

**Senate Education Committee  
Am. Sub. HB 33**

**May 9, 2023**

**Dr. Jan Osborn, Superintendent, Putnam County ESC**

Chairman Brenner, Vice Chair O'Brien, and members of the subcommittee, my name is Dr. Jan Osborn. I have worked for the Putnam County Educational Service Center for the past forty-nine years. I am in my thirty-first year as the superintendent of the ESC. Today, I am testifying in favor of the amendment for increasing ESC funding based on the operational costs that reflect ESC's increased workload and services.

Today, I am very nervous as well as anxious about testifying. I have testified over six times in my career on ESC funding. With my long working history and passion for ESC's and my belief in the important work that we do is still steadfast. I have experienced both ESC funding cuts and flat funding for most of the budgets since 2007. We are the second smallest single county ESC out of 51 in the State. We serve nine small rural local districts and approximately 6,000 students. We appreciate the increase in funding in the fair funding formula, but meeting the basic operating costs gets more challenging each year.

Over twenty years ago, a very wise state senator by the name of Bob Cupp said to me, "We have infinite need and limited resources. Where should we invest our resources?" My response remains the same, Invest in your Educational Services Centers.

The largest component of our ESC is special education programs and services. While we serve a small number of students, we provide many programs and employ part-time staff to lower costs. Our districts would not otherwise be able to offer these programs due to their small size. Our ESC has 102 full-time employees consisting of approximately eighty teachers, speech therapists, school psychologists, OT/PTs, and aides working out in our local schools. We employ 100 part-time staff to support credit recovery, after-school programs, Project MORE mentoring, migrant programs, summer camps,

In 1990 we were among the first school districts to start three intergrated public preschool programs. We operate six community/school based 5 Star Step Up To Quality Public Preschools. We were awarded many Federal and State grants including being one of the first recipients of the National Twenty-First Century Afterschool grants in 1997. We have held several over the years and currently have one this year. Our general education consultants provide Resident Educator training, staff development, technology training, grant writing, county-wide art, band, and choir programs, along with the county-wide science fair.

In the spirit of shared services, our ESC is the fiscal agent, and provide office space for the Putnam County Family and Children's First Council, Red Cross Provider, and the Putnam County Help Me Grow program. We also lease office space to our County Board of DD.

We offer summer programs for migrant children, Summer Food Service Program, as well as summer speech, special education, STEM, and tech camps. Quiz Bowl, Scholastic League, Professional Development training for teachers, STEAM activities, Boot Camp, Resource Fair, Family Liaison Parent Mentor, and Business Advisory Council. Since 1999, our ESC, along with Ohio Coalition for Children with Disabilities, started Project MORE (Mentoring in Ohio for Reading Excellence). This is a one-on-one reading mentor program using volunteers to mentor students in reading. This program has since grown into an online program. I would be happy to discuss this further if anyone is interested to learn more.

These are just a few of the quality services and programs/highlights our ESC historically provides. Along with keeping up with the new federal, state and local educational requirements all with less funding. ESC's are an integral part in assisting local districts in implementing these requirements. Many years ago a very well known leader in State Government said to me, "If not for ESC's, who would be doing many of these exemplary programs and services?".

Over the past several years, ESCs have taken on expanded roles and responsibilities in partnership with the State of Ohio. To maintain this level of service and meet increasing demand, ESC funding needs to be addressed. This will ensure ESCs can assist the State in improving academic outcomes for our students. In 1994 our ESC had 55 staff members, and funding from the State for \$1,456,542 that amount in 2023 would be \$2,966,510. In 2023, we have over 102 full-time employees and 100 part-time employees with State funding of \$252, 315. Please note the highlighted red font on salary and insurance costs on that same sheet. Our State funding has decreased in thirty years; inflation has put additional costs on our ESC, more mandates and compliances, and more staff.

