Improvement Process](#) as a framework for change across Department initiatives (early learning, literacy, Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports, and exceptional children).

Funding

Regional staff specialists: \$300,000 (General Revenue Fund; Appropriation Line Item 200448, Educator Preparation).

Academic Standards

Another primary area of partnership between the Department of Education and educational service centers involves informing educators of Ohio's Learning Standards and model curricula so educators can ensure they are reflected in classroom instruction and the educational experience. Educational service centers provide professional development for educators on the standards and curricula and the Department provides funding for this purpose. While these partnerships are wide-ranging and cover many subject areas, there is a particular focus on literacy to improve students' reading success. This includes funding to educational service centers to establish regional literacy professional development teams.

Ohio's Plan to Raise Literacy Achievement

Literacy is the foundation of all learning. Led by the Office of Approaches to Teaching and Professional Learning, the Department relies on educational service centers and other regional entities to connect and align the state literacy plan to school literacy efforts at the local level. [Ohio's Plan to Raise Literacy Achievement](#) is a statewide plan that includes supports from the following Department offices:

- The **Office for Exceptional Children** addresses improving literacy outcomes for subgroups of students, specifically students with disabilities, through the work of the state support teams.
- The **Office of Learning and Instructional Strategies** promotes evidence-based teaching and learning strategies aligned to Ohio's standards and literacy across disciplines and taps into regional content experts to provide supports for districts.
- The **Office of Early Learning and School Readiness** uses regional early learning consultants to disseminate knowledge and provide supports that address the literacy needs of Ohio's youngest children.
- The **Offices of Accountability and Educator Effectiveness** provide supports for administrators, teachers and other staff to increase educator capacity to implement Ohio's Plan to Raise Literacy Achievement.
- The **Office of School Improvement** focuses on literacy as a lever for school improvement and relies on regional staff specialists to ensure literacy proficiency for all learners is embedded in a school's overall improvement plan.
- The **Office of Approaches to Teaching and Professional Learning** supports literacy specialists to implement Ohio's Plan to Raise Literacy Achievement. These include three regional early literacy specialists, two Ohio literacy specialists and two adolescent literacy specialists. The Office of Approaches to Teaching and Professional Learning partners with all 16 state support teams and the following 30 educational service centers to promote the plan:
 - Athens-Meigs Educational Service Center;
 - Auglaize County Educational Service Center;
 - Educational Service Center of Central Ohio;
 - Clark County Educational Service Center;
 - Columbiana County Educational Service Center;
 - Darke County Educational Service Center;
 - East Central Ohio Educational Service Center;
 - Fairfield County Educational Service Center;
 - Greene County Educational Service Center;
 - Hamilton County Educational Service Center;
 - Jefferson County Educational Service Center;
 - Knox Educational Service Center;
 - Educational Service Center of Lake Erie West;
 - Lawrence County Educational Service Center;
 - Licking County Educational Service Center;
 - Educational Service Center of Lorain County;
 - Madison-Champaign Educational Service Center;
 - Mahoning County Educational Service Center;
 - Miami County Educational Service Center;
 - Mid-Ohio Educational Service Center;
 - Midwest Regional Educational Service Center;
 - Muskingum Valley Educational Service Center;
 - Educational Service Center of Northeast Ohio;

- Ohio Valley Educational Service Center;
- Ross-Pike Educational Service Center;
- South Central Ohio Educational Service Center;
- Stark County Educational Service Center;
- Summit Educational Service Center;
- Tri-County Educational Service Center;
- Trumbull County Educational Service Center.

Educational service centers guide school districts in the implementation of evidence-based language and literacy strategies to support overall school improvement. This involves addressing academic standards for literacy development across grade levels and content areas. All 16 state support teams provide direct technical assistance in literacy improvement to Priority Schools and all schools and districts required to submit reading achievement plans.

Through its partnerships with educational service centers, the Department is able to promote the use of data-based decision-making for instructional planning, material selection, professional learning and systems building. Report card and accountability data, such as the K-3 Literacy Measure, are important data sources for districts to evaluate and monitor over time. They can highlight appropriate professional learning opportunities for educators and effective instructional practices.

Finally, state support teams and educational service centers partner with local institutions of higher education to include evidence-based strategies and alignment with state requirements in the educator preparation programs. This component ensures future educators leave college with the tools to further the state's progress on Ohio's Plan to Raise Literacy Achievement.

