



[Summit Educational Service Center \(SESC\)](#) serves 14 affiliated districts in Summit and Portage Counties and dozens of other districts and private schools throughout Northeast and North Central Ohio. Last year, [Summit ESC](#) provided at least one service to 125 districts and/or private schools. We continue to provide top-quality service in ongoing learning, operations, professional development and more during the coronavirus pandemic. The following summary provides examples of how [SESC](#) has continued to support students, families, and partner districts and schools during this unprecedented time.

[Department of Curriculum & Instruction](#)

- [Zoom Curriculum Meetings](#) - We provide updates, networking, and decision-making. The first meeting had more than 40 attendees from four counties that included educational consultants, instructional coaches, curriculum directors, assistant superintendents, and superintendents. We are discussing ideas, plans, and decisions that will shape districts for the remainder of this school year and beyond.
- [COVID-19 Pandemic Google Site](#) - This site houses daily updates from ODE, ODH, CDC and County Health Departments. Viewers also receive curriculum resources for each content area related to virtual classroom transitions. They get regular updates related to state, Advance Placement, ACT and SAT testing. We provided a list of free software and video trainings so districts could decide how best to meet the needs of their students.
- [OTES/OPES evaluations](#) - Evaluations are being completed for districts with whom we have contracts, conducting summative conferences virtually with Zoom and Google Meet in order to meet the May 1 deadline. Further, we are working virtually with the same platforms to complete auxiliary school evaluations and resident educator work with teacher who are still in their formative years. We continue to work virtually with more than 20 school districts in Ohio that are part of an ODE Mathematics pilot.
- [OTES 2.0](#) - We have created two *free* professional development opportunities for teachers and administrators. These trainings familiarize participants with the new system, stimulate reflections and growth, address leadership mindsets, and collect data on specific strengths and growth opportunities of area educators. Our trained OTES 2.0 trainers are prepared to deliver OTES 2.0 Bridge Training via Zoom, effective immediately.

[Student Services Department](#)

- [Preschool and Beyond](#)- Our administrative team spent March 13, 2020 strategizing how we would continue service delivery for 500+ preschool students that comprise our preschool consortium and 35 (K-12) students who attend our Autism Program, Kids First. Parents and districts were notified that students would continue to receive instruction from our Intervention Specialists and Related Service Providers thru individualized weekly lesson plans designed to target IEP goals and objectives, beginning immediately on March 16, 2020. Direct instruction is offered multiple times per week thru online vehicles for learning; Google Classrooms & Hangouts, Zoom and ClassTag. In addition, all Intervention Specialists and Related Services

Providers uphold daily “office hours” designated to fielding and responding to questions from parents AND engaging in necessary dialogue to assess progress along specific IEP goals and objectives.

- [Remote Learning Access](#)- Student Services has worked diligently to ensure that all families have access to the resources necessary to engage in remote learning. We connected several families with the Summit County Community Grant program that provides hot spots and laptops to families with a household income of under \$58,000. We are providing print materials for families without internet/computer access.

State Support Team – Region 8

- [SST-8 Tiered Model](#) – We aim to provide the most intensive and job-embedded supports to LEAs with identified needs (e.g., differentiated accountability, selective review through OEC, etc.) We are in close contact with our LEAs with Service Delivery Agreements, providing as much support as possible and answering any questions that we can. However, we are mindful of the new realities that districts now face and are helping districts conduct previously required compliance/monitoring activities only to the extent that they are able to address them at the present time. In some districts, we are providing professional learning for district/building personnel aligned to LEAs’ continuous improvement plans; in other places, professional learning is paused as districts recalibrate for remote instruction and SST personnel are using this time to develop new forms of support to meet emerging needs.
- [SST8 YouTube Channel/Zoom Video](#) conferences, including webinars on evidence-based instructional strategies, adolescent vocabulary development, early childhood teaching and learning, Ohio Longitudinal Transition Survey/Indicator 14, and more. New virtual offerings will be advertised through our [online Event Calendar](#) and through e-blast communications.
- [SST8 Insight](#) – Our department is regularly sharing out any new federal and state guidance documents, as well as insights from professional associations and local law firms. We continue to be available by email, phone, and video conference to answer questions that arise regarding new pieces of guidance and are convening a virtual meeting of our region’s special education leaders to share themes of federal/state guidance, strategies for differentiation and accommodation within e-learning, assistive technology tools, and local examples of how districts can provide accessible instruction for diverse learners in this new online environment. We anticipate these virtual “Special Education Connect” sessions will be a recurring form of support in the weeks and months to come.

Technology

- [Virtual Training](#) - Zoom, Google Meet, and other Google products plus written resources are being provided for staff members. The technology department provided laptops, established VPNs, set-up home-based systems, secured webcams, and made sure staff had access to all necessary cloud-based and office-hosted resources. We are keeping in contact with the school districts we serve, school districts and ITCs across the state, as well as technology companies and vendors in order to update the tools, policies and practices being put to use to serve our districts, our staff, our students and their families. More than 100 districts continue to utilize our on-line Local Professional Development Committee (LPDC) process to maintain, renew, and upgrade their licensure.

Administration/Human Resources

- *Continuous Planning*- The administrative office is embracing the challenges we are facing at this time and adapting our communication process with the districts. Our office has been in ongoing contact with districts and is adapting the process so we are able to meet the districts' needs. This time of year, our office is in the prep mode for the upcoming school year and meeting with district administrators to help them plan for services specific to their district. We have created a personalized presentation to be sent to district administrators outlining the services available to them, along with the fiscal breakdown of current services provided and how that would look for the upcoming school year. We are in the process of generating a message to our member districts, and their boards, to thank them for their commitment to our ESC and how we provided services to them in the current school year. The message will include how we have tailored our services to meet their district needs during this time.

Our entire [SESC](#) staff remains professional and proactive partners committed to serving children and educators in our region and throughout Ohio.

SummitESC.org