



*Educational Service Center
of Lorain County*

2016 - 2017

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 Erie 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
- CONNECT (North Coast Council) (ITC site)
- Lorain County Superintendents Council - Sponsor of "Superintendent Leadership Institute"
- 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)
- Management Council of the Ohio Education Computer Network
- Rotary International (Amherst Club)

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, fiscal
- Ohio Schools Council, Executive Board
- Greater Cleveland School Superintendents Assoc., Executive Board
- CONNECT (North Coast Council) Vice-Chairman
- Lorain County Chamber of Commerce
- Emergency Management Agency, Lorain County
- Westshore Council International Reading Assoc., Executive Board
- Local Boards of Education - Executive Searches (Treasurers and Superintendents)
- Lorain County Imagination Library Project



ESC STAFF

135

Full-time

56

Part-time

41,500

Students served across Lorain County

Programs & Services



The ESC is a premier provider of professional development opportunities striving to meet the ever changing needs of administrators, service providers, teachers and classified staff serving our children.

Along with rolling out mandatory trainings from Ohio Department of Education to meet state requirements, we provide customized trainings. This year we held our first common professional development day for Clearview, Columbia, Keystone and Firelands resulting in thousands of dollars of cost savings to each district and a unique opportunity for teachers to learn together.

Professional Development

- Professional Development
- Book Studies
- Curriculum Network
- Counselors Network
- Curriculum Mapping
- De-escalation Training
- Edcite Training
- ELASPA- School Psych Network
- Electronic Teacher/Principal Evaluation System (ETPES)
- Nonviolent Crisis Intervention
- Ohio Counselor Evaluation System (OSCES)
- Ohio Teacher Evaluation System (OTES)
- Ohio's Learning Standards
- Content Area Specific Workshops
- Principals Network
- Resident Educator Training
- Value Added Support Sessions
- Vendor Fair

Gifted & Talented Programs

- Classroom Workshops
- Mock Trial
- Professional Development
- Screening/Testing/ID
- STEAM-24
- WEPs/Resources
- Young Authors

NORT2H Technology Integration Services

- Green Screen Studio
- Instructional Coaching
- Instructional Technology Teacher Professional Development
- Technology Consultation

Fingerprinting Services

- Federal Background Check
- Ohio Background Check
- On-site Locations

Academic Challenge, Art, Music & Spelling

- Academic Challenge
- Art Shows
- Honors Choir & Band Festival
- Spelling Bees
- Solo & Ensemble
- Virtual Recital

Special Projects

- Agency Cross-Training
- Homeless Education
- Liaison/EMIS
- Nordson Grant
- Pupil Transportation
- School Safety
- Tutoring

Services

- ANTI-VIRUS Youth Ed.
- Educational Audiology
- Healthy Kids Network
- Lorain County Academy
- Occupational Therapy
- Parapro Assessment
- Parent Mentors
- PEP Assist
- Physical Therapy
- Project SEARCH
- SLP Supervision
- Substitute Services
- The Early Learning Center

Professional Development



Director of Professional Development & Curriculum Instruction

Moira Erwine

A priority from Ohio Department of Education this year was to provide training for those who evaluate school counselors (**OSCES**). As a result of these trainings, we provided networking opportunities for the school counselors to provide further support with understanding the standards for their profession. Opportunities for professional development to meet their immediate needs were provided during the 2016-17 school year. The role of the counselor in our districts is vital to the social, emotional and academic well being of our students and families.

