



*Educational Service Center
of Lorain County*

**2014 - 2015
Annual
Report**



Performance. Achievement. Legacy.

Connecting to Our Community

Superintendent
Greg Ring

The ESC actively connects to community organizations providing a place to gather and discuss important issues impacting our region:

- ODE State Support Team Region 2 – host site and fiscal agent
- Lake Eric Regional Consortium (health insurance) – host site and fiscal agent
- Lorain County Attendance Program
- Lorain County Health Coalition
- Fatality Review Board (law enforcement/health dept.)
- Boy Scouts of America
- North Coast Council (ITC site)
- Lorain County Superintendents Council
- TALK Network
- Middle School Health Collaborative, United Way
- Fill the Bus
- Boys and Girls Club of Lorain County
- NCSSA - substitute training
- Little Free Library Initiative (fiscal agent)
- Scholastic Games (fiscal agent)

ESC leadership is actively involved in organizations that seek to improve children's lives:

- United Way of Greater Lorain Co., Executive Board
- Heart of Ohio Council (Boy Scouts), District Chairman and Executive Council
- Family and Children First Council
- REACHhigher, P-16 Council, Chairman
- Ohio Schools Council, Executive Board
- Greater Cleveland School Superintendents Assoc., Executive Board
- Lorain County Chamber of Commerce
- Emergency Management Agency, Lorain County
- ELA Leader Network (ODE)
- Battelle for Kids – Value Added Leader
- Westshore International Reading Assoc., Executive Board
- Local Boards of Education
 - Superintendent Searches: Firelands, Lorain City, Oberlin and Wellington
 - Treasurer Search: Wellington

The ESC of Lorain County employs 140 full-time and 83 part-time individuals, serving 43,500 students across Lorain County.



Services & Programs Provided

The ESC is strategic in developing services that meet the needs of our customers. We provide a cost saving means to school districts in Erie, Huron and Lorain County for professional development and services. Along with professional development rolled out from the Ohio Department of Ed, we provide tailored trainings to meet the needs of our districts. Our high quality professional development opportunities meet the standards established by the state as they provide job embedded opportunities to affect change in practice. We offer the following services: Educational Audiology Consultation, Fingerprinting, Gifted and Talented Services, Speech Supervisory Services, Homeless Liaison Services, and cooperative purchasing services.

To that end, we encourage our customers to provide us with feedback after attending our events/workshops.

<p>Curriculum/Instruction Professional Development</p>	<p>Gifted & Talented Programs</p>	<p>Art, Music & Spelling</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eduplanet21 • Non-Violent Crisis Intervention • Student Learning Objectives (SLO) • Ohio Principal Evaluation System (OPES) • Ohio Teacher Evaluation System (OTES) • Electronic Teacher/Principal Evaluation System (ETPES) • Next Generation Assessments Math, ELA, Science and Social Studies • Principal Bootcamp • On-site Contracted Services • Curriculum Consulting • ELA/Math Trainings • Math Implementation • Reading Social Studies Intergration • Resident Educator • LEANOhio Boot Camp • Value Added 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Classroom Workshops • Math Mania • Mock Trial • Prof. Development • Screening/Testing/ID • WEPs/Resources • Young Authors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Art Shows • Honors Choir & Band Festival • Spelling Bees • Solo & Ensemble • Virtual Recital
	<p>NORT2H Technology Integration Services</p>	<p>Special Projects</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • District Meetings • Professional Development • Video Conference 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agency Cross-Training • Homeless Education • Liaison/EMIS • Nordson Grant • Pupil Transportation • School Safety • Tutoring
	<p>Fingerprinting Services</p>	<p>Other Services</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Federal Background Check • Ohio Background Check • On-site Locations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SLP Supervision • Educational Audiology • Substitute Services • Project SEARCH • The Early Learning Center • Lorain County Academy • Literacy Specialists • Parapro Assessment • Occupational Therapy



Curriculum/Instruction Professional Development

Director of Professional Development & Curriculum Instruction
 Moira Erwine

Our new initiative this year was to provide **LeanOhio Bootcamps** to eligible government agencies. We had five boot camps resulting in 47 graduates. Eight of our staff members took advantage of this training and have already begun utilizing the strategies in their own role as well as collaboratively to improve efficiencies in the area of Human Resources.

The focus on implementation of **Ohio's New Learning Standards** and preparation for the **next generation assessments** were a high priority from Fall through Spring 2015. Support sessions for test coordinators were well received. Monthly Curriculum Council meetings provided much needed support with testing this year.

There was an increase for **Nonviolent Crisis Intervention** support this year resulting in 85 hours of training. Districts involved in PEP Assist Multi-agreement utilized 217 hours of service including observations, team meetings, and onsite trainings.

We continued to utilize **Eduplanet21** learning management system to provide attendees with a blended learning model of professional development as well as online learning pathways for book studies to support job embedded practices. Over 500 users have responded positively in the ease of use and the opportunity to network with others while implementing new learning.

