

WITNESS INFORMATION FORM

PLEASE COMPLETE THE WITNESS INFORMATION FORM BEFORE TESTIFYING

DATE: 3-18-2015

NAME: Dr. Jan Osborn

ORGANIZATION: Putnam County Educational Service Center
(IF APPLICABLE)

POSITION/TITLE: Superintendent

ADDRESS: 124 Putnam Parkway

CITY: Ottawa STATE: OH ZIP: 45875

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ARE YOU REPRESENTING: YOURSELF _____ ORGANIZATION X

DO YOU WISH TO TESTIFY ON

LEGISLATION (BILL NUMBER): HB 64

SPECIFIC ISSUE: Decrease Funding for ESC

SUBJECT MATTER: _____

DO YOU FAVOR _____ OR OPPOSE X THE ENACTMENT OF LEGISLATION REGARDING THIS ISSUE?

PLEASE GIVE A BRIEF STATEMENT OF THE GROUNDS ON WHICH YOU FAVOR OR OPPOSE SUCH ENACTMENT:

while the scope and amount of work for ESCs has greatly increased since 1994 that state funding for ESCs in 2015 is less per student than the funding was in 1994.

WILL YOU HAVE A WRITTEN STATEMENT, VISUAL AIDS, OR OTHER MATERIAL TO DISTRIBUTE?

YES X No _____

(IF YES, PLEASE PROVIDE COPIES TO THE CHAIRMAN OR SECRETARY)

HOW MUCH TIME WILL YOUR TESTIMONY REQUIRE? 5-6 minutes

Chairman Cupp, Ranking Minority Member Phillips, and Members of the House Primary and Secondary Education Subcommittee: thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Educational Service Center (ESC) funding.

I am Dr. Jan Osborn, Putnam County ESC Superintendent. I have been in education 43 years. I started my career as a special education teacher in a local district, and after two years of teaching, I moved to the ESC and have been here since. I first worked as a supervisor, but in 1993 I was named ESC superintendent. With my long history working in an ESC, my passion for ESCs and the important work that we do is steadfast. I have watched ESC funding sustain cuts with each biennium budget since 2007, but we have always managed to still do our important work for the local school districts and the children of Putnam County. We are the smallest ESC in the state still remaining on our own while many have consolidated. We serve nine local districts and approximately 6,000 students.

We will talk near the end regarding our vision for the future; hopefully, a shared vision for the future of all ESCs. At this point I would like to address four statements that were posed to ESCs that were shared by Mr. Burford of OESCA.

State funding is a minor part of ESC funding. The state operating subsidy, while a smaller percentage of our overall revenue streams is NOT a minor part of our funding. These funds allow us to open our doors so we can exist to serve the state and our school districts. And, I would like to point out that state funding is NOT minor by ESC choice. Increased reductions from the state to ESCs have caused us to be entrepreneurial.

Sometimes being entrepreneurial can directly correlate with our mission statement, but sometimes the need for income necessitates us to be involved in work that is for income, while it may not be part of the ESC vision/mission. Sometimes there are items that are beneficial to our residents that are income neutral.

Several examples of entrepreneurship which do align with our mission are our partnership with the Village of Ottawa to establish a skilled learning center, our five (5) community-based public preschools,

Examples of work that is not in our mission that generates income are rentals of our building for various events, fingerprinting for background reports for many local agencies, long-term leasing of office space to ODE Area Coordinator, Mercy Health, Sylvan Learning Center, Apollo Career Center nursing program, a private dance studio that lost it's building to a tornado, as well as a private investment planner.

Examples of entrepreneurship that contributes to the greater good of the community and many times increases costs to the ESC are Help Me Grow, Family and Children First Council which are both housed at the ESC providing seamless services to children and families, and our partnership with the Village of Ottawa and BGSU which researches nutrient neutralization of farm animal waste. One of the best examples is that we co-founded Project MORE (Mentoring in Ohio for Reading Excellence) in partnership with the executive director of the Ohio Coalition for Children with Disabilities based on funding from the Ohio General Assembly. It has grown from 12 schools in 1999 when it began to over 300 schools being trained to use Project MORE with a minimum of 137 school districts actively using the program. Project MORE is facilitated and managed by the Putnam County ESC. Putnam County ESC services the smallest number

of children in the state; however we are impacting children in 58 counties through Project MORE. An example of the power of one-on-one mentoring is that one of our first schools has served 1050 students, utilized 1734 mentors, delivered 86,306 mentoring sessions, and logged 43,153 mentor hours and is still going strong since 1999. We are also fortunate to have a very successful partnership with the Ohio Department of Aging and the Ohio National Guard/Ohio Air Guard to provide mentors for Project MORE.

