

2025-2026

Impact Report

MCESC
MONTGOMERY COUNTY EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CENTER



OUR MISSION

Visionary leaders providing exemplary service.

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Watch our **Stories in Action** on our YouTube!

We serve so students can be successful.

At the Montgomery County Educational Service Center, the measure of our work is found in the difference it makes for students, educators, and the communities we serve. Exemplary service means recognizing the unique needs of each school and community, bringing the right expertise and resources to meet those needs, and continually finding ways to strengthen the educational opportunities available to every student. It calls us to look beyond what is expected and remain focused on what is possible when people work together toward a shared purpose.

Throughout the 2025–26 school year, our teams put that commitment into practice in countless ways. From expanding specialized services and supporting student well-being to strengthening career exploration, advancing literacy, and equipping educators and school leaders, MCESC continued to respond to the evolving needs of our partner districts. Each effort reflects the dedication of professionals who bring their knowledge, creativity, and compassion to the work of helping students thrive. Together, these efforts demonstrate how responsive service and strong partnerships can create meaningful opportunities for learners across Montgomery County.

The pages ahead offer a closer look at that work through the milestones achieved, services delivered, and stories of progress made possible by our collective efforts. Behind every figure is a person, a partnership, or an opportunity that moves our mission forward.
I am proud of the way our team embodies MCESC's commitment to collaboration, innovation, diversity, communication, wellness, and integrity, and I am grateful to the educators, district leaders, families, and community partners who share in this responsibility. Thank you for the role you play in making exemplary service a daily practice and helping our communities build a stronger future for every student.



Dr. Shannon Metz

MCESC Superintendent

GOVERNING BOARD


Mr. Daryl Michael, Jr.


Mr. Gary Roberts


Mr. Greg 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.



Showing Up for Partnership

Strong community partnerships are built through more than programs and initiatives; they grow through relationships, shared commitment, and showing up for one another. Throughout the 2025–26 school year, the MCESC Governing Board was present for so many of the moments that celebrate and strengthen those critical connections, including recognizing local businesses for their meaningful investment in public education.

At a 2025 board meeting, Board President Daryl Michael, Jr. joined MCESC leadership in honoring community partners: QQE, Yaskawa Motoman, Kettering Health, and Shook Construction, for being selected to the Ohio School Boards Association's Business Honor Roll. Each organization received recognition for its exceptional support of public education and participation in the MCESC Business Advisory Council. Moments like these reflect the role our Governing Board plays beyond its formal responsibilities: being visible, engaged partners in the relationships that connect our schools, students, and community. These partnerships are crucial, and we're grateful for a dedicated Governing Board that understands its role in this impactful work.

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.

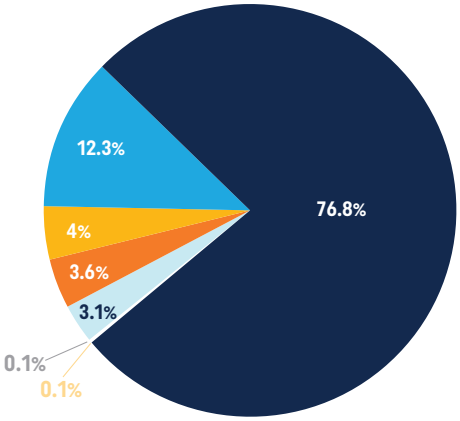
Following Christopher Fox's impactful service as he transitioned to become Treasurer at Mad River Local Schools, MCESC welcomed Adam Zink into the role of Treasurer. As the division prepared for Christopher's departure, Adam stepped in to lead the district's financial operations into its next chapter.

$57.7M
in salaries and benefits issued

$80M
budget managed

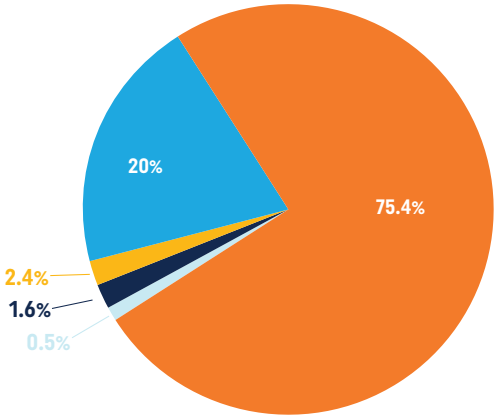
Income Fiscal Year 2026

School Contracts	$61,719,382.83	76.8%
Partnerships	$9,891,791.27	12.3%
State & Local Grants	$3,207,207.50	4.0%
Federal Grants	$2,868,131.88	3.6%
State Funding	$2,462,600.67	3.1%
Miscellaneous	$106,864.70	0.1%
Investments	$84,479.29	0.1%
Total Receipts	**$80,340,458.14**	