August 2014 - May 2015

Total Number of Events: **105**
 2013-2014 Total: **40**

Total Number of Participants: **1,583**
 2013-2014 Total: **647**

Total Number of Contracted Services for Districts: **18**

Eduplanet21 Participants: **542**

The following numbers are not included in chart

OTES Trainings: **110**

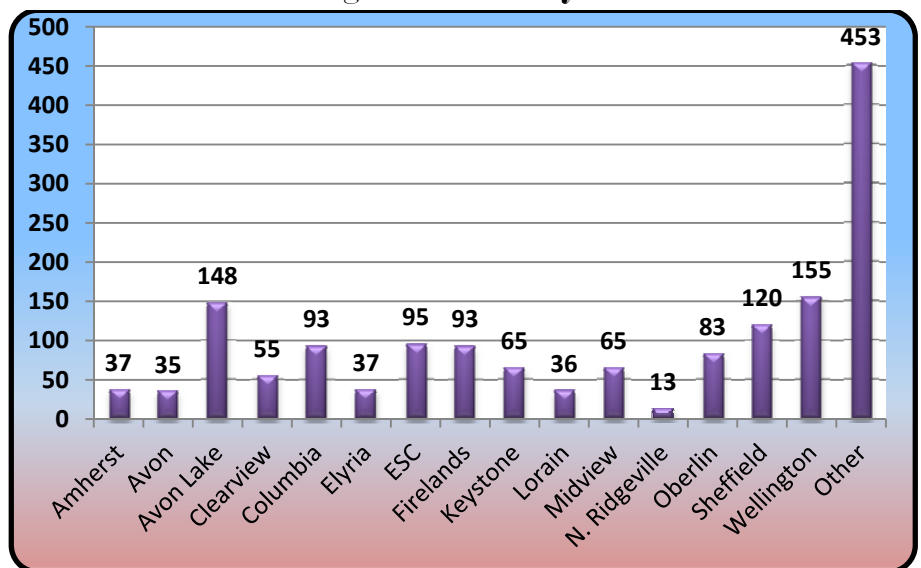
eTPES Trainings:

- Superintendents **4**
- Principals **7**

District Visits: **4**



Number of Participants per District Attending PD Events
August 2014 - May 2015



"Other" contains community schools, SST and other counties.



Gifted & Talented Programs

Gifted Supervisors

Cathy Fischer and Mary Lou Kaminski



The Gifted Department offers contracted services to school districts for programs, services, professional development and assures compliance with the ODE.

Ten districts from Lorain County contracted for services during the 2014-2015 school year.

Consortium Districts: Amherst, Avon, Avon Lake, Clearview, Columbia, Firelands, Keystone, North Ridgeville, Oberlin and Vermilion

EVENTS/FIELD TRIPS/PROGRAMS

Programs	Description	Grade(s)	Districts	Students/Teachers
ACT Practice Testing	On-site testing to prepare students for college entrance testing.	7-8	Amherst, Clearview, Columbia, Firelands, Keystone, Vermilion	40
Math Mania	Competition by grade level at Lorain County Community College.	4-8	Amherst, Columbia, Firelands, Keystone, North Ridgeville, Oberlin, Vermilion	400
Mock Trial	Eleven (11) simulated courtroom trials presided by actual attorneys/judges at Lorain County Justice Center. Verdicts were decided by student juries.	5-8	Amherst, Clearview, Columbia, Firelands, Keystone, North Ridgeville, Oberlin, Vermilion	350
Attorneys' Courtroom Workshops	Ten (10) interactive sessions in which Lorain County attorneys instructed students in trial protocol and case presentation using proper courtroom vocabulary and effective questioning techniques.	5-8	Amherst, Clearview, Columbia, Keystone, North Ridgeville, Oberlin	310
Artist Illustrating Workshops	Thirty-two (32) interactive sessions in which local Cartoonist Jim Gill instructed students in improving their illustrating techniques and exploring career opportunities in visual arts.	3-8	Amherst, Avon Lake, Clearview, Columbia, Firelands, Keystone, North Ridgeville, Vermilion	995
Author Writing Presentations	Three (3) sessions in which local Author Marilyn Sadler instructed students in improving their writing skills.	3-6	Avon Lake, Columbia, North Ridgeville	135
Visual Arts Identification	On-site evaluation of student portfolios by credentialed artists.	4-8	Amherst, Keystone, North Ridgeville	30
Young Authors' Conference	Year-long program in which students wrote and illustrated books, complying with multiple state standards. Program concluded with students' participation in one of two (2) venues at LCCC: featuring Authors/Speakers Marilyn Sadler and Chris Grabenstein.	3-8	Amherst, Avon Lake, Clearview, Columbia, Firelands, Homeschoolers, Keystone, Lorain, North Ridgeville, Open Door Christian Schools, St. Jude School - Elyria, Sheffield-Sheffield Lake, Vermilion	1,200
Young Authors' Social	Social opportunity for teachers and administrators to meet the guest authors.	3-8	Amherst, Clearview, Columbia, Keystone, North Ridgeville	10
Young Authors' Open House / Book Signing	Students, families, friends, teachers and administrators were welcomed to view the students' work, with the opportunity for Author/Television Series Producer Marilyn Sadler and New York Times Bestselling Author Chris Grabenstein to autograph books.	3-8	Amherst, Avon Lake, Clearview, Columbia, Firelands, Homeschoolers, Keystone, Lorain, North Ridgeville, Open Door Christian Schools, St. Jude School - Elyria, Sheffield-Sheffield Lake, Vermilion	400