State subsidy is not the most effective way to fund ESCs. Some have suggested the funding is better spent through competitive grants or to buy specific services or results. This fails to recognize the universal needs of schools related to the rollout of statewide initiatives. I personally don't understand why it is referred to as a subsidy. Referring back to Mr. Burford's testimony last week, why would we refer to ESC funding as a subsidy when both state and federal law define ESCs as school districts or local education agencies. If you would take a moment and look up the definition of subsidy, it is a "grant or contribution of money." In my opinion, the term subsidy infers the connotation of a "gift" and could lead to the question of why we fund ESCs if it is permissive. While it may "subsidize" our operations it would be better called the ESC foundation payment. A secondary point is that while other school funding has significantly increased over the years, support and funding has dramatically decreased for ESCs. (Please refer to ESC funding graph, followed by local per pupil funding.) A summary of what you will see on the graph is that the per pupil dollar amount in 1994-95 was \$2871 and is currently \$5800. Note on the graph under "state subsidy" that PCESC went from 40% funding in 1994-95 to 3.82% projected for 2014-2015.

ESC funding in 1994-95 was \$29, and was increased to its highest point of \$37 in 2001. Starting in 2007 ESCs began to receive decreased in funding and it is currently \$27. As you take time to review this chart, you will see other funding that has decreased or been eliminated for ESCs. In addition in 1994-95 ESCs received free office space and utilities from the county commissioners. A law was passed to phase out free space and utilities to ESCs. At that time our county commissioners offered us the same space we had occupied for free since 1982 at a cost of \$60,926 annually. ESCs have never qualified for any state support for obtaining or updating facilities.

We are including another chart of fixed costs that we have to pay beyond facilities costs. Examples are audits, technology, insurance, etc. In addition we have increased costs to ever-changing legal requirements such as fingerprinting for all employees, LPDC, EMIS, violence prevention training, human trafficking training, updated policies and procedures, etc. Other unintended consequences of requirements include requiring ESCs to post their fees leading to costs for website design and updating, etc.

ESCs are not directly responsible for student achievement. While explicitly in law it may indicate that ESCs are not directly responsible for student achievement, it has been my experience at the Putnam County ESC that we always put our focus on students. In the words of a long-time board member who is now deceased "If it's good for kids, and we can afford it, let's do it." This has been the manta that our ESC has lived by for many years. We are still emulating our board member's thoughts but with so many funding cuts, it is becoming more difficult to ascertain if we really can afford it. Examples of quality and innovative programs that create opportunities to enhance student learning experiences to help employability and quality of life include: started remedial credit recovery program in 1980s; started Multiple Disabilities

program in 1983-84 which removed these students from segregated programs to public schools, implemented Mainstream Amplification Regular Classroom Study (MARCS) from 1985-87 which researched and implemented teachers using microphones in classrooms; started one of the first early childhood collaboratives through the ESC in 1985-86; started some of first classes for preschool children with disabilities in 1989; started some of the first integrated public community preschools in 1990-91; initiated Total Quality Education (TQE) in ESC and local schools in 1992; received Tech Equity Grants in 1993; started one of the first Alternative Schools in 1998; co-founded statewide reading mentoring program (Project MORE) in 1999; started autism classrooms in 2002; partnered with Village of Ottawa to build the Putnam County ESC/Skilled Learning Center in 2006; received Elementary STEM grant in 2008; awarded federal Safe Schools/Healthy Students grant in 2008; awarded High School STEM grant in 2011; coordinated Putnam County effort to be designated as a Northwest Ohio High School STEM program in 2012; one of the first ESCs to receive National Department of Education 21st Century grant in 1999 which resulted in eight (8) grants for local schools; Four preschools awarded Step Up to Quality designation on first attempt in 2014.

