



Montgomery County Educational Service Center

IMPACT REPORT

2024-2025





OUR MISSION

**Visionary leaders,
Providing exemplary service.**

Table of Contents

- 1 **Our Mission**
- 2 **Table of Contents**
- 3 **Introduction Letter**
- 4 **Governing Board**
- 5 **Treasurer**
- 6 **Human Resources**
- 7 **Admin & Operations**
- 8 **Community & Client Relations**
- 9 **Service Impact Map**
- 11 **Instructional Services**
- 12 **Social Emotional Learning**
- 13 **Related Services**
- 14 **Occupational Therapy/Physical Therapy**
- 15 **Student Programs**
- 16 **Career Readiness**
- 17 **Dayton Regional STEM Center**
- 18 **Montgomery County School Districts**

Visionary leaders, Providing exemplary service.

Every initiative we undertake at the Montgomery County Educational Service Center is rooted in one purpose: preparing students not only for success today, but for the opportunities of tomorrow. To achieve the highest quality of education, we must make success attainable for each student while also fostering an engaged community and a system designed to help students realize their full potential and make a meaningful impact in today's workforce. To accomplish this, we work every day to empower our teams and schools to be the leaders and educational institutions that create this ecosystem of opportunity.

The data in this report show how, over the past year, we have increased capacity for services, implemented programs that remove barriers to graduation and employment, deepened our support for educators and families, and created pathways that connect students to their communities. This past year was full of growth and initiatives that are already showing positive results, furthering the transformative work of our visionary leaders.

The service maps, numbers, pictures, and stories in the following pages reflect what I know to be the heart of our organization: exemplary services and visionary leaders guided by our values of collaboration, innovation, diversity, communication, wellness, and integrity. At MCECSC, we believe in the highest potential of every student, and this report shows the progress being made to help them reach it. Our heartfelt gratitude goes to every community partner, educator, district, and individual who supports this work and contributes to the success of every student in Montgomery County.

#WeAreMCECSC!

Shannon M. Cox

MCECSC Superintendent



GOVERNING BOARD



Mr. Daryl Michael, Jr.



Mr. Gary Roberts



Mrs. Cinda Shell



Mr. Terry Smith



Mr. Thomas Steck



The Montgomery County Educational Service Center Governing Board oversees all MCESC programs and services. This five-person board meets on the second Thursday of each month at 4:30 p.m.

Please see the Governing Board meeting dates at mcesc.org.

Spreading Smiles, One Chicken at a Time

At the start of the school year, MCESC Board Member Cinda Shell had the idea to start making "emotional support chickens" to give to MCESC students to help relieve stress and anxieties. A different (and quieter!) take on the ever-popular fidget spinners, Cinda's chickens have little legs made of yarn that can be pulled back and forth through a little loop. A total of 125 chickens have been made and distributed to students and educators.

"This small gesture lets our students and staff know that people think about them and care about them," said Mary Hunnewell, MCESC Paraprofessional/PD Specialist. "We all need fidgets and tools to stay regulated, and knowing that one of our Board Members is taking time out of her day to spread joy and kindness is special. Our kids don't have a lot, so even a small little chicken can light a lot of our students up with a huge smile."



TREASURER'S OFFICE



CHRISTOPHER FOX
Treasurer

The Treasurer's Office collaborates closely with all of MCESC's programs to monitor and protect the organization's financial assets. The key responsibilities of the Treasurer's Office encompasses payroll management, budget planning, financial reporting, record keeping, and settling all invoices of the organization.