CURRICULUM SUPPORT

Service	Description	Grade(s)
Classroom Resources	Physical/electronic resources provided to assist teachers in meeting the curricular needs of students.	K-8
Classroom Support	In-class support and modeling to assist teachers which programs.	3-8
Consulting	Telephone, email and face-to-face consulting to assist teachers and parents in implementing instruction.	PreK-12
Lending Library	Classroom book sets provided to teachers to enrich learning.	3-6
Parent Communication	Responding to parent questions regarding districts' gifted services.	K-8

Gifted & Talented Programs

DATA MANAGEMENT

Service	Description	Grade	Districts	Students/ Teachers
Data Management	Cognitive, Reading, Math, Science, Social Studies, Creative Thinking and Visual Arts recordkeeping and analysis.	K-12	Amherst, Avon, Avon Lake, Clearview, Columbia, Firelands, Keystone, North Ridgeville, Oberlin, Vermilion	8,500

OHIO DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION COMPLIANCE

Service	Description	Grade	Districts	Students/ Teachers
Acceleration Testing/Early Entrance to Kindergarten	Met staff and parents of prospective students, and provided testing, scoring, and notification services for Early Entrance, Subject, or Whole Grade Acceleration.	Pre-K-4	Columbia, Firelands, Keystone, North Ridgeville, Vermilion	50
District ID and Service Plans	Prepared plans encompassing state requirements, district criteria, and district services, submitted to and approved by ODE.	Pre-K-12	Amherst, Avon, Avon Lake, Clearview, Columbia, Firelands, Keystone, North Ridgeville, Oberlin, Vermilion	10
Identification: Further Assessments	Gifted identification and services prepared after initial whole grade screening; collaborated with teachers and administrators in determining criteria for further assessments; administered and score tests, prepared parent notifications and reported gifted identifications to EMIS.	2,3,5	Amherst, Avon, Clearview, Columbia, Firelands, Keystone, North Ridgeville, Vermilion	350
Identification: Referral Testing	Three (3) scheduled testing days at the ESC and throughout the year within a district for students who have been referred by parents, teachers or students.	1-8	Amherst, Avon, Firelands, Keystone, North Ridgeville, Oberlin, Vermilion	110
Professional Development in-district	Nine (9) sessions to address educational needs of gifted.	K-8	Avon, Clearview, Columbia, Firelands, Keystone	225
Professional Development on-site	Six (6) sessions to address educational needs of gifted, including one (1) EMIS reporting session.	K-12	Amherst, Ashland, Avon, Avon Lake, Bay Village, Brecksville-Broadview Heights, Clearview, Cleveland, Columbia, Firelands, Keystone, Mayfield, North Ridgeville, Oberlin, Olmsted Falls, Vermilion	80
Written Acceleration Plans	Assisted teachers and administrators in preparing acceleration plans for Early Entrance, Subject, or Whole Grade Acceleration.	K-6	Columbia, Firelands, Keystone, North Ridgeville, Vermilion	20
Written Education Plans	Recommended and/or assisted teachers and administrators in preparing plans for specialized gifted services, as approved by ODE.	2-12	Amherst, Avon, Avon Lake, Clearview, Columbia, Firelands, Keystone, North Ridgeville, Oberlin, Vermilion	3,500



NORT²H Technology Integration Services

Director of Technology & Innovation
Dave Miller

The Northern Ohio Research and Training Technology Hub (NORT2H) provides training and resources to K-12 institutes and higher education partners. NORT2H specializes in assisting districts in the selection of technologies that impact teaching and learning, which improves student learning. Given the extensive research that NORT2H conducts around emerging technologies, they provide consultative services to schools as technologies are deployed as well as direct professional development.

Consultation

The consultative staff inside NORT2H come from the classroom, work with districts all across Northern Ohio, and have the unique ability to assist districts as they make technology decisions and purchases that can impact a school district's ability to impact student learning. NORT2H has helped districts all across Northern Ohio as various 1:1 and BYOD initiatives were deployed.

Professional Development

NORT2H specializes in providing engaging and hands-on training to schools. We want teachers to embrace new methodologies and technology tools for the classroom to engage students which will ultimately increase student learning. This year, NORT2H provided over 20 different professional development workshop topics to its clients.

Member School Districts

Avon Lake City, Avon Local, Bay Village, Berkshire Local, Columbia Local, Cuyahoga County ESC, Cuyahoga Heights, Edison Local, Elyria City, Firelands Local, Independence Local, Keystone, Lorain City, LCCC, ESC of Lorain County, Lorain County Juvenile Home, Midview, Perry School District, Polaris Career Center, Richmond Heights, and Sheffield/Sheffield Lake.

Representing over 70 school buildings and 3 Educational Services Centers (Lorain, Cuyahoga, Lake counties).

A Snapshot of Services

Consultations - meetings with clients to help them make informed decisions.

Professional Development - Large and small group professional development for educators.

Meetings - Working with clients and ESC staff to provide high quality services.

Projects - Higher time-intensive events for educators and students (Green screen video productions, EdCamp Cleveland, Techno Math Mania, etc).