Expenditures Fiscal Year 2026

Salaries & Benefits	$57,760,365.52	75.4%
Contracted Services	$15,335,980.06	20.0%
Dues, Fiscal Fees & Other	$1,810,878.38	2.4%
Supplies & Materials	$1,259,285.61	1.6%
Capital & Equipment	$405,179.36	0.5%
Total Expenditures	**$76,571,688.93**	



HUMAN RESOURCES



MARION STOUT

Director of Human Resources

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

After nine years of dedicated and exemplary service to MCESC, we celebrated Marion Stout's well-deserved retirement. As the organization prepared for Marion's departure, MCESC promoted Nathan Warner to Director of Human Resources. Nathan is ready to champion our workforce and support our organizational culture.

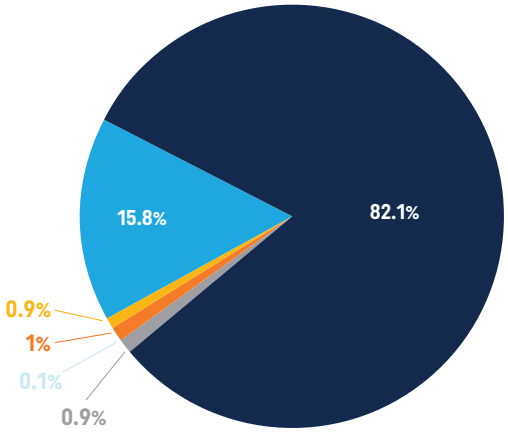
25 employee referral bonuses paid out

151 employees onboarded

669 staff members supported

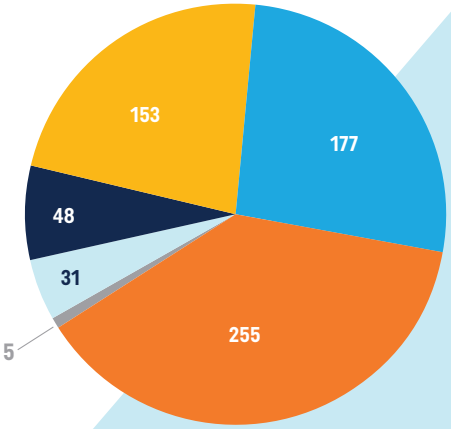
Employees by Race

White	82.1%
Black	15.8%
Hispanic	0.9%
Asian	1%
Pacific Islander	0.1%
Other	0.9%



Employees by Education

Masters	255
Non-degree	177
Bachelors	153
Associates	48
Doctorate	31
Education Specialist	5



ADMINISTRATION + OPERATIONS



AMY ANYANWU
Assistant Superintendent

The Administration + Operations Division is the backbone of our organization, maintaining facilities, managing technology, ensuring safety, and coordinating food services. Most recently, the division has added transportation and driver's education services. The work of this team is essential to keeping roadways and MCESC running smoothly and safely for both staff and students.

DriveSmart provides accessible, high-quality driver education for youth across the region.

1,324 students completed the program

RideSmart supports hard-to-transport students and improves access to education for those with complex needs.

58,804 total passenger miles traveled

307,451 sq. ft. and **32+ acres** maintained

2.7 hour response time to service desk

Preparing for the Future of Safety

Safety in education is constantly evolving, and this spring, the Administration + Operations Team brought leaders from across the region together to think about what comes next. Through the Future of Safety in Education event, led by MCESC Technology Director, Corey O'Connor, educators and community leaders spent the day learning, collaborating, and sharing ideas around the many layers of school safety, from emerging intelligence and cybersecurity to physical security, crisis response, stress management, and building resilient schools. The event created space not only to learn from experts, but to have the conversations that help schools prepare before a challenge becomes a crisis.