Funding

The Department uses state and federal funding for the literacy specialists as follows:

- Regional early literacy specialists: \$300,000 (General Revenue Fund; Appropriation Line Item 200566, Literacy Improvement)*
- Ohio literacy specialists: \$300,000 (General Revenue Fund; Appropriation Line Item 200566, Literacy Improvement)*
- Adolescent literacy specialists: \$240,000 (federal Striving Readers Grant (see below); Appropriation Line Item 200669, Striving Readers)

* Funding for the regional early literacy specialists and Ohio literacy specialists appears on the funding spreadsheet for state support teams in Appendix A. It is duplicated here for clarity.

Striving Readers Federal Grant Implementation

The federal Striving Readers Grant is a \$35 million grant awarded directly to local schools or early childhood providers to improve literacy outcomes for children from birth through grade 12. The grant supports the two adolescent literacy specialists described above, who align research and work in the classroom to support struggling adolescent readers. These specialists promote the content area literacy standards and how to incorporate them into teaching.

An important part of this work is a **professional learning series** specific to Ohio's Plan to Raise Literacy Achievement. Personnel from educational service centers attend monthly gatherings focused on improving literacy results for Ohio's learners, with specific attention on subgroups of learners such as students with disabilities, English learners, economically disadvantaged students and students who continue to struggle with reading proficiency past third grade. The adolescent literacy specialists host ongoing **adolescent literacy networking meetings** where educational service center and state support team consultants gather to build

knowledge, skills and dispositions around how to support Ohio’s educators to best meet the regional needs of the districts and schools they serve.

The Educational Service Center of Northeast Ohio and Educational Service Center of Central Ohio house the adolescent literacy specialists and oversee their work.

Funding

Adolescent literacy specialists: \$240,000 (federal Striving Readers Grant; Appropriation Line Item 200669, Striving Readers).

Early Childhood Education Grant Implementation

Educational service centers are among several types of entities that provide early childhood education for at-risk children in their communities. These entities receive state grant funds to serve 4-year-old, low-income children for part-day preschool. All programs that receive grant funds must achieve a three-, four- or five- star rating in [Step Up To Quality](#), Ohio’s tiered quality rating and improvement system.

Participating preschool children take the Early Learning Assessment, which gauges each child’s current skills, knowledge and behaviors in the areas of Social Foundations, Language and Literacy, Math, Science, Social Studies, Physical Well-Being and Motor Development, and Fine Arts. By providing publicly funded, high-quality early childhood education, educational service centers directly impact language and literacy development, social-emotional development and kindergarten readiness. This partnership is crucial to setting students on a path of continuous learning. In FY20, educational service centers served 1,979 preschool children with state funding.

Funding

Twenty-six educational service centers received funding based on the number of preschool slots they provided in FY20, with \$4,000 allocated per slot (General Revenue Fund; Appropriation Line Item 200408, Early Childhood Education).

- Allen County Educational Service Center: \$80,000
- Athens-Meigs Educational Service Center: \$448,000
- Brown County Educational Service Center: \$548,000
- Butler County Educational Service Center: \$1,168,000
- Columbiana County Educational Service Center: \$252,000
- Darke County Educational Service Center: \$68,000
- Geauga County Educational Service Center: \$64,000
- Knox Educational Service Center: \$136,000
- Lake County Educational Service Center: \$164,000
- Educational Service Center of Lake Erie West: \$344,000
- Lorain County Educational Service Center: \$68,000
- Madison-Champaign Educational Service Center: \$136,000
- Mahoning County Educational Service Center: \$356,000
- Midwest Regional Educational Service Center: \$212,000
- Muskingum Valley Educational Service Center: \$824,000
- North Central Ohio Educational Service Center: \$200,000
- North Pointe Educational Service Center: \$392,000
- Northwest Ohio Educational Service Center: \$440,000
- Ohio Valley Educational Service Center: \$196,000
- Preble County Educational Service Center: \$92,000
- Putnam County Educational Service Center: \$272,000
- Ross-Pike Educational Service Center: \$280,000

- Stark County Educational Service Center: \$356,000
- Summit County Educational Service Center: \$200,000
- Trumbull County Educational Service Center: \$196,000
- Wood County Educational Service Center: \$128,000

Math Modeling and Reasoning Workshops

The Department's Office of Learning and Instructional Strategies partners with two educational service centers to bring the Math Modeling and Reasoning (MMR) course to districts across Ohio. Math Modeling and Reasoning is a fourth-year high school course to help students transition to postsecondary math coursework by earning a remediation-free score in math on the ACT or SAT. This course teaches reasoning, problem-solving and modeling through thematic units focused on mathematical practices, while reinforcing and extending content in number and quantity, algebra, functions, statistics and probability and geometry.