in salaries and benefits issued

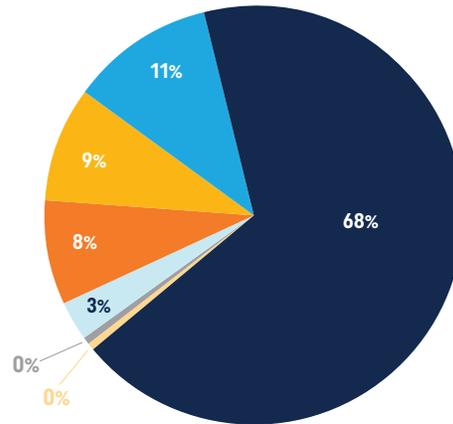


budget managed



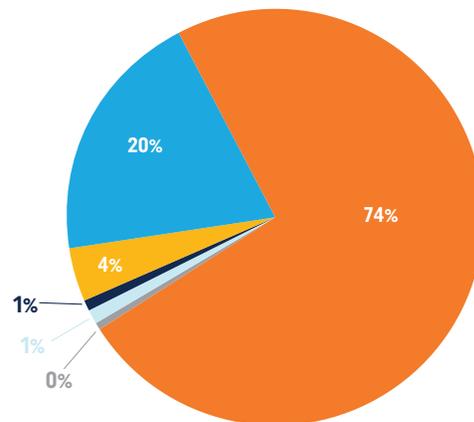
Income Fiscal Year 2025

School Contracts	51,732,229.13	68%
Partnerships	8,180,205.88	11%
Federal Grants	6,927,295.42	9%
State & Local Grants	6,356,599.78	8%
State Funding	2,442,752.68	3%
Miscellaneous	109,275.34	0%
Investments	<u>72,864.09</u>	0%
Total Receipts	\$75,821,222.32	



Expenditures Fiscal Year 2025

Salaries & Benefits	54,846,198.78	74%
Contracted Services	14,971,913.77	20%
Supplies & Materials	3,045,963.54	4%
Dues, Fiscal Fees & Other	944,479.23	1%
Capital & Equipment	597,250.65	1%
Miscellaneous	<u>16,147.60</u>	0%
Total Expenditures	\$74,421,953.57	



HUMAN RESOURCES



MARION STOUT
 Director of
 Human Resources

Human Resources is responsible for recruiting, hiring, onboarding, and retaining the best MCEC team. They oversee the Dayton Area School Consortium, organize the Dayton Area School Personnel Administrators group, and help with Title IX and other investigations.

35 employee referral bonuses paid out



173 employees onboarded

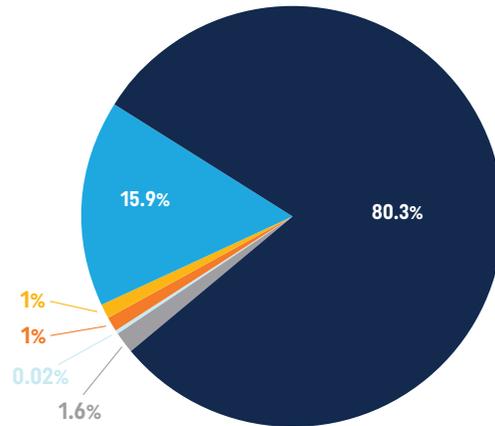


600+ staff members supported



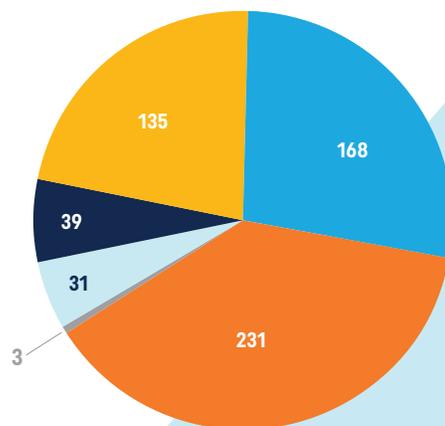
Employees by Race

White	80.3%
Black	15.9%
Hispanic	1.1%
Asian	1%
Pacific Islander	0.02%
Other	1.6%



Employees by Education

Masters	231
Non-degree	168
Bachelors	135
Associates	39
Doctorate	31
Education Specialist	3



ADMIN & OPERATIONS



AMY ANYANWU

Assistant
Superintendent

The Admin & Operations Division is the backbone of our organization — maintaining facilities, managing technology, ensuring safety, and coordinating food services. Most recently, we have added transportation and driver's education to our initiatives. The work of this division is essential to keeping roadways and MCEC running smoothly and safely for both staff and students.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS:

- Parking lot upgrades
- Renovation of Learning Center East
- Transformation of closets into flex seating at Board Office



3,262 support tickets resolved by Tech Department

RideSmart supports hard-to-transport students, improves education access



2,816+ passenger miles traveled



175 completed trip instances



14 Districts served by MCEC Attendance Officers who play a vital role in student success

New Driver's Education Program Paves the Way for a Brighter Future for Students

Launched by MCEC in October 2024, DriveSmart Ohio is now providing affordable, accessible, high-quality driver education for youth across the region. With most Ohio school districts discontinuing driver's education in the 1990s and private companies being hit hard during COVID, students in our area now have even fewer training opportunities available. As a result, many wait until they turn 18 to obtain their licenses to avoid the need to complete a driver's education program, which can delay their entry into the workforce. DriveSmart Ohio aims to change this by offering high-quality, hands-on training that helps students become licensed drivers more quickly and safely.