Bringing an event like this to life reflects what the Administration + Operations Team does every day for MCESC. As the team responsible for so much of what keeps our organization running safely, smoothly, and effectively, they understand the importance of looking ahead, anticipating needs and creating strong systems of support. The Future of Safety in Education offered that same care and foresight to our regional partners, extending the team's impact beyond MCESC and helping strengthen the environments where students and staff learn and work every day.





COMMUNITY + CLIENT RELATIONS



KELLY GEERS

Director of Community + Client Relations

The Community and Client Relations Division supports the mission of MCESC 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 MCESC, provide data to inform decision-making, and support the education community through relationship building.

Following Kelly Geers' invaluable leadership as she transitioned to Managing Director at Learn to Earn Dayton, MCESC welcomed Amanda Harold as its new Director of Community and Client Relations. As the division prepared for Kelly's move, Amanda stepped into the role ready to continue strengthening our community partnerships and client engagement.

44,000+ visits to our MCESC social media profiles

Almost 17,000 social media engagements

499 stories and pieces of content highlighting MCESC news and accomplishments

District Reports Data Dashboard that monitors **12 key education metrics** for the 16 public school districts of Montgomery County

Choosing Public Schools, Together

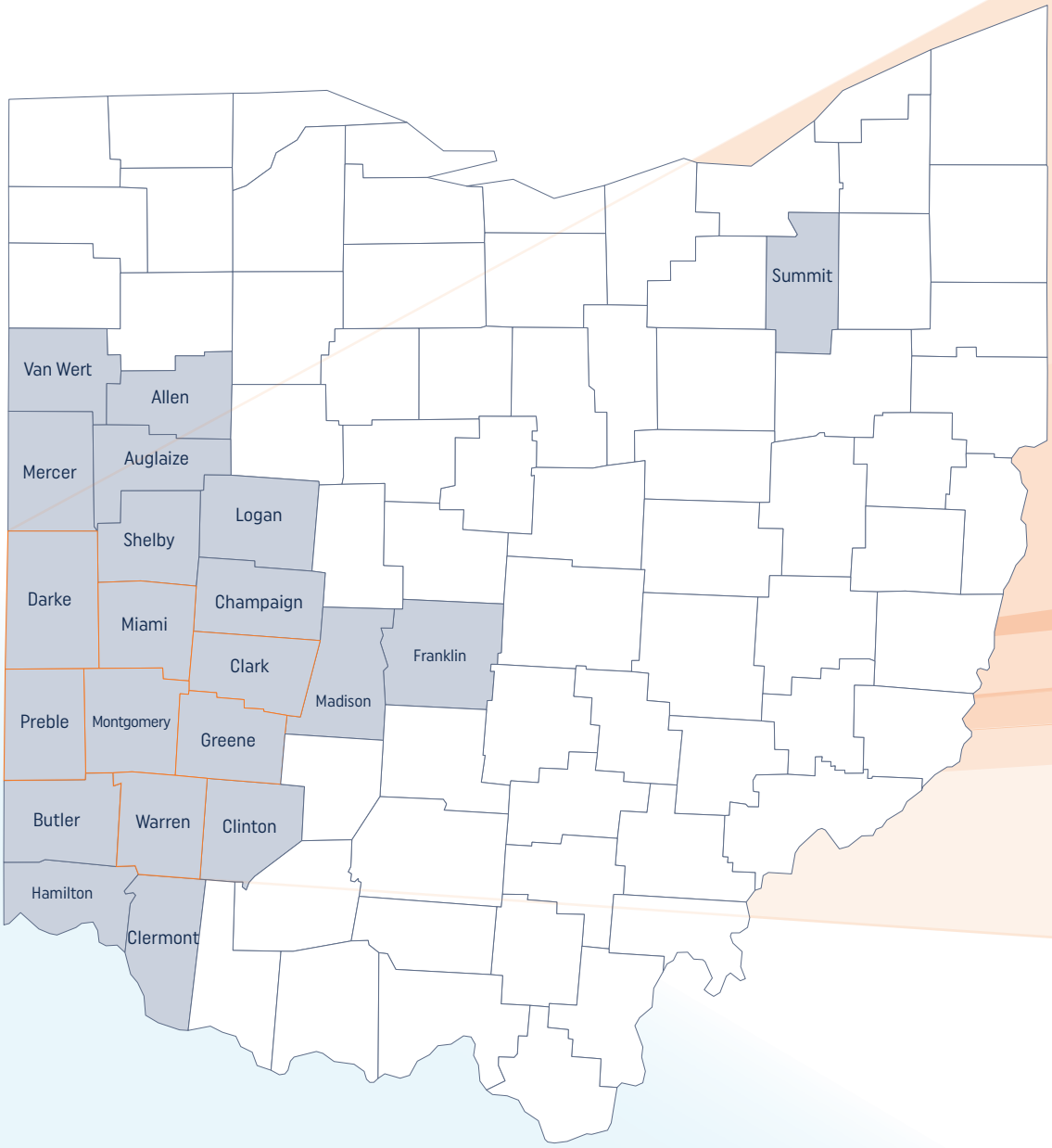
Throughout the 2025–26 school year, the Public Relations + Communications Team worked to establish and grow the I Choose Public Schools Campaign as a unified statement of pride and support for Montgomery County's public schools and public education across Ohio. At a time when the value of public schools can be overlooked, underfunded or unfairly criticized, the campaign set out to change the conversation by putting the focus where it belongs: on the real stories of success, resilience, and impact happening in public schools every day.