The Summit County Educational Service Center serves the entire state by providing a facilitator for the Math Modeling and Reasoning Workshop. This partnership includes facilitating meetings and professional development (both virtual and face-to-face), conducting site visits, scoring assessments, collaborating with the project manager and researcher, and partnering with math education organizations in Ohio.

The Butler County Educational Service Center provides meeting space for a Math Modeling and Reasoning Workshop to accommodate school districts in the southwestern region of the state.

Funding

Butler County Educational Service Center: \$1,950 (General Revenue Fund; Appropriation Line Item 200427, Academic Standards).

Project-Based Learning for World Languages

Through a partnership with the Fairfield County Educational Service Center, the Department's Office of Learning and Instructional Strategies offers educator training on Project-Based Learning for World Languages. The training is part of a two-day professional development opportunity open to any Ohio world language teacher. It supports implementation of the world language standards by providing instructional strategies for project-based learning centered on intercultural competence and communicative proficiency. An employee of the educational service center facilitates the training and the Department covers the cost of the facilitator.

Funding

Fairfield County Educational Service Center: \$892 (General Revenue Fund; Appropriation Line Item 200427, Academic Standards).

Spanish Visiting Teacher Program and Chinese Guest Teacher Program

The East Central Ohio Educational Service Center serves as one of the largest host institutions that contracts with the Department for visiting teachers from Spain and guest teachers from China. The Department's Office of Educator Licensure works with visiting teachers to secure Ohio's Visiting International Teaching License, while the East Central Ohio Educational Service Center places the teachers in school districts through a shared service agreement. In collaboration with the Department, the educational service center provides professional and cross-cultural training and assistance to help visiting teachers become acclimated to the United States and monitors each visiting educator's progress during the academic year.

This partnership allows local schools and districts to implement Ohio's Learning Standards for World Languages and Cultures when local Ohio teachers are not available due to ongoing teacher shortages or other circumstances. It focuses particularly on meeting the needs of schools and districts in eastern, southeastern and central Ohio.

Visiting teacher programs allow for innovative ways of teaching with native language and cultural experts. Ohio's dual language immersion programs enable licensed bilingual educators to teach learning standards across content areas.

Funding

This partnership receives no funding from the Department of Education. The East Central Ohio Educational Service Center spends its own funds for the partnership activities.

World Languages

Although no direct financial support is provided, other partnerships between the Department's Office of Learning and Instructional Strategies support implementation of Ohio's Learning Standards for World Languages and Cultures. For instance, the office co-leads a virtual learning session with the Trumbull County Educational Service Center in northeast Ohio to provide high-quality distance learning lessons in world languages and participates in a question-and-answer session on the same topic with the Midwest Regional Educational Service Center in north central Ohio.

Funding

None.

Career Pathway Development Specialists

Career pathway development specialists provide professional learning specific to the incorporation of learning standards into the career-technical education curriculum. The Department's Office of Career-Technical Education partners with the following educational service centers in providing these professional learning opportunities across the state:

- Auglaize County Educational Service Center;
- Educational Service Center of Central Ohio;
- Mercer County Educational Service Center;
- Montgomery County Educational Service Center;
- North Central Ohio Educational Service Center;
- Educational Service Center of Northeast Ohio.

High-quality career pathways often include rigorous academic content, which can occur throughout the career pathways. With this model, students can meet the learning standards while pursuing industry-recognized credentials.

Funding

None.

Agricultural Education Team

A partnership between the Department and Southern Ohio Educational Service Center provides technical assistance to school districts in the entire southwest region of Ohio, as well as programming opportunities for 26,000 students enrolled in agricultural education courses. Through the partnership, districts receive assistance in developing new and innovative programs in Animal Science and Management and Agribusiness and Production Systems. In addition to technical assistance, districts can obtain help with program approval, quality program review surveys, quality program review action plans and data reporting through the Education Management Information System.

The Department employs an outside consultant as part of this partnership. This consultant facilitates alignment between career-technical education content standards and learning standards within the agricultural education programs. The consultant also represents agricultural education staff at national, state and regional events

relative to technical content standards, curriculum materials, program design, the Future Farmers of America student organization and instructional practices.

Funding

Funding for this contract comes from a federal grant awarded under the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Improvement Act of \$139,245 for FY20.

Business Advisory Councils

To build better relationships between businesses and schools, every school district and educational service center must have a business advisory council. Business advisory councils advise on workforce-related issues and how to incorporate employability skills into a district's curriculum. The Department's Office of Career-Technical Education works with districts and educational service centers to strengthen their relationships with the business community.

Funding

There is no state funding designated for business advisory councils. Councils generally are supported by their respective districts or educational service centers, and some may secure grants or private funding to fulfill their responsibilities.