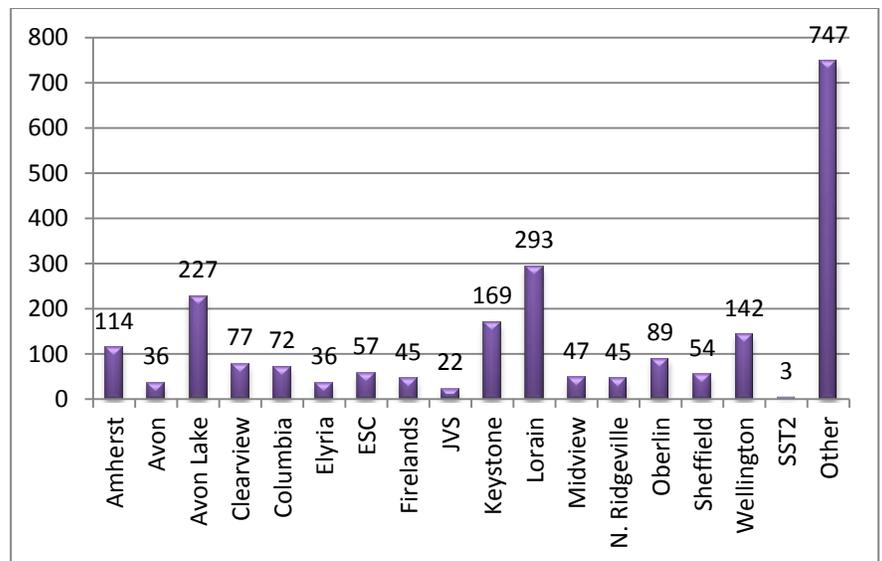
As we entered our second year of Ohio's state testing through AIR, we focused on improving results in writing. Dr. Wilfong offered non-fiction writing workshops along with vocabulary workshops that were enhanced with an online book study and optional graduate credit. For our social studies teachers, we provided a workshop on inquiry based unit design and journey boxes to enhance student's use of evidence based sets to meet the cognitive demands in the social studies standards. A county-wide plea for more data related to the test items resulted in a full day training using **Edcite** software. This free program provides teachers with sample test items along with item analysis so they know what mistakes students are making and can provide individual support. We anticipate those who use this tool multiple times, prior to spring testing, as a formative assessment to inform their instruction will result in improved achievement.

Nearly 400 teachers, administrators and service providers in the Clearview, Columbia, Firelands and Keystone school districts participated in a **common professional development** day Nov. 7, 2016. Sharing services on this professional development day saved each of the four districts just over \$3,000. Participants selected from a total of 44 sessions that were carefully designed to meet their individual professional development needs. Implementation of strategies learned had a direct impact on student achievement.

For a second year, we have provided contracted services to St. Anthony of Padua School and St. Peter School in Lorain. Our senior director met with the principals to develop a year long plan including on-site coaching and customized professional development to meet their accreditation requirements and the needs of teachers. Schedule a meeting with Moira Erwine to discover how the ESC can support your needs.

Professional Development - June 2016 - May 2017

Participants Attending PD Events



"Other" contains community schools and other counties.

102

Total Events

2,275

Total Participants

1,422

Eduplanet21 Participants

34

ParaPro Praxis Participants

161

Graduate Credit Recipients



Gifted & Talented Programs



Gifted Supervisors

Cathy Fischer and Mark Millar

The Gifted Department offers contracted services to school districts for programs, services, professional development and assuring compliance with the ODE. Consortium Member Districts included: Amherst, Avon Lake, Clearview, Columbia, Firelands, North Ridgeville, Oberlin and Perkins.