We're proud to report that DriveSmart far exceeded expectations in its first year. Cate, a 16-year-old from Bellbrook, is one of our program graduates and is now a licensed driver. She appreciates being prepared to tackle any situation behind the wheel and enjoys the newfound independence from earning her license. "Having my license means I can take myself places and be less dependent on others. It helps me participate in extracurricular activities and pursue a part-time job soon," she said.

At the end of the 2024-25 school year, 245 students completed the program, MCEC grew to a fleet of 9 DriveSmart vehicles, 21 certified instructors have been trained, and there are now driving hubs in operation at MCEC Learning Center North and Learning Center East, and in Brookville, New Lebanon, and Valley View School Districts.



COMMUNITY & CLIENT RELATIONS



KELLY GEERS
Director of
Community &
Client Relations

The Community and Client Relations Division supports the mission of MCECSC through effective communication and public relations, student data analysis, project management, and the development of client-supporting partnerships. They work to educate clients and partners on the work of MCECSC, provide data to inform decision-making, and support the education community through relationship building.



34,000+
unique visitors
to MCECSC
social media
platforms



9 schools received director support from our College Access Supervisor, every senior receiving 1:1 meeting



616 pieces of content created & stories written highlighting MCECSC news and accomplishments



2,000+ students received FAFSA support through our College Access Supervisor

Bringing Clarity to Student Data: MCECSC's Countywide Dashboard Goes Live

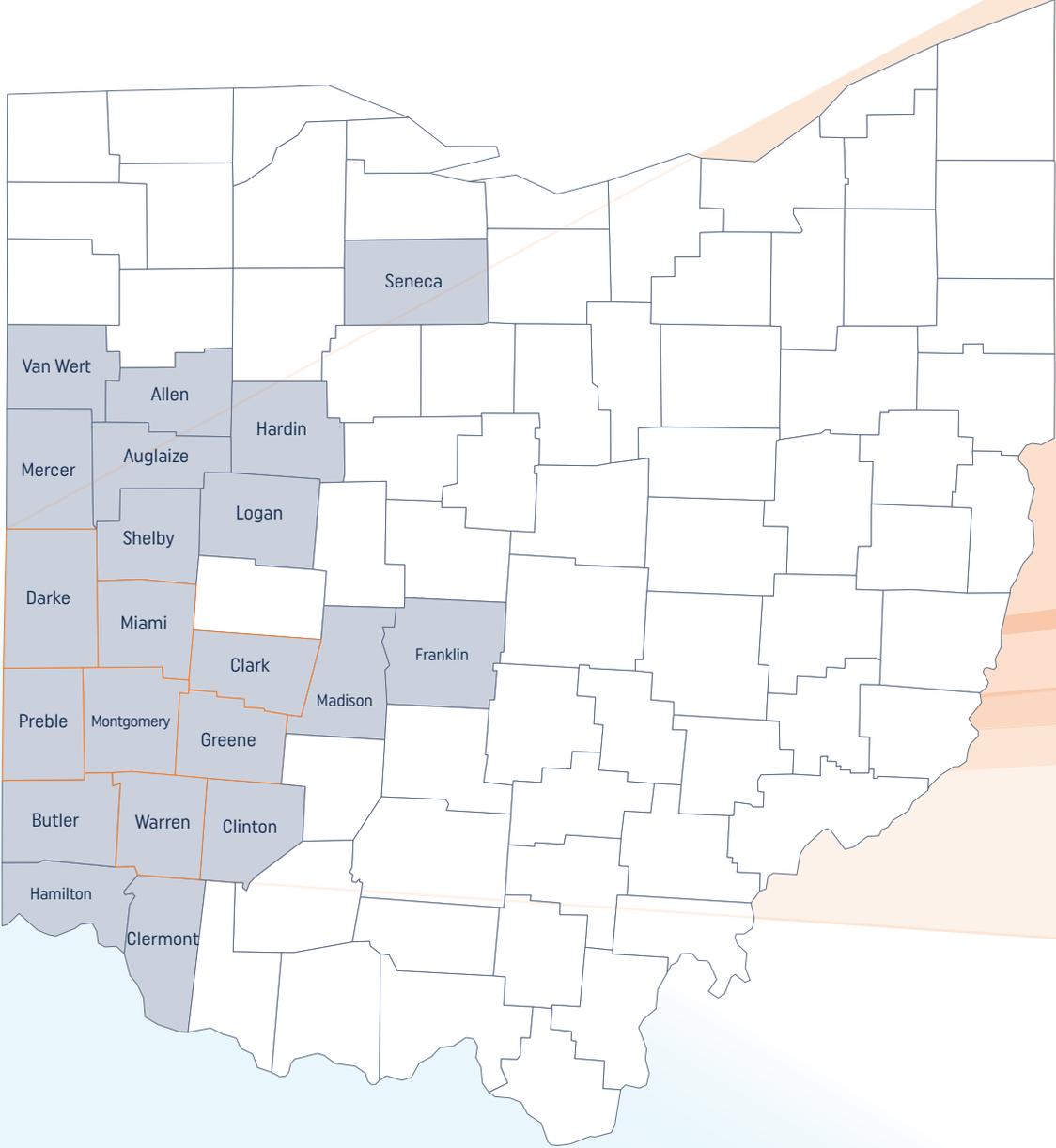
For years, school districts across Montgomery County have had access to an abundance of state and local data, but it was often scattered across multiple reports, difficult to interpret, and not presented in a way that could be used for clear decision-making. This made it challenging for educators, administrators, and community partners to get a full picture of student needs and progress. MCECSC recognized this gap and responded by creating a single, accessible platform to bring key metrics together in one place.