Many ESCs provide “cookie-cutter” services that are NOT customized. It is my experience and opinion that we have trouble defining common core services that we believe all ESCs should perform. While many ESCs provide direct services such as curriculum, gifted, alternative school, special education staff, and preschool staff not all provide these services or equivalent levels of these services. There is more commonality among small, rural ESCs in northwest and west central Ohio. To provide a contrasting example, the ESC of Central Ohio serves about 203,000 students compared to Putnam County ESC serving approximately 6000 students. Please refer to written testimony of Putnam County local superintendents to provide evidence of the many services provided by the Putnam County ESC that they could not possibly provide adequately or cost-effectively on their own. Each ESC customizes services to the needs of client districts.

Our vision is that we revisit the idea of shared services. We want to assist the Ohio Department of Education in rolling out their initiatives, but all parties must see the ESC as a viable partner in both action and words. However, ESCs are at a great disadvantage in that there are little or no funds for starting creative/innovative programs and no “spare” staff available to sub-contract with ODE for any of these projects. ESCs have the potential to work side-by-side in collaboration with other educational entities to better meet ongoing needs, as well as foster exciting and innovative ideas.

The Putnam County ESC is an efficient and effective organization providing a tremendous return on investment. **For every dollar received in state and local funding, the ESC obtains \$17.66 in state and federal grants for client districts; this is well above the statewide average of \$3.77.**

We sincerely hope that you will consider adequately funding ESCs so we can continue to provide quality educational experiences for all students.

Thank you for your time and consideration of our requests.

Project MORE – In 2013-2014 alone, 3,200 students were mentored in a 1:1 environment to improve literacy skills.



All-County Band & Choir Show – On average, 175 students per year participate in this event.

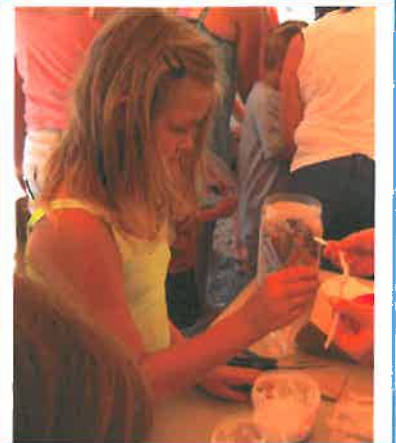
Tech Camp – 60 students attend camp over a 2-week period.



Help Me Grow – Ongoing home visits provided to 42 children birth to age 3 in 2014-2015.



Early Discovery Preschool (SUTQ 5 star rating) – In 2014-2015, 109 typical students and 82 students needing specialized services have been served.



STEM at the Fair – 400+ students participated in STEM related activities over the past 3 years.



Rural STEM Hub Partnership – In partnership with BGSU, local schools serve as model for STEM education in rural areas.



Alternate Opportunity Center – Students at the AOC complete a service learning project at the Putnam Heritage Center.

STEM/PBL – Teachers trained in project-based STEM activities.



21st CCLC – 3,000+ students participated in after school programs over 15 years.



ACT Boot Camp – Over 500 students in 2 years received extra preparation for the ACT.

Science Fair – An average of 100 students per year have participated in the County Fair for over 60 years.





ESC Cross Categorical Classes – 27 students attended a Thanksgiving dinner for students with autism. Currently there are 110 active cases in these classes.



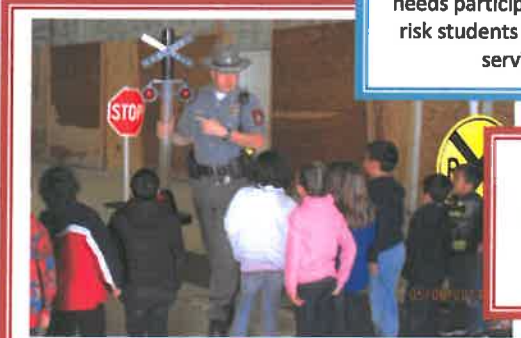
Administrative Assistant Recognition Luncheon – An average of 40 administrative assistants are recognized annually.



Challenged Champions Therapeutic Horseback Riding – On average 7 special needs participate in the program while 5 at risk students from the AOC volunteer as a service learning project.

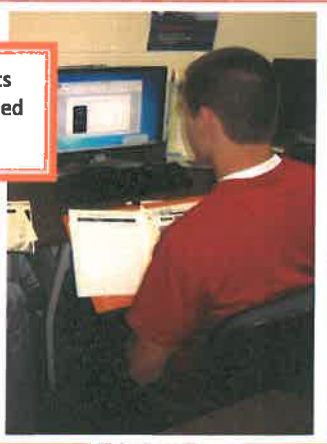


Business Advisory Council – 117 members meet on a regular basis to discuss partnerships between the local districts, businesses and community.



