



PCESC Update

Jan/Feb 2009

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Inside This Issue

1-2 Random Thoughts by Ty Ankrom

3 PCESC Profile: Jessica Mohler

4 State Budget Cuts

4 Jan. 30 Staff Meeting Update

5 Intent Forms Due

5 Odds 'n Ends

RANDOM THOUGHTS by Ty Ankrom

ESCs loom large on Ohio's educational landscape

Ohio's Educational Service Centers play a significant role in Ohio's K-12 educational system, serving as powerful support tools for our associated school districts.

In fact, the Ohio Educational Service Center Association recently completed a survey of its 57 member ESCs, and found how important a role these organizations are playing in their respective regions.

Quick Facts (2007-08 school year):

- ESCs are defined in state law as school districts.
- Ohio's ESCs employ more than 13,000 people (8,300 were full-time employees).
- Ninety (90) percent of ESC personnel are in the buildings and districts every day providing services to students, teachers and other district personnel.
- In 2007, ESCs paid \$18.5 million into state and local economies through payroll taxes.
- ESCs hosted 10,475 different professional development activities attended by 242,853 people.

The following are a sampling of services in specific categories that **PCESC** and other ESCs are providing:

Special Education Services

- 93 percent operate preschool special education programs.
- 81 percent employ occupational and physical therapists.
- 91 percent provide school psychology services (*See Jessica Mohler profile on Page 3*).
- 75 percent operate classroom cooperatives for students with emotional disabilities. (*PCESC Summer Program*)
- 77 percent operate classroom cooperatives for students with multiple disabilities. (*PCESC Summer Program*)
- 70 percent run programs and services for students with autism spectrum disorders. (*PCESC Summer Program*)

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Student Programs

- 72 percent operate public preschools.
- 88 percent operate Alternative Schools.

Cooperative Endeavors

- 91 percent employ teachers, administrators and paraprofessionals in cooperation with school districts.

High Quality Professional Development

- 58 percent provide professional development services in the area of 21st Century Skills.
- 88 percent conduct leadership development seminars and services.
- 95 percent provide school improvement-related professional development.
- 95 percent provide professional development in Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment.

Implementation of Federal and State Regulations

- 93 percent provide Bus Driver Certification and Physicals.
- 12 percent operate the state's seven school bus driver training programs.
- 95 percent assist school districts and the state with teacher licensure.
- 96 percent conducted FBI and BCI background checks.
- 95 percent oversee homeschooling in their respective regions.
- 79 percent provide school attendance officers and related services.
- 93 percent provide Child Abuse Awareness and Prevention training.

Community Partnerships

- 93 percent are members of Family and Children First Councils – *many are fiscal agents and chairs of the Family and Children First Councils.*
- 56 percent actively participate in Workforce Development Boards.
- 100 percent are members of Regional Advisory Councils (RACs) of the Educational Regional Service System (ERSS).

Ankrom is superintendent of PCEESC





January Birthdays

6 – Nancy Kennelly

19 – Lindsey Scott-Robbins

24 – Tom Greer

31 – Angie Overholt

February Birthdays

2 – Brenda McMahon

9 – Terressa Reep

11 – Joy Brooks

16 – Lydia Ritinger

21 – Mike Hoffner

23 – Jeff Phillips

PCESC Profile

Jessica Mohler

Editor's Note: This feature is to share information about the talented, dedicated people who are part of the ESC team.



Job Title: School Psychologist

Years of Service with Pickaway County ESC: First year

Degree(s)/College(s)/Year(s): BA, Psychology/Ohio University 2001; MS, School Psychology/University of Dayton 2006; Ed.S, School Psychology/University of Dayton 2008

Family Information: Single, no children. I am an only child, but have a large extended family that is very close.

Interests/Hobbies: I don't have any formal hobbies, but do enjoy reading, shopping, and cooking, as well as spending time with family and friends.

A little known fact about me: I graduated high school a year early, on my 17th birthday.

Describe your job (100 words or less): My job is very diverse and includes tasks primarily related to assessment and intervention for students.

(Finish this sentence): *My job is rewarding because ...* I am able to work as part of a team with wonderful individuals with differing backgrounds and expertise, who come together with the shared goal of improving the lives of students.

(Finish this sentence): *I get the most satisfaction from ...* problem-solving with students, teachers, and parents to identify student strengths, and develop effective intervention plans to increase the opportunities for educational success.

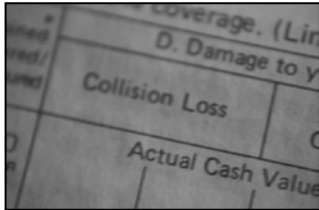
My advice to young people: Enjoy being a kid!

State Budget Cuts

Due to Ohio's financial crisis, Gov. Ted Strickland recently announced a third round of drastic budget reductions. The Ohio Department of Education was charged with cutting \$30.4 million from its budget. With the exception of a couple of grants, Ohio's ESCs escaped this round of cuts.



Jan. 30 staff meeting to review new Ohio Medicaid School Program



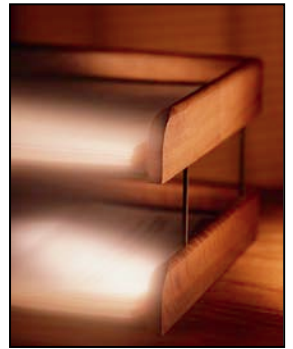
The new Ohio Medicaid School Program (the CAFS replacement program) began on January 1, 2009. At this time, the "owner" of the IEP (the district of student residence) is able to access eligible reimbursement dollars. ESCs cannot be the district of residence for any student and, therefore, are not able to access Medicaid reimbursement. ESCs, however, will play in an important role in maximizing Federal Medicaid reimbursement for Ohio's school districts.

The new rules permit reimbursement for psychology, speech, OT, PT, nursing, counseling, social work, and targeted case management services provided to eligible students. Claims back to July 1, 2005 will be reimbursable. Thanks for continuing to track and file paperwork. Continue completing paperwork through January.

Our January 30 staff meeting will be directed toward those providers listed in the above paragraph and special education directors/coordinators. A representative from Healthcare Billing Services, Inc. will be present to train our staff on the new reporting requirements. The meeting will begin at 1 p.m.

Intent Forms Due

To assist in planning for the 2009-10 school year, return or e-mail to Superintendent Ty Ankrom your intention. Choose from one (*or more, if appropriate*) of the following:



I plan to return for the 2009-10 school year.

I do not plan to return for the 2009-10 school year.

I plan to retire at the end of the 2008-09 school year.

I would like to meet with the superintendent to discuss my assignment for next year.



Odds 'n Ends

Get Well Soon, Patti!

We continue to wish a speedy recovery for Patti Webb, who was in a car accident earlier this month, and suffered two broken ribs and a broken pelvis. She was released from hospital on Jan. 12 and is back home.

Christmas Party Wrap Up

We hope you were able to attend the staff Christmas party. Good food and good fun made for an enjoyable event. Our sincere thanks to **Jen Sorrell** for hosting the holiday get-together.

Make the PCESC Update Better: Be a Stringer

Our newsletter is only as strong as its content, so if you have a feature idea or want to contribute an item, please contact Editor Jeff Phillips at: jeff.phillips@pickawayross.com, or call him at 740.642.1301 or 740.474.3331, Ext. 6421301.