I have a handout from 2018-2019 ESC expenses, sorry but the time crunch did not allow for us to update this. Why do we need more funding? All of the above and ESCs have received more permanent cuts historically with increased mandates. The issue remains the same, basic expenses are not adequately funded. We have looked at merging with other ESC's only to find out that costs would increase and services decrease. We have heard larger is better but combining with other ESCs in a rural setting is not the answer. In closing, we are providing letters on short notice from our districts supporting our ESC. At our monthly superintendents' meeting in discussing a service option all nine of our superintendents wanted to keep one viable option with their Putnam County ESC.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to share our concerns and needs.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jan Osborn, PhD, Superintendent  
Putnam County Educational Service Center

## 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	\$37.00 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	\$37.00 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

\* Inflation today this amount equals \$2,966,510

## 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%

Insurance Cost in 1994 for a family plan was \$308.73, 2023 a family plan costs \$2,340

Starting salary for a new teacher in 1994 was approx. \$18,000, 2023 starting salary \$40,178

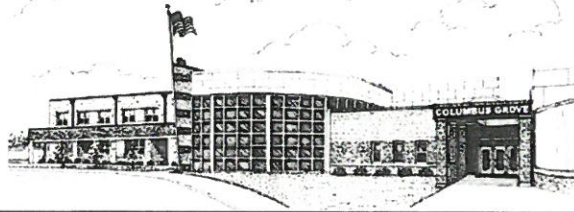
# Putnam County ESC Expenses over State Funding 2018/19 FY

	Annual Inc/Exp
Lease Amount due to law change	(58,512.98)
Electrical Expense	(11,972.09)
Natural Gas Expense	(3,315.43)
Phone usage Expense	(11,009.61)
Water usage Expense	(674.86)
Refuse Service Expense	(436.69)
Annual Fire Inpection/monthly monitoring	(1,938.83)
Building Maintenance - Janitorial	(4,453.37)
Postage fees / Meter Expense	(1,708.91)
Copier usage fees / Printing	(17,305.00)
Operational Supplies	(1,116.03)
Property/Liability/Auto Insurance	(9,645.00)
Connection to A-Site and Service Fees	(11,258.50)
Finacial Software Fees	(2,090.00)
Annual Auditor of State (audit fees)	(23,150.36)
Annual GAAP Conversion Fees	(4,700.00)
Annual Membership Fees	(6,055.15)
Board Members and Meeting	(12,345.67)
Legal Fees	(2,406.00)
Annual Cost to maintain Policies and Procedures	(1,944.00)
	<hr/>
<b>Subtotal of Operations and Maintenance</b>	<b>\$ (186,038.48)</b>
 <b>Administrative Personnel</b>	
Superintendent's Office	(174,636.35)
Treasurer's Office	(217,809.47)
Technology Coordination Purchased Services	(15,270.15)
Travel /Supplies of above employees	(6,509.07)
	<hr/>
<b>Personnel Costs</b>	<b>\$ (414,225.04)</b>
 <b>Total Operation / Administrative Expenses 2018/19</b>	 <b>\$ (600,263.52)</b>
 <b>Total Allotment from State for Office Operations - \$26/pupil</b>	 <b>\$ 151,892.00</b>
 <b>Current Shortfall From State Funding</b>	 <b>\$ (448,371.52)</b>



# Columbus Grove Local School District

201 West Cross Street  
Columbus Grove, OH 45830



## Board Members

Brad Brubaker  
Brian Jones  
Darrick Oswald  
Ned Stechschulte  
Derek Vance

Mark K. Ellerbrock  
Treasurer  
Phone: (419) 659-2630

Nicholas Verhoff  
Superintendent  
Phone: (419) 659-2639

Brian J. Best  
High School Principal  
Phone: (419) 659-2156

Bradley M. Calvelage  
Elementary Principal  
Phone: (419) 659-2631

May 9, 2023

Dear Senator,

I am contacting you in my capacity as superintendent of Columbus Grove Local School District and on behalf of our Board of Education to express our support for increased funding for educational service centers (ESCs) in Am. Sub. H.B. 33, the FY 2024-2025 biennial state operating budget.

We support an amendment to increase ESC funding based on updated operational costs that reflect the increased workload of ESCs on behalf of the state and their client school districts since adoption of the last state budget.