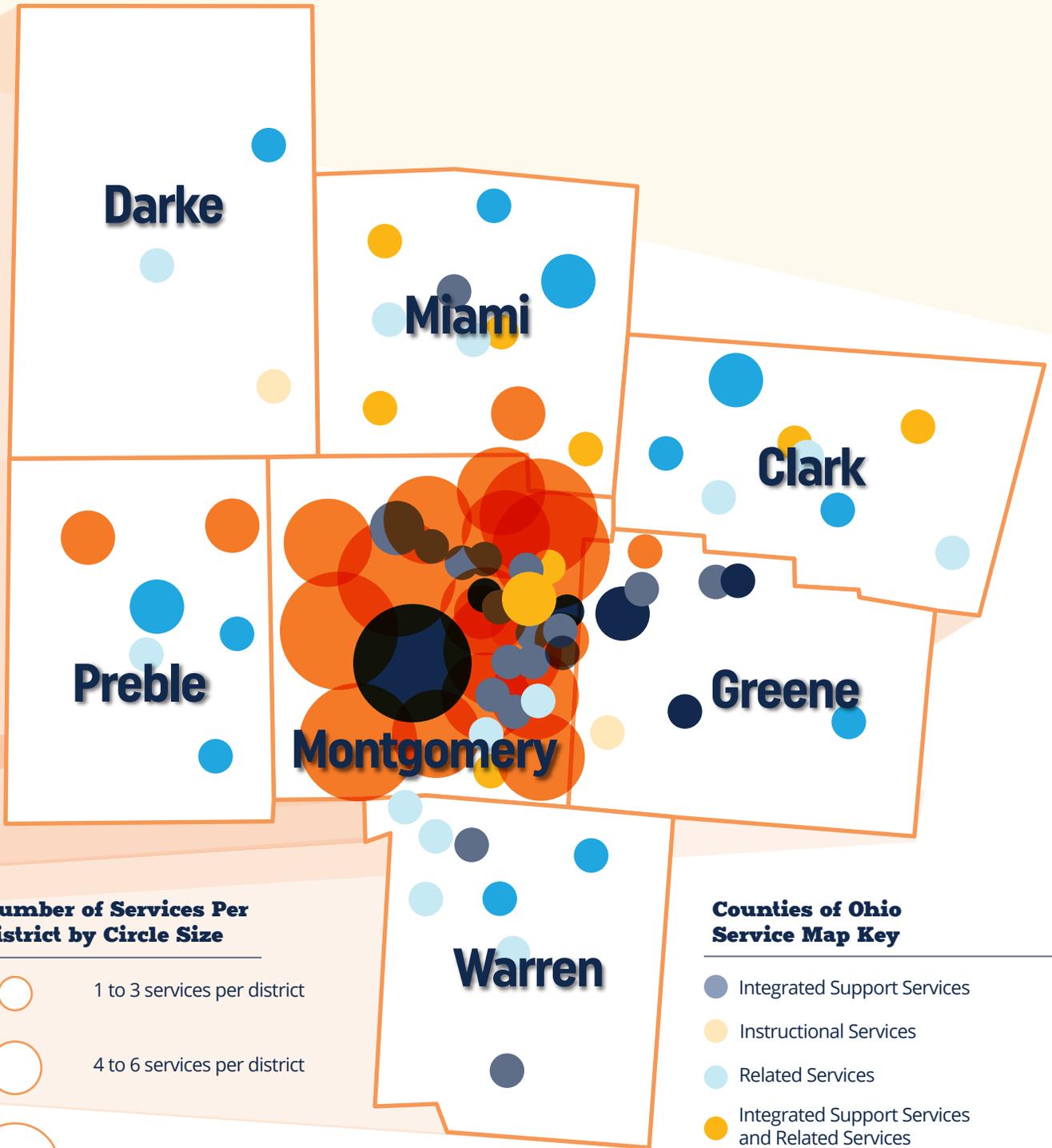
Going LIVE in mid-December, the MCECSC Data Dashboard now tracks a wide range of indicators for students across Montgomery County's public school districts, including enrollment, discipline, chronic absenteeism, and key accomplishments from kindergarten to postsecondary completion. Visitors can view and compare data over several years, exploring both trends and district-level variations through line graphs and shaded maps. By making the information easy to navigate and interpret, the dashboard empowers school leaders, policymakers, and community stakeholders to identify strengths, spot areas for improvement, and target resources where they are needed most. Ultimately, the dashboard helps ensure that important decisions about our schools are grounded in clear, reliable, and transparent data. Explore the dashboard by visiting: mcesc.org/datadashboard