National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs

Educational service centers may participate in the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs to provide meal service to students participating in the educational service center's programming. The Department's Office of Integrated Student Supports provides training and technical assistance for providers. Fourteen educational service centers participate in the meal programs as their own sponsors, while another eight educational service centers are meal sites for programs operated by school districts.

By supplying nutritious meals to students, the federal school meal programs contribute to student academic success. Schools and educational service centers that offer the programs, especially in alternative methods such as breakfast in the classroom, tend to see fewer nurse visits, better attendance and decreased discipline cases. When students' basic need for food is addressed, students can devote more of their attention to learning.

Funding

Federal funds from the U.S. Department of Agriculture support the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs. The following educational service centers received program funding:

- Allen County Educational Service Center: \$17,946
- Ashtabula County Educational Service Center: \$41,822
- Clermont County Educational Service Center: \$46,982
- Columbiana County Educational Service Center: \$13,029
- East Central Ohio Educational Service Center: \$111,082
- Greene County Educational Service Center: \$18,272
- Hamilton County Educational Service Center: \$26,702
- Jefferson County Educational Service Center: \$7,084
- Educational Service Center of Lake Erie West: \$16,271
- Licking County Educational Service Center: \$37,211
- Madison-Champaign Educational Service Center: \$51,007
- Mahoning County Educational Service Center: \$26,729
- Mid-Ohio Educational Service Center: \$293,795
- Montgomery County Educational Service Center: \$156,492
- North Central Ohio Educational Service Center: \$14,765

- North Point Educational Service Center: \$20,469
- Educational Service Center of Northeast Ohio: \$364,920
- Preble County Educational Service Center: \$12,011
- Ross-Pike Educational Service Center: \$8,203
- South Central Ohio Educational Service Center: \$25,931
- Stark County Educational Service Center: \$7,938
- Wood County Educational Service Center: \$46,795

Educator Preparation

A third area in which the Department partners with educational service centers is educator preparation. Ohio's strategic plan for education recognizes excellent educators are the very foundation of quality schools. Teachers who regularly seek to expand their knowledge and reflect on their practices model the continuous improvement the Department expects of schools and students. Partnerships between the Department and educational service centers provide numerous professional development opportunities for teachers on a wide range of topics such as subject-specific instructional strategies, trauma-informed care, using student data and teacher leadership.

Ohio Teacher Evaluation System

Educational service centers play a key role in the Ohio Teacher Evaluation System (OTES). This is particularly important as Ohio transitions from OTES 1.0 to OTES 2.0. Educational service centers provide staff to serve as Ohio Teacher Evaluation System 2.0 state trainers. The Office of Educator Effectiveness trained the state trainers to lead OTES 2.0 Bridge Training and OTES 2.0 Credential Training to support school districts as they transition from OTES 1.0 to OTES 2.0. The state trainers also provide support to districts in using the electronic reporting platform for teacher evaluations.

Funding

The cost for each state trainer was \$8,076. The Department spent a total of \$1,017,576 on this partnership, as follows:

- \$207,667 (General Revenue Fund; Appropriation Line Item 200448, Educator Preparation)
- \$250,000 (Federal Title IIA Improving Teacher Quality State Activity Funds; Appropriation Line Item 200635, Improving Teacher Quality)
- \$559,909 (Federal Title IIA Improving Teacher Quality Instructional School Leaders Funds; Appropriation Line Item 200635, Improving Teacher Quality)

Educator Effectiveness

This partnership supports many projects of the Department's Office of Educator Effectiveness, including the Resident Educator Program for beginning teachers, educator evaluations systems, Troops to Teachers for veterans seeking second careers as educators, teacher diversity and equity activities, and EdRising to engage middle and high school students in the education profession. The Educational Service Center of Northeast Ohio schedules site locations for trainings, oversees small special projects, provides extra direct support when needed and assists with designing and vetting information documents to ensure clarity for the broader education community.

Funding

Educational Service Center of Northeast Ohio:

- \$120,000 (General Revenue Fund; Appropriation Line Item 200448, Educator Preparation)

- \$60,000 (Federal Title IIA Improving Teacher Quality State Activity Funds; Appropriation Line Item 200635, Improving Teacher Quality)
- \$60,000 (Federal Title IIA Improving Teacher Quality Instructional School Leaders Funds; Appropriation Line Item 200635, Improving Teacher Quality)

Regional Field Specialists

Regional field specialists further the work of the Department by providing professional development and technical support directly to the education community on initiatives affecting teachers and administrators. The Educational Service Center of Central Ohio and North Central Ohio Educational Service Center employ regional field specialists. These employees assist districts and schools in the entire state in the following areas:

- Teacher, principal and school counselor evaluation systems;
- Electronic evaluation platforms;
- Assessment literacy;
- Graduation requirements;
- Use of value-added data and high-quality student data;
- Resident Educator Program;
- Master teachers.

