

FEBRUARY 2015



# 100 YEARS OF SERVICE: OHIO'S EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CENTERS

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2013-2014 MEMBER SURVEY RESULTS  
OHIO ESC ASSOCIATION



# 2013-2014 EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CENTER MEMBER SURVEY

Every Kid, Every Zip Code:  
Ohio's ESCs are  
Making a Difference

## WHAT IS AN EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CENTER?

- Educational Service Centers (ESCs) are local political subdivisions.
- ESCs are school districts under state law – 3311.055 Ohio Revised Code.
- ESCs are local education agencies or LEAs under federal law – 20 USCS §7801(17) (ESEA, IDEA, HEA, Perkins).
- ESCs are governed by publicly-elected boards of education.

## WHAT IS AN ESCS RELATIONSHIP TO OHIO SCHOOL DISTRICTS?

- ESCs are large-scale service providers offering administrative, academic, fiscal and operational support services to Ohio's school districts, chartered nonpublic schools, community schools, and STEM schools.
- Every district with enrollment of 16,000 students (ADM) or fewer is required to be aligned to an ESC. Districts are able to realign to a different ESC (anywhere in the state) every 2 years, consistent with the state budget process, if they are not satisfied with the services they are receiving.
- Districts with enrollment over 16,000 students may align to an ESC.
- Districts may purchase services from any ESC at any time – even ESCs to which they are not aligned.
- ESCs are consortia by definition and don't exist if not for their client school districts. Under section 3311.0510. (A) of the Ohio Revised Code, if all of the client school districts of an ESC terminate their agreements the governing board is abolished and the ESC is dissolved by order of the superintendent of public instruction.

## GENERAL ESC INFORMATION:

- Ohio's ESCs employed 16,102 full- and part-time individuals in the 2013-2014 academic year (approx. 9,512 are full-time employees). This is an average of 328 employees per ESC – 77% of these employees are in the districts, building and classrooms of client districts every day.
- 6,153 ESC personnel are certified staff; 5,511 are classified staff; 725 are contract staff.
- In the 2013-2014 school year, Ohio's ESCs provided direct services to 115,511 students - many of whom are at-risk students. Other ESC programs and services also impact over 1.865 million students.
- During the 2013-2014 school year ESCs hosted 8,666 different professional development activities attended by 183,627 total attendees.
- ESCs served 614 public schools, 107 charter schools, and 166 nonpublic schools.
- Out of 614 public school districts, 607 (98.85%) are required to align to ESCs under 3313.843 of the Ohio Revised Code. Three larger, urban districts (Cincinnati, Columbus, Southwestern City), with over 99,000 students, voluntarily aligned to their respective ESCs.
- ESCs serve school districts as small as 30 students and as large as 50,870 students.
- ESC staff are high quality educators; 65% of ESC staff have masters degrees or higher levels of educational attainment. The average staff person has 14 years of experience serving students and schools.



## ESCs AS A DEPLOYMENT ARM OF THE STATE:

- 510 ESC personnel have been trained in the Ohio Improvement Process (OIP) to provide a network of school improvement services for school districts and charter schools.
- 16 ESCs hold contracts to serve as State Support Teams (SSTs) and intervene with the lowest performing school districts and charter schools and ensure universal access to special education-related support services. The 16 ESC-led SSTs serve 223 districts and 84 Community Schools in Differentiated Accountability and 548 Improvement Schools, 46 Alert Schools, 232 Focus Schools & 157 Priority Schools under Ohio's ESEA Waiver.
- Over 100 ESC personnel have been trained to support all school districts and community schools in implementation of the Common Core standards, Student Growth Measures (SGMs) and Student Learning Objectives (SLOs).
- More than 185 ESC and SST personnel have been certified as Ohio Leadership Advisory Council (OLAC) trainers.
- ESCs support state work through contracts with the Department of Education around the Resident Educator program, OTES, OPES, eTPES, and Race-to-the-Top among other initiatives.