EVENTS/FIELD TRIPS/PROGRAMS

Programs	Description	Grade(s)	Districts	Students/Teachers
ACT Practice Testing	Practice college entrance testing and results that mirror a real-life testing environment.	7-8	Amherst, Columbia, Firelands, North Ridgeville, Oberlin	77
Artist Creative Workshops	Twenty-seven (27) interactive sessions with Cartoonist Jim Gill helped students improve their illustrating techniques, and explore career opportunities in visual arts.	3-6	Amherst, Avon Lake, Clearview, Columbia, Firelands, North Ridgeville, Oberlin, Perkins	810
Attorney Courtroom Workshops	Seven (7) interactive workshops in which Lorain County attorneys instructed students in trial protocol and case presentation using proper courtroom vocabulary, protocol, and effective questioning techniques.	5-8	Amherst, Avon Lake, North Ridgeville, Oberlin, Perkins	210
Mock Trial	Fourteen (14) simulated courtroom trials presided by actual attorneys/judges at Lorain County Justice Center. Verdicts were decided by student juries.	5-8	Amherst, Avon Lake, North Ridgeville, Oberlin, Perkins	380
STEAM-24	Robot coding and math competition by grade level at Lorain County Community College.	4-6	Amherst, Avon Lake, Clearview, Columbia, Firelands, North Ridgeville, Oberlin, Perkins	310
Visual Arts Identification	On-site evaluation of student portfolios by credentialed artists.	2-11	Amherst, Clearview, North Ridgeville, Perkins	120
Young Authors Conference	Year-long program in which students wrote and illustrated books, complying with multiple state standards. Program concluded with students' participation at LCCC: featuring New York Best-selling Author Ridley Pearson.	3-6	Amherst, Avon Lake, Clearview, Columbia, Elyria, Firelands, North Ridgeville, Oberlin, Perkins, Sheffield-Sheffield Lake, St. Jude School, St. Mary School	940
Young Authors Open House/Book Signing	Students, families, friends, teachers and administrators were welcomed to view students' work, with the opportunity for Author Ridley Pearson to sell and autograph his published books.	3-6	Amherst, Avon Lake, Clearview, Columbia, Elyria, Firelands, North Ridgeville, Oberlin, Perkins, Sheffield-Sheffield Lake, St. Mary School	500

CURRICULUM SUPPORT

Service	Description	Grade(s)
Classroom Resources	Physical/electronic resources provided to assist teachers in meeting the curricular needs of students.	3-8
Classroom Support	In-class support and modeling to assist teachers with Mock Trial, PBL, STEAM-24 and Young Authors	3-6
Consortium Meetings	Two (2) sessions to address the educational needs of gifted students	K-12
Consulting	Phone, email and face-to-face consulting to assist teachers and parents in understanding gifted services and implementing instruction.	3-8
Lending Library	Classroom book sets provided to teachers to enrich learning.	3-6
Parent Communication	Responding to parent questions regarding districts' gifted services.	K-12

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 Lake, Clearview, Columbia, Firelands, North Ridgeville, Oberlin, Perkins	District-wide
Class Placement Rubric Analysis and/or Development	Collaborated with administrators and educators to develop criteria for content area placement rubrics.	2-7	Avon Lake, Columbia, Firelands, North Ridgeville, Oberlin, Perkins	District-wide

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-8	Columbia, Firelands, North Ridgeville, Perkins	36 students and respective Acceleration committee members
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 Lake, Clearview, Columbia, Firelands, North Ridgeville, Oberlin, Perkins	District-wide
Identification: Referral Testing & Further Assessments	Analyzed whole grade screening data, provided testing, scoring and notification services, reported to EMIS Coordinators.	K-8	Amherst, Avon Lake, Clearview, Columbia, North Ridgeville, Oberlin, Perkins	800
High Quality Professional Development	Fifty-eight (58) sessions to address the educational needs of gifted students, delivering 588 contact hours.	K-12	Amherst, Avon Lake, Clearview, Columbia, Firelands, North Ridgeville, Oberlin, Perkins	410
Written Education Plans	Recommended and/or assisted teachers and administrators in preparing plans for specialized gifted services, as approved by ODE.	K-12	Amherst, Avon Lake, Clearview, Columbia, Firelands, North Ridgeville, Oberlin, Perkins	3,800



NORT2H Technology Integration Services



Director of Technology & Innovation
Dave Miller



The Northern Ohio Research and Training Technology Hub (NORT2H) assists K12 schools with EdTech Vision, instruction, and support. NORT2H acts as a consultant to districts as technologies are adopted for the classroom and provides professional development to support selected technologies.

Consultation

The consultative staffs 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 helps districts all across Northern Ohio as various 1:1 and BYOD initiatives were deployed. More recently NORT2H has assisted districts in researching maker spaces and the re-design of the 21st century classroom.

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 132 different professional development workshops to its clients.