Our district is aligned to the Putnam County ESC, which provides vital programs and support services to our district including in special education, curriculum, and multiple student therapy services. As a rural school district, we simply could not provide the same high quality services to our students without the support of the Putnam County ESC. ESCs are an integral part of our work to implement new state and local education requirements and are key to our efforts to sustain learning acceleration gains and improve outcomes for all our students.

Over the past few years, ESCs have taken on expanded roles and responsibilities in partnership with the state of Ohio including supporting learning acceleration, providing literacy supports, employment of family and communication engagement liaisons, deployment of professional learning and technical assistance, coordination of prevention education initiatives and threat assessment training (CSTAG), distribution of PPE, facilitation of employee vaccinations, and more.

To maintain this level of service and meet increasing demand, ESC funding needs to be addressed. This will ensure ESCs are positioned to assist us in carrying out key state-level education priorities contained in the two-year budget and improve academic outcomes for our students to pre-pandemic levels and beyond.

As passed by the House, Am. Sub. H.B. 33, ESC funding (unlike funding for traditional public school districts and other entities) was not updated or enhanced over the "as introduced" version of the budget and is not reflective of today's actual operating costs. To treat ESCs the same as traditional public schools could be accomplished by adopting the ESC-requested amendment.

Thank you for your positive consideration. Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Regards,

Nick Verhoff  
Superintendent  
Columbus Grove Local School District

# JENNINGS LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Superintendent  
Nicholas T. Langhals  
419-286-2238

P.O. Box 98 ~ 1 Musketeer Drive  
Fort Jennings, OH 45844-0098  
Fax 419-286-2240

Treasurer  
Kari M. German  
419-286-2238

Dear Senator,

I am contacting you in my capacity as superintendent of the Jennings Local School District to express our support for increased funding for educational service centers (ESCs) in Am. Sub. H.B. 33, the FY 2024-2025 biennial state operating budget.

We support an amendment to increase ESC funding based on updated operational costs that reflect the increased workload of ESCs on behalf of the state and their client school districts since adoption of the last state budget.

Our district is aligned to the Putnam County ESC, which provides vital programs and support services to our district.

The ESCs are an integral part of our work to implement new state and local education requirements and are key to our efforts to sustain learning acceleration gains and improve outcomes for our students.

Over the past few years, ESCs have taken on expanded roles and responsibilities in partnership with the state of Ohio including supporting learning acceleration, providing literacy supports, employment of family and communication engagement liaisons, deployment of professional learning and technical assistance, coordination of prevention education initiatives and threat assessment training (CSTAG), distribution of PPE, facilitation of employee vaccinations, and more.

To maintain this level of service and meet increasing demand, ESC funding needs to be addressed. This will ensure ESCs are positioned to assist us in carrying out key state-level education priorities contained in the 2-year budget and improve academic outcomes for our students to pre-pandemic levels and beyond.

As passed by the House, Am. Sub. H.B. 33, ESC funding (unlike funding for traditional public school districts and other entities) was not updated or enhanced over the "as introduced" version of the budget and is not reflective of today's actual operating costs. To treat ESCs the same as traditional public schools could be accomplished by adopting the ESC-requested amendment.

Thank you for your positive consideration. Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Regards,



Nicholas Langhals

**Fort Jennings High School**  
Principal Todd Hoehn  
P.O. Box 98  
Fort Jennings, OH 45844-0098  
419-286-2238



**Fort Jennings Elementary School**  
Principal Matthew R. Dubé  
P.O. Box 98  
Fort Jennings, OH 45844-0098  
419-286-2762



**Board Members**  
Brent Helmke  
Brad Niemeyer  
Emily Peck  
Craig Schmenk  
Greg von der Embse



# Kalida Local Schools

301 N. Third St., Box 269; Kalida, Ohio 45853

<http://kalidaschools.org>

Phone: 419-532-3534 Fax 419-532-2277



*An Ohio "Excellent" Rated School ~ 2003 National Blue Ribbon School*

Dear Senator,

I am contacting you in my capacity as superintendent of the Kalida Local school district to express our support for increased funding for educational service centers (ESCs) in Am. Sub. H.B. 33, the FY 2024-2025 biennial state operating budget.