SERVICE IMPACT MAP

MONTGOMERY COUNTY EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CENTER PROVIDES SERVICES TO 149 ENTITIES IN 21 COUNTIES





Number of Services Per District by Circle Size

-  1 to 3 services per district
-  4 to 6 services per district
-  7 to 9 services per district
-  10+ services per district

Counties of Ohio Service Map Key

-  Integrated Support Services
-  Instructional Services
-  Related Services
-  Integrated Support Services and Related Services
-  Instructional Services and Related Services
-  Instructional Services and Integrated Support Services
-  Instructional Services, Related Services, and Integrated Support Services

INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES



CANDICE SEARS
Director of
Instructional Services

The Instructional Services Division improves instruction and develops teacher and administrative leadership through a variety of customized educational services such as curriculum supervision, gifted education support, English Language Learner coordination, and literacy and mathematics instructional support. It's home to the Future Self Center, Remote Learning Center, Language and Literacy Center, oversees the Western Ohio Service Collaborative, and hosts professional development for educators in the Dayton-region and beyond.



13 counties served



402 professional development offerings



6,383

educators and administrators trained



Coaching for Confidence: Transforming Student Writing Through Partnership

Mr. Vaughn, a 6th grade ELA teacher at Princeton Community Middle School in Sharonville, Ohio, noticed that his students were struggling with writing composition, and many had negative attitudes toward writing. Recognizing the need for support, Mr. Vaughn reached out to MCESC Adolescent Literacy Specialist and ReadOhio Coach Brianne Hannah to engage in a full coaching cycle. Over the course of two months leading up to the state test, they worked side by side through pre-planning, lesson development, modeled lessons, and reflective conversations. Together, they built intentional lessons that emphasized the pillars of Purpose and Organization and Evidence and Elaboration in student writing.

The results were striking. Not only did students' stamina, skills, and confidence in writing grow, but their overall attitudes toward writing shifted in a positive direction. Mr. Vaughn reflected on

the experience: "Brianne has worked with me to improve my writing instruction. She has helped me learn new procedures, activities, and practices that I put to use in the weeks leading up to the state test. As a result of these new practices, I saw an improvement in student writing performance and an increase in their writing confidence. I also noticed that the students were more engaged with the lessons and more invested in their learning and growth."