Safety City – PCEC has offered the program to kindergarten students for 15 years, serving nearly 6,600 students.

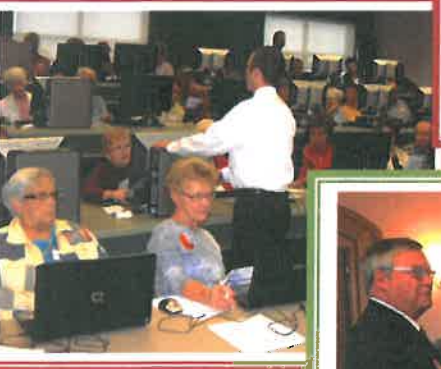
Summer Credit Recovery Program – Last year 60 students took 78 courses online for credit recovery; 2 students earned a diploma as a result.



IVDL Sessions – PCEC has provided over 100 distance learning connections with the Columbus Zoo over the past decade.



Scholastic League/Quiz Bowl Tournaments – 375 students participate in 5-12th grades.



Seniors Connecting with Coffee & Computers – An average of 120 senior citizens attended classes to increase computer literacy.

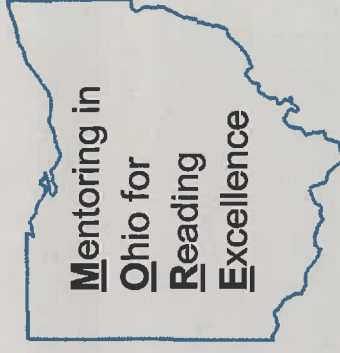


iTraining – In partnership with BGSU, nearly 120 teachers received training on incorporating tablets into their classrooms.



Water Quality Grant – PCEC and Putnam County students partnered with the Village of Ottawa and BGSU to study effects of phosphate runoff in local water supplies.

Project MORE



Established in 1999

- 1:1 instruction
- 30 minute sessions
- 4 times per week
- for students with disabilities
- for students identified as not on track
- intensive intervention at student's reading level
- easy to use
- cost effective
- meets the criteria for Third Grade Reading Improvement and Monitoring Plans
- evidence-based intervention

The mission of Project MORE is to help every student in Ohio maximize their reading potential, no matter their ability level.

2013 -2014 Facts

- ❖ 3,208 reported students with disabilities and students receiving Title I services were mentored
- ❖ 3,685 reported mentors served 82,750 volunteer hours
- ❖ Over 300 rural, suburban and urban schools have received Project MORE training
- ❖ Partnerships were formed with the Ohio Department of Aging/Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) and Foster Grandparent Program, the Ohio National Guard, colleges, universities, sheriff departments, churches, and more

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Putnam County Educational

Service Center

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"Unless you already have a reading intervention program that achieves the success level equal to Project MORE, and that is as affordable as Project MORE, then you need Project MORE!"

Jennifer Wene

Worthington City Schools, Director of Academic Achievement and Professional Development

Proven Results

- ✓ Independently evaluated
- ✓ Determined to be an effective reading intervention program for students with disabilities and students not on track
- ✓ Evaluation results prove Project MORE students make significantly greater gains in reading than do similar students not receiving Project MORE's intensive reading intervention

"Project MORE findings are compelling and validate Project MORE's status as an Evidence Based and Value-Added Intervention for students with disabilities, according to BGSU independent evaluators."

Dr. Rich Wilson

BGSU, Center for Assessment and Evaluation Services (retired)

Project MORE is:

Effective - students with mild disabilities gain one month reading level for each month 1:1 mentoring is received (according to independent evaluators from BGSU's Center for Evaluation Services)

Affordable - a license costs less than \$100 for 36 students using Reading A-Z/Reading-Tutors.com as reading content for the mentoring sessions

Replicable – for any school to implement in order to increase students' reading performance

Sustainable – because of low cost, easy to use, community/volunteer partnerships and student success

"I have never seen one program that positively impacts students with disabilities as much as this reading mentoring reading program."

Dr. Jan Osborn
Project More Co-Founder and Director,
Superintendent of Putnam County Schools

"...Project MORE is a volunteer mentoring program that specializes in helping students with disabilities learn to read. This program uses community resources to offer low-cost help for schools and districts."

