

Guide to Programs and Services



*2024-25
School Year*

Educate. Support. Collaborate.

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Greene County Educational Service Center

GCESC Programs & Services: A Comprehensive Guide

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The Governing Board generally meets the second Thursday of each month at 9:30 a.m. at the Greene County Educational Service Center, 360 E. Enon Road, Yellow Springs, Ohio. Some exceptions may occur due to varying circumstances. Please contact the Superintendent, the Treasurer, or the Executive Assistant to confirm the date and time of the Board meeting each month.

GCESC Leadership Team



Terry Graves-Strieter
Superintendent



Kasey Mahaffey
Interim Treasurer



Dr. Amy Baldrige
Director of Alternative Education
& Instructional Support Services



Brad Kayata
Director of Greene County
Learning Center



Cassie Darr
Director of Related Services
& Specialized Services



Anya Senetra
Director of Mental Health
& Prevention Services



Grace Schoessow
Director of IECMH Consultation



Traci Womack
Director of Preschool Programs

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Message from Superintendent Terry Graves-Strieter

The Greene County ESC is pleased to be of service to our school districts and community. We are committed to providing the best possible programs and services to our stakeholders which includes schools, students, families, and other community members.

The Greene County ESC continues to progress and evolve to create needed programming and services. We recognize that each school is unique. Therefore, we try to find ways to meet their specific needs. Further, through grants and other funding sources, we work to develop additional services, resources, and supports for those we serve. The GCESC works to find ways to sustain programming so progress can be continued into the future.

The Greene County ESC is dedicated to hiring people who are experts in their fields. We have an impressive array of specialists whom we are proud to count as part of our team. Our staff works hard to be “DIFFERENCE MAKERS” in the lives of the students they serve. They also collaborate with other agencies across the county to find resources to help support students, families, and the schools.

Thank you for your interest in our organization, programs, and services. I look forward to our continued excellence, progress, and development.

Message from Interim Treasurer Kasey Mahaffey

The Greene County ESC provides services at the request of the local, city, and exempted village school districts, parochial, and community schools most of which are special education in nature. Districts may rely solely on the Greene County ESC to provide these services or a combination of the Greene County ESC’s staff and district staff.

The Greene County ESC has tuition-charged programs that are shared with all districts that participate in the “pooled” program. The Greene County ESC covers costs by combining state revenue and support service agreements with the districts and schools we serve. We also obtain grant funds when possible to support programming. There is an estimated “cost of services” each month. At fiscal year-end, a reconciliation is performed to determine if a district may still owe or receive a refund. The Greene County ESC’s intent is to realize a marginal profit for sustainability and continued success of programming and services. The districts and schools find that using GCESC shared services is a cost-effective way to meet the needs of students in their districts.

*Difference maker
{dif-er-uhns mey-ker}*

A dedicated person who can make a big impact even with just a small action or a few words. Someone who rallies or encourages others to propel themselves forward and bring about change.

OUR MISSION

The mission of the Greene County ESC is to promote educational success of students by providing essential, effective, specialized services supporting collaborative partnerships amongst all stakeholders.

OUR VISION

The Greene County ESC aspires to develop and deliver quality services benefiting students, families, staff, and partners in education.



Learning Center Program for Emotional/Behavioral Needs & Transition-Home School

The Greene County Learning Center (GCLC) is a public “separate facility” school (providing education to students in grades K-12) located in Yellow Springs. The staff at GCLC work together to meet the academic and emotional needs of the children and youth they serve. The major objectives of the program are to help the students gain self-awareness, learn new coping skills, increase their ability to make appropriate choices, improve social-interpersonal interaction with peers and adults, and help students achieve academically. The ultimate goal is to help each student successfully return to their home school as is appropriate for each and to be able to function more fully in the community. All student referrals for this program must come from the home school district.

Brad Kayata

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George Leightenheimer

Lead Teacher, Greene County Learning Center
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“Different, not less.”
- Temple Grandin

Alternative Education

The Academy of Greene County

The Academy program serves high school students who need extra assistance in successfully completing their graduation requirements. The Academy offers a program with tailored support for all students (with or without IEPs). Due to the smaller setting, the reduced pupil-to-adult ratio personalizes the learning experience. It allows for greater flexibility than is feasible in a typical high school setting. The program includes mental health therapy as an available resource for students. The Academy utilizes an accredited online platform to serve as the core curriculum, and staff accommodates all necessary state testing preparations, seal requirements, credit calculations, and post-secondary planning for each student in partnership with the respective school district. All student referrals for this program must come from the home school district.

Outdoor Advantage

The Outdoor Advantage program serves middle school students who benefit from a smaller setting and a reduced pupil-to-adult ratio. The program provides ample hands-on experiential learning opportunities. A dedicated mental health therapist is on site. The program, which incorporates outdoor activities in a project-based curriculum, works in concert with an accredited online platform to ensure grade level content is being learned. Aside from a focus on academic goals, other program objectives include nurturing development of self-awareness, self-regulation, self-direction, and appropriate social skills. All student referrals for this program must come from the home school district.