This transformation was also evident in the data. When comparing student performance to the previous year, Mr. Vaughn's students showed a 175% increase in proficiency in Purpose and Organization and a 128% increase in Evidence and Elaboration.

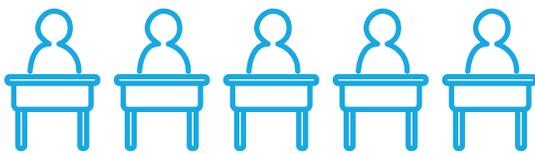
SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING



JESSICA DAVIES
Director of Social
Emotional Learning

The Social Emotional Learning Division brings together deep, interdisciplinary expertise to provide comprehensive, integrated support to school communities across the region. Their goal is to break down barriers to learning and well-being — whether behavioral, academic, social-emotional, environmental, or otherwise — through a collaborative, systems-focused approach. The division supports schools by: strengthening student and family engagement; promoting mental health and positive behavior; building essential skills for school, work, and life; connecting schools and families with critical community resources; supporting staff through professional learning, coaching, and shared problem-solving; and helping schools build sustainable systems of support that lead to meaningful, lasting change.

Over the past seven years, the division's work has expanded far beyond Social Emotional Learning. For this reason, in 2025, the Division began its transition away from the name "Social Emotional Learning," to its now official, new name, "Integrated Support Services."



19,916 students served



entities served

302
professional
development
sessions conducted



4,831
staff
trained



Strengthening Schools Through Mental Wellness and Restorative Practices

For the last two years, the ISS Division has been working closely with Kettering City Schools to support the mental wellness of their staff and students. The goal of this partnership was to create sustainable, healthy systems through knowledge building, creating new systems of support, empowering staff and students to lead the way and utilizing the continuous improvement process to stay the course.

Taught by our team, Kettering City Schools started with a foundation in Restorative Practices and built knowledge in supporting mental wellness through a year-long cohort. Throughout the training, Kettering's educators had the opportunity to learn more about how our brains are built and the impact that stress and trauma has on brain development. The staff who participated in this cohort also had the opportunity to self-reflect on how this information impacts their own life and their impact as an educator. KCS is now underway with a multi-year plan to take each building through Restorative Practices and Mental Wellness training, leading to a self-assessment and action planning to be supported by a mental wellness specialist and by staff who participated in this training. These action steps are geared towards increasing staff well-being, student well-being, classroom engagement and school climate.

In the summer of 2025 KCS Superintendent Mindy McCarty-Stewart, District MTSS Coordinator Carrie Hennessy, ISS Director Jessica Davies, ISS Supervisor Teresa Patterson, and ISS Supervisor Amanda Deeter presented together at the ADAMHS Cultivating Resilience Summit about this work and the impact on the staff and students.



RELATED SERVICES



SUE GUNNELL
Director of
Regional Center
(home to the Related
Services Division)

The Related Services Division collaborates with and provides the highest levels of related services and specialized support to districts across the Miami Valley and beyond to children ages three to 21. These services include Speech-Language Pathology, Orientation and Mobility, Teacher of the Visually Impaired, Educational Audiology, Hearing Intervention, School Psychology, American Sign Language, and related service evaluation. Each service plays a crucial role in enhancing the educational experience of children and meeting their individual needs.

After 15 years of dedicated and impactful service to MCECSC, we celebrated Sue Gunnell's well-deserved retirement. As the division prepared for Sue's departure at the end of the school year, MCECSC welcomed Todd Bandow as its new Director of Related Services.



