

Chairperson and members of the Senate Education Committee, it is an honor to testify today about the outstanding work of ESCs across the state, and specifically the Hamilton County Educational Service Center (ESC) in supporting literacy coaching in districts across Hamilton, Clermont, Butler and Warren County as well as the State. I can confidently say that Hamilton County ESC has a long history of collaboration and advocacy for supporting districts, building capacity for not just literacy coaching, but a vast array of state, local and district initiatives as a service partner committed to student growth & success.

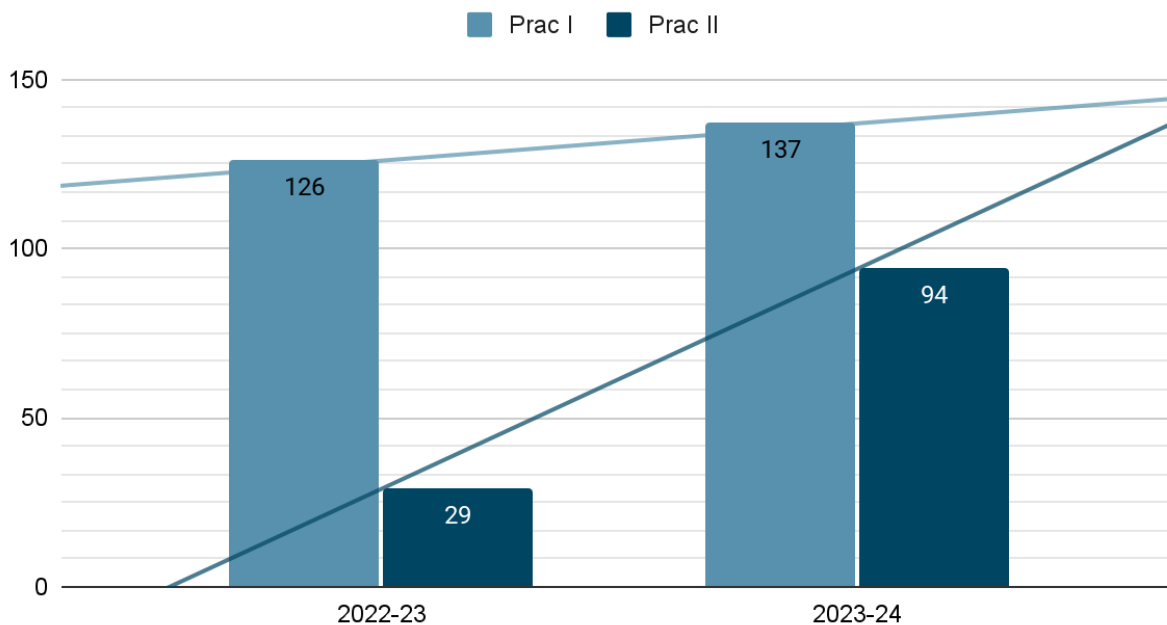
Hamilton County ESC is a regional educational service agency that provides a wide range of services to schools and districts in Hamilton County, Ohio and beyond. For over 100 years, Hamilton County ESC has been working tirelessly to support and improve the quality of education in the region. ESCs across the state serve millions of students in Ohio. Specifically, HCESC serves hundreds-of-thousands of students in over 90 school districts, providing services that range from special education and curriculum support, instructional coaching and professional development and technology support. As a body, ESC's have the agility, expertise and relationships to mobilize quickly to implement and bring about productive and sustainable change.

One of the areas where Hamilton County ESC has been particularly effective is in the area of literacy coaching. The ESC has a team of experienced literacy coaches who work closely with teachers and administrators in districts across the county to improve literacy instruction and student achievement. The literacy coaches provide ongoing, embedded professional development, instructional coaching, and support to teachers, helping them to implement evidence-based instructional strategies and interventions that have been shown to improve student reading and writing skills.