### SST Regions & ESC Fiscal Agents

Region 1: ESC of Lake Erie West	Region 2: Lorain Co. ESC
Region 3: ESC of Cuyahoga County	Region 4: Lake Co. ESC
Region 5: Mahoning Co. ESC	Region 6: Auglaize Co. ESC
Region 7: North Central Ohio ESC	Region 8: Summit Co. ESC
Region 9: Stark County ESC	Region 10: Montgomery County ESC
Region 11: ESC of Central Ohio	Region 12: Muskingum Valley ESC
Region 13: Hamilton Co. ESC	Region 14: Southern Ohio ESC
Region 15: Ross-Pike ESC	Region 16: Athens-Meigs ESC



## ESC ROLE IN STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT:

- ESCs play a significant role in student achievement particularly in the area of serving students with disabilities.
- Students with disabilities are typically served by a team of educators including a multi-district ESC teacher, supported by ESC classroom aides and ESC related service personnel. These ESC staff members prepare curriculum, provide direct instruction and therapy, implement and monitor the progress of individual education program (IEP) goals, and administer state assessments such as Ohio Achievement Tests or Alternate Assessments for each of their assigned students.
- The ESC teacher is held accountable for the achievement for each special needs student they serve through progress attained on the student's IEP, results of alternate assessment or achievement tests, Highly Qualified Teacher status and performance ratings under the Ohio Teacher Evaluation System (OTES). The assessment results and HQT status are presently included in the local district report card data and the ESC teacher evaluation ratings are a part of the data in the new eTPES system.

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As geographically distributed assets across the state that serve schools in their respective areas, ESCs are uniquely positioned to advance education and economic competitiveness. ESCs have a unique understanding of the strengths and needs of Ohio's K-12 system and can use these insights to positively impact and improve Innovation Economy instruction and student achievement outcomes.

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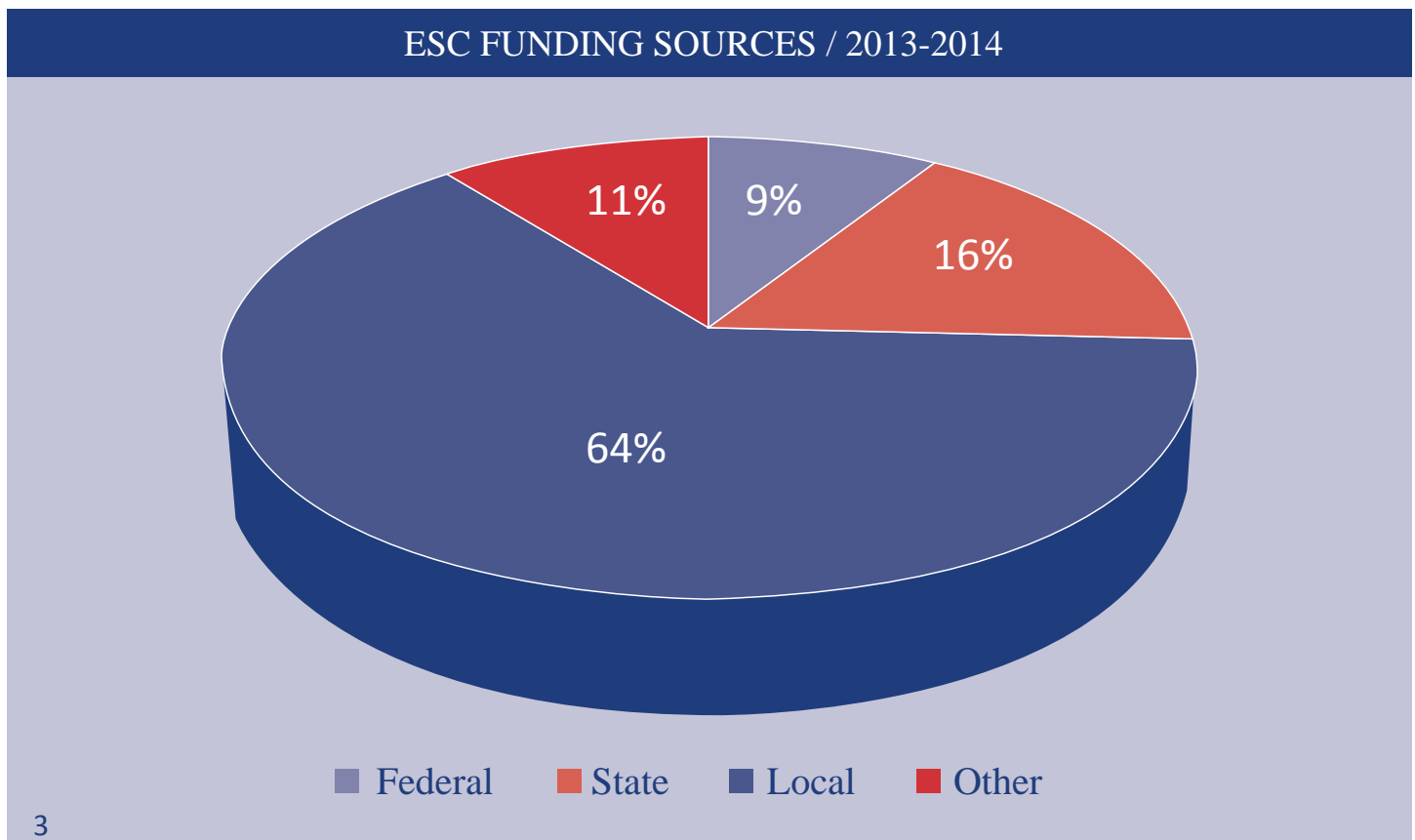
- *Inclusive Competitiveness: Empowering Underrepresented Ohioans to Compete in the Innovation Economy*, Ohio Board of Regents, October 10, 2014