Month	Consultations	Professional Development	Meetings	Projects
July	3	2	2	0
August	5	14	8	0
September	9	14	9	0
October	15	21	10	0
November	14	20	4	1
December	7	24	4	1
January	8	15	11	0
February	10	12	3	1
March	12	22	8	3
April	10	13	11	2
May	5	10	9	1
Totals	98	167	79	9



Fingerprinting Services

Fingerprinting Agents Stephanie Calhoun & Pam Gamble

Fingerprinting/background checks are completed for customers who need Ohio Bureau of Criminal Identification (BCI) and/or Federal Bureau Investigation (FBI). Several reasons for fingerprinting include: school employees, parent volunteers, roofing/construction companies, home health care agencies, day care providers, college students and church volunteers.

The ESC invoices 68 organizations and 18 school districts. Therefore, those customers do not pay when completing the background check.

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITY

August 2014 - May 2015

Number of Self Paid: 1,110
Number of Billed: 708
Total: 1,818

The ESC offers on-site fingerprinting to districts and companies at a cost of \$125 per four- hour session and \$25 for each additional hour. The customer cost for BCI & FBI is \$65.

ON-SITE ACTIVITY

August 2014 - May 2015

Number of Self Paid: 91

Due to the increase in activity, we added an additional staff member to the Fingerprinting Department in November.



Art, Music and Spelling

Project Coordinator
Debbie Hunt

ART

Elementary, Middle School & High School Art Exhibits are held each year for 3 weeks at the Midway Mall. Any teacher in the Region 2 district is free to join these exhibits. This also includes non-public and charter/community schools.

Elem./Middle School Art Exhibits

Participating Students: 149
Participating Schools: 22

Held May 4-22, 2015
Added five new teachers

High School Art Exhibits

Participating Students: 138
Participating Schools: 9

Held Nov. 2-21, 2014
Added four new teachers

MUSIC

Virtual Recital is interactive connection from the ESC Green Room to the Cleveland Institute of Music (CIM) where students perform music to a CIM Teacher who will in turn critique their work and prepare them to perform better at the Solo & Ensemble Contest.

Participating Students: 11 Participating Schools: 5

Solo & Ensemble Contest is a gathering of many musicians in the Region 2 district who performs music in front of a judge and receives awards if they perform well.

Participating Students: 1007 Participating Schools: 51 (37 public and 14 music studios)

Middle School Honors Choir & Band Festival is held at Keystone High School each year and brings together musicians from Avon, Clearview, Columbia, Firelands, Keystone, Midview, N. Ridgeville and Wellington.

Participating Students: 178 Participating Schools: 8

SPELLING

Grades 3-6 ESCLC Elementary Spelling Bee

Held at Nord Middle School in Amherst on May 3, 2015 **Participating Students: 107 Participating Schools: 19**

Grades 7/8 ESC/Chronicle Telegram Bees

West Preliminary held on March 6, 2015 **Participating Students: 71 Participating Schools: 19**
East Preliminary held on March 13, 2015
Finals held on March 21, 2015



Special Projects

Project Coordinator
Debbie Hunt

Participation & Impact of Events & Programming

Event & Date	Total # of Students served	Staff (teachers & support personnel) involved or served	# of schools involved (represented by students or teachers)	# of agency personnel served (including Juv Court & law enforcement)	Notes
Delinquent Education Programs June 8, 2014 – June 8, 2015 * 650 is an unduplicated count as many students go from one facility to another and recidivism is high in this population. We ensure every student receives education even while incarcerated	408*	12 ESCLC Staff serving DH/SSPW/TP	69 different Schools served in Lorain, Erie Medina & Cuyahoga Counties in 18 different School Districts	0	All students were at sometime during the school-year, residents at DH/SSPW/TP
Homeless Education Program July 1, 2013 – July 1, 2014 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Liaison/EMIS Seminar September 25, 2014 After-school homework-help Tutoring Sept. 2, 2014 – May 30, 2015 We ensure every child who is homeless receive the education they deserve. 	964 reported by LEA's	All Region 2 Homeless Liaisons & EMIS Coord. (29 LEA s + 10 Charter)	29 LEAs + 10 Charter		964 students identified as Homeless & reported to ODE by 39 LEAs or charter/community schools
	0		33	11	
	80	77	11	0	@ 2 Boys/Girls Clubs 1 in Lorain & 1 in Elyria
		4 ESCLC Homeless Tutors			
Pupil Transportation Appreciation & PD 10/16/14	0	152	12	0	
School Safety Seminar 88 attended @ Spitzer Ctr. 01/16/15	0	69	15 school districts	19	Train-the-Trainer Seminar covering all topics of ODE & HB requirements
Agency Cross-Training Seminars @ ESCLC 183 (total) attended 10/23/14 & 04/23/15	0	12	8 school districts	171	2 Seminars each year sponsored by The Manager's Group
Nordson Grant	0	12 teachers from 10 school districts were awarded grants	10 school districts submitted a total of 31 applications		Total amount awarded was \$11,500 in various grant-amounts according to each request.

Explanation of each event described on following page.

Title I Delinquent Education Program – This is regular school for incarcerated and sheltered youth at all the Lorain County Juvenile Court Residential Facilities (Detention Home, Stepping Stone Boys Group Home, Pathways Girls Group Home, and Turning Point Shelter). All residents at all facilities receive a 6-hour school-day of direct-instruction by HQT education professionals. The curriculum consists of Language Arts, Mathematics, Social Studies, Science, Technology & Art.

