

## Quality Service on a Personal Level

# ESC

# SCOOP

March 2024 • A newsletter from the Fairfield County Educational Service Center

## Message from Marie



### EMBRACING RESPONSIBLE AI IN EDUCATION: INTRODUCING THE AI TOOLKIT

In our ever-evolving world, the integration of artificial intelligence (AI) into our daily lives, including within our schools, is becoming increasingly prevalent. As we embrace this growing reality, it is essential that we do so responsibly, ensuring that AI serves to enhance education while also upholding ethical standards and safeguarding student privacy.

I am delighted to share with you a resource that can aid us in this endeavor, the AI Toolkit. Developed in partnership with The AI Education Project (aiEDU) and spearheaded by Ohio's Lt. Governor Jon Husted, Director of InnovateOhio, this toolkit equips educators, policymakers, and parents with the tools and knowledge needed to navigate the complexities of AI in education. As we delve into the realm of AI in our schools, it is crucial that we do so with a thoughtful and responsible approach. The AI Toolkit not only provides resources for enhancing AI literacy but also emphasizes the importance of exploring AI responsibly. By promoting student privacy, data security, ethics, and other essential considerations, the toolkit ensures that AI integration in our educational institutions is conducted with care and mindfulness.

AI has the potential to revolutionize education, offering personalized learning experiences, improved administrative efficiency, and innovative teaching methods. However, to harness its full potential, we must approach AI with both enthusiasm and caution, mindful of its impact on students, educators, and the broader community.

I urge all members of our educational community to explore the AI Toolkit and leverage its resources to enrich teaching and learning experiences while promoting responsible AI usage. Together, let us embrace the opportunities that AI presents while ensuring that it serves the best interests of our students and society as a whole.

To access the AI Toolkit and embark on this journey towards responsible AI integration in education, please visit <https://innovateohio.gov/aitoolkit/ai-toolkit>.

Thank you for your dedication to excellence in education and your commitment to exploring AI responsibly.

Sincerely,

Marie C. Ward, Ph.D., Superintendent

## DID YOU KNOW?

The Fairfield County ESC in partnership with law enforcement, juvenile court, mental health agencies and the eight districts in Fairfield County collaborated to create a county wide school threat assessment plan.



ESC WEBSITE



Fairfield County  
Educational Service Center

# Creating and Managing Appointment Schedules in Google Calendar

Google Calendar is a powerful tool for managing your time, meetings, and appointments. With its appointment scheduling feature, you can streamline your availability, allow clients or colleagues to book time with you, and keep everything organized in one place.

## 1. SETTING UP AN APPOINTMENT SCHEDULE

To create an appointment schedule in Google Calendar, follow these steps:

1. **Open Google Calendar:** On your computer, navigate to Google Calendar.
2. **Click "Create":** In the top left corner, click the "Create" button.
3. **Choose "Appointment Schedule":** Select the "Appointment schedule" option from the menu.
4. **Enter a Title:** Give your appointment schedule a descriptive title. This title will be visible to anyone who has the link to your booking page. It also appears on your calendar for both the schedule and incoming bookings.
5. **Set Appointment Duration:** Specify how long each appointment should be. Appointments must be at least 5 minutes long.
6. **Select Date, Time, and Time Zone:** Set up one-time appointments or recurring schedules. You can even add multiple time slots for a single day.
7. **Customize Availability Settings:** Choose your scheduling window, blackout dates, and days when you won't be available. You can also check calendars for availability to avoid conflicts with other events.
8. **Add Co-Hosts (Optional):** If you're collaborating with others, enter co-host names or email addresses. You can add up to 20 co-hosts within the same organization.
9. **Click "Next"**

## 2. CREATING YOUR BOOKING PAGE

Now it's time to set up your booking page:

1. **Review Your Booking Page Photo and Name:** The photo is taken from your Google Account. You can change it if needed.
2. **Select a Location and Conference Options:** If you use Google Meet for video conferencing, you can specify the location and conference settings.
3. **Email Verification (For Eligible Plans):** Google Workspace plans offer email verification for appointments.
4. **Reminders (For Eligible Plans):** Send up to 5 reminders before each appointment.
5. **Accept Payments (Stripe Account Required):** If you want to accept payments for appointments, set up a Stripe account.