- ESCs also support student achievement through alternative education programming, which provides a structured opportunity for students who are unable to adjust to programs in regular classrooms. The goal is to provide each student with a safe learning environment that enhances self-esteem and strengthens academic and social skills. In these programs, the ESC and its staff are directly responsible for the direct instruction provided, providing support to students as they earn the necessary credits toward earning high school diploma or GED, parent engagement, and the necessary social and behavioral interventions provided. Over half of the ESCs in Ohio operate drop-out recovery programs for at-risk youth and 85% of ESCs in Ohio offer alternative school options, and nearly 1/3 of the ESCs provide instructional services to youth in residential day treatment centers across the state. The ESC teacher in each of these settings is accountable for the academic achievement of these students and their results are included as part of the local district’s graduation rate data.
- Student achievement results are included in resident district report card data and could be directly connected through the Education Management Information System (EMIS).
- Other programs in which ESCs are directly responsible and accountable for student achievement include specialized contracted and related services, attendance services, substitute staffing services, and professional development of teachers and principals.

**ESC FINANCES & ECONOMIC IMPACT:**

ESC funding comes primarily from the following sources: 1) a state operating subsidy, which is approximately \$26.54 per student in FY 2015; 2) a \$6.50 per student mandatory local contribution from their client school district; 3) state grants; 4) federal grants; and 5) fee-for-service contracts with local, client school districts. The majority of ESC funding (63%) comes from client school districts.

- ESC funding comes from a variety of sources: Local (64%), State (16%), Federal (9%), Other (11%).
- In 2013-2014, ESCs provided nearly \$1.2 billion in support services to Ohio Schools and other local government agencies.
- ESCs paid nearly \$15 Million into state and local economies through payroll taxes.



### ESC PROGRAMS & SERVICES:

Ohio's ESCs provide a broad array of programs and services to the students and employees of Ohio's public, charter and private schools as well as County Boards of Developmental Disabilities and other local political subdivisions.

ESC services are customized according to the needs of their client districts. However, there is some continuity between and among Ohio's largest regional education service providers. The following are a list of services that nearly every ESC provides.\*

- Preschool Special Education
- Special Education Supervision
- Special Education – Speech Services
- Special Education School Psychology Services
- Gifted Coordination
- Curriculum & Instruction Consulting
- Professional Development – School Improvement
- PD - Standards
- PD – Curriculum and Assessments
- Criminal Background Checks & Fingerprinting

\*More than 95% of ESCs provide the services outlined above.