Detention Home - residency averages 38 boys (max is 45) & 9 girls (max is 12) and stays can be anywhere from 1 to 30 days or longer. The average stay is 2 weeks. Residents are all felons. We have 4 teachers at DH (Lang Arts, Math & Science, Social Studies & Tech, and Individualized Instruction for special-needs or special-curriculum situations).

Stepping Stone & Pathways - average population is 16 boys (max is 20) & 7 girls (max is 10); stays are 5 months which allows for intensive rehab. Residents are minor felons. We have 3 teachers at SS/PW (Lang Arts & Science, Soc Studies & Lang Arts, Math & Lang Arts).

Turning Point Shelter - average residencies are 4 boys (max is 5) & 3 girls (max is 5); stays can be anywhere from 1 to 30 days or longer. The average stay is 8 days. Residents are in protective custody. We have 1 teacher at TP (who operates a one-room school-house using home-schooling-techniques & activities integrating all subjects).

Title I Homeless Education Program - This program covers all of Region 2 SST (Lorain, Erie & Huron Counties) and is supported by our McKinney-Vento Grant; it consists of two parts:

1. Professional development, awareness & consultation services:
2. Tutoring & academic services:

Pupil Transportation Appreciation & Prof. Development is an awards banquet for the Bus Drivers of Lorain County. We have a dinner and a speaker so they can get professional development hours certificates. We give out awards to one particular bus driver of a district that is chosen by the Transportation Supervisor of that district. This is held in October each year.

School Safety Seminar is a training program that “trains the trainer” of other schools on ODE & HB Laws and Requirements. We offer this training to everyone who deals with students – i.e. Superintendents, Principals, Guidance Counselors, Teachers, etc. This is a required training every 5 years for every education professional by ODE. This event is held in January each year.

Agency Cross-Training Seminars gathers a variety of agencies in Lorain County who deal with children/youth. Examples of who presents at the seminar is personnel from Nord Center, Children Services, Ohio Guidestone, Bellefaire JCB, Applewood, Lorain County Juvenile Courts, Lorain County Board of Developmental Disabilities, LC Alcohol & Drug Abuse Services, etc. Each presenter has 30 minutes to talk about their agency and what they do. We have a wide variety of participants attend, from teachers to guards at the detention home. It is received well by the community and we are usually at full capacity within 3 days of releasing the registration information.

Nordson Grant is monies the ESC receives from the Nordson Corporation each year. We send out applications to all schools in Lorain County including Private Schools and a committee selects which school/teacher receives their requested grant. The process begins in August and is complete in June the following year.



Regional Supervisor of Speech/Language Therapy Services

Barb Conrad, M.A., CCC-SLP

Sixty SLPs from 23 districts receive a monthly e-packet of information and are provided access to a pass coded section of the ESC's website specific to the practice of speech-language pathology in the school setting. The web pages and e-packets are provided by Barb Conrad. In addition, professional development, quarterly meetings, clinics and labs were offered to district speech-language pathologists throughout the 2014-15 school year. A table listing topics, dates and number of attendees follows:

NAME OF EVENT	TOPIC	DATE HELD	NUMBER OF ATTENDEES
"Targeting Oral and Written Language: Connections to the Classroom, Curriculum, and Common Core Standards presented by Dr. Nickola Nelson	Vocabulary	September 2014	53
Fall SLP Mtg	Ohio's Operating Standards for the Education of Children with Disabilities - Effective July 2014	Choice of one of 3 meeting dates in October	44
Social Thinking	Perspective Taking	Cancelled due to weather	0
Winter SLP Mtg		Choice of 3 dates in February	49
Spring Clinics	Transition process, IEP/ETR writing, and Workload/Caseload Update	March 2015	8
Hot Topics in Special Ed.: What's New? presented by Dr. Jim Chapple How to Identify and Solve Ethical Dilemmas presented by Gregg Thornton, Executive Director of OBSPLA	Operating Standards issues Code of Ethics	May 2015	67

SUPPORT TO NEW HIRES

New speech-language pathologists must be rigorously supervised as they undergo their clinical fellowship (CF) year. Successful completion of their CF year results in obtaining Ohio Board licensure (a requirement to work in schools) and a Certificate of Clinical Competence from ASHA.

Barb provided CF supervision and mentorship to **three** new SLPs during the 2014-15 school year totaling 54 observations. Three of the SLPs were recommended for their licensure: Mary Clare Becker, Avon Local, Jaclyn Simon, Avon Local, and Ruth Yarnevich, North Ridgeville City.

Speech-Language Pathologists new to a district received orientation visits and on-going support throughout their first year in the region. In addition to those named as CF's above, **six** other SLPs were new to the region this year. Barb provided on-site visits, personalized emails and packets of information to: Brittany Draper, South Central Local Schools, Bethany Koch, Bellevue City Schools, Kristin Sprague, Vermilion Local Schools, Laura Moyer, Vermilion Local Schools, Stephanie Boehnlein, Elyria City Schools, and Nicole Miller, North Ridgeville City Schools.