## 3. SHARE YOUR BOOKING PAGE

Once your appointment schedule and booking page are ready, share the link with anyone who needs to book time with you. They'll be able to see your availability and choose a suitable slot.

Remember that appointment scheduling is a fantastic way to save time, stay organized, and ensure critical meetings happen seamlessly. For more details and premium features, check out the official [Google Calendar Help page](#).



# Mental Health

By: Cristin O'Riordan, Coordinator of Mental Health & Competency-Based Education

## CALM THE BODY

As we head into the final quarter of the year, there is a lot going on. We start thinking about wrapping up the current year, plus things happening for next year. This is in addition to everything happening in our personal lives! It is easy to get overwhelmed, lose patience, or become irritated.

When the mind gets irritated, the body often follows. The good news is that as you calm your body, your mind will relax too. One of the most important things to remember is that your breath has a huge impact on both your physical and mental calm. This strategy will help calm your mind and body.

### [Calm the Body](#)

For more videos, check out the series on the [ESC Staff Matters page](#). If you are looking for more in-depth practice and information on how to support your own and others' mental health, please take a look at the mental health [PD courses](#) being offered. Personalized cohorts can be arranged. Please reach out to Cristin O'Riordan for more information: ([co'riordan@fairfieldesc.org](mailto:co'riordan@fairfieldesc.org)).

# Learning Steps Preschool has been awarded a 5 Star SUTQ Preschool

Step Up To Quality (SUTQ) is a five-star quality rating and improvement system administered by the Ohio Department of Education and the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services.

SUTQ recognizes and promotes learning and development programs that meet quality program standards that exceed preschool licensing health and safety regulations. SUTQ program standards are based on national research identifying standards which lead to improved outcomes for children.

We are proud to announce that the following buildings have again been classified as a five-star rated location:

- Bloom Carroll Preschool and Learning Center
- Fairfield Union - Bremen Elementary
- Fairfield Union - Pleasantville Elementary
- Liberty Union Elementary

Our newest location at Walnut Township has not yet been rated, as its registration is pending.

The staff's hard work and dedication to foster a positive and supportive atmosphere, ultimately benefits the students and families they serve. Kudos to the Learning Steps Preschool staff for their commitment to excellence!



**Fairfield County**  
**Educational Service Center**

# Student Spotlight

Students and staff from Matt Hammond's Bloom Carroll High School transition classroom helped organize the 2024 COSI science boxes for distribution to local districts.



ESC FACEBOOK



ESC TWITTER



ESC INSTAGRAM



# Fairfield County School Threat Assessment and Response Program

The Fairfield County Educational Service Center (ESC) has helped to lead the creation of a county-wide protocol aimed at preventing school violence and cultivating a safer educational environment for students. The School Threat Assessment and Response program was established in response to the growing need for a unified model for school safety. The protocol was enacted on January 23, 2024 during a signing ceremony as part of Fairfield County Juvenile Court Judge Terre Vandervoort's update to the County Commissioners.

The protocol is designed to address student safety in a proactive manner, prioritizing prevention over reaction. Representatives from local law enforcement, prosecutors' offices, ADAMH, and Fairfield County Juvenile Court signed the Statement of Support affirming the following: "Participating partners support the countywide effort to collaborate in the community response to school threats, emphasizing school safety, public awareness, ongoing training, and partner input as the countywide protocol evolves to meet partner and community needs."



By assessing threats and determining their severity, the program allows for early intervention, ensuring that issues are addressed before they escalate. Under this new protocol, low-level threats will be managed by the schools, offering a tailored response that aligns with each district's unique needs.

"Fairfield County Juvenile Court is honored to have worked in collaboration with Fairfield County schools, law enforcement, prosecutors and ADAMH Board in developing this countywide protocol," said Judge Vandervoort. "Early assessment is critical as school safety is and has always been a community priority, and I am proud to have Fairfield County lead the way in Ohio."