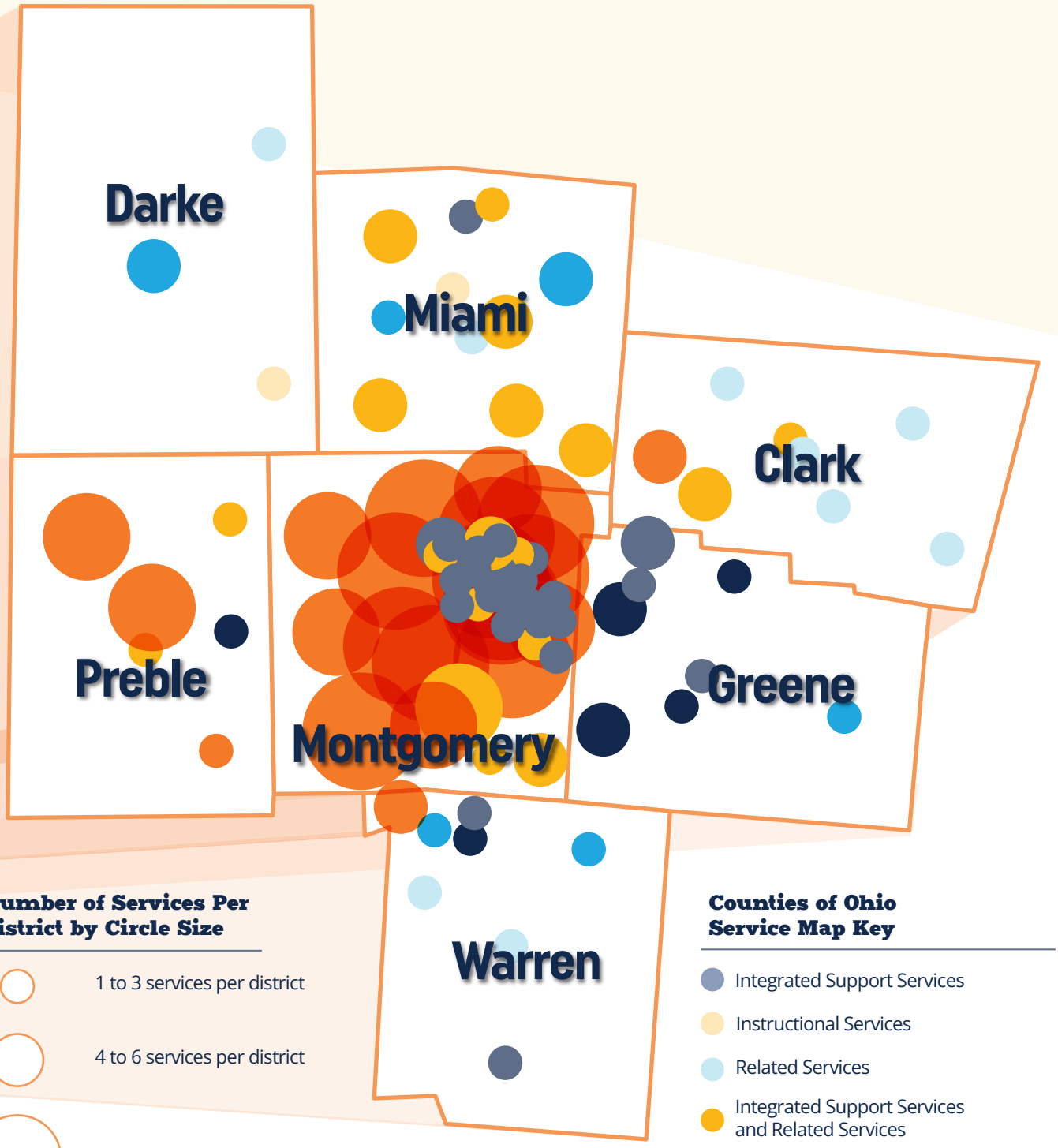
What started as a campaign grew into a collective voice. The energy behind I Choose Public Schools resonated with partner districts, educators, and community members, who joined in to share their own reasons for choosing and believing in public education. With each new voice, the campaign's reach expanded and its message became more diverse, personal and powerful. The result is more than a communications campaign; it is a growing community statement that public schools matter, the work happening within them matters, and the people who make that work possible have a story worth telling.