Member School Districts

Avon Lake City, Avon Local, Bay Village, Berkshire Local, Columbia Local, Cuyahoga Heights, Cuyahoga Valley Career Center, Elyria City, Firelands Local, Lorain City, LCCC, ESC of Lorain County, Lorain County Juvenile Home, Midview, North Ridgeville, Polaris Career Center, Sheffield/Sheffield Lake & South Euclid Lyndhurst schools.

A Snapshot of Services

Consultations - meetings with clients to help make informed decisions.

Professional Development - Large, small group, and 1:1 coaching and professional development for educators.

Meetings - Working with clients and ESC staff to increase efficiency and integrate technology into instruction.

Projects - Higher time-intensive events for educators and students (Green Screen Video Productions, EdCamp Cleveland, Sphero, Google Summit, etc).



130

Meetings

132

Prof. Development

88

Projects

61

Consultations

41

Coaching Sessions



Fingerprinting Services

Fingerprinting Agents

Stephanie Calhoun & Pam Gamble



Fingerprinting/background checks are completed for customers who need...

- Ohio Bureau of Criminal Identification (BCI)
- Federal Bureau Investigation (FBI).

Reasons for fingerprinting include:

- School employees
- Parent volunteers
- Roofing/construction companies
- Home health care agencies
- Day care providers
- College students
- Church volunteers

CUSTOMER ACTIVITY

June 2016 - May 2017

1,757

Self Paid



1,382

Invoiced



3,139

Total Printed



ON-SITE ACTIVITY

June 2016 - May 2017

5

Visits



216

Total Number Printed



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.



Academic Challenge , Art, Music & Spelling

Project Coordinator
Debbie Hunt



ACADEMIC CHALLENGE

Grades 5 - 8

Preliminary 1 - Nov. 15, 2016
Preliminary 2 - Nov. 16, 2016
Finals - Dec. 6, 2016

Preliminaries were held at First Baptist Christian School and Finals at the ESC. No cost event to any Lorain County educator, including non-public and charter/community schools.

Grades 5 & 6

74

Participating Students

15

Participating Schools

Grades 7 & 8

71

Participating Students

11

Participating Schools



ART

Elementary, Middle School & High School Art Exhibits

Held at the Elyria Public Library.

No cost event to any Lorain County educator, including non-public and charter/community schools.

Elem./MS Exhibits

170

Participating Students

24

Participating Schools

High School Exhibits

116

Participating Students

9

Participating Schools

Teacher Exhibits

11

Participating Teachers

10

Participating Schools

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.

10

Participating Students

3

Participating Schools

Solo & Ensemble Contest

is a gathering of many musicians in Lorain County who perform music in front of a judge and receives awards if they perform well.

913

Participating Students

36

Participating Schools

Honors Choir & Band Festival

brings together musicians from Avon, Clearview, Columbia, Elyria, Firelands, Keystone, Midview, N. Ridgeville, Sheffield, Vermilion and Wellington.

216

Participating Students

10

Participating Schools

SPELLING



ESCLC Elementary Bees Grades 3 - 6

Grades 3 & 4 - May 4, 2017
Grades 5 & 6 - May 11, 2017

Location: Midview MS

123

Participating Students

28

Participating Schools

ESC/Chronicle Telegram Bees Grades 7 & 8

Preliminary 1 - March 10, 2017
Preliminary 2 - March 17, 2017
Finals - March 24, 2017

Location: Avon MS

70

Participating Students

20

Participating Schools

Special Projects



Project Coordinator
Debbie Hunt

Academic Programs

Program	Students	Teachers	Schools	Description
Delinquent Education Programs June 6, 2016 – June 5, 2017	358*	10	69	Title 1 - School for incarcerated/sheltered youth at Detention Home, Stepping Stone, Pathways and Turning Point Shelter. Residents receive a 6-hour instructional school day. *358 is an unduplicated count as many students go from one facility to another and recidivism is high in this population.
Homeless Education Program	880	34 LEAs 10 Charter	37	Title 1 - Supported by McKinney-Vento Grant for Erie, Huron and Lorain counties.
After-school Tutoring Sept 1, 2016 – May 31, 2017	52	4	6	