RECRUITMENT/RETENTION

Partnerships developed with the University of Akron, Cleveland State University, Kent State University, University of Cincinnati, Bowling Green University, Ohio University, Miami University and The Ohio State University continued as eight student SLPs were placed in the following districts during the school year: Amherst, Avon, Clearview, Keystone, North Ridgeville, Oberlin, Sheffield-Sheffield Lake, and Wellington.

SLPs in the region mentor area students pursuing a career in speech-language pathology. Currently, there are **fifteen** students from area high schools in pursuit of a bachelor's or master's degree from an Ohio University. Barb connects with the students encouraging them to consider student teaching in the region and to seek a position in the school setting in the area.

Filling temporary vacancies for medical leaves, etc. is always a challenge. This year Barb assisted in filling **five** short term positions mostly working with area retirees or private agencies to fill the positions in the following districts: Avon, Bellevue, Columbia Local, North Ridgeville and Vermilion,.

Thirteen retirees gathered at the annual Retiree Luncheon to connect with Barb; some assisted with short term openings throughout the year. They are invited to many of the professional development offerings provided in order to keep their licensure current including the ETHICS course held in May; a new request by Ohio Board of Speech Language Pathology and Audiology effective for 2015-16 .

To date several SLP vacancies have been announced for Fall 2015. Barb assisted in filling the vacancies for the following **eight** districts: Avon Lake, Bellevue City, Columbia Local Schools, Midview Local, North Ridgeville City, Norwalk City, Oberlin City and South Central Local Schools.



Regional Educational Audiologist

Carol Lepi, MA, CCC-A

The Educational Audiologist provided direct audiological services to meet the needs of students with hearing loss in 20 participating school districts in Lorain, Erie and Huron Counties during the 2014-15 school year. The difference between a clinical audiologist and an educational audiologist is that the educational audiologist understands school-based issues and practices and can assist the school team in understanding the link between hearing, language and learning for their students with hearing loss.

During the 2014-15 school year, the educational audiologist made 368 contacts in providing the following services:

- Initial evaluation and re-evaluation of individual students' hearing ability status for determination of eligibility or continuation of specially designed services.
- Appropriately fitting (only an educational audiologist can determine the need for and fit FM/DM systems) FM/DM systems for students with hearing loss so they have direct access to the teacher's voice in the educational environment. Followup services dealing with troubleshooting equipment problems during the school year when necessary.
- Group and individual instruction (training) to general educators, special educators and related service personnel on the care, maintenance and daily listening checks of hearing aids, cochlear implants and FM/DM systems per specific students.
- Active contributing member to ETR, IEP and 504 school teams such as needed evaluations, formulate appropriate individual education goals and determine appropriate assistive hearing technology.
- Conducting a Functional Listening Evaluation (FLE) for students with hearing loss to provide objective information about how their listening abilities are affected by noise, distance and visual input in a student's natural listening environment. These written evaluation results justify accommodations that need to be made.
- Direct consultation about specific student needs (accommodations and modifications) to school district personnel through the school year.
 - Evaluating the classroom acoustical environment to maximize all children's auditory learning potential which entails the measuring of the sound level of the classroom and the reverberation (echo) within the classroom so appropriate modifications and adaptations can be put in place.
 - Group and individual instruction to general educators on how to appropriately utilize an audio distribution system (ADS also referred to as soundfield system) in their classroom.
- Coordinating and facilitating the pure-tone audiometer service contract program so participating school districts receive a substantial discount per the cost of their units.

North Coast Shared Services Alliance (NCSSA)

Our collaboration is the first of its kind in our state; as four wide-ranging ESCs partner with the most respected, private sector substitute provider, to deliver the best of all worlds for districts in Northeast Ohio. This service is brought to you through the **North Coast Shared Services Alliance**: where you find **Shared Services – In Action**.

The priorities of **NCSSA** are to reduce costs and increase efficiencies to partners and school districts who participate in the program. With equal importance, it's also our priority to streamline the application, hiring, training and scheduling process for substitutes.

The 2014-2015 school year is the second year for the ESC to work with NCSSA. The Lorain County districts participating are:

**Avon Lake, Clearview, Early Learning Center, Firelands, Lorain City,
Sheffield/Sheffield Lake, Vermilion and Wellington**

Number of registered substitutes: 555
Number of substitute placements: 11,355

NCSSA interviews conducted by the ESC to hire Lorain County substitutes July, 2014 - May, 2015: 159

The following districts are not included but are using the ESC for substitute services:

Avon, Columbia, Keystone and Midview

Number of registered substitutes: 536 (2013-14 was 441)



Coordinator of Special Needs
 Jamie Maassen



Project SEARCH is a High School transition program that is unique, business-led, one-year, school-to-work program that takes place entirely at the workplace. Total workplace immersion facilitates a seamless combination of classroom instruction, career exploration, and relevant job-skills training through internships.

The goal for each student participant is competitive employment. The program provides real-life work experience combined with training in employability and independent living skills to help youths with significant disabilities make successful transitions from school to productive adult life.

The Project SEARCH model involves an extensive period of training and career exploration, innovative adaptations, long-term job coaching, and continuous feedback from teachers, job coaches, and employers. As a result, at the completion of the training program, students with significant intellectual disabilities are employed in non-traditional, complex and rewarding jobs.