### STUDENT PROGRAMS:

- 91% (45) provide gifted coordination services
- 87% (43) of ESCs provide online student courses
- 87% (43) operate gifted and talented programs
- 84% (41) operate public preschools
- 78% (38) operate Alternative Schools
- 59% (29) provide summer enrichment programs
- 51% (25) run dropout recovery programs for at-risk youth
- 49% (24) provide services to ELL/LEP students
- 43% (21) coordinate Dual Credit programs in partnership with districts, higher education and the state
- 39% (19) operate and support Safe and Drug Free School programs
- 37% (18) provide after school programs
- 27% (13) provide educational programming to youth in residential day treatment centers
- 27% (13) provided vocational education services
- 22% (11) operate Head Start programs

On average, Ohio's rural ESCs provide a higher percentage of direct student services than their suburban or urban counterparts. Below are the ESCs that provide the highest percentage of direct student services for the 2013-2014 school year (*as a percentage of the overall student population*).

- Tri-County ESC
- Pickaway County ESC
- ESC of Lake Erie West
- South Central Ohio ESC
- Licking County ESC
- Northwest Ohio ESC
- Columbiana County ESC
- Putnam County ESC
- Hancock County ESC
- Western Buckeye ESC

### HIGH QUALITY PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT:

- 98% (48) provide professional development in Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment
- 96% (47) provide training and other services related to the Ohio Improvement Process (OIP)
- 94% (46) provide ongoing support on standards and standards implementation
- 92% (45) provide school improvement related professional development

- 90% (44) conducted leadership development seminars and services
- 84% (41) of ESCs provided professional development services in the area of 21st Century Skills
- 84% (41) provide professional development on the effective use of instructional technology
- 67% (33) coordinate professional learning communities

During the 2013-2014 school year ESCs hosted **8,666** different professional development activities attended by **183,627** total attendees. Outlined below are the top 10 providers of professional development last year (total number of attendees at PD events).

- |                          |                      |
|--------------------------|----------------------|
| • ESC of Cuyahoga County | • Northwest Ohio ESC |
| • ESC of Central Ohio    | • Mid-Ohio ESC       |
| • South Central Ohio ESC | • Athens-Meigs ESC   |
| • Stark County ESC       | • Southern Ohio ESC  |
| • ESC of Lake Erie West  | • Lorain County ESC  |

### JUVENILE JUSTICE & AT-RISK YOUTH:

- 86% (42) employ attendance officers for Ohio school districts; those 42 employ 79.5 FTE attendance officers
- 48% (26) provide IEP development and support services to incarcerated youth
- 49% (24) provide educational programs and support services to DYS facilities and regional or county detention centers
- 45% (22) provide juvenile court liaisons; those 18 employ 25.5 FTE juvenile court liaisons
- 39% (19) provide transition support services to juvenile offenders upon re-entry into the school district setting

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The 15 (ESC) partnerships have engaged at least 794 teachers in the TeachOhio Program which exceeds the Program’s initial statewide goal of including a minimum of 675 teachers in the program.

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- Annual Evaluation of TeachOhio Program: How Can We Best Staff High Needs Districts in Ohio?

### IMPLEMENTATION OF FEDERAL AND STATE REGULATIONS:

- 96% (47) conducted FBI and BCI Background Checks
- 92% (45) assist districts and the state with teacher licensure
- 90% (44) employ attendance officers for Ohio school districts
- 88% (43) provide Child Abuse Awareness and Prevention Training
- 78% (38) oversee homeschooling in their respective regions
- 71% (35) of ESCs provide Bus Driver Certification and Physicals
- 53% (26) provided EMIS coordination and support services
- 14% (7) operate the state’s 7 school bus driver training programs



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ESCs offered teacher participants a range of support, including advisement, professional development, transcript evaluation, reimbursement for books, tuition, and Praxis assessment fees.

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- Annual Evaluation of TeachOhio Program: How Can We Best Staff High Needs Districts in Ohio?

### **SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES:**

- 98% (48) provide school psychology services
- 98% (48) provide speech-language pathology services
- 96% (47) operate preschool special education programs
- 90% (44) employ occupational therapists and 84% (41) physical therapists
- 96% (47) provide special education supervisory services to assist districts in meeting federal and state FAPE requirements
- 84% (41) of Ohio’s ESCs operate classroom cooperatives for students with emotional disabilities
- 84% (41) operate classroom cooperatives for students with multiple disabilities
- 80% (39) run programs and services for students with autism spectrum disorders
- 75% (37) employ transition coordinators to provide transition support services
- 67% (33) provide early intervention services for students with disabilities
- 63% (31) employ Parent Mentors
- 63% (31) provide services to the visually impaired
- 57% (28) provide audiology services