The School Threat Assessment and Response program convenes the efforts of law enforcement, behavioral and mental health agencies, the Fairfield County Prosecutor's office, and local schools. This innovative protocol marks a departure from the challenges posed by separate operating procedures, offering a coordinated and proactive response to potential school safety threats.

A key feature of the Fairfield County School Threat Assessment and Response program is its county-wide implementation, meeting the state of Ohio's mandate for schools to have a response plan in place in a more efficient way. Recognizing the diversity among schools in Fairfield County, the program has been constructed to accommodate the distinct models employed by each district, ensuring a comprehensive and adaptable approach.

Will Kirby, Assistant Superintendent of Fairfield County ESC, emphasized the program's commitment to community investment, stating, "This program is an investment in the safety of the students and educators in our community. By proactively addressing threats and supporting students through a comprehensive intervention phase, we are fostering a safe and nurturing environment for our students to thrive. We worked with our safety officials, school districts, courts, behavioral health experts and educators to ensure the protocol addresses all of the factors that need to be addressed when challenges arise."



# Professional Learning & Leadership Team

**Staci Peters**, Coordinator of Professional Learning & Leadership  
[speters@fairfieldesc.org](mailto:speters@fairfieldesc.org)

**Jen Sayre**, Director of Applied Technology  
[jsayre@fairfieldesc.org](mailto:jsayre@fairfieldesc.org)

**Caitlin Hughes**, Gifted Coordinator/ Professional Learning Specialist  
[chughes@fairfieldesc.org](mailto:chughes@fairfieldesc.org)

**Cristin O'Riordan**, Coordinator of Mental Health & Competency-Based Education  
[co'riordan@fairfieldesc.org](mailto:co'riordan@fairfieldesc.org)

**Heidi Deyo**, Professional Learning Specialist/Gifted  
[hdeyo@fairfieldesc.org](mailto:hdeyo@fairfieldesc.org)

## Professional Development Opportunities

### PAX TOOLS

Join us for free upcoming workshops. These workshops provide simple strategies for teaching kids behaviors and are intended for any caring adult who interacts with children, such as parents, caregivers, professionals and volunteers.

[Find out more details in this flyer.](#)

### IMPROVING STUDENT GRIT & RESILIENCE

April 1 - April 19

[Link for registration](#)

A flyer for a course titled "Attention Educators" which is a mental health and wellness course. It features a background image of a small green plant growing out of a crack in the ground. The text on the flyer includes: "Attention Educators", "join our mental health and wellness course", "Improving Student Grit & Resilience", "This course offers educators the opportunity to gain insight, reflect on, learn, and apply practices to improve student grit and resilience.", "Join us for this 'learn at your own pace' course.", "Time: 15 hours CEUs: 1.5 \$99", "APRIL 1 - APRIL 19", and the InnevAto EDU logo. There is also a circular logo in the top right corner that says "FAIRFIELD COUNTY EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CENTER".

### ANYTIME, ANYWHERE COURSES

Our Anytime, Anywhere courses are self-directed and can be completed in just 3 weeks, spending only 20 minutes a day! Check out our [catalog](#). Recently added classes include:

- Teacher Efficiency with ChatGPT
- Introduction to MTSS
- Introduction to Supporting Students with Anxiety



### Anytime, Anywhere

Professional Learning On Your Time, At Your Pace

All courses are just \$12 and can be completed in three weeks spending only 20 minutes a day.

Earn 0.5 CEUs



# PARENT GUIDANCE

## MENTAL HEALTH SERIES



In response to parent concerns about student health and well-being, Fairfield County ESC is partnering with ParentGuidance.org to deliver presentations developed by licensed therapists. This series will be virtual, interactive, and is designed to help parents and caregivers support students. Registration, attendance and interactions are kept totally anonymous from other viewers.