The presence of a Project SEARCH High School Transition Program can bring about long-term changes in business culture that have far-reaching positive effects on attitudes about hiring people with disabilities and the range of jobs in which they can be successful.

Eligibility and Student Selection:

Project SEARCH serves students with significant intellectual and developmental disabilities. Typically, these are students who are on an Individual Education Program (IEP) and in their last year of high school eligibility. The most important criterion for acceptance into Project SEARCH is a desire to achieve competitive employment.

Students are referred to the program through their schools, family member, or Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor and apply in the winter and spring in the year prior to entering the program. A team representative of all the partners: Project SEARCH teacher, host business liaison, VR Counselor, community rehabilitation provider staff and other appropriate staff carry out the selection process which includes tours, student interviews, hands-on assessments at the host sites and scoring on a rubric related to entrance considerations.

Project SEARCH is funded through the United Cerebral Palsy of Greater Cleveland, but is supported through the collaboration of United Rehabilitation Services, Developmental Disabilities of Lorain County, Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities, State Support Team Region 2, the students' families and the city and county school districts.

2014-2015 Participating School Districts: Amherst, Avon, Avon Lake, Clearview, Elyria, Keystone and North Ridgeville

The ESC of Lorain County has two host sites:

Lorain County Community College: Marketplace, Spitzer Catering Kitchen, Starbucks, Student Life/Hyper, Commodore Bookstore, Bass Library, Children's Learning Center and Physical Plant

Mercy Regional Medical Center: Coffee Shop, Company Store, Emergency Department Technician, Environmental Services, Food Services, Materials Management, Medical Records, Patient Transport, Maintenance/ Grounds Keeping

The 2014-2015 interns have accepted positions at Mercy Medical Center working in Nutrition Services, LCCC Spitzer Kitchen, and Avon City Schools Latchkey program. One of the interns has completed her STNA Certification and is employed at Town Center. The other interns are actively participating in job development and hope to be employed in the near future.



LCCC Interns



Mercy Interns

Early Learning Center Supervisor
Elizabeth Fleming

The Early Learning Center works to provide a high quality learning environment for preschool age students with and without disabilities.

During the 2014-15 school year there were 6.5 classrooms and itinerant services. A total of 165 students were provided preschool educational services.

The Early Learning Center provides instruction using both evidence based interventions as well as the Houghton Mifflin preschool curriculum, the Early Learning Developmental Standards and curriculum maps in order to provide instruction that meets the needs of all learners.

Enrichment and Parent Activities included in the Early Learning Center Schedule are as follows; Open House at the beginning of the school year, parent teacher conference twice a year, Apple Orchard Field trip, PTO family events, Halloween Parade, Holiday Singing Program, Right to Read week, Earth Week with a parent day, Jungle Terry visit, The Bubble Lady show, Construct-a-Saurus from Lorain County Metro Parks, Firefighter visit, End of year Ice Cream Social, Field Day and Cleveland Field Trip.

Programs we have added during the 2014-15 school year

A character program was adopted in January at the ELC in order to promote pro-social behavior with our preschoolers. The program entitled Character Critters, developed out of Louisiana State University, centers around home and school activities that provide teachers and parent's opportunities to support children in learning about positive behaviors.

A movement curriculum was adopted this school year entitled "Let's Move". The teaching staff added the curriculum to our gross motor times so that the children had movement opportunities that were both free choice and structured.

The PTO took a larger role this school year. A committee established two "Play Dates" over the weekend where children and families could come to the school on a Saturday and meet other families that were part of the program. During the second play date families assisted in planting flowers in our garden area at the front of the school.

In order to support the kindergarten transition process, the supervisor of the Early Learning Center met with all surrounding districts' elementary principals in order to ensure that all students from the ELC were being prepared for kindergarten as educators within these districts would expect.

There was a team approach between the six school districts and the Early Learning Center in regard to assessments and transition procedures. The Early Learning staff met with the receiving district staff in order to support the kindergarten transition process for the special needs students moving to school age services.

The assessment process for children being evaluated for preschool special education services was more of a team approach this year. The school psychologists, speech therapist, intervention specialist, physical and occupational therapists used a play base assessment process where everyone assisted in evaluating the children then teamed on each child in order to arrive at a comprehensive decisions based on all data available.

Standards-based reports cards were developed by the teaching team and will be used in the coming 2015-16 school year. Grants were written this year and all classrooms will have a SMART board starting at the beginning of the 2015-16 school year.

The state adopted a new Early Learning Assessment this school year. All of the staff were trained on the assessment. The teaching staff is working to refine their assessment procedures in order to incorporate the Early Learning Assessment into our comprehensive assessment practices.

The teaching staff participated in 5 month long training focused on positive behavior supports entitled, Expect Success.

Staff includes: 8 classroom teachers, 1 itinerant teacher, 8 classroom aides, 2 psychologists, 3 speech and language pathologists, 1 occupational therapist, 1 secretary and 1 supervisor.



Program Director
Graham Henderson

Lorain County Academy is comprised of middle and high school students (grades 6-9). These students come from public middle and high schools throughout Lorain County and they are placed at the academy by their home schools. Placement at the academy is due to any or all of the following: academic performance, absenteeism, behavioral, social and/or emotional issues.