### **COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS:**

- 100% (53) are members of Regional Advisory Councils (RACs) of the Educational Regional Service System (ERSS)
- 98% (48) are members of Family and Children First Councils – many are fiscal agents and chairs of the Family and Children First Councils
- 78% (38) coordinate and/or support family and civic engagement teams and related training
- 71% (35) operate and chair Business Advisory Councils
- 63% (31) actively participate in Workforce Development Boards
- 63% (31) are involved in Community Foundations
- 55% (27) of ESCs are members of and participate in Regional P-16 Councils

### **COOPERATIVE ENDEAVORS:**

- 82% (40) seek, write and administer grants on behalf of school districts
- 80% (39) provide meeting space for school districts and local government partners
- 74% (36) provide general administrative staff and back office support to schools
- 65% (32) provide human resource services and support to schools
- 55% (27) provide technology end-user support services
- 53% (26) of ESCs employ shared administrators on behalf of school districts
- 53% (26) administer state grants and federal title programs on behalf of school districts
- 43% (21) operate insurance consortia on behalf of school districts and other local government partners
- 43% (21) provide cooperative transportation services
- 43% (21) operate cooperative purchasing consortia
- 25% (12) provide communications services to school districts

### ESCs AND THE STRAIGHT A FUND:

In 2014, a total of 662 separate organizations, including 446 public school districts, requested more than \$761 million in the second round of the Straight A Fund grant award process. The applicant pool included 73 percent of Ohio school districts.

ESC	Total Students Impacted	Amount Awarded	Estimated Savings
Butler County ESC	192.00	\$ 718,147.00	\$ 200,000.00
Columbiana County ESC	7,018.00	\$ 975,250.00	\$ 2,254,597.00
ESC of Central Ohio	3,300.00	\$ 13,523,301.00	\$ 50,906,716.00
ESC of Central Ohio	99,497.00	\$ 8,878,249.38	\$ 42,900,000.00
Fairfield County ESC	25,018.00	\$ 8,312,431.00	\$ 8,601,298.00
Fairfield County ESC	27,556.00	\$ 7,771,873.00	\$ 47,389,510.00
Fairfield County ESC	4,380.00	\$ 1,082,437.05	\$ 47,594,043.00
Geauga County ESC	5,958.00	\$ 5,957,360.00	\$ 2,208,635.00
Hamilton County ESC	5,625.00	\$ 7,728,192.00	\$ 787,500.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>178,544.00</b>	<b>\$ 54,947,240.43</b>	<b>\$ 202,842,299.00</b>

Source: Ohio Department of Education

Ultimately, the Straight A Fund Governing Board awarded \$140 million+ to 37 projects. Nine projects from 6 ESCs were awarded nearly 40% of this fund – over \$54.9 million.

### SHARED SERVICES:

ESCs are actively engaged in shared services. Governor Kasich’s 2012 “Beyond Boundaries” report revealed that 97% of districts, 95% of CTE/JVSD, 58% of community schools, 76% of ITCs, and 51% of County Boards of Developmental Disabilities rely on ESC services. In 2013-2014, ESCs:

- Purchased \$6,834,128 through shared service arrangements;
- Generated \$245,056,342 in shared services revenue; and
- Accomplished \$20,621,760 in estimated savings for client districts.

### ESC RETURN ON INVESTMENT:

Ohio’s ESCs offer a tremendous return on investment (ROI) – for school districts and the state of Ohio. In FY 2011 (the last year which data was available), for every \$1 invested by the state in the ESC operating subsidy (ALI 200-550), ESCs identified, secured and leveraged an additional \$3.72 in local, state and federal grants for client school districts.

This does not even include the impact of shared services savings that, when added, take the average per pupil return on investment over \$5.00 for every \$1 dollar invested.