Funding

Combined spending for the Educational Service Center of Central Ohio and North Central Ohio Educational Service Center:

- \$12,443 (General Revenue Fund; Appropriation Line Item 200448, Educator Preparation)
- \$380,901 (Federal Title IIA Improving Teacher Quality State Activity Funds; Appropriation Line Item 200635, Improving Teacher Quality)

Teacher Clarity Project

A partnership between the Department's Office of Learning and Instructional Strategies and Educational Service Center of Central Ohio sustains the Teacher Clarity Standards-Based Alignment initiative in Ohio. The Teacher Clarity process walks educators through understanding and identifying the most critical parts of instruction: learning intentions, success criteria and learning progressions based on the learning standards. When learning progressions and success criteria are clear, students achieve more. Adherence to this process indicates teachers are intentional and learners know both the why and how behind every instructional target. The Educational Service Center of Central Ohio works with other educational service centers, state support teams and school districts from each region of Ohio to create an instructional framework using the Teacher Clarity process.

Funding

Educational Service Center of Central Ohio: \$100,000 (General Revenue Fund; Appropriation Line Item 200427, Academic Standards).

Prevention Education Professional Development Grant

In January 2020, the Department, in collaboration with the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (OhioMHAS), awarded grants to five educational service centers to provide professional development to educators and school personnel on the model and tenets of prevention education. The goal is for the five educational service centers to train other educational service center staff, as well as school staff to expand prevention services for students in grades K-12 and lower student engagement in substance abuse, suicide, bullying and other harmful behaviors. Educational service centers currently are finalizing their plans and Department staff are providing technical assistance through this process.

Each educational service center receiving a grant covers a region within the state. The five grantees will build the capacity of other educational service centers in their regions to provide professional development in prevention education at the district and school levels, use an improvement process to determine prevention needs and maximize state and federal resources to support comprehensive prevention efforts. The following educational service centers received grants:

- Educational Service Center of Central Ohio for the central region;
- Educational Service Center of Lake Erie West for the northwest region;
- Montgomery County Educational Service Center for the southwest region;
- Muskingum Valley Educational Service Center for the southeast region;
- Educational Service Center of Northeast Ohio for the northeast region.

Funding

Each grantee received \$200,000 in FY20 (General Revenue Fund; Appropriation Line Item 200448, Educator Preparation). The same amount is available for distribution to grantees in FY21.

Federal School Climate Transformation Through Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports

State law requires each school district to implement a Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports framework for all schools in the district. Each district must provide professional development or continuing education in Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports by November 2021 to teachers and administrators who serve students in prekindergarten through grade three who have not previously completed relevant training.⁴

The Department awarded federal School Climate Transformation Grants to four educational service centers to build the coaching capacity of Positive Behavioral Intervention and Supports master trainers in different regions of the state:

- Educational Service Center of Central Ohio for the mideast region;
- Montgomery County Educational Service Center for the west region;
- Muskingum Valley Educational Service Center for the southeast region;
- Educational Service Center of Northeast Ohio for the northeast region.

Each grantee has hired a regional field coordinator to conduct a needs assessment, create a regional plan and train representatives from state support teams and educational service centers in their regions who then train school employees. Staff from the Department's Office of Integrated Student Supports meet at least monthly with each regional field coordinator and educational service center leadership.

Funding

Grant recipients received the following amounts of federal funds from the Title IV-A Student Support and Academic Enrichment Program (Federal Fund Group; Appropriation Line Item 200634, Student Support and Academic Enrichment) for their regional field coordinator contracts:

- Educational Service Center of Central Ohio: \$80,001
- Montgomery County Educational Service Center: \$129,988
- Muskingum Valley Educational Service Center: \$124,421
- Educational Service Center of Northeast Ohio: \$116,100

⁴ Ohio Revised Code 3319.237 and 3319.46

McKinney-Vento Homeless Children and Youth Federal Program

The purpose of the federal McKinney-Vento Homeless Children and Youth Program is to ensure all homeless children and youth, including preschoolers, have equal access to the same free and appropriate public education as non-homeless children and youth. An employee in the Department's Office of Integrated Student Supports serves as the McKinney-Vento state coordinator. In collaboration with the Office of Federal Programs, the state coordinator provides training to local liaisons and Title I coordinators to keep them apprised of requirements under the McKinney-Vento Program and best practices for serving students experiencing homelessness. In addition to trainings, the state coordinator provides resources to help identify homelessness and can assist with transportation coordination and academic accommodations for homeless students.