Dr. Amy Baldrige

Director of Alternative Programs & Instructional Support Services
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Mike Doll

Dean of Students
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Intensive Needs Classroom Programs

Intensive Needs Classroom (INC) programs provide quality educational experiences to low incident students with significant special needs including: Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), Down Syndrome, Fragile X, etc. INC students typically cope with profound aggression often triggered by environmental/sensory issues. INC teachers partner heavily with families, related service professionals, home school districts, and community agencies to support students and families in achieving their transitional goals of living independently. INC programs provide highly-structured routines and daily schedules in a predictable setting. These programmatic features, along with functional life skills curriculum, provide relevance for schooling and act as catalysts for significant growth and learning for INC students. All student referrals for this program must come from the home school district.

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Related & Specialized Services

Related and Specialized Services include Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, Speech Therapy, and Adapted Physical Education. The practitioners in each discipline work collaboratively with IEP teams to provide individualized services in accordance with each student's IEP. Related services can include direct, consultative, and evaluation services to help students access their curriculum and be successful in the school environment.

Cassie Darr

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Augmentative & Alternative Communication Evaluation, Consultation & Coaching Services (AAC)

The purpose of our AAC services is to support district personnel in building their capacity to evaluate and support students with assistive technology needs. This includes job embedded professional development on-site, in school districts. Districts can make referrals to evaluate individual students for recommendations of assistive technology options (low and high tech) for Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC.) Consultation is provided to educational teams that includes recommendations of evidence-based interventions for assistive technology use. Ongoing coaching support is available for staff implementation of evidence-based practices for Assistive Technology.

Cassie Darr

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Transition Services

Transition Services are provided per an individual student's IEP and the district requesting such services through the GCESC. The Transition Program may provide job coaching and job experiences at the school site or other sites as deemed appropriate by the IEP.

Project Life

Project LIFE is a combined education and work experience program for students with disabilities. Project LIFE is focused on building the foundational skills that students will need for employment and independence in adulthood. The classroom instruction portion of the program introduces skills in team building, personal financial literacy, social communication, self-advocacy, technology, employability, independent living, and functional independence in the community.

Kristin Brown

Transition/Project LIFE Coordinator
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"There are many hills and valleys during transition. As our children grow, the fear of the 'real world' becomes a looming wall, like a tidal wave getting ready to swallow our children. It is a very scary time. Project LIFE provides a solid baseline of support for parents and students as they progress toward adulthood and employment. Thank you for your program."

- Patty Shrom, Parent

Preschool Programs

Bellbrook-Sugarcreek, Greeneview, Cedar Cliff & Yellow Springs

The GCESC operates preschool programs for the districts of Bellbrook-Sugarcreek, Greeneview, Yellow Springs, and Cedar Cliff. These public preschools follow Ohio Department of Education requirements. Teachers in the preschools are qualified to provide intervention services for students who need them. The preschools also provide specialists in speech therapy, occupational therapy, physical therapy, and adapted physical education who deliver services for those who qualify. Staff provide fun, engaging, language-rich, and developmentally appropriate experiences to children between the ages of three to five and help to prepare children for kindergarten. All student referrals for this program must come from the local school district.

Traci Womack

Director of Preschool Programs
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Vision/Hearing Services

The Vision/Hearing Team at the GCESC consists of Vision Impairment Specialists, Hearing Impairment Specialists, Interpreters, Orientation & Mobility Specialists, and an Audiologist. This team works with students who require these specialized services in Greene County schools. All referrals come from the home school district.

Sue Campbell

Supervisor of Vision/Hearing Services
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"I am still learning."
- Michelangelo
(at age 87)

School-Based Mental Health Services

School-based Mental Health Services are embedded in the natural environment of the school buildings where clinicians can assess and provide weekly support for the emotional needs of students. Our team of clinicians is trained in a variety of approaches to treatment including trauma, client-centered, cognitive behavioral, family therapy and solution-focused therapies. We serve students between the ages of three and 21 with supportive services tailored to student developmental and functioning levels. Services are available in district and alternative school settings.

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Dawn Carl

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Community Health & Resilience Initiative (CHRI)

Modeled after the School-Based Mental Health program, CHRI embeds consultative, training, and treatment services into the working fabric of our community partner organizations. Community partners include Children's Services, Juvenile Court, Family Violence Prevention Center, and the Fairborn and Xenia Police Departments. Our staff is dedicated to supporting the work of these crisis-oriented systems of care through consultation and training and providing quality trauma services to Greene County families through screening, consultation, community stabilization, therapy, and linkage to community resources.

Anya Senetra

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Grant Project Manager
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Infant & Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation Services

The GCESC Infant & Early Childhood Mental Health (IECMH) team provides an array of services for the county's youngest students to assess and address social, emotional, behavioral, and mental health issues. IECMH services are delivered by a team of specially trained Mental Health Professionals licensed and credentialed through the State of Ohio. The team is equipped to address the impact of childhood trauma and behavioral health issues on child development and learning during the early years.