We support an amendment to increase ESC funding based on updated operational costs that reflect the increased workload of ESCs on behalf of the state and their client school districts since adoption of the last state budget.

Our district is aligned to the Putnam County ESC, which provides vital programs and support services to our district including the following: Special Education, School Psychology, Curriculum Guidance, Professional Development, and much more.

The ESCs are an integral part of our work to implement new state and local education requirements and are key to our efforts to sustain learning acceleration gains and improve outcomes for our students.

Over the past few years, ESCs have taken on expanded roles and responsibilities in partnership with the state of Ohio including supporting learning acceleration, providing literacy supports, employment of family and communication engagement liaisons, deployment of professional learning and technical assistance, coordination of prevention education initiatives and threat assessment training (CSTAG), distribution of PPE, facilitation of employee vaccinations, and more.

To maintain this level of service and meet increasing demand, ESC funding needs to be addressed. This will ensure ESCs are positioned to assist us in carrying out key state-level education priorities contained in the 2-year budget and improve academic outcomes for our students to pre-pandemic levels and beyond.

As passed by the House, Am. Sub. H.B. 33, ESC funding (unlike funding for traditional public school districts and other entities) was not updated or enhanced over the "as introduced" version of the budget and is not reflective of today's actual operating costs. To treat ESCs the same as traditional public schools could be accomplished by adopting the ESC-requested amendment.

Thank you for your positive consideration. Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Regards,

Karl Lammers  
Superintendent  
Kalida Local Schools

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**Karl Lammers, Superintendent**

[ka\\_supt@kalidaschools.org](mailto:ka_supt@kalidaschools.org)

**Michelle Buss, Treasurer**

[ka\\_treas@kalidaschools.org](mailto:ka_treas@kalidaschools.org)

**Cheryl Simon, Asst. Treasurer**

[cheryl.simon@kalidaschools.org](mailto:cheryl.simon@kalidaschools.org)

**Dean Brinkman, High School Principal**

[dean.brinkman@kalidaschools.org](mailto:dean.brinkman@kalidaschools.org)

301 N. Third Street, Box 269

Phone: 419-532-3529 Fax: 419-532-3581

**Jeff Clement, School Counselor**

[jeff.clement@kalidaschools.org](mailto:jeff.clement@kalidaschools.org)

**Jeremy Okuley, Director of Technology**

[ka\\_tech@kalidaschools.org](mailto:ka_tech@kalidaschools.org)

**Kayla Stechsulte, Elementary Principal**

[kayla.stechsulte@kalidaschools.org](mailto:kayla.stechsulte@kalidaschools.org)

208 N. Fourth Street, Box 358

Phone: 419-532-3845 Fax: 419-532-3541

**Adam Huber, Athletic Director**

[adam.huber@kalidaschools.org](mailto:adam.huber@kalidaschools.org)

Phone: 419-532-3545 Fax: 419-532-3581





**MILLER CITY – NEW CLEVELAND  
LOCAL SCHOOL**

200 N. Main Street, Miller City, Ohio 45864

Kerry D. Johnson, Superintendent

[johnson\\_k@mcncschools.org](mailto:johnson_k@mcncschools.org)

Matthew Frey, MS/HS Principal  
[frey\\_m@mcncschools.org](mailto:frey_m@mcncschools.org)

Dustin Pester, Elementary Principal  
[pester\\_d@mcncschools.org](mailto:pester_d@mcncschools.org)

Ph: 419-876-3173 • Fax: 419-876-2020

Dear Senator,

I am contacting you in my capacity as superintendent of the Miller City-New Cleveland School District to express our support for increased funding for educational service centers (ESCs) in Am. Sub. H.B. 33, the FY 2024-2025 biennial state operating budget. We support an amendment to increase ESC funding based on updated operational costs that reflect the increased workload of ESCs on behalf of the state and their client school districts since adoption of the last state budget.

Our district is aligned to the Putnam County ESC, which provides vital programs and support services to our district including the following: Early Childhood, Curriculum, Special Education, Speech and Occupational Therapy. The ESCs are an integral part of our work to implement new state and local education requirements and are key to our efforts to sustain learning acceleration gains and improve outcomes for our students.