Professional Development

Event	Attendees	Personnel	Districts	Description
Agency Cross Training Oct. 20, 2016	28	68	13	Two Seminars each year sponsored by the Manager's Group. Various agencies present: Nord Center, Children Services, Ohio Guidestone, Bellefair JCB, Applewood, LC Juvenile Courts, LC Board of Development Disabilities and LC Alcohol & Drug Abuse Services
Apr. 27, 2017	11	63	9	
Liaison/EMIS Seminar September 22, 2016	81	20	31 Districts 4 Agencies	Yearly McKinney-Vento Act state law update training for Homeless Liaison's and EMIS coordinators. Trainings are geared to give information on how to recognize homelessness in the schools and any other topics Liaisons might request or need.
Pupil Transportation Appreciation & PD Nov. 3, 2016	168	0	11	Awards banquet and professional development for Lorain County school bus drivers.
School Safety Seminar Jan. 13, 2017	44	9	9	Train-the-Trainer seminar covering all topics of ODE & HB requirements.
Nordson Grant	26	N/A	11	Total amount awarded was \$11,500 in various grant-amounts according to each request.



Speech/Language Therapy Services



Supervisor of Speech/Language Therapy Services
 Barb Conrad, M.A., CCC-SLP

Seventy speech-language pathologists from more than twenty school districts in Erie, Huron and Lorain counties receive speech and language supervisory services from the ESC. Barb Conrad continues to provide services including quarterly meetings for the speech-language pathologists, professional development, a monthly e-packet of information, a variety of archived information on the ESC's website specific to the practice of speech-language pathology in the school setting.

SPONSORED EVENTS

EVENT NAME	TOPIC	DATE HELD	ATTENDEES
Social Thinking	Implementing Social Thinking Concepts & Vocabulary	Sept. 2016	126
Ethics Training for New Staff	OBSLPA Ethics Training	Oct. 2016	10
Fall SLP Mtg	SLP's Navigating Social Media	Oct. 2016	56
Winter SLP Mtg	Introduction to Tactile Therapy & Review of the Workload Process	Feb. 2017	50
Rtl Discussion Group	Rtl Discussion	Mar. 2017	6
Preschool Discussion Group	Preschool SLP Discussion Group	Apr. 2017	8
Apps in Context	Integrating Technology in Therapy	May 2017	65

SUPPORT TO NEW HIRES

Barb provided supervision and mentorship to **two** new SLPs during the last quarter of the 2016-17 school year in North Ridgeville and Lorain City school districts. 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 comparable to the National Teacher Board Certification.

In addition, the speech-language pathologists new to a district receive orientation visits and on-going support throughout their first year in the region. In addition to those listed as CF's above, **four** other SLPs were new to the region this year from Margaretta Local School District, Lorain City School District, New London Local School District and Avon Lake City School District.

RECRUITMENT/RETENTION

Partnerships developed with the University of Akron, Cleveland State University, and Kent State University, continued as **four** student SLPs were placed in the following districts during the school year: Clearview (2), Amherst (1), and Elyria (1). SLPs in the region mentor area students pursuing a career in speech-language pathology. Currently, there are **fourteen** students from area high schools in pursuit of a bachelor's or master's degree from an Ohio university. Barb connects with the students offering clinical observation opportunities, student teaching sites and encouragement to seek a position in the school setting in an area school district.

Two positions were added throughout the school year in Lorain City Schools and in Margaretta Local Schools. Filling temporary vacancies for medical leaves, etc. is always a challenge. This year Barb assisted in filling **three** short term positions mostly working with area retirees to fill positions in the following districts: North Ridgeville, Lorain City, and Avon Local School Districts.

Fourteen retirees gathered at the 8th annual Retiree Luncheon to connect with Barb; some assisted with short term openings throughout the year. Retirees are invited to many of the professional development offerings provided in order to keep their licensure current allowing them to continue to practice and to keep current in an ever-changing field of speech-language pathology.

Two open positions have been announced for fall 2017 with a few more expected. Barb assisted in filling the vacancies for the North Ridgeville Schools and Huron City Schools.