ESC Return on Investment	
Funded ADM (enrolled students)	1,340,11.77
State Operating Subsidy (\$34.70/student)	\$46,500,000.00
Local Grants For every \$1 of Subsidy	\$64,587,389.24 \$1.39
State Grants For every \$1 of Subsidy	\$20,953,371.48 \$0.45
Federal Grants For every \$1 of Subsidy	\$87,490,371.80 \$1.88
Additional Amount Leveraged for Each \$ of State Operating Subsidy	\$3.72
Source: ODE FY 2011 ESC Expenditure Data	

The Gallia-Vinton ESC, in southeastern Ohio is a leading example of how an ESC can maximize resources (state, local and federal) on behalf of its client school districts. This is particularly true for smaller, rural school districts that may be more reliant on ESC services. But, it is also true for larger districts that recognize the value of the economies of scale available through the use of ESC services. Today, Cincinnati, Columbus and Southwestern City School Districts have all voluntarily aligned to their respective ESCs.



A closer examination of the Gallia-Vinton ESC shows that for every \$1 in local funding (\$6.50 deduct) and every \$1 in state funding (per pupil subsidy) combined the ESC provides \$10.78 of grant funded services and shared services savings.

How and why does this work? Because historic funding models serve as a catalyst for shared services. The historic funding model utilizes a state/local partnership approach including the state subsidy and local contributions via supervisory services units and the \$6.50 deduct. This is true for both small districts and larger districts alike. Districts have the flexibility to purchase the programs and services they need based on local needs and priorities (*see chart below*).

The state of Ohio should continue to support these types of shared services funding and service delivery models that maximize resources, drive efficiencies, and provide high quality programs and services to school districts and other local political subdivisions.

Annual Budget of School District	School Medicaid	Pre-K	Curriculum Development	Teacher Coaching	Server	Data Recovery	Other Tech	Pooled Health Care	Natural Gas	Gasoline	Maintenance	Equipment	Salt Purchasing	Vehicle Purchase	Vehicle Routing	Facility Maintenance	Grounds
0 - 9,999,999	49%	67%	71%	57%	79%	63%	32%	71%	38%	10%	28%	13%	9%	23%	4%	2%	4%
10,000,000 – 49,999,999	48%	65%	64%	50%	81%	66%	32%	61%	55%	27%	41%	23%	29%	35%	10%	9%	12%
50,000,000+	34%	42%	39%	32%	62%	45%	20%	32%	72%	44%	55%	37%	51%	55%	18%	8%	15%
	<b>Education Services:</b> Small districts more likely to participate					<b>Data Services and Health Care:</b> Small districts more likely to participate				<b>Purchasing/Vehicles/Facilities:</b> Large districts more likely to participate in shared services							

**Ohio’s ESCs ensure equitable access to high quality educational programs and services to improve educational outcomes for all kids in all zip codes regardless of where they live and attend school.**

Without question, Ohio’s 53 ESCs have a tremendous level of knowledge, expertise and capacity to assist the state of Ohio and school districts in the implementation and long-term sustainability of education reform efforts and to achieve improved outcomes for all kids regardless of where they live and attend school.

The success of these efforts is accomplished through the state support of the Ohio General Assembly, Office of the Governor, the Ohio Department of Education and the local support and collaborative relationships with the client districts with whom ESCs work every day.