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



DR. JENNIFER JOHNSON

Director of
Instructional Services

The Instructional Services Division empowers educators and elevates student learning through customized support in curriculum supervision, gifted education, English Language Learning, literacy and math instruction. It's home to the Future Self Center and the Language and Literacy Center which provides specialized student support. This division also oversees the Western Ohio Service Collaborative, and hosts professional development on a variety of topics for educators in the Dayton-region and beyond.

25 counties served

90 professional development offerings

1,739 educators and administrators trained





Sparking Lifelong Curiosity

This summer, the Instructional Services Division provided 5 different student learning experiences through a variety of camp offerings. Each camp was buzzing with creativity, curiosity, and a whole lot of building. Across four sessions, 105 students from elementary through high school explored engineering, coding, and digital design through hands-on projects designed to let them imagine, create, and solve problems. Staff led students in designing everything from volcanoes and roller coasters to rockets that would be launched, and tackling egg-drop challenges. Campers used state-of-the-art tools, including MCESC's SmartLab, to turn ideas into something they could see, test, and improve. This team also had the unique opportunity to provide these experiences to students off-site in their own district.

But perhaps the best measure of the impact was how hard it was for students to leave. Campers from eight different school districts described the experience as so engaging that "they wished the sessions were longer," and they found not only opportunities to explore STEM, but to build connections with one another. That enthusiasm is exactly what the Instructional Services team hopes to spark: creating learning experiences that move beyond the traditional classroom and give students the chance to discover what they are capable of. During these student experiences, curiosity became confidence, ideas became projects, and students got to experience the excitement of seeing what they can create.

INTEGRATED SUPPORT SERVICES



JESSICA DAVIES
Director of Integrated Support Services

The Integrated Support Services 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, 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 building essential skills for school, work, and life. Additionally, ISS connects families with critical community resources while equipping staff through professional coaching, shared problem-solving, and helps schools build sustainable support systems that lead to meaningful lasting change.

24,763 students served

391
entities served

363
parents served

4,129
staff served

Together, the Impact is Always Greater

Supporting students and families is complex work, and sometimes the most meaningful support is knowing that others understand the challenges you face. Throughout the 2025–26 school year, MCESC's Family, Community + School Engagement Network, led by Jacie Womack, MCESC Family + Community Engagement Specialist, created a space for professionals from more than 25 public, private, and charter schools across Montgomery County. Meeting nine times throughout the year, principals, counselors, social workers, liaisons, and family resource coordinators came together to learn, share ideas, and build relationships that extend far beyond the meeting room.

The network offered opportunities to learn from ESC leaders and community partners, explore changes in family engagement policy and funding, and better understand topics like attendance, truancy, connection, and belonging. Beyond the structured sessions, members continuously said that some of the most valuable moments came simply from sharing the realities of the work; celebrating successes, working through challenges, and discovering that the problems that can feel isolating are often shared by others. Over time, those conversations have grown into genuine connections, with members finding resources, encouragement, and practical solutions through one another.





