



Miami County Educational Service Center

Board of Education Office

Superintendent, David Larson

Treasurer, Cindy A. Hale

March 25, 2020

The Miami County Educational Service Center continues to collaborate with our district partners to deliver services to the students in our communities. We are grateful for the many resources that have been made available by the generous organizations in Ohio. We have worked closely with the Miami County Health Department to share best practices and updates with our districts on a regular basis through weekly video-conference meetings. The Miami County ESC partnered with the Miami County EMA to ensure the community was aware of student meal opportunities in each of our districts. We are extremely appreciative of these partnerships and the wonderful school districts we get to serve. Our goal through this process is to continue to help our districts serve the 15,000 students of Miami County to the best of our abilities, while focusing on our vision, “Meeting the unique needs of every student, every educator, every day”.

Below are some examples of the services we are providing during this trying time:

Our special education supervisors, preschool supervisor, and related service supervisors are meeting regularly with staff through the video conferencing tool Zoom (provided at a discounted rate through the support of META) to plan ongoing instruction and identify needs for professional development in the area of distance instruction. We are working to meet student needs by mailing packets of information to the homes of our students and through online resources and support. Most importantly, our staff members are identifying ways to connect directly with students and families to check on their overall well-being. Recently a teacher provided the following statement, *“While calling students today, I was able to speak with one of them and you could hear the excitement in his voice and we were able to joke around with each other like we do in school!! His mom said that made his day. Well mom, that made my day too!!”* Our focus is on how we can best continue to provide support to the whole child.

Our related services teams have developed resources that are available online and also through the mail to support parents working with their children in the various therapies they receive. Our SLP department developed Live Binders with three weeks of language resources for students to practice with parents. Our Social, Behavioral, and Academic Support Services have weekly activities for students to practice strengthening social emotional skills.

The curriculum department is focusing on developing professional development opportunities for all staff members during this time. We continue to work with our professional development collaborative, WOSC (Western Ohio Services Collaborative) to provide free learning opportunities to staff through online forums. This partnership between Miami County ESC, Montgomery County ESC, Darke County ESC, Preble County ESC, Greene County ESC, and Warren County ESC will allow teachers, teaching assistants, and other personnel to continue their professional growth during this uncertain time.

2000 West Stanfield Road • Troy, Ohio 45373-2987 • Phone: 937-339-5100 • Fax: 937-339-3256

The Miami County ESC technology director is working tirelessly to make sure staff have the resources to work remotely for the foreseeable future. Even though we are a smaller ESC, meeting the needs of 350 employees is quite an undertaking for any person, but he has taken on the challenge in a remarkable fashion.

The treasurer's office is ensuring that the business of the ESC continues despite limited access to the office and resources. Through constant communication their team is working to meet the needs of our staff and our business partners.

We continue to have regular video conference calls with our partner superintendents to share best practices, develop collaborative solutions, and support one another. Miami County is blessed to have great schools with amazing leaders. I am confident that our schools will continue to do the very best they can for all of our students.

For more information about the services at the Miami County ESC, do not hesitate to contact David Larson, superintendent at (937)570-0197 or david.larson@mcapps.org.