Educational Audiology



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 2016-17 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 2016-17 school year, the educational audiologist made **475** 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. Follow-up services dealing with troubleshooting equipment problems during the school year when necessary were provided.
- 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 sound field 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.

Substitute Services



Substitute Recruiter

Pam Gamble

Did you know that 180 days of a child's K-12 education is taught by substitute teachers? We recruit for both North Coast Shared Services Alliances (NCSSA) and for districts that are serviced through our ESC.

Substitutes must hold a teaching license or have a Bachelor's Degree to obtain a substitute license. Substituting is ideal for individuals interested in becoming teachers, retirees or unemployed professionals needing flexibility to pursue other employment while earning an income.

Our annual Job Fair was held in January 2017 and provided seven districts, and the Lorain County JVS, with an opportunity to meet and interview 66 candidates.

The North Coast Shared Service alliance (NCSSA) Teacher Substitute program is a partnership with the Educational Service Center of Cuyahoga County (ESCCC), the Educational Service Centers of Lorain and Medina Counties and with Rachel Wixey & Associates, a private sector substitute provider.

ESC Districts

Amherst

Avon

Columbia

Detention Home

Keystone

Lorain County Academy

Midview

ESC Substitutes

440

Registered Substitutes



The ESC accepts substitute teacher applications year round.

In order to streamline and improve the overall efficiency of our application process, the ESC implemented Frontline Education, (formerly known as Applitrack) a leading provider of online applicant tracking systems.

NCSSA Districts

Avon Lake

Clearview

Early Learning Center

Firelands

Lorain City

Sheffield/Sheffield Lake

Vermilion

Wellington

NCSSA Substitutes

354

Registered Substitutes



11,266

Substitute Placements



121

NCSSA Interviews Conducted



Project SEARCH



Director of Special Education Services
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 a 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.

The 2016-2017 interns have accepted positions at Lorain County Community College, Horizon Day Care Center in Elyria, BW3 and ABM for an aviation customer assistant at Cleveland Hopkins Airport.

The ESC of Lorain County has two host sites:

Lorain County Community College: Marketplace, Spitzer Catering Kitchen, Conference Staff, Corner Bistro, Student Life, Health, Physical Education and Recreation (HPER) program, Commodore Bookstore, Bass Library, Children's Learning Center, Shipping and Receiving, Mailroom, Security and Triangle Services, Teacher Education Resource Center (TERC) Physical Plant.

Mercy Regional Medical Center: Sacred grounds Coffee Shop, Company Store, Emergency Department Technician, Environmental Service, Nutrition Services, Materials Management, Medical Records, Patient Transport, Maintenance/Grounds Keeping, Talent Acquisition, Sterile Processing and Angelica Laundry.



The Early Learning Center



Early Learning Center Supervisor Elizabeth Fleming Krall

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

During the 2016-17 school year there were 5.5 classrooms and itinerant services. A total of 179 students were provided preschool educational services. The Early Learning Center provides instruction using both evidence based interventions, Houghton Mifflin preschool curriculum, Preschool Foundations literacy program, Touch Math preschool edition, the Early Learning Developmental Standards and curriculum maps in order to provide instruction that meets the needs of all learners. A Music Together music class is provided to each class weekly and the Grafton/Midview public library comes in monthly to read and provide enrichment activities.

Enrichment and Parent Activities included in the Early Learning Center Schedule:

- | | | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| -Open House | -Parent teacher conferences | -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, Metro Parks | -Firefighter visit |
| -Field Day | -Petting Zoo | -Pony Rides | -End of year Ice Cream Social |

Four Saturday family events were added this year:

- | | | | |
|----------------|---------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------|
| -Fall Festival | -Winter Beach Party | -Pirate and Princess Movie Party | -Planting Play Date |
|----------------|---------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------|

Two classroom specific family events:

- | | |
|--|--|
| -Muffins with Moms and Doughnuts with Dads (3-4 year olds) | -Stone Soup and 100 Days (4-5 year olds) |
|--|--|



Programs we have added during the 2016-17 school year:

This school year we were part of the STAR literacy grant research through OSU. Teachers provided literacy instruction on specific books weekly and data was collected in order to identify if this instruction resulted in literacy skill acquisition for the students. The teachers participated in two literacy trainings in order to participate with the project.

