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## County superintendent announces retirement

*By JONA ISON  
Gazette Staff Writer*

After 35 years in education, Ross-Pike Educational Service Center superintendent Phil Satterfield has decided to retire.

The governing board accepted Satterfield's resignation at a special meeting Monday.

Although Satterfield intends to retire Jan. 1, he has extended an offer to stay on longer if needed to mentor a new superintendent or if a replacement can not be found mid-year.

"I'm going to evaluate what it is I want to do," Satterfield said, adding he plans to spend more time with his nine grandchildren. "I've never been one to sit around, so I can't imagine I'll be retiring to the easy chair."

Satterfield kind of fell into education after getting a degree in microbiology and psychology. At the suggestion of a former teacher and coach, Satterfield began substitute teaching and loved it.

He spent several years teaching in Adams Count before taking a job for the Ohio Department of Education. While at ODE, he helped reorganize the division of teaching certification and licensure and piloted regional certification offices.

In 1996, Satterfield was hired as superintendent at Paint Valley Local Schools. He left Paint Valley in 2005 for the county superintendent position.

"(I'll miss) the people. I really believe that public education is the basis of a successful democracy ... I'm going to miss being able to be a leader in that arena," Satterfield said.

The ESC provides shared services to districts in several areas, including special education, accelerated education, alternative school and school improvement. The center is funded by the state and through contract fees with districts.