Educational service centers throughout the state host trainings on the McKinney-Vento Program. Currently, there is one McKinney-Vento subgrantee, the Ohio Valley Educational Service Center, which is the fiscal agent for other participating educational service centers. Six educational service centers provided trainings in the fall of 2019:

- Athens-Meigs Educational Service Center;
- Educational Service Center of Central Ohio;
- Muskingum Valley Educational Service Center;
- North Central Ohio Educational Service Center;
- Educational Service Center of Northeast Ohio;
- Stark County Educational Service Center.

Efforts to support the needs of homeless students will result in higher graduation rates. The resources and trainings provided through the partnership ensure districts and schools appropriately serve students experiencing homelessness by meeting their academic and nonacademic needs.

Funding

Ohio Valley Educational Service Center: \$75,000 in federal funds from the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Program (Federal Fund Group; Appropriation Line Item 200622, Homeless Children Education).

Graduation Requirements Trainers

The Department's Post-High School Readiness Unit trained staff from all 51 educational service centers to share information about graduation requirements with stakeholders throughout the state. These staff deliver professional development to school administrators, counselors and teachers so all students remain on track to graduate with their classes. The Department sends graduation information regularly to educational service center staff and will meet with them for further training as the COVID-19 pandemic allows.

Funding

None.

Elementary and Secondary Education Act Title III Consortia

Title III of the Every Student Succeeds Act provides federal funds for English learners. School districts that receive less than \$10,000 in Title III funds may join a consortium to pool their funding so the group may achieve more benefits in terms of networking, shared professional development and advocacy. The Office of Integrated Student Supports and Office of Federal Programs support these districts with professional development, periodic updates, resources and general engagement on issues affecting English learners.

Educational service centers often serve as fiscal agents for the district consortia. Of Ohio's 17 Title III consortia, 13 have educational service centers as the fiscal agents. Educational service centers also offer professional development and preservice training on culturally responsive practices, sheltered instruction for English learners and English learner language instruction strategies.

Title III consortia fiscal agents include:

- The Hamilton County Educational Service Center maintains a team of English learner specialists who provide Sheltered Instruction Observation Protocol coaching to schools in the southwest region that includes Cincinnati. This method teaches students English by using both academic content and language proficiency instruction;
- The Educational Service Center of Central Ohio serves the area with the largest number of English learners. It has an English learner-focused educator who provides professional learning on demand and schedules professional development throughout the year.
- The Educational Service Center of Northeast Ohio, which is located in a region that has seen continuous growth in its English learner communities, including the Cleveland Metropolitan School District, provides professional learning and networking groups.
- The Stark County Educational Service Center provides professional learning and direct support to schools through a dedicated English learner staff member. This includes support to schools and districts that are disproportionately impacted by communities of English learners who are working in rural areas with industries that rely upon manual labor and pay low wages.

Funding

Educational service centers establish contracts annually with member districts so they can access Title III funds to support English learners.

Accountability and Report Cards

Ohio's accountability and report card systems are the primary means by which the state evaluates district and school academic performance and improvement. This system relies on student data. Continuous improvement requires teachers and administrators to interpret and use state data, as well as local data, to develop improvement strategies, prioritize resources and adapt instruction to reach struggling students. Educators also can use state and local data to evaluate their own practices and increase their effectiveness.

Data Literacy and Value-Added Data

[Regional data leads](#) are education professionals with expertise in the use of student performance data. Located at educational service centers and within state support teams, there are 75 of these professionals statewide. They provide technical assistance to other educators on analyzing data to improve practice and increase student achievement. Their mission is to establish a culture that values and relies on data to inform decisions and create sustainable change.

In response to requests for assistance from school districts and educational service centers, the Department subsidized the development of trainings implemented across the state on data literacy and the use of value-added data. Led by three educational service centers and designed specifically for regional data leads, this training, *Leading the Data Conversation: Next Steps*, touched on various aspects of data use.

- *Building- and Teacher-Level Data for School Improvement Efforts*
 - The Montgomery County Educational Service Center's training helped attendees use building- and teacher-level data to make data-driven decisions about school improvement efforts. It taught participants the differences between achievement and progress data and how to generate and interpret teacher value-added data. The Center for Performance and Impact and Office of Educator Effectiveness participated in the portion of the training centered on the use of high-quality student data needed to fulfill the Ohio Teacher Evaluation System requirements. Regional data leads from six educational service centers (Darke County Educational Service Center, Greene County Educational Service Center, Miami County Educational Service Center,

Montgomery County Educational Service Center, Preble County Educational Service Center and Warren County Educational Service Center) attended the training.

