

## Testimony before the Ohio Constitutional Modernization Commission

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Good morning Mr. Chairman and all of the distinguished members of this Committee. I am both thankful and honored to be able to give testimony on behalf of Ohio's students and my fellow ESC Board members here today.

I am currently serving in my eighth year as an elected Board member on the Trumbull County Educational Service Center Governing Board serving over 30,000 students and twenty one school districts. In the past I was elected to four terms on the Southington Local Board of Education representing under a 1000 students in rural NE Ohio. I have served as President on both Boards.

My service on a Local Board provided me with valuable knowledge in a traditional hands on educational setting what most would envision education to be. It also taught me my role in the circle between Staff, Students and Community and the essential communications between all parties to be successful. There I saw the educational impact that our ESC made in support and co-operation with our Local School Districts. Wanting to help as many Trumbull County students as possible with educational program support and providing those opportunities has led me to my current Educational Service Center Governing Board position.

For nearly 100 years, ESCs have been dedicated to providing school districts with professional development, technical assistance, curriculum and instruction, special education, and administrative services that help improve student learning, enhance the quality of instruction, expand equitable access to resources, and maximize operating and fiscal efficiencies. These services have often been delivered at the apex of shared services business model.

Most people have never heard of an ESC much less what we do, so my best comparison is to a phone book. The White pages represent our students, Locals, and educational communities. The ESC is symbolic of the Yellow pages. The entity you call when you have an educational need whether it be in the area of: personnel, curriculum, Special Education, support services: (Occupational/Physical Therapists, Speech Therapist, School Psychologists, Speech Pathologist, Hearing Impaired, Classroom one on one aides) etc... you can rely upon your educational service center for assistance. Whether because of cost, lack of resources, unexpected circumstances or limited knowledge you turn to the ESC to partner in the solution. We provide services thru six major areas but thousands of individual needs. These areas are **shared services, curriculum, special education, student programs, professional development and human resources**. I would also include in this list any new idea that improves the education of our students. The Educational Service Center implements many of the directives and legislation enacted by the State Board of Education as well as the lawmakers in the State of Ohio.

My Board of education members come from a variety of backgrounds and offer insight from many diverse and different views. They consist of a police chief, realtor, banker, insurance agent/former township trustee and previously a pediatrician and car dealership owner. All presently elected ranging in duration from 3 years of service up to 44 years of service. I believe the commitment to run for this office shows a strong commitment to the purpose of educating our children. Our check/ balance and support roles are secondary to our communications both to and from the ESC. We all are very accessible in the community and spend a great deal of time listening, learning and following up on issues in education. Our jobs are made easier by a superior ESC staff and administration who are extremely proactive in new solutions to our district's needs. The districts we serve deserve only the best when representing them.

Though too numerous to mention listed below are guidelines to our many services.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Albert Haberstroh, Governing Board Member

Trumbull County ESC

## **SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES**

TCESC's pupil services department provides special education services through both classroom programs and related professional service programs. These programs help school districts to identify children with disabilities and provide them with an appropriate public education.

TCESC supervisors provide consultation to district administrators, certified and classified staff, parents and agency personnel about the laws and regulations related to the education of children with disabilities. Supervisors also conduct staff development programs regarding research, educational best practices and legislative or judicial entities.

Special Educational programs:

Adapted physical education

Assistive technology

Audiology

Autism program

Early childhood

Emotionally disturbed program

Extended school year

Hard of hearing/Deaf education

Multiple disabilities

ODE forms

OT and PT

School psychology

Special Ed web resources

Speech and language

Supervisor resources

TAP program

Transitions STEP program

Work study

## Curriculum Services

The curriculum & instruction department provides high quality support to school districts and educational entities through a wide variety of services. The staff of the curriculum and instruction department is available to meet the needs of individual school districts as they work to improve student achievement including collecting and analyzing data and modeling and promoting best practices to improve student achievement. They also provide services to integrate technology into all curricular areas; enhance technological skills and improve student motivation in the STEM fields.

- Providing school districts with instructional strategies and resources including selection of textbooks and supplemental materials.
- Assisting school districts with individual curriculum needs including alignment, mapping and assessment techniques.
- Creating instructional strategies to meet the needs of students at all learning levels.
- Presenting on various topics at building staff and/or parents meetings.
- Provide professional development for teachers and administrators.
- Modeling lessons in the classrooms.
- Preparing for achievement tests, diagnostics, and the Ohio Graduation Test.
- Integrating technology into curriculum.
- Assisting with spelling bees, district science fairs and career fairs.
- Assisting individual school districts with the development, implementation, and evaluation of Continuous Improvement Plans. This includes facilitating the collection and analysis of data.
- Promoting quality education initiatives and Standards Based Education.
- Assisting districts in analysis of data and retention for data-based decision making.
- Providing resources, mentoring, and support for both the FIRST Lego League and FIRST robotics competitions.

Curriculum

CILN

College credit plus

Curriculum corner

Gifted and talented

Ohio's new state tests

OTES/SLOs

STEM services

TCSA

Third grade reading guarantee

Value added

## **SHARED SERVICES FROM TRUMBULL COUNTY ESC**

TCESC's shared services programs are customer-driven consortiums that support and enhance educational efforts both locally and at the state level.

TCESC is leading Trumbull County districts in forming consortiums and partnerships that assist districts in making the best use of limited resources. Our Trumbull County consortiums allow many districts to offer services more economically than they could on an individual basis.