Sample of Supportive Evidence of Current Work & Capacity Building:

- Building Capacities Grant, HCESC has provided Structured Literacy support in 2022-23 school year through leveraging the internal capacity of:
 - 19 different HCESC Consultant providers
 - Over 17 districts served
 - 1142 individuals
 - in excess of 733 hours.through training aligned to:
 - Aims Pathways to Proficient Reading
 - OG Structured Literacy Train-the-Trainer Courses
 - IMSE Comprehensive OG
 - K-3 Dyslexia Course Facilitator Training
 - HCESC OG Practicum I
- HCESC Orton Gillingham Practicum I & II is a dynamic, continuous, adaptable process, grounded in the Science of Reading of monitoring student work and giving corrective feedback based on the learner's profile and ongoing performance designed to promote accuracy and automaticity.
 - Practicum I & II OG Master Teachers employed by HCESC: 24
 - HCESC OG Director and Co-Directors employed by HCESC: 4
 - HCESC OG Credentialed Consultants: 25

HCESC OG Prac I & II New Credentialed Trainees



*2022-23 Practicum I: 2 course offerings still available for the 2022-23 school year (anticipated enrollment included)
2022-23 Practicum II: 1 course offering still available for the 2022-23 school year (anticipated enrollment included)*

The ESC's literacy coaching program is grounded in the Science of Reading (SoR) research and best practices. The coaches use data to inform their coaching and instruction, and they work closely with district & building administration as well as classroom teachers to identify areas of need and develop targeted interventions to address those needs. To further bolster the effectiveness of the ESC's literacy coaching program, HCESC has implemented leadership coaching for both the coaches and district administrators. Leadership coaching is a valuable tool that can help to develop the leadership skills of the coaches, provide them with the necessary knowledge and tools to lead their teams effectively and help to build the capacity of districts and building administration to further support the faculty so that students can learn more, be more and do more. The coaching program is also aligned with state and national standards for literacy instruction, ensuring that teachers are providing instruction that is rigorous and effective for ALL CHILDREN.

Hamilton County ESC's literacy coaching program is unique in that it is highly collaborative. The ESC works closely with districts to develop coaching plans that are tailored to their specific needs and goals. The ESC has a team of experienced educators who work closely with districts to develop and implement programs and initiatives that are tailored to their specific needs and goals. The coaches work side-by-side with teachers and administrators to implement researched-based coaching cycles and provide ongoing feedback and support to ensure that the coaching is effective and impactful for all students. This collaborative approach has been highly effective in improving literacy instruction and student achievement in districts across the county. The ESC is also a strong advocate for education in the region, working with policymakers and community leaders to ensure that all students have access to high-quality education.

In recent years, Hamilton County ESC has made a concerted effort to ramp up its capacity for literacy coaching. The ESC has invested in hiring additional literacy coaches and providing ongoing professional development for its coaching team. The ESC has also developed new partnerships and collaborations with districts and community organizations to expand its reach and impact. These efforts have been

highly successful, with districts reporting significant improvements in literacy instruction and student achievement as a result of the coaching program.

Sample Evidence of Instructional Coaching Implementation & Progression at Scale

Effective coaching cycles aligned to best practices implemented in collaboration with a large suburban, Cincinnati school district. These coaching practices show the capability, capacity, and positive impact that HCESC is having and can have when implemented at scale. HCESC coaches engage in coaching cycles to increase student learning through navigating a purposeful cycle of support with teachers. The progression of coaching strategies to further encompass higher integrated levels reflective of the advanced coaching relationship (i.e. co-planning, modeling, analyzing student evidence).

- Currently 32 Coaches embedded in district
 - reflective of 1050 days of collaborative support
- Supporting 10 different buildings: 2 High Schools, 3 Junior High Schools, 5 Elementary Schools
- Coaching Roles Include:
 - Instructional Coaches
 - Intervention Coaches
 - Data & Assessment Coaches
 - Literacy Coaches
 - Math Coaches
 - Science Coach

In conclusion, Hamilton County ESC is CURRENTLY doing outstanding work to support literacy coaching grounded in the SoR in districts across the county and building increased capacity to advance their ability for support moving forward. Our collaborative, evidence-based approach to instructional coaching has been highly effective in improving literacy instruction and student achievement. I can confidently say that Hamilton County ESC has a long history of collaboration and advocacy for supporting districts, and their recent efforts to ramp up their capacity for literacy coaching are a testament to their commitment to student success. I urge this committee to continue to support and invest in programs like Hamilton County ESC's literacy coaching program, which are critical to ensuring that ALL STUDENTS have access to high-quality education.

We want to make sure that ESCs are involved when Substitute House Bill 33's provisions related literacy coaches are implemented. Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. I'll be happy to address your questions.