Vision services provided for **295 students** attending **53 districts**



School and Family Facilitation services provided to **27 districts** and **191 families**



Autism and Low Incidence Coaching Team provided services to **122 individual student referrals** and **70 classroom referrals** across **6 counties**

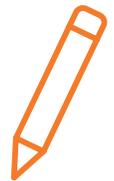


Hearing Intervention services provided for **385 students** attending **69 districts**



Speech and Language services provided to over **769 students** in **5 districts**

Educational Assessment Team completed **185 assessments** in **73 districts** across **17 counties**



Coltyn's Breakthrough: Carrying His Voice Across the School Day

For students who use Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC), their device is their voice. It's not just a tool for speech therapy or special education—it's a lifeline for learning, connection, and independence across every part of the school day. Coltyn, a student at Learning Center west, would turn his device off every time anyone tried to model with him and would say, "uh uh" and shake his finger no. He also would not carry his device out of the classroom and did not want it removed from his desk. In Spring, the student's speech therapy team wrote-in an IEP goal for him to transport his device off of his desk and out of the classroom. Once staff were documenting and working on this one additional objective, Coltyn's ability to communicate more effectively grew exponentially.

"We took gradual steps daily," said Laura Windholtz, MCECSC Speech Therapist. "Coming into this year, not only is he letting the staff model on his device, but he is transporting it around the school and now he is using it as his words. ... We want our students to have access to their voice across all school settings—hallway, art room, recess, etc."



OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY/PHYSICAL THERAPY



CHERYL VANHOOSE
Director of OT/PT

Occupational and physical therapists in the OT/PT Division apply their child growth and development expertise and work collaboratively with families and educational professionals to help students build the sensory-motor and adaptive skills they need for learning and life success.



35 districts reached



of respondents
rated our
therapists as good
or excellent

HIGH CUSTOMER SATISFACTION

In the spring, the OT/PT Team sent out their annual MCEC OT/PT Customer Satisfaction Survey to all of the education entities we serve. This included a rating scale to measure the quality of our therapists in terms of our service delivery. We received 626 completed survey forms from our districts. After compiling all categories, **our therapists were rated as good or excellent by 98.68% of the respondents** and were rated "Good" or "Excellent" in 7 categories: Professionalism; Punctuality; Knowledge of Child Development; Knowledge of the Special Education Process; Treatment Implementation/Service Delivery; Assigning Activities/Strategies; Scheduling/Flexibility. The scores and comments reflected the diligence of our staff to **serve so students can be successful.**

Physical Therapists Take Innovative Research to the National Stage

MCEC Physical Therapists Michelle Gardner and Terri Dinkelaker showcased their research on a national stage in February, presenting at the 50th Annual American Physical Therapy Association Conference in Houston, Texas. Michelle shared findings from her study on the use of *Bal-A-Vis-X*—a series of rhythmic balance, auditory, and vision exercises—as an intervention to improve both reading fluency and motor skills in elementary students. With support from MCEC leadership and collaboration with the University of Dayton, her research demonstrated measurable gains in student performance and highlighted the potential of innovative practices to strengthen learning outcomes.

Terri presented her work on an after-school adaptive cycling program for children with motor delays, developed in partnership with Mad River Local Schools, MCEC colleagues, and the University of Dayton. Over a 10-week period, students biked on adaptive tricycles through structured courses, resulting in improved balance, endurance, and functional strength. With strong attendance and clear student growth, the study demonstrated that adaptive cycling is both feasible and impactful. Together, Michelle and Terri's research underscores MCEC's commitment to advancing practices that enhance student success and well-being.



STUDENT PROGRAMS



WILL COUTTS

Director
of Student
Programs

Student Programs operates two Learning Centers that offer inclusive and specialized education programs for students in grades K-12, up to age 22. Utilizing a holistic approach to education and mental health, including intensive instruction and learning of coping skills, the Learning Centers aim to enable students to reach their full potential and lead fulfilling lives.



New Vision Clinics Give Students Clearer Sight and Greater Access

During the 2024–25 school year, Learning Center North formed a new partnership with iSee Ohio and the Ohio Optometric Foundation. Through this collaboration, an optometrist from Dayton Children's Hospital provided two in-house vision clinics for students. Any student who had previously failed a school vision screening or was considered a direct referral due to a disability was able to participate. The clinics offered full eye exams, including dilation, at no cost to families, regardless of insurance coverage. Students who needed glasses were able to select frames, which were later delivered back to the school. For many, it was their very first eye exam.

The clinics were a true team effort. Dr. Dawson and her assistant, Jen, worked closely with students to ensure a positive experience. MCEC staff provided additional support, including SEL consultant Brandy Pledgure, who helped with co-regulation and activities while students waited, and Speech Therapist Amy D'Amico, who supported AAC device communication and prepared a social story for MD students. By the end of the clinics, Dr. Dawson had seen eighteen

students and delivered twelve pairs of glasses. This partnership reflects Student Programs' ongoing commitment to removing barriers and connecting families with essential resources. Plans are already underway for the 2025–26 school year, with clinics scheduled for Learning Center North and expanded services at Learning Center West.