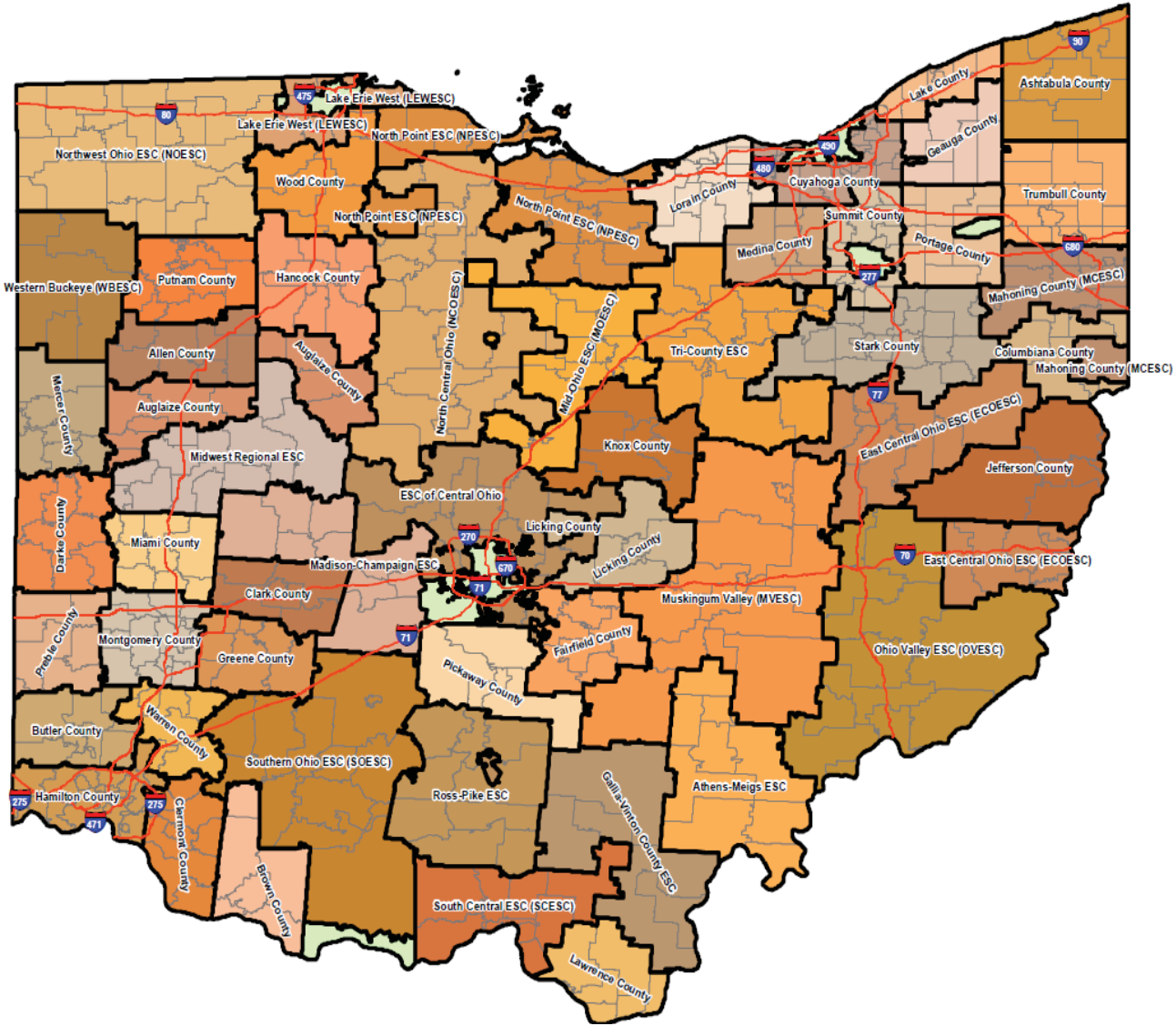
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Questions about the OESCA member survey can be directed to [info@oesca.org](mailto:info@oesca.org).

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# MAP OF OHIO ESCs

By Client School District  
Updated November 2014





## ABOUT OESCA

The Ohio Educational Service Center Association (OESCA) represents the superintendents, teachers, supervisors and other personnel of Ohio's Educational Service Centers and seeks to promote excellence in education through the quality services provided by its member organizations.

OESCA provides legislative updates, coordinates member lobbying efforts and organizes communications among its member organizations. OESCA also provides professional development opportunities for service center administrators and personnel through issue-related seminars and major conferences.

## OESCA VISION

OESCA will be recognized at state and national levels for educational leadership and superior member services.

## OESCA MISSION

OESCA and its members provide leadership and services that enable school districts to increase student achievement and improve Ohio's educational system.

To learn more about OESCA and Ohio's ESCs follow us:



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### Ohio ESC Association

8050 North High Street, Suite 150 | Columbus, Ohio 43235  
(614) 846-3855 (Phone) | (614) 846-4081 (Fax) | [info@oesca.org](mailto:info@oesca.org)

*<sup>49</sup> of 53 ESCs responded to the 2014 survey. Data is not included for Knox, Portage, North Central, and Lawrence County ESCs.*

*\* 2014 Marked the 100 Year Anniversary of Ohio's ESCs.*



OESCA

OHIO EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CENTER ASSOCIATION

OHIO'S VITAL LEARNING LINK SINCE 1914

8050 North High Street, ★ Suite 150  
Columbus, Ohio 43235