RELATED SERVICES



TODD BANDOW
Director of
Related Services

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.

Vision services provided for **424 students** attending **62 districts**

School Psychology Department services provided to **16 districts** and **5 counties**

Hearing Intervention services provided for **561 students** attending **68 districts**

Speech and Language services provided to over **1,003 students** in **12 districts**

Educational Assessment Team completed

- **4** Specialized Autism Assessments
- **7** Assistive and Adaptive Technology
- **4** Comprehensive Independent Educational Evaluations
- **69** Hearing and Audiology Assessments
- **82** Vision and Orientation and Mobility Assessments

Unlocking What's Possible



When Surur arrived at Learning Center North in 2022, communication was incredibly difficult. He initially used his foot to operate a communication device, but MCESC staff knew there had to be another way for him to more fully express his wants, needs, thoughts, and ideas, and to access the learning happening around him. What followed were years of patience, creativity, and collaboration among, but not limited to, Related Services staff, working alongside educators and specialists across MCESC to find the right tools and opportunities for Surur. They tried a head tracker. They adapted a foot-controlled joystick. Then, through a connection made by Speech/Language Pathologist Amy D'Amico, Surur began working with an eye-gaze communication device that uses a camera to track where his eyes are focused on the screen. Within seconds, he was calibrating the device himself. "It was amazing because we didn't know he could do that," Amy shared. "And nobody would know he could do that unless you try it."

Once Surur had a way to communicate more freely, something remarkable happened: he took off. He began adding to his vocabulary, telling and creating jokes, sharing his ideas, and engaging more fully in the things he loved, such as geography and history. His team even created customized games, including Jeopardy, to help him practice communicating in English, his second language. He learned to ride his specialized bike, continued to grow in confidence and became known for his humor, sense of wonder and excitement for learning. In May, Surur graduated from Learning Center North, marking not an ending, but a celebration of everything he had shown was possible. His story is a powerful reminder of the heart of Related Services: when extraordinary circumstances call for extraordinary thinking, our teams keep looking, keep adapting, and keep believing until a student has the opportunity to show the world what was there all along.

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY/PHYSICAL THERAPY



CHERYL VANHOOSE

Director of OT/PT

Every child deserves the opportunity to participate fully and confidently in their educational journey. Our Occupational and Physical Therapists deliver seamless, school-based therapy solutions that bridge the gap between clinical expertise and academic achievement, ensuring every student has the physical and functional support to thrive. We focus on fostering the motor skills, functional independence, and adaptive foundations essential for both learning and life. By working hand-in-hand with families and educators, our therapists ensure that every student is equipped with the personalized tools, devices, and technology they need to thrive in an inclusive, accessible environment.

4,446 students served

31 districts reached

MOVING BEYOND TRADITIONAL THERAPY

The 2025–26 academic year marked a dedicated push toward technology integration across our therapy team. By prioritizing modern solutions, we streamlined service delivery while enhancing direct student outcomes.

- Artificial Intelligence
- Academic Research Partnerships
- Immersive Engagement
- Adaptive Engineering



Celebrating Every Win

For Maddie, the little things have become big milestones. A kindergartner in Mad River Local Schools, Maddie receives support from several MCESC team members, including Occupational Therapist Denise Campbell and Physical Therapist Terri Dinkelaker. When Terri first knew Maddie as a preschooler, she wasn't yet able to jump. Today, thanks to the dedication, creativity, and collaboration of her therapists, Maddie is leaps ahead from where she started, catching balls, doing jumping jacks, and playing games that require real coordination. The most meaningful progress has been what those skills have made possible. Maddie is now attending full days of school, regulating her emotions more successfully and, this spring, joined her general education peers for the first time without the support of her paraprofessional.

Behind each of those milestones is a team that refuses to overlook any victory, no matter how big or small. Maddie's mother, Taylor Hatfield, describes her daughter as having "really blossomed," sharing how much more she is talking and how much she appreciates knowing Maddie is supported and celebrated at school. "They celebrate every single win of hers," she said. "It could be so small or so big; it doesn't matter, they are celebrating with her." That spirit is at the heart of the OT/PT team's work: collaborating closely, cheering students on, and building the skills that help them participate more fully in school and in life. As Denise and Terri know, progress happens through teamwork, and sometimes one small win becomes the beginning of something much bigger.