Some shared services that TCESC provides include:

### **Special Education**

- Special education classrooms in the areas of multiple disabilities, preschool, and emotionally disturbed and hearing impaired
- Adapted Physical Education
- Audiology
- Autism Programming
- Extended School Year
- Occupational therapy
- Physical therapy
- Speech and language pathology
- Transition services
- School psychology
- Work Study

### **Administrative**

- Health insurance
- Special Education Transportation
- eSchool Mall
- Bus Bidding
- Bus Driver Certification
- Compliance with legal mandates

- Administrative professional development
- Grant programming
- NEOMIN
- Professional employment services
- Substitute credentialing

## Teachers

- Resident Educator
- Curriculum training
- Technology training
- STEM Support services
- Master teacher application processing

## Students

- Gifted and talented programming
- Trumbull Student Assistance Consortium programming
- Trumbull Virtual Learning Academy

## Partnerships

TCESC is proactive in establishing partnerships with community agencies to benefit education throughout the area. Some agency partners are:

- Battelle for Kids
- Help Me Grow
- PK-16 Council
- SST 5
- Fairhaven Trumbull County Board of Developmental Disabilities
- Head Start
- Valley Counseling
- Family and Children First Council

## STUDENT PROGRAMS

### STEAM Excel

STEAM Excel is a cooperative program among all 19 Trumbull County schools and TCESC that provides students with an opportunity to develop their learning, literacy and life skills in the disciplines of technology, art, dance, drama, vocal and instrumental music. Students interact with instructors who are practicing in their area of expertise.

### STEAM Explore

STEAM Explore provides students with an opportunity to identify and expand their interests and abilities in the areas of technology and the arts. Students in grades three through five are eligible to spend three days during the year in the program.

## **Fine Arts Program**

The Fine Arts Program showcases poetry, sculpture, ceramics, prints, drawings and paintings created by students. There is also a poetry reading and musical performance. Students win scholarships and gift certificates for art supplies.

## **Challenge 24**

Challenge 24 is a mathematics game in which competitors use multiplication, addition, subtraction and division in various combinations to manipulate four numbers on a card to equal 24. TCESC and the Warren Tribune Chronicle holds their annual Challenge 24 Tournament in the Fall.

## **Civic Day**

TCESC conducts Civic Day during which approximately 100 high school students from 20 high schools shadow community leaders throughout the county to learn about various jobs and responsibilities.

## **Equations Tournament**

Equations is a comprehensive mathematics game that combines problem-solving interaction with strategy, bluffing and intrigue. The game includes addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, exponentiation, root operation, logarithms, fractions, decimals, percents, variables, algebra, functions and more.

## **Prep Bowl**

Prep Bowl is an academic competition in which students engage in a contest to answer questions from all areas of study. Students from 20 school districts participate at three levels: elementary (5th & 6th grade); junior high (7th & 8th grade); and high school (9th –12th grade).

## **County Spelling Bee**

TCESC's annual spelling bee is held at Liberty High School. Students representing 20 school districts participate in this contest, which is co-sponsored by the Youngstown Warren Regional Chamber. This Spelling Bee provides students with the opportunity to prepare for the annual spelling contests sponsored by the Warren Tribune Chronicle and the Youngstown Vindicator.

## **Professional Development**

TCESC's Curriculum and Instruction Department is available to assist your district with a large variety of professional development offerings. Our menu of opportunities encompasses professional development sessions focusing on instructional approaches, accountability, testing, data analysis and much more. TCESC's supervisors are also

available to develop special training programs to meet the individual needs of each district.

Bus driver training

Counselors

Evaluation systems

HQT

LiveBinders link

Master teacher

Moodle

Nurses

PD days

PD and event registration

Principals

Resident educators

Safety and violence prevention

Summer of Growth

Technology coordinators

Technology training

Workshops

## **HUMAN RESOURCES SERVICES**

Trumbull County Educational Service Center provides a wide variety of human resources services to school districts in Trumbull County.

### **Licensure**

- Processes licensure renewals and transitions for 15 local school districts in Trumbull County.
- Processes pupil activity permits for 15 local school districts.

- Reviews license applications for some local school districts.
- Provides districts with updates regarding changes in licensure.
- Interacts with the Ohio Department of Education regarding specific licensure questions and issues.
- Provides support for district LPDCs including periodic county-wide meetings and regular email updates when new regulations and updates become available.

## **Substitutes**

- Maintains credential files for the substitutes who are placed on a list of credentialed substitutes for Trumbull County school districts.
- Conducts a required substitute training workshop as part of the substitute credentialing process.

## **Background Checks**

- Conducts WebCheck Bureau of Criminal Investigation checks for both Ohio and federal webchecks for educators.
- Communicates with districts regarding new requirements for Ohio and federal background checks.

## **Employment Services**

- Posts both certified and classified jobs for Trumbull County School Districts.
- Maintains electronic applications for candidates in all fields of education.
- Assists districts with employment searches.

## **Highly Qualified Resources**

- Serves as a resource for all issues regarding highly qualified teacher.
- Administers the electronic version of the ETS parapro assessment, which enables paraprofessionals to become highly qualified.

## **Master Teacher Designation**

- Conducts the Master Teacher designation application process for Trumbull County teachers.

## **Employee Relations**

- Coordinates TCESC's internal employee relations and ensures compliance with all mandates.

