

Mid-Ohio ESC Board of Governors Board Report
Lynn Meister, Director of Teaching and Learning
April 20, 2022

Teaching & Learning, Gifted, CLSD state grant, and new ALS state grant

1. The Teaching and Learning department is experiencing exponential growth for next school year, particularly in literacy. Three years ago, the department began with (4) units in four districts with only two part-time consultants and myself. Now, in only three years, it has grown to (16) units for 2022-2023 as of April 1, 2022. The department will have (2) part-time consultants and (4) full-time consultants.
 - a. A recently added, first-time client is Mansfield St. Peter's; they are contracting for one day of gifted and one day of mathematics consulting per week.
 - b. To meet this demand, the department welcomes Heather Dillon as a literacy consultant. Heather has been a second grade teacher and literacy support specialist during her career at Tiffin City Schools and her current position at Mansfield City Schools. She will soon receive her certification as a dyslexia specialist, enabling her to provide in-depth support to districts as they implement the new Right to Read law for dyslexia this fall.
 - c. Rebecca Kidney just accepted the gifted/mathematics consultant position to replace Ally Schleichert, who will be full-time at Mt. Gilead next year. A 21-year veteran, Rebecca comes from Crestview Local Schools, where she taught mathematics at the middle school level and is now the district's gifted intervention specialist.
 - d. Kelly Britton will not be needed by Mansfield City next year, so she will have days available to assist with gifted, mathematics or literacy training as needed in addition to her OPES/OTES duties.
 - e. The team will fulfill all contracted days by the second week of June; Mansfield is the largest customer with 2.5 units (90 days).
 - f. I have begun planning with curriculum directors and administrators in each district to determine services for next school year. Literacy will be the bulk of service for most districts.
2. Gifted Consultants
 - a. Leanna Ferreira returns from maternity leave on April 18 and will take over her duties at Lexington and with Academic Challenge. AC continues in April and May. In total, there are approximately (16) AC meets during the school year.
 - b. Artapolooza was a major success with hundreds of attendees over five days. As a new addition, student musicians played during the weekend hours while visitors viewed the art gallery. Jenny Pennell estimated the show consisted of 1,000 pieces of student art. In addition to the usual

awards, a student from Crestview was named Budding Artist with talent to pursue a professional art career. She received a gift of artist supplies.

- c. Spring book studies wrap up at the end of May; one summer study will be held.

3. Comprehensive Literacy State Development Grant

ODE conducted a day-long site review of the grant, visiting classrooms, talking to a variety of teachers and reviewing all the grant's activities and financial reports. Tricia Merenda of ODE said she was very happy with what she saw and wrote a note of appreciation to Kelly Britton and Lisa Cook. (Lisa is the Director, and Kelly is a 2.5/day a week consultant.) I was part of the afternoon review as well and saw first hand the impressive and thorough showcasing of the hard work and successes of the grant to date.

4. Regional Adolescent Literacy Specialist Grant ***NEW GRANT***

- a. In late March, Mid-Ohio was awarded a \$227,775 competitive grant from the Ohio Department of Education to hire, house, and collaborate with the newly-created position of Regional Adolescent Literacy Specialist. Mid-Ohio also received an additional \$50,000 to help with resources for the position.
- b. Only (4) Adolescent Literacy Specialist grants were awarded to ESCs across Ohio, and Mid-Ohio was the recipient of the award for a quadrant stretching from Columbus to Tiffin and across parts of Northeast Ohio. Carrie Wood will rejoin Mid-Ohio's team for this two-year position. Carrie is currently a Regional Early Literacy Specialist for ODE, housed at NCOESC. In her new role, she will provide and support professional development, networking opportunities, and adolescent literacy information and resources to teachers, education leaders and community members in the quadrant to impact literacy outcomes of students in grades 6 – 12. This is a critical position, and Carrie will provide Mid-Ohio with a strong foundation for the adolescent literacy services being implemented by the Teaching and Learning department in area districts. It also provides us with a direct conduit to the top leaders in ODE's literacy work across the state. Carrie will begin July 1, 2022.

Thank you for your support for all we do!