Over the past few years, ESCs have taken on expanded roles and responsibilities in partnership with the state of Ohio including supporting learning acceleration, providing literacy supports, employment of family and communication engagement liaisons, deployment of professional learning and technical assistance, coordination of prevention education initiatives and threat assessment training (CSTAG), distribution of PPE, facilitation of employee vaccinations, and more.

To maintain this level of service and meet increasing demand, ESC funding needs to be addressed. This will ensure ESCs are positioned to assist us in carrying out key state-level education priorities contained in the 2-year budget and improve academic outcomes for our students to pre-pandemic levels and beyond.

As passed by the House, Am. Sub. H.B. 33, ESC funding (unlike funding for traditional public school districts and other entities) was not updated or enhanced over the "as introduced" version of the budget and is not reflective of today's actual operating costs. To treat ESCs the same as traditional public schools could be accomplished by adopting the ESC-requested amendment.

Thank you for your positive consideration. Please feel free to contact me with any questions: 419-876-3173 Ext. 4040 – [johnson\\_k@mcncschools.org](mailto:johnson_k@mcncschools.org).

Respectfully,

Kerry D. Johnson  
Superintendent  
Miller City-New Cleveland Local School

# Ottawa-Glandorf Local School District

Administrative Offices  
630 Glendale Avenue  
Ottawa, OH 45875  
419-523-5261 - Fax 419-523-5978



Dear Senator,

I am contacting you in my capacity as superintendent of the Ottawa-Glandorf Local school district to express our support for increased funding for educational service centers (ESCs) in Am. Sub. H.B. 33, the FY 2024-2025 biennial state operating budget.

We support an amendment to increase ESC funding based on updated operational costs that reflect the increased workload of ESCs on behalf of the state and their client school districts since adoption of the last state budget.

Our district is aligned to the Putnam County ESC, which provides vital programs and support services to our district including the following special education and school psychology services, speech and hearing services, curriculum services, EMIS support, Business Advisory Council updates, as well as coordinating our county Arts Festival, our local Science Fair, and our county Quiz Bowl league and tournament.

The ESCs are an integral part of our work to implement new state and local education requirements and are key to our efforts to sustain learning acceleration gains and improve outcomes for our students.

Over the past few years, ESCs have taken on expanded roles and responsibilities in partnership with the state of Ohio including supporting learning acceleration, providing literacy supports, employment of family and communication engagement liaisons, deployment of professional learning and technical assistance, coordination of prevention education initiatives and threat assessment training (CSTAG), distribution of PPE, facilitation of employee vaccinations, and more.

To maintain this level of service and meet increasing demand, ESC funding needs to be addressed. This will ensure ESCs are positioned to assist us in carrying out key state-level education priorities contained in the 2-year budget and improve academic outcomes for our students to pre-pandemic levels and beyond.

As passed by the House, Am. Sub. H.B. 33, ESC funding (unlike funding for traditional public school districts and other entities) was not updated or enhanced over the "as introduced" version of the budget and is not reflective of today's actual operating costs. To treat ESCs the same as traditional public schools could be accomplished by adopting the ESC-requested amendment.

Thank you for your positive consideration. Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Don Horstman', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Don Horstman

Donald Horstman  
Superintendent  
horstman@ottawaglandorf.org

Jennifer Croy  
Dir. of Curriculum and Special Services  
croyj@ottawaglandorf.org

Katelyn Adams  
Treasurer  
adams.k@ottawaglandorf.org

Lisa Weis  
Secretary to Supt./EMIS Coord.  
weis.l@ottawaglandorf.org

Kelly Compher  
Assistant Treasurer/Administrative Assistant  
@ottawaglandorf.org

Cheryl Hermiller  
Assistant Treasurer  
hermiller.c@ottawaglandorf.org



# Ottoville Local School

Jarrold Wehri  
Superintendent  
419.453.3356

Jon Thorbahn  
High School Principal  
419.453.3358

Blake Walker  
Elementary Principal  
419.453.3357

Bob Weber  
Treasurer  
419.453.3356

Shelly Mumaw  
Director of Technology  
419.453.3012

Michelle Leach  
Guidance Counselor  
419.453.3013



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650 West Third Street PO Box 248  
Ottoville, Ohio 45876  
Fax: 419.453.3367  
Website: [www.ottovilleschools.org](http://www.ottovilleschools.org)

Dear Senator,

I am contacting you in my capacity as superintendent of the Ottoville Local school district to express our support for increased funding for educational service centers (ESCs) in Am. Sub. H.B. 33, the FY 2024-2025 biennial state operating budget.

