# ESC CONNECTION



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#### A Moment of Reflection

As we move into the final leg of the school year, it is important to take a moment to reflect on the successes we have achieved. From the academic achievements of our students to the professional growth of staff, we have so much to be proud of. Let's take this opportunity to celebrate our individual and collective successes. Let's acknowledge the hard work and perseverance that have brought us to this point. Whether big or small, each achievement is a step forward in our growth and learning.

As we move forward into the final quarter, let's carry this sense of pride with us. Let's use it as motivation to push ourselves even further and to continue striving for excellence in everything we do.

Here's to celebrating our achievements and embracing the opportunities that lie ahead!

#### Foundations of Instruction Coaching

The Ohio ESC Association (OESCA) is working to complete its Foundations of Instructional Coaching training – a comprehensive training program that will soon be made available to districts. All four members of the Teaching & Learning Department are trainers for the program, which is currently in its final stages of revision. Once finalized, this program will allow us to adjust the learning based upon the needs of our individual districts.

Some of our proposed contexts include: administrator coaching modules (either completed in-person in a retreat setting or online modules), a coaching network (regularly scheduled in-person sessions with coaches across multiple districts), and teacher leader coaching (online modules that cover the foundational components of coaching).

Be on the lookout for training information in early summer.

#### **ODEW Math Specialist**

Our Math Curriculum Specialist, Melissa Scoville, has expanded her learning and commitments this school year as an ODEW Math Specialist. Much of the first semester was spent attending professional development, receiving coaching, and participating in learning walks - all organized and presented by BetterLesson and the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce (ODEW). This learning has in-turn been used to assist districts in improving math instruction through discourse and selection and use of rich tasks.



Department of Education & Workforce

#### Local Preschool Programs Achieve a 5-Star Step Up To Quality Rating: A Milestone in Early Childhood Education Services

Step Up to Quality is a rating system for Early Childhood Education programs that ensure preschool programs meet rigorous standards in the different areas of child development. Achieving a 5-star rating is an exceptional achievement that demonstrates the dedication preschool staff have to providing quality education and care for our community's preschool-aged children. All four Madison-Champaign Educational Service Center Programs located at Dohron Wilson Elementary School (Mechanicsburg EVSD), Norwood Elementary (Jefferson Local Schools) West Liberty-Salem Elementary School, and Urbana Elementary School were once again awarded a 5-star rating through Step Up To Quality (SUTQ).

The Step Up To Quality (SUTQ) rating system is a comprehensive evaluation tool for early learning and development programs, focusing on five key standards: learning and development, administrative and leadership practices, staff qualifications and professional development, family and community partnerships, and health and safety.

Achieving a 5-star rating recognizes that a preschool program excels in each of these areas, providing a developmentally appropriate preschool education to students ages 3 – 5. This accomplishment not only reflects the preschool staff's ability to meet and exceed the standards set by the SUTQ rating system but also demonstrates their dedication and experience providing the highest quality early childhood education possible.

All Madison-Champaign ESC Preschool Programs are currently completing spring screenings for the 2024-2025 school year. Parents and guardians of children living in the Jefferson Local School District, Mechanicsburg Exempted Village School District, Urbana City School District, and West Liberty-Salem Local School District can register for a free developmental screening for children who will be 3 by September 30th and not yet eligible for Kindergarten by calling 937-653-5214 or registering online at: https://forms.gle/3pVZr9y6jmUJcAWY9





#### **ESC Works to Support Literacy Mandates**

With the state's recent mandates for professional development in teaching students with dyslexia and now the Science of Reading, as well as requirements for districts to adopt approved curriculum that aligns with The Science of Reading, the Teaching & Learning Department has been busy.

The work started last school year with providing training to a couple of our districts' teachers in the state's dyslexia modules and in courses such as LETRS (Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling). It has continued this year with LETRS and very recently coordinating discussions with the districts we serve to provide them time to collaborate and discuss their curriculum prospects to meet the new requirements.

Additionally, though, a couple of our HQIM (High Quality Instructional Materials) Specialists have coordinated a series of HQIM Literacy Curriculum Workshops where small groups of district teachers will come together to hear vendor presentations and use HQIM resources adopted by the state to review different prospective K-5 reading curriculums.

However, this effort is not just for district teachers. We are also required to provide training in dyslexia as well as The Science of Reading for ESC teachers, as well!

For more information, please check out the following ODEW resources: <u>The Science of Reading</u> <u>Professional Development in the Science of Reading</u> <u>Multiple Course Pathways to meet PD requirements</u>

#### **T&L Curriculum Supports Meetings**

Recently, the Teaching & Learning (T&L) Department completed its annual curriculum support meetings with all nine of our partner districts and the two career technical centers with whom we work. These meetings were insightful and extremely beneficial to the planning process the team will undergo as we approach the end of the school year.

We are currently working to schedule follow-up meetings with everyone to discuss our proposed support offerings to meet their needs and move forward with planning for the next school year.

As always, we are excited at the prospects of another school year - getting the opportunity to work with and support the fantastic work being done by the wonderful educators in each of our districts and career tech buildings.



Thank you to MagiKids for donating Magic cards to our Mac Central program and Matt Carey for organizing this opportunity. MagiKids is an organization that believes that teaching kids to play will build skills such as critical thinking, math, and reading. All while helping encourage socialization and engagement.









Students in Mrs Smith's class made snowman sensory bags with Mrs France.



Students in Mrs. Knight's classroom at Urbana Elementary are working on all 3 states of matter using ice cream and soda.

ESC Speech Therapists and Occupational Therapists adapted toys to make them accessible for students with mobility difficulties. They learned how to solder speaker wire to circuit boards inside of toys, and then connect the toy to a switch. If you are interested in donating new or gently used toys to be adapted for kids, contact Angie Brouhard through the ESC - we would love to use them!







Mrs. Mindy France, OT at West Liberty Salem, creatively holds all of the items she needs for a West Liberty student as she works with him.

A student from our LIFE Transition class learning to use a new floor scrubber.



Braden Scott, Triad High School student in Mrs. Bailes' room, was nominated by Triad for Star Student of the Month!



## NOMINATION

We had a staff member who had a medical emergency. Braden was the first person to notice something was not right. He notified other staff members and then sprinted down to the office to alert Mrs. Coleman and the administration. Because of Braden, we were able to help a staff member and keep the school.



In February, ESC Speech Therapists and Occupational Therapists adapted toys to make them accessible for students with mobility difficulties. They learned how to solder speaker wire to circuit boards inside of toys, and then connect the toy to a switch. Preschoolers already had an opportunity to play with them! If you are interested in donating new or gently used toys to be adapted for kids, contact Angie Brouhard through the ESC - we would love to use them! If you have tools or supplies to donate, we would appreciate that as well (solder, speaker wire, wire strippers).



The staff at West Liberty-Salem helped create many branches to transform the elementary school for literacy night.

Happy friends in Mrs. Wemyss' class at Mechanicsburg.



Students relax during free time in Mrs. Knight's classroom at Urbana Elementary.



LIFE Transition students donate handmade blankets to Caring Kitchen.





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