- *Ohio School Report Card Data*
 - This training, led by the North Central Ohio Educational Service Center, examined components and measures on the district and school report cards and their changes over time, with the intention of teaching participants how to use report card data to drive instructional programming and school improvement. The Office of Assessment and Office of Educator Effectiveness explored the use of value-added data, including teacher value-added reports. Regional data leads from five educational service centers (Brown County Educational Service Center, Educational Service Center of Central Ohio, Jefferson County Educational Service Center, North Central Ohio Educational Service Center and Educational Service Center of the Western Reserve) attended.
- *Analyzing Inputs to Outputs*
 - Training provided by the Summit County Educational Service Center focused on analyzing a range of data from inputs to outputs and using trend data to make decisions. It looked at technical aspects of the district and school report cards, roster verification and linkage of teachers and students, high-quality student data for teacher evaluations and how to determine trend data for student subgroups. Regional data leads from five educational service centers (Madison-Champaign Educational Service Center, Mercer County Educational Service Center, Muskingum Valley Educational Service Center, Putnam County Educational Service Center and Summit County Educational Service Center) participated in the training.

Upon completion of the three specialized trainings, regional data leads then conducted five training sessions in different regions of Ohio for district leaders and educational service center staff on the specific data literacy topics they had learned about. Regional trainings require a minimum of 50 participants per session, with five hours of contact time. Any school leader or educational service center employee may attend sessions in their areas free of charge.

Funding

The Department paid each lead educational service center \$25,500 (General Revenue Fund; Appropriation Line Item 200439, Accountability/Report Cards) for providing the training on *Leading the Data Conversation: Next Steps*.

Conclusion

By partnering so extensively with educational service centers, a two-way flow of information, resources and expertise is created among educational entities at the state, regional and local levels. Educational service centers are the linchpin in this structure. They oversee implementation of state-level activities at the regional and local levels and, in turn, raise the Department's awareness of issues faced by districts and schools around the state. The partnerships create a cohesive framework for improving educational services at all levels. The sheer array of initiatives — from school improvement, literacy development, nutrition and instructional programming to data analysis, career-technical education, learning standards and caring for vulnerable student populations — lays the groundwork for Ohio's education community to advance the vision articulated in *Each Child, Our Future* — where all students are challenged, engaged and empowered to achieve success.

Appendix A

Regional State Support Teams	GRF_School Improvement	Priority School (3M00) Federal ESEA Title 1 state level activities	Federal IDEA Part B(3M20)	Early Learning Discretionary Federal IDEA Part C (IDEA 3C50)
Region 1 State Support Team	\$220,790.50	\$107,727.27	\$2,190,785.68	\$73,909.73
Region 2 State Support Team	\$162,751.50	\$39,242.42	\$1,048,793.23	\$67,903.50
Region 3 State Support Team	\$420,248.15	\$219,015.15	\$2,435,482.36	\$64,509.06
Region 4 State Support Team	\$115,140.50	\$0.00	\$1,002,275.42	\$75,381.82
Region 5 State Support Team	\$344,180.50	\$90,606.06	\$1,527,735.02	\$74,054.75
Region 6 State Support Team	\$153,611.50	\$30,681.82	\$1,015,975.70	\$65,223.80
Region 7 State Support Team	\$169,378.00	\$43,522.73	\$1,101,661.30	\$51,480.80
Region 8 State Support Team	\$179,660.50	\$69,204.55	\$1,582,079.53	\$61,648.66
Region 9 State Support Team	\$204,795.50	\$73,484.85	\$1,287,504.25	\$63,827.70
Region 10 State Support Team	\$307,620.50	\$112,007.58	\$2,016,489.62	\$64,452.79
Region 11 State Support Team	\$239,070.50	\$244,696.97	\$2,330,760.67	\$67,495.44
Region 12 State Support Team	\$208,451.50	\$26,401.52	\$1,182,000.11	\$63,461.50
Region 13 State Support Team	\$335,040.50	\$120,568.18	\$2,248,958.10	\$63,340.12
Region 14 State Support Team	\$115,140.50	\$0.00	\$1,017,492.96	\$60,145.42
Region 15 State Support Team	\$136,233.35	\$9,280.30	\$1,243,730.27	\$60,582.30
Region 16 State Support Team	\$187,886.50	\$13,560.60	\$973,148.95	\$47,980.26
TOTALS by funding stream	\$3,500,000.00	\$1,200,000.00	\$24,204,873.17	\$1,025,397.65