GOALS:

1. Provide alternative learning experiences in a non-traditional classroom setting resulting in higher student engagement and academic achievement.
2. Provide students the opportunity to experience positive learning experiences and success. Nurture high self-esteem and an understanding of appropriate behavior and actions in a variety of social situations.
3. Provide students with unlimited moments throughout the school day to assist with social/emotional issues and time to reflect on their behavior. Discuss strategies they can implement and practice to control inappropriate social behavior which will allow them to eventually return to their home school environment with a better skill set to be academically and behaviorally successful.
4. Increase student attendance.
 - Classes are taught by four HQT dual-certified teachers in a small group setting.
 - Differentiated instruction is provided for all students aligned to common core standards.
 - Students in 9th grade participate in a Career Based Intervention program sponsored by the Lorain County Joint Vocational School.
 - Provide students community-based activities that empower and elicit pro-social behavior skills.
Activities and events funding by the Nord Foundation, Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Oberlin College, Boys and Girls Club: Seneca Caverns, Rockwall, Bowling, Journey to Freedom, Black River Cruise, Great Lakes Theatre
 - Applewood provides counseling services on a weekly basis for students.



Academic Growth

	7th Grade	8th Grade	9th Grade
Reading Growth	2.0	1.5	1.4
Math Growth	3.0 +	4+	1.4

Attendance: Student attendance increases dramatically compared to their home school attendance.

Director of Professional Development & Curriculum Instruction
Moira Erwine

Literacy Support Specialists- Race to the Top Third Grade Reading Guarantee Project
The ESC of Lorain County in partnership with Ohio Department of Education and Battelle for Kids provided three Literacy Support Specialists to six elementary buildings in Lorain City School District from March through June 30, 2015. Three specialists spent 20 hours per week working with Grade 3 students on Reading Improvement Plans, supporting their teachers and meeting with their principals. Specialists will continue to support intensive level students during the summer programs Monday - Friday through June 28th. Third grade students identified for the summer program were those who did not pass the Ohio Achievement Assessment in the spring.

Director of Professional Development & Curriculum Instruction
Moira Erwine

The ESC of Lorain County became a test site for the ParaPro Assessment in December 2014. The test created by ETS, measures the reading, writing and basic math competencies of practicing and prospective paraprofessionals. In accordance with the No Child Left Behind Act, the ParaPro Assessment can be used to certify teacher's aides and assistants in the instruction of these subjects to school children. Twenty-two prospective and/or practicing paraprofessionals took the test between December 2014 and May 2015. Ninety-nine percent passed the assessment with the required passing score of 456 or more.

Coordinator of Special Needs
Jamie Maassen

Occupational Therapy (OT) is considered a related service under Part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004 (IDEA), and is provided to help students with disabilities to benefit from special education. Educational or school-based OT is designed to enhance the student's ability to fully access and be successful in the learning environment. School therapy is provided in the natural school environment, meaning treatment and/or evaluation may take place in the classroom, library, cafeteria, playground, or other designated area within the school. OT in the school setting supports the student in meeting his/her educational goals; therefore, the level of OT support is driven by the student's IEP.

During the 2014-15 school year the Educational Service Center provided Occupational Therapy services to meet the needs of students in 6 participating school districts in Lorain County including ; Amherst, Clearview, Columbia, ESC Early Learning Center, Keystone, and Midview.

Some of the services the OTs provided to the districts included:

- Initial evaluation and re-evaluation of individual students' fine motor skills and functional abilities (e.g. perceptual- motor, hand functions, motor coordination, sensory development, muscle strength).
- Active contributing member to ETR, IEP and 504 school teams such as needed evaluations formulate appropriate individual education goals and determine appropriate assistive technology.
- Direct consultation about specific student needs (accommodations and modifications) to school district personnel through the school year.
- Assists in assessing and recommending assistive technology, seating/ positioning equipment, transportation, and other adaptive equipment in all school environments.
- Plan, organize, and provide appropriate occupational therapy programs and activities to meet student needs including accommodations and modifications in the schools' environment.
- Collaborates with other special service providers and school personnel to develop appropriate classroom activities to reinforce services being provided to children by the occupational therapist.

SUPERINTENDENT

Greg Ring

TREASURER

Jill Orseno

DIRECTOR OF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT & CURRICULUM INSTRUCTION

Moira Erwine

DIRECTOR OF ESC PROGRAMS & SERVICES

Jody Weidrick

DIRECTOR OF TECHNOLOGY & INNOVATION

Dave Miller

LORAIN COUNTY ACADEMY PROGRAM DIRECTOR

Graham Henderson

EARLY LEARNING SUPERVISOR

Elizabeth Fleming

GIFTED SUPERVISORS

Cathy Fischer

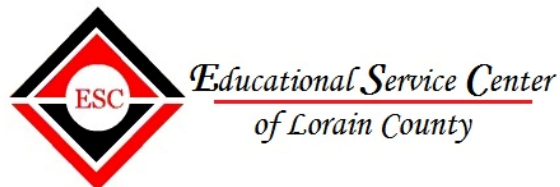
Mary Lou Kaminski

SPECIAL NEEDS COORDINATOR

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