STUDENT PROGRAMS



WILL COUTS
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.

After eight years of distinguished service to MCESC, we celebrated Will Couts' well-deserved retirement. As the division prepared for Will's departure, MCESC promoted Jim Grimsley to Director of Student Programs. Jim is eager to build on the foundation and drive student success and growth across our regional programs.

358 students and **29** school districts served





students completed graduation requirements



Across all student programs, **97% of families** would recommend our Learning Centers to others



Preparing Students to Thrive

Promotion Day at MCESC's Learning Center West (LCW) is more than a celebration of how far students have come. It's a milestone that marks the beginning of what comes next. After working closely with dedicated educators to build the skills and confidence they need to succeed, students are ready to take their next steps, whether that means moving to Learning Center North or reintegrating back to their home school district.

For students returning to their home districts, the impact of their time at LCW carries forward into new classrooms, new relationships, and new opportunities to learn alongside their peers. For the educators who have supported them, sometimes for years, Promotion Day is a chance to celebrate the progress they've witnessed and the possibilities ahead. This annual celebration will always hold a special place in the hearts of our staff.

CAREER-CONNECTED LEARNING + WORKFORCE



TOM JENKINS

Director of Career-Connected Learning and Workforce

Career-Connected Learning + Workforce 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 **fourth** 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





Building Confidence for the Future

For the second year, MCESC Career Navigators partnered with Valley View Junior High to bring The Amazing Shake Gauntlet to sixth-grade students, giving them an opportunity to practice professional skills that will serve them long after they leave the classroom. The event was first piloted locally by MCESC Regional Career Navigator Katie Grothaus the previous school year, and its return in 2025–26 reflected how a good idea can grow into a meaningful partnership. Throughout the day, students worked through real-world scenarios, interview challenges, and public speaking activities that required them to communicate with confidence, listen carefully, handle pressure, and present themselves well.

After navigating 15 challenges, the top 13 students advanced to a second round where they had the opportunity to "work the room" with members of the Germantown Lions Club. With Career Navigators helping to create and facilitate the experience, students were given a safe place to try, make mistakes, build confidence, and discover that these skills can be learned. The Amazing Shake is one example of how the Career-Connected Learning + Workforce team brings career readiness to life; not simply by talking to students about their futures, but by giving them opportunities to practice for them.

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.

3,200 students impacted

262 educators impacted

$342,000 managed in program grant funding

11,545 Newsletter subscribers, page followers, website users



Taking Dayton STEM to the National Stage

The work happening through the Dayton Regional STEM Center is creating momentum that reaches well beyond the Dayton region. Throughout the 2025–26 school year, the STEM Center's expertise and partnerships were represented in conversations at both the state and national levels, bringing the Dayton region's perspective to discussions about the future of STEM education, workforce development, and opportunity. At the 2025 STEM Learning Ecosystems Community of Practice Convening in Washington, D.C., members of the DO STEM Advisory Council joined STEM professionals from across the country and around the world to celebrate a decade of STEM Ecosystems and explore what the next decade could hold. The Dayton team contributed to conversations about the impact of DoW STEM resources in the region and helped lead a session challenging participants to imagine how STEM ecosystems could transform communities by 2050.

That same spirit of collaboration carried into Ohio, where the Dayton Regional STEM Center was represented at the seventh annual AIM HIRE Workforce and Education Conference alongside educators and leaders from across the state. These opportunities are about more than putting Dayton on the map. They reflect the progress being made here and the STEM Center's role in connecting education, industry, community partners, and workforce opportunities in ways that can be shared and replicated. By bringing our local experience to larger conversations, the Dayton Regional STEM Center continues to expand what is possible for learners in the Dayton region and beyond.

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
oakwoodschools.org

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

Valley View Local Schools
valleyview.k12.oh.us

Vandalia Butler City Schools
vbcsd.com

West Carrollton City Schools
westcarrolltonschools.com

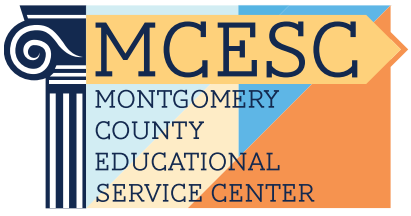














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