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.

Al 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 Al 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 R. D.

Marie C. Ward, Ph.D., Superintendent



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.





Fairfield County Educational Service Center

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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 <u>Google Calendar Help page</u>.



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 <u>ESC Staff Matters page</u>. 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 <u>PD courses</u> being offered. Personalized cohorts can be arranged. Please reach out to Cristin O'Riordan for more information: (<u>co'riordan@fairfieldesc.org</u>).

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!



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.







SC FACEBOOK









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

Jen Sayre, Director of Applied Technology jsayre@fairfieldesc.org

Caitlin Hughes, Gifted Coordinator/ Professional Learning Specialist chughes@fairfieldesc.org

Cristin O'Riordan, Coordinator of Mental Health & Competency-Based Education <u>co'riordan@fairfieldesc.org</u>

Heidi Deyo, Professional Learning Specialist/Gifted 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

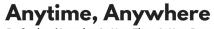


ANYTIME, ANYWHERE COURSES

Our Anytime, Anywhere courses are self-directed and can be completed in just 3 weeks, spending only 20 minutes a day! Check out our <u>catalog</u>. Recently added classes include:

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





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





For registration information, contact Cristin O'Riordan at 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

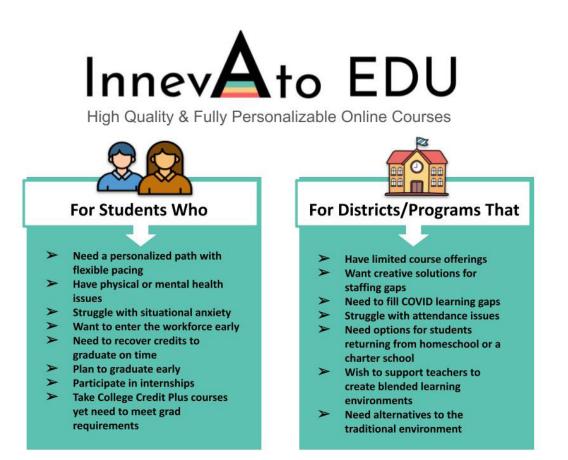
In most high schools, online courses have become a lifeline for students seeking to recover credits after encountering academic challenges. While this is undoubtedly a valuable application, it's time to broaden our perspective and reimagine the role of online learning in fostering student success.

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.





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?	
SOUTH CENTR	Pulse Health Solutions Optimizing the Pulse of Your Company