We support an amendment to increase ESC funding based on updated operational costs that reflect the increased workload of ESCs on behalf of the state and their client school districts since adoption of the last state budget.

Our district is aligned to the Putnam County ESC, which provides vital programs and support services to our district including the following; special education units, curriculum meetings, gifted support, and credit recovery opportunities.

The ESCs are an integral part of our work to implement new state and local education requirements and are key to our efforts to sustain learning acceleration gains and improve outcomes for our students.

Over the past few years, ESCs have taken on expanded roles and responsibilities in partnership with the state of Ohio including supporting learning acceleration, providing literacy supports, employment of family and communication engagement liaisons, deployment of professional learning and technical assistance, coordination of prevention education initiatives and threat assessment training (CSTAG), distribution of PPE, facilitation of employee vaccinations, and more.

To maintain this level of service and meet increasing demand, ESC funding needs to be addressed. This will ensure ESCs are positioned to assist us in carrying out key state-level education priorities contained in the 2-year budget and improve academic outcomes for our students to pre-pandemic levels and beyond.

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Thank you for your positive consideration. Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Regards,

*Jarrold Wehri*



# Pandora-Gilboa Local Schools

410 Rocket Ridge  
Pandora, Ohio 45877-0389  
419/384-3227  
Fax 419/384-3230

R.Todd Schmutz, Superintendent  
Brad Deleruyelle, Treasurer

May 9, 2023

Dear Senator,

I am contacting you in my capacity as superintendent/treasurer/board member of the Pandora-Gilboa school district to express our support for increased funding for educational service centers (ESCs) in Am. Sub. H.B. 33, the FY 2024-2025 biennial state operating budget.

We support an amendment to increase ESC funding based on updated operational costs that reflect the increased workload of ESCs on behalf of the state and their client school districts since adoption of the last state budget.

Our district is aligned to the Putnam County ESC, which provides vital programs and support services to our district including the following: special education consolidation and cooperative services, this service alone warrants additional funding to ESC's as a district such as mine could not afford to hire and maintain staff and classrooms for all specified disabilities. ESC's also provide expertise when dealing with the legalities of IEP's and the corresponding meetings. The ESC also provides curriculum expertise, gifted education support and services, and data analysis of general education programs, again, none of which a district our size could support on our own. The ESC also provides our staff with professional development that helps our district meet many state mandates (unfunded mandates in some circumstances), as well as current trends in education that are applicable to our classrooms.

The ESCs are an integral part of our work to implement new state and local education requirements and are key to our efforts to sustain learning acceleration gains and improve outcomes for our students.

Over the past few years, ESCs have taken on expanded roles and responsibilities in partnership with the state of Ohio including supporting learning acceleration, providing literacy supports, employment of family and communication engagement liaisons, deployment of professional learning and technical assistance, coordination of prevention education initiatives and threat assessment training (CSTAG), distribution of PPE, facilitation of employee vaccinations, and more.

To maintain this level of service and meet increasing demand, ESC funding needs to be addressed. This will ensure ESCs are positioned to assist us in carrying out key state-



level education priorities contained in the 2-year budget and improve academic outcomes for our students to pre-pandemic levels and beyond.

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Thank you for your positive consideration. Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,



R. Todd Schmutz  
Superintendent





# Final Thought

“If you cannot marshal a compelling answer to the question *‘what would be lost, and how would the world be worse off, if we ceased to exist?’* then perhaps capitulation is the wise path. But if you have a clear and inspired purpose built upon solid core values, then the noble course may be to fight on, to reverse decline, and to try to rekindle greatness.” -- Jim Collins, *How the Mighty Fall*