CAREER READINESS



BRYAN STEWART
Workforce Director

Career Readiness includes four functions: Workforce Development, College Access, Policy and Advocacy, and Data Analysis. Together they support schools through programs and services that create career connections and improve access to college including leadership of our Business Advisory Council, working with elected officials to advance education policy, and utilizing data to inform decisions.



For a third year in a row, MCESC Business Advisory Council awarded highest rating in the state (4/4 stars) in THREE areas:

- Excellence in Coordinating Career Development Experiences
- Excellence in Building Partnerships
- Excellence in Developing Professional Skills for the Future

MCESC Brings Shark Tank-Style Experience to Local High School Students

MCESC hosted its first-ever Entrepreneurship Day in the spring at The Tank inside the historic Dayton Arcade, bringing together nearly 75 ninth graders from Kettering City Schools, Jefferson Township Local Schools, Miamisburg City Schools, and Valley View School District. The event was designed to inspire students interested in business, entrepreneurship, and technology by immersing them in an experience modeled after the hit television series *Shark Tank*. Throughout the day, students collaborated with mentors and engaged in interactive workshops, learning how to refine an idea and transform it into a compelling business pitch.

Working in teams, students were challenged to develop innovative solutions that used artificial intelligence to address real community problems. After presenting their concepts, the top pitch from each school was selected to compete in the afternoon's final round before a panel of judges and the entire student body. The event not only encouraged creativity and problem-solving but also gave students a platform to build confidence, strengthen teamwork skills, and experience the excitement of entrepreneurship. The success of the inaugural Entrepreneurship Day highlights MCESC's commitment to creating opportunities that connect students' passions with real-world experiences.



DAYTON REGIONAL STEM CENTER



JESSICA SHORT
Regional STEM
Center Director

The Dayton Regional STEM Center brings together schools and experts in the fields of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) by training and supporting educators, designing curriculum aligned to the workforce needs, training school leaders at the district and building level, and supporting schools and program models committed to STEM teaching and learning.

500+ students impacted



250+ educators impacted



\$380,000+
managed in
program grant
funding

DO STEM
Newsletter
viewed in



10+
countries



Future STEM Leaders Grow Through Chief Science Officers Program

In its second year, the Chief Science Officers (CSO) Dayton program engaged 14 high school students representing 10 schools across the region. The CSO program empowers students to serve as the voice of STEM within their schools and communities. Designed for students in grades 9–12, the program provides hands-on leadership development through monthly full-day sessions held from September 2024 through May 2025.

Each session connects students with adult mentors and leaders from the Dayton Region to explore careers, build leadership skills, prepare for college, strengthen professional branding, and engage in STEM outreach. The CSO program is a collaborative effort between the Dayton Regional STEM Center, Sinclair Community College, and the SciTech Institute. This impactful initiative is proudly supported through grant funding from DoDSTEM and the Defense STEM Education Consortium (DSEC).

MONTGOMERY COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICTS



Brookville Local Schools
brookvilleschools.org



Centerville City Schools
centerville.k12.oh.us



Dayton Public Schools
dps.k12.oh.us



Huber Heights City Schools
myhhcs.org



Jefferson Township Local
jeffersontwp.k12.oh.us



Kettering City School District
ketteringschools.org



Mad River Local Schools
madriverschools.org



Miami Valley CTC
mvctc.com



Miamisburg City Schools
miamisburgcityschools.org



New Lebanon Local Schools
newlebanonschools.org



Northmont City Schools
northmontschools.com



Northridge Local Schools
northridgeschools.org



Oakwood City Schools
oakwoodschoos.org



Trotwood-Madison City Schools
trotwood.k12.oh.us



Valley View Local Schools
valleyview.k12.oh.us



Vandalia Butler City Schools
vbcasd.com



West Carrollton City Schools
westcarrolltonschools.com



**preschool
PROMISE**

because the first 5 years matter



Shared Resource Center



200 South Keowee Street, Dayton, OH 45402-2242

937-225-4598 | mcesc.org

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