The 4-5 team introduced the Touch Math, mathematics program to the students. The children participated in weekly math groups for a half hour to work on specific math related skills.

The 3-4 team introduced a social skills curriculum Zippy and Moe problem solving for preschoolers to the classroom and had monthly activities based on the program.

A new team was established this year; teachers and related services (speech and OT) collaborated together to develop monthly activities that involved all students. Related services team members went into the classroom to provide instruction through whole group or small group. The teachers and related service members collaborated to provide instruction to all students.

New this year was a full day option for typical peer students. Students attended 8:30-3:30; included was a parent provided lunch and rest time for the student. For the second half of their day, students participated in project based learning using 21st century learning skills and collaborative projects in order to explore area of student interest.

For all students, teachers collaborated with parents to write transition plans for the students and carry out transition needs for the families.

Special Education Processes

There is a team approach between the five school districts and the Early Learning Center in regard to assessments and transition procedures. The Early Learning staff meets with the receiving district staff in order to support the kindergarten transition process for the special needs students moving to school age services. The staff at the Early Learning Center writes both the Evaluation Team Reports for the students transitioning to kindergarten as well as the Individualized Education Plan. A total of 35 students had special education transition meetings within the five districts.

The assessment process for children being evaluated for preschool special education services continued to be 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. A total of 49 preschool age students were evaluated this school year.

Classroom

Standards-based report cards were used with both the 4-5 learning groups and the 3-4 learning groups.

All classrooms have a working SMART board and use the boards throughout the year for instruction.

All classrooms have a set of four iPads for students to use.

We continued to refine our Early Learning Assessment practices this school year by adding the additional components of the assessment and using the data to develop and adapt instruction.

Professional Development

All teaching and paraprofessional staff participated in two Step-up to Quality trainings, Ohio Approaches to Quality and Ohio's Overview of Child Development and ODJFS licensing training.

Staff includes: 7 classroom teachers, 2 itinerant teacher, 7 classroom aides, 1 school psychologist, 2 speech and language pathologists, 1 occupational therapist, 1 secretary and 1 principal.



Lorain County Academy



Director of Lorain County Academy
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 highly qualified, dual-certified teachers in a small group setting.
 - Differentiated instruction is provided for all students aligned to Ohio's Learning standards.
 - Students in 9th grade participate in 9th grade core subject classes and receive .5 credit in Phys. Ed and .5 credit in Health.
 - Community-based activities 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: Students participate in rock wall climbing, bowling, fishing, excursions to Cleveland Aquarium, Black River Cruise and Great Lakes Theatre.

Academic Growth

	6th Grade	7th Grade	8th Grade	9th Grade
Reading Growth	3.7%	2.52%	2.72%	3.34%
Math Growth	3.53%	3.12%	4.93%	3.2%



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

Healthy Kids Achieve More Network

Director of Professional Development & Curriculum Instruction
Moira Erwine

Mental Health and wellness are equally important as we meet the needs of the whole child. The ESC collaborated on professional development offerings with LCBMH, LCHD in November. Districts across the county sent food service, school nurses, wellness teams, counselors and psychologists to sessions relating to social emotional health, addictions, food service and safe routes to school.

ANTI-VIRUS Youth Education

Superintendent

Greg Ring



Nearly 2,000 middle school students completed a character education program sponsored by the ESC entitled “ANTI-VIRUS”. Trained mentors delivered ten lessons over ten weeks to students in the Amherst, Avon Lake, Clearview, Keystone, Firelands, Midview, Elyria and Wellington districts.

The program focuses on the values of Ambition, Responsibility, Hard Work, Emotions, Restraint, Common Sense, and Generosity. The program was provided at no cost to the districts, thanks to contributions from the ESC, Nordson, United Way, REACHhigher, and many private funders.