**TIME: 7:00-8:00 PM via Zoom**

**To Register Early...scan the QR code or click the link**

**MON. AUG 14, 2023**

"Helping  
Your Teen  
Manage  
Stress"

<http://cookcenter.info/Aug14Frld>



**MON. SEP 11, 2023**

"Your  
Teen's  
Mental  
Health"

<http://cookcenter.info/FrldSep11>



**MON. OCT 9, 2023**

"Dealing  
With  
Your  
Teen's  
Mood Swings"

<http://cookcenter.info/Oct9Frld>



**MON. OCT 23, 2023**

"Building  
Your  
Teen's  
Self-Esteem"

<http://cookcenter.info/Oct23Frld>



**MON. NOV 13, 2023**

"What  
Are  
Anxiety  
Disorders?"

<http://cookcenter.info/Nov13Frld>



**MON. DEC 11, 2023**

"Depression  
in  
Adolescents"

<http://cookcenter.info/Dec11Frld>



**MON. JAN 8, 2024**

"School  
Anxiety"

<http://cookcenter.info/Jan8Frld>



**MON. JAN 22, 2024**

"How  
Child  
Development  
Affects  
Mental  
Health"

<http://cookcenter.info/Jan22Frld>



**MON. FEB 12, 2024**

"Dealing  
With  
Confidence"

<http://cookcenter.info/Feb12Frld>



**MON. MAR 11, 2024**

"Everyday Happiness"

<http://cookcenter.info/Mar11Frld>



**MON. APRIL 8, 2024**

"Establishing Healthy  
Boundaries"

<http://cookcenter.info/Apr8Frld>



**MON. MAY 13, 2024**

"Social Media - Protecting  
Your Child"

<http://cookcenter.info/May13Frld>



For registration information, contact  
Cristin O'Riordan at [co'riordan@fairfieldesc.org](mailto:co'riordan@fairfieldesc.org)



Fairfield County  
Educational Service Center



Fairfield County  
Educational Service Center

# Rethinking Online Courses for Student Success

By: Jen Sayre, Director of Applied Technology

In most high schools, online courses have become a lifeline for students seeking to recover credits after encountering academic challenges. While this is undoubtedly a valuable application, it's time to broaden our perspective and reimagine the role of online learning in fostering student success.

Traditionally, online courses have been viewed primarily as a remedial tool, utilized when students fall behind or fail to meet academic standards. However, this limited view overlooks the immense potential of online learning to provide flexibility, customization, and expanded opportunities for all students.

Imagine a learning environment where students have the freedom to tailor their educational experiences to fit their individual needs and aspirations. Online courses offer this flexibility, allowing students to explore diverse subjects, pursue advanced coursework, or delve deeper into areas of personal interest beyond the constraints of a traditional classroom setting.

Online courses can also bridge geographical barriers, enabling students to access high-quality instruction and resources regardless of their location. This inclusivity opens doors for rural students, homeschoolers, and those facing physical or logistical challenges to engage with educational opportunities previously beyond their reach.

It's time to challenge ourselves to think differently about how we utilize online courses. Let's recognize their potential to not only support struggling students, but also to inspire, empower, and cultivate a culture of innovation, flexibility, and opportunity.

## InnevAto EDU

High Quality & Fully Personalizable Online Courses



### For Students Who

- Need a personalized path with flexible pacing
- Have physical or mental health issues
- Struggle with situational anxiety
- Want to enter the workforce early
- Need to recover credits to graduate on time
- Plan to graduate early
- Participate in internships
- Take College Credit Plus courses yet need to meet grad requirements



### For Districts/Programs That

- Have limited course offerings
- Want creative solutions for staffing gaps
- Need to fill COVID learning gaps
- Struggle with attendance issues
- Need options for students returning from homeschool or a charter school
- Wish to support teachers to create blended learning environments
- Need alternatives to the traditional environment



# FEBRUARY 2024

SMALL STEPS FOR

## **BIG IMPACT**

*"Don't watch the clock; do what it does.  
Keep going."*

*-Sam Levenson*

01

Reading 20 pages of a book per day is  
30 books in a year

02

Saving \$5 per day is  
\$1,825 in a year

03

Writing 1 page in a journal per day is  
365 pages in a year

04

Walking 30 minutes per day is  
550 miles in a year

Which small step are you willing to take?  
What will you accomplish in a year?