Regional State Support Teams	State Personnel Development Grant Fed. IDEA Part D-OEC	Early Literacy State Systemic Improvement Plan-IDEA Part B	Early Literacy State Systemic Improvement Plan IDEA Part C-ELSR	Early Literacy State Systemic Improvement Plan- GRF
Region 1 State Support Team	\$0.00	\$93,951.58	\$28,222.13	
Region 2 State Support Team	\$12,000.00			\$132,447.51
Region 3 State Support Team	\$22,819.00	\$89,128.06	\$26,773.20	
Region 4 State Support Team	\$0.00	\$85,824.78	\$25,780.91	
Region 5 State Support Team	\$335,985.00	\$103,785.00	\$21,483.00	\$170,000.00
Region 6 State Support Team	\$500.00	\$90,895.80	\$27,304.20	
Region 7 State Support Team	\$0.00	\$75,702.58	\$22,740.31	
Region 8 State Support Team	\$3,300.00	\$79,976.00	\$24,024.00	
Region 9 State Support Team	\$0.00	\$80,759.86	\$24,259.46	
Region 10 State Support Team	\$0.00	\$119,592.66		\$183,435.00
Region 11 State Support Team	\$0.00		\$21,194.98	
Region 12 State Support Team	\$0.00	\$70,558.20	\$23,793.00	

Region 13 State Support Team	\$490.00	\$71,507.00	\$26,800.16	\$150,000.00
Region 14 State Support Team	\$0.00	\$89,217.84	\$22,811.77	
Region 15 State Support Team	\$3,235.00	\$77,383.26	\$23,752.16	
Region 16 State Support Team	\$0.00	\$79,071.04	\$25,361.85	
TOTALS by funding stream	\$378,329.00	\$1,207,353.66	\$344,301.13	\$635,882.51

Regional State Support Teams	Student Assessment (ELSR)	Striving Readers Comprehensive Literacy grant REGIONAL PD SUPPORT	Striving Readers Comprehensive Literacy Grant Adolescent Literacy	SST transition funds (GRF transition funding)
Region 1 State Support Team	\$21,875.00			\$10,000
Region 2 State Support Team	\$21,875.00			\$8,000
Region 3 State Support Team	\$21,875.00	\$70,200.00	\$120,000.00	\$10,000
Region 4 State Support Team	\$21,875.00			\$8,000
Region 5 State Support Team	\$21,875.00			\$10,000
Region 6 State Support Team	\$21,875.00			\$8,000
Region 7 State Support Team	\$21,875.00			\$8,000
Region 8 State Support Team	\$21,875.00			\$8,000
Region 9 State Support Team	\$21,875.00			\$8,000
Region 10 State Support Team	\$21,875.00			\$10,000
Region 11 State Support Team	\$21,875.00		\$120,000.00	\$8,000
Region 12 State Support Team	\$21,875.00			\$8,000
Region 13 State Support Team	\$21,875.00	\$53,000.00		\$8,000
Region 14 State Support Team	\$21,875.00			\$8,000
Region 15 State Support Team	\$21,875.00			\$10,000
Region 16 State Support Team	\$21,875.00			\$8,000
TOTALS by funding stream	\$350,000.00	\$123,200.00		\$138,000

Regional State Support Teams	Secondary Transition support- GRF	Transition To Work Endorsement- GRF	Total by SST	ALL IDEA total by SST
Region 1 State Support Team	\$45,000.00	\$65,000.00	\$2,857,261.89	\$2,358,646.99
Region 2 State Support Team			\$1,493,013.16	\$1,116,696.73
Region 3 State Support Team			\$3,500,049.98	\$2,589,119.48
Region 4 State Support Team			\$1,334,278.43	\$1,163,482.02
Region 5 State Support Team			\$2,699,704.33	\$1,705,574.77
Region 6 State Support Team			\$1,414,067.82	\$1,172,095.30
Region 7 State Support Team			\$1,494,360.72	\$1,228,844.68
Region 8 State Support Team			\$2,029,768.24	\$1,723,704.19
Region 9 State Support Team			\$1,764,506.62	\$1,432,091.81

Region 10 State Support Team			\$2,835,473.15	\$2,200,535.07
Region 11 State Support Team			\$3,053,093.56	\$2,398,256.11
Region 12 State Support Team			\$1,604,540.83	\$1,316,019.81
Region 13 State Support Team			\$3,099,579.06	\$2,383,805.22
Region 14 State Support Team			\$1,334,683.49	\$1,166,856.22
Region 15 State Support Team			\$1,586,071.64	\$1,381,695.83
Region 16 State Support Team			\$1,356,884.20	\$1,100,200.25
TOTALS by funding stream	\$45,000.00	\$65,000.00	\$33,457,337.12	\$26,437,624.48