Paraprofessional Assessment

Director of Academic Programs & Services

Jody Weidrick

The ESC of Lorain County became a test site for the Paraprofessional 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 Paraprofessional Assessment can be used to certify teacher’s aides and assistants in the instruction of these subjects to school children. Thirty-four prospective and/or practicing paraprofessionals took the test between July 2016 and June 2017. Ninety-six percent passed the assessment with the required passing score of 456 or more.

Occupational Therapy

Director of Special Education Services

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 achieve success in the educational environment. Educational or school-based OT is designed to enhance the student’s ability to fully access the educational 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. Therapy 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. The OTs may address needs in the areas of fine motor skills, visual perception, sensory processing, self-help or vocational skills.

During the 2016-17 school year, the Educational Service Center provided occupational therapy services to meet the needs of students in eight participating school districts in Lorain County including: Amherst, Clearview, Columbia, ESC Early Learning Center, Keystone, Midview, Oberlin and Vermillion. The occupational therapists have worked with approximately 300 students ranging from preschool to 12th grade and evaluated approximately 180 students.

Services provided to districts:

- 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 students’ 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.

Physical Therapy

Director of Special Education Services

Jamie Maassen

Physical therapy (PT) is one of the related services under Part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). It is provided to support the Individualized Education Program (IEP) for students ages 3-21, who have a disability that interferes with their educational performance and ability to benefit from their education program. PT is provided to assist a child move as independently as possible in the school environment, to achieve academic success, and to participate fully in classroom activities. Physical therapy services are provided primarily through an integrated service model, meaning services are a combination of direct student-therapist contact with consultation and instruction to others involved in the student's educational program. PTs may work on functional mobility skills, architectural accessibility, utilizing appropriate assistive devices, transfers, positioning, and pre-vocational tasks.

During the 2016-17 school year, the Educational Service Center provided Physical Therapy services to meet the needs of students in three participating school districts in Lorain County including: Midview, Oberlin and Wellington. The Physical Therapists worked with approximately 25 students ranging from preschool to grade twelve. Over the course of the school year 19 students were evaluated.

Services provided to districts:

- Services as a consultant to and in collaboration with school personnel in the development and provision of a program for gross motor skills, functional mobility and safety improvement.
- Provide screening services and assists school personnel in the identification and referral of children with suspected gross motor and/or functional movement delays.
- Functions as a member of the evaluation team to provide a multi-factored evaluation to facilitate the assessment and diagnosis of motor disabilities/delays.
- Provides appropriate physical therapy to meet students' needs identified in evaluation reports and as described in the IEP.
- Collaborates with other special service providers and school personnel to develop appropriate classroom activities to reinforce services being provided to children by the physical therapist.

Parent Mentors

Director of Special Education Services

Jamie Maassen

School districts develop and provide meaningful educational programs for all students. A parent mentor works to support the relationship between the school and the family of a child with a disability. The school and family work together to provide a pathway for the child's success. By working closely with the parents and teachers, the parent mentor is an important part of the student's educational team. Mentors provide information and support to families about special education issues. Additionally, they make sure the district receives perspective and input from families. The ESC employees are two part-time parent mentors that service 16 school districts in Lorain and Huron County. They made direct contact with 191 families, made 1412 points of contact with teachers, and had 930 points of contact administrators. The parent mentors attended 145 ETR/ IEP meetings and 52 RTI/ IAT meetings.

PEP Assist

Director of Special Education Services

Jamie Maassen

PEP Assist is a service provided to schools to assist school staff when working with at-risk and special needs students. Services are tailored to meet the needs of each district. PEP assist consultants have experience and training in working with students identified with diagnoses including emotionally disturbed, autism, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, cognitively delayed, and multi-disabled. During the 2016-2017 school year there were 19 requests for assistance in working with students with challenging behaviors. The consultants were in participating districts for a total of 35.5 days working with staff to address challenging behaviors. Participating districts included Clearview, Elyria, Firelands, Lorain, Midview, N. Ridgeville, Sheffield, and Wellington.



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