Dr. Richard Ross – State Superintendent of Public Instruction "Educational Connection" Newsletter 2013



Parent Partnerships

- ✓ Parents become active participants in their children's reading development and reading improvement through the Project MORE materials that can be sent home.
- ✓ Project MORE keeps parents informed about their children's literacy development.



"We are pleased that through Project MORE, parents are included in the reading education of their children."

Margaret Burley – Executive Director,
Ohio Coalition for the Education of
Children with Disabilities



*Project MORE is funded by Award
Number H027A140111, CFDA 84.027A
through the Ohio Department of
Education/Office for Exceptional Children*

**Ohio Department of Education
Putnam County Educational Service Center Budget Calculation**

Year	\$29.00 per Pupil	Special Education	Supervisory Ext. Serv	Small County Guarantee	State's Share	Supervisory Allowance	Amount per Pupil	Spec Ed Ext. Serv	Local Share	Total Budget
July 1994	212,077.00	1,016,903.00	3,301.00	8,867.00	1,241,148.00	127,152.00	47,534.50	40,708.00	215,394.50	1,456,542.50
Year	\$57.00 per Pupil	Special Education	Supervisory Ext. Serv	Small County Guarantee	State's Share	Supervisory Allowance	Amount per Pupil	Spec Ed Ext. Serv	Local Share	Total Budget
July 2002	250,177.72	558,498.00	0.00	10,686.85	819,362.57	157,350.00	43,950.12	27,251.00	228,551.12	1,047,913.69
Year	\$57.00 per Pupil	Early Childhood	Gifted	Small County Guarantee	State's Share	Supervisory Allowance	Amount per Pupil	Spec Ed Ext. Serv	Local Share	Total Budget
July 2007	241,726.18	448,870.00	123,952.00	0.00	814,548.18	149,921.00	42,588.82	33,112.00	225,621.82	1,040,170.00
Year	\$27.80 per Pupil	Early Childhood	Gifted	Small County Guarantee	State's Share	Supervisory Allowance	Amount per Pupil	Spec Ed Ext. Serv	Local Share	Total Budget
July 2014	163,002.64	0.00	34,493.47	0.00	197,496.11	0.00	38,099.26	0.00	38,099.26	235,595.37

**Historical Analysis
Putnam County Educational Service Center**

Year	Total Number ESC of Employees	Total Annual Putnam Co ESC Revenues	State Subsidy % of Yearly Revenues	Putnam County ESC Grant Revenue	Putnam County ESC % Grant Rev
1994/95	55	3,097,000.00	40.08%	770,796.00	24.89%
2002/03	87	5,467,228.40	14.99%	1,604,229.00	29.34%
2007/08	89	6,985,165.20	11.66%	3,867,849.00	55.37%
2014/15 Projected	95	5,167,900.25	3.82%	1,882,895.00	36.43%

Putnam County ESC Expenses over State Funding 2013/14 FY

	Annual Inc/Exp
Total Allotment from State for Office Operations	\$ 163,002.64
Lease amount due to law change	(58,512.98)
Electrical Expense	(13,010.00)
Natural Gas Expense	(3,309.50)
Phone usage Expense	(7,170.32)
Water usage Expense	(496.75)
Refuse Service Expense	(421.04)
Annual Fire Inpection/monthly monitoring	(590.00)
Building Maintenance	(8,844.73)
Postage fees / Meter Expense	(3,400.00)
Copier usage fees	(18,788.77)
Operational Supplies	(9,500.00)
Property/Liability/Auto Insurance	(8,755.00)
Connection to A-Site and service fees	(8,761.89)
Annual Auditor of State (audit fees)	(18,245.00)
Annual GAAP Conversion Fees	(4,500.00)
Annual membership fees	(4,403.00)
Board Member and Meeting	(13,700.00)
Legal Fees	(3,000.00)
Annual Cost to maintain Policies and Procedures	<u>(2,654.13)</u>
Subtotal of Operations and Maintenance	\$ (188,063.10)
Remaining State Funds	\$ (25,060.46)
 Personnel	
Superintendent's Office	(194,951.84)
Treasurer's Office	(212,551.68)
Curriculum Coordinator's Office	(207,633.05)
Technology Coordinator	(28,090.51)
Travel of above employees	<u>(5,000.00)</u>
Personnel Costs	\$ (648,227.08)
 Shortfall from current state funding	 \$ (673,287.54)