

ESC of Central Ohio
By the Numbers

**Unless otherwise indicated, data are for 2007-08 school year.*

25	School districts served
420	Public school buildings served
205,000	Total students served
917	Special education students served
3,223	Help Me Grow children served
580	Students earning dual-credit hours
Total credit hours earned through	
4,000+	Dual-Credit programs
assessments conducted for	52 schools
Truancy interventions performed	209
ESC employees	1,000
ESC of Central Ohio budget	\$79.5 million
State General Revenue Fund	
(GRF) appropriations	\$3.75 million
(4.7% of total budget)	
Immediate savings from merger	
of ESC of Franklin County	
and Delaware-Union ESC	\$1.2 million
(per year)	

Our Mission

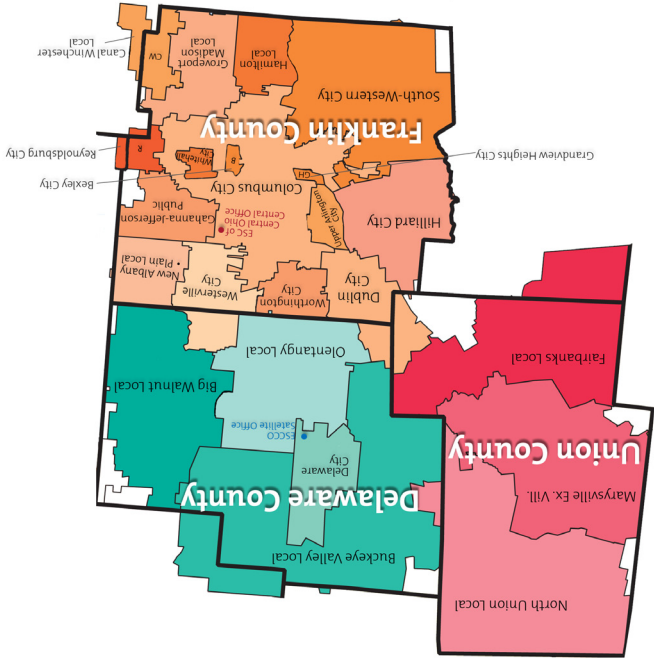
We accelerate the missions of our member school districts and help students achieve more through research-based programs and services.

Our Vision

An innovative educational solutions agency that is the provider of choice; customizing services and leveraging resources to maximize each student's potential.

Governing Board

- Greg Spencer, President
- Bart Anderson, Superintendent
- Ed Bischoff
- Alan Hutchinson, Treasurer
- Joyce Galbraith
- Richard Heisel
- Betty Klamfoth
- Teri Morgan
- Robin Reid-Pleasnick



In his 2009 State of the State Address, Ohio Governor Ted Strickland said that “simply tinkering with centuries-old education practices will not prepare Ohio’s children for success in college, in the workplace, or in life.”

The Governor called for a new emphasis on 21st century skills and made the case for new instructional approaches that foster creativity and innovation, critical thinking, problem solving, communication and collaboration. He said Ohio’s future schools would be built around the needs of individual students, offering expanded learning opportunities and no longer relying on the industrial-age models of the past.

Many of the contours for this 21st-century education system can be seen today right here in Central Ohio. They are reflected in the policies, practices and partnerships that define the Educational Service Center of Central Ohio.

Stakeholder Report 2009 Executive Summary

Helping Students Succeed

Making a Difference for Students, Schools and Communities

A Message to Our Stakeholders

The ESC of Central Ohio provides needed programs, products and services to 25 school districts in Delaware, Franklin and Union counties—and in some cases, schools in nearby counties. We provide solutions. We help put time back into superintendents' hands. We accelerate learning and help students succeed.

We don't do many of the things that teachers and traditional school districts do. But we make their work easier and more effective. We add

value in countless, often unseen ways. And we do it by designing and delivering services around what works.

The ESC's 2009 report to our stakeholders documents the difference our agency makes in the schools and districts we serve—and in the lives of the children who benefit from our work. The report focuses on five areas in which our work is indispensable and transformative. Through these initiatives, we are accelerating learning and improving student success.

Expanding Opportunities for Personalized Learning

Young people have different learning styles and needs, different strengths and weaknesses, different interests and aspirations. So an education system that sees schools as industrial-age assembly lines cannot give every child a high-quality learning experience.

