Here's what I think …

By Ty Ankrom
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The Pickaway County Educational Service Center's mission statement says so clearly what we do here: provide high quality services to schools and families and facilitate the collaboration of quality services among the community agencies that serve children.

Among the most important words in that statement is *collaboration*.
So much of what we do at the ESC is focused on partnerships with schools, educators and other agencies.

For example, the ESC will be the home for a new Pickaway-Ross Career & Technology satellite program.

Starting in the fall, Pickaway-Ross will offer a Veterinary Technology program for juniors at Circleville, Logan Elm and Westfall high schools. The program will take place in our annex on Stoneridge Drive and students will attend their home schools for their academic classes.

A partnership that serves a wide audience is the Family and Children First Council. The council works to coordinate assistance for families dealing with county agencies, among them Job and Family Services, PICCA, Pickaway County Juvenile Court, the Literacy Council, Pickaway H.E.L.P.S, as well as the schools, library and health department.

Pickaway H.E.L.P.S works to provide education beyond high school by working with Pickaway County students to explore career opportunities and assisting them with pursuing college or a career-training program. This agency gets an assist from the ESC by providing office space for Executive Director Christy Mills and employee Joanna Shipe.

Through the Ohio Center for Substitute Teachers, which operates out of the ESC, substitutes are able to take seminars to help them enhance their classroom-management skills. The ESC is also the provider of school bus driver safety classes for Pickaway and 10 surrounding counties.

Through these services and so many others, the ESC works every day to ensure that collaborating with our partners in the county is our priority.

Ty Ankrom is the superintendent of the Pickaway County Educational Service Center.