At the ESC of Central Ohio, personalization is, at its core, an equity issue. We offer support services that are designed to make learning relevant to every child's experiences and aspirations. Our focus is on the individual student and our goal is to close persistent achievement gaps by accelerating learning for all students. For example:

- With the **Crossroads** program, we blend demanding academic studies with summer internships and service learning. We are showing low-income, at-risk students that learning is relevant to their lives.
- The ESC's **Arts Impact Academy** is an alternative high school that serves young people for whom traditional high schools did not work. This unique learning center offers a core academic curriculum along with special training in the visual and industrial arts.
- Designed to support students in foster care, **PASS** is a partnership with Franklin County Children Services. The program's education specialists are working with 250 students at The Buckeye Ranch and in participating South-Western City and Columbus City middle and high schools.

Offering Dual-Credit Opportunities

Dual-credit programs, which allow students to earn college credits while still in high school, give students an early taste of "being in college," enhance their aspirations to continue formal learning beyond high school, help them understand and prepare for the rigor of college and reduce the price tag of a college education.

In its first full year of operation, the ESC's **dual-credit enrollment initiative** gave 580 students in 14 school districts an opportunity to get a jump on college. These students took one or more of 32 college-level classes that were offered at their own high schools and taught by qualified high school faculty trained to be college adjuncts.

This arrangement keeps high schools' senior leadership on the campus while allowing them to experience collegiate-level academic work. It also allows districts to offer accelerated learning opportunities to their students without losing a portion of their state subsidy.

During the 2007-08 school year, participating students earned more than 4,000 credit hours and the demand for dual-enrollment experiences continues to grow. Today, 23 high schools and nine higher education partners are part of this rapidly emerging success story.

Improving the Quality of Teaching and Instruction

The level of achievement our students are capable of is largely a function of the quality of instruction and support they receive. While many factors impact achievement, few would argue that teacher quality is the most important school-based factor. This understanding is embedded in many ESC programs, including the following:

- Launched in 2007, the **Instructional Coaching Initiative** helps teachers interpret and use assessment data to improve instructional strategies, particularly in reading and mathematics literacy. ESC instructional coaches work with teachers in 80-plus Columbus schools and the project recently expanded to Reynoldsburg.
- The ESC's **Regional Literacy Consultant Initiative**—a collaboration with the Ohio Department of Education and three Central Ohio school districts (Groveport Madison Local, Hamilton Local and Whitehall City)—build the capacity of district-level literacy coaches, enabling districts to provide effective literacy and language intervention services to all students in all grades.
- **Response to Intervention** is part of the U.S. Department of Education's comprehensive effort to improve instruction and intervention services for all students, including those with special needs. The ESC is building districts' capacity in a seven-county region to provide high-quality instruction and support services, with research-based interventions matched to individual learners' needs.

Strengthening School Leadership

Strong, inspirational leadership is vital in the most stable of times; in times of great challenge and flux, its importance cannot be overstated. The ESC of Central Ohio is helping principals, superintendents and other administrators meet new and rising expectations. For example:

- In partnership with the Ohio Department of Education, the ESC is implementing the **Ohio Improvement Process**, a unique, nationally recognized system for supporting and driving school districts' improvement programs, promoting district-wide literacy enhancement initiatives, strengthening school readiness efforts and ensuring compliance with state and federal special education requirements.
- The **Principals Instructional Leadership Academy** engages both new and aspiring principals in a yearlong training program that features ongoing, job-embedded learning experiences designed to enhance their leadership knowledge and capabilities.
- ESC consultants design and deliver on-site professional development aligned with district goals. All training is job-embedded, experience-based and research-driven and planned in collaboration with district leadership teams to ensure customization to meet local needs.

Making Better Use of Scarce Resources

Making better use of scarce resources is one of the ESC of Central Ohio's highest priorities. Often this involves contracted services that allow schools and districts to provide services through a regional consortium that could not be offered economically on a local basis.

- In partnership with area institutions of higher education, the ESC's **Campus-Based Transition Program** gives Central Ohio students with disabilities—particularly in smaller school districts with limited resources—transition services needed to improve their lives after high school with training for employment and self-care.
- The ESC's **Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) Intervention Support Services** initiative provides customized training for teachers and staff to serve students with ASD in their classrooms. The agency's **Autism College Transition Program** offers direct instruction and academic coaching designed to develop independence for aspiring college students (in collaboration with Columbus State Community College).

Creating Partnerships without Limits

The ESC of Central Ohio's success reflects one of the most powerful trends of the 21st century—building partnerships that allow people to work beyond traditional organizational borders or geographic boundaries and sometimes elevate their purpose. Without limits, these strategic partnerships strive to do what's never been done before.

In collaboration with schools, districts and other regional organizations, the Educational Service Center of Central Ohio is achieving things that are extraordinary, workable and valuable. It is making a greater difference in the lives of children, families and communities.