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IECMH Supervisor
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Carrie Taylor

Infant Early Childhood Mental Health Coordinator
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*“Every artist was
at first an amateur.”*
– Ralph W. Emerson

Prevention & Wellness Services

The Greene County ESC Prevention staff provides Prevention strategies at Universal, Selective and Indicated levels to youth and parents/teachers. Using a team approach, certified and trained Prevention staff utilize a variety of strategies including Prevention Education, Community-based Processes, Problem Referral and Identification as well as ongoing collaboration in broader community initiatives. Evidence-based programs and practices as well as training that Prevention staff provide in schools and communities include Alcohol Literacy Challenge, Hidden in Plain Sight, Botvin LifeSkills, QPR Gatekeeper Training, Stanford Vaping curriculum, Stewards of Children, Screening, Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment (SBiRT), Trauma 101, and Youth-Led Prevention.

Rachel Miller

Prevention & Wellness Supervisor
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Truancy Intervention Services

Truancy Intervention is offered by the Greene County ESC to support districts with adhering to HB410. Truancy Interventionists focus on prevention, meeting with district and building personnel as well as students and/or parents prior to and after triggering for habitual truancy. A comprehensive team approach is taken with district personnel through ongoing communication and on-site team meetings to address any barriers to attendance.

Rachel Miller

Prevention & Wellness Supervisor
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Home Education

The GCESC processes home education requests for the Bellbrook-Sugarcreek, Cedar Cliff, Greeneview, Xenia, and Yellow Springs school districts.

Parents/Guardians who elect to homeschool their children should follow proper procedures to notify the district of their intent.

Barb McDermott

Home Education Consultant
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Tina Saunders

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*“My teacher thought
I was smarter than I
was, so I was.”*
- 6-year old student

Social Emotional Learning & Development

Building social and emotional learning begins with relationships and supportive learning environments. The SEL services at GCESC include the development and implementation of SEL curriculum, assessments, and instruction. The SEL team also delivers and supports SEL professional development to staff in early childhood and elementary settings by building the capacity of caregivers.

Carrie Taylor

Social Emotional Learning & Development Coordinator
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Behavioral Support, Consultation, Coaching & Training

GCESC provides coaching and consultation services to help resolve specific undesirable behaviors of students PreK-12 by facilitating change using the Ohio's pyramid model of Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS), creating long-lasting positive outcomes in students' lives. Using evidence-based programming, the team empowers educators to use relational strategies creating a classroom culture that positively impacts all students in the environment. The BSC PBIS team includes Ohio Certified PBIS master trainers to provide strategies that fit with the multi-tiered systems of support framework. The team can customize professional development sessions that cater to the unique needs of your staff and students.

Carrie Taylor

Social Emotional Learning & Development Coordinator
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The Family & Community Partnership Liaison

The Family & Community Partnership Liaison Program (FCPL) is designed to meet the increased needs of vulnerable youth by connecting schools, families and students to community resources and local systems of care. The FCPL focuses on training and capacity building in the areas of family engagement, whole child practices and policies, and supports for vulnerable youth. The Liaison works with many local and regional agencies including Greene County Children Services, Family and Children First, Job and Family Services Family Planning Committee, ASCD Whole Child Network, Greene County Drug Free Coalition, WPAFB Education Advisory Council and United Way-Stronger Families.

Lillian McCree

Family & Community Partnership Liaison

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“If a child can’t learn the way we teach, maybe we should teach the way they learn.”
- Ignacio Estrada

Instructional Support Services (ISS)

The Instructional Support Services department is a dynamic team of specialists working to provide direct and personalized support to Greene County districts in the areas of curriculum, data, assessment literacy, leadership, successful interventions, legislative clarity, and a variety of educational best practice strategies. Team members have extensive training in an array of topics aligned with current and relevant educational initiatives. The in-depth training/credentials expand their ability to provide timely and focused assistance to schools and teacher teams. The three Regional Data Leads (RDLs) offer support with deconstructing Value-Added data/reports to assist schools with instructional decision-making. Elementary and adolescent literacy specialists ensure local teams are empowered with emerging research-based strategies that align with new legislative requirements. Personalized professional development is tailored to local needs. Reach out for information regarding grant-funded services and options for supporting local initiatives.

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Nicole Ferguson

Instructional Support Coordinator & Elementary Literacy Specialist
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Professional Development

GCESC offers learning and leadership opportunities on a variety of topics related to the education and wellness of students; strengthening the capacity of practitioners; and strengthening operational effectiveness in schools and classrooms. Our training offerings are sponsored by a variety of GCESC departments including Mental Health Services, Infant & Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation, Related & Specialized Services, and Instructional Support Services. Professional Development (PD) offerings span a variety of topics, venues, and training types. Offerings can occur at the GCESC site or the school site. Coaching, specially designed/delivered services, workshops, train-the-trainer sessions, and follow-up technical assistance can be tailored to the needs of the school. PD options are developed in response to local requests and by projecting upcoming needs.

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Wendy Wooten

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*"I touch the future.
I teach."*

- Christa McAuliffe

Greene County Online Learning Collaborative (GOLC)

The Greene County Online Learning Collaborative (GOLC) offers local school districts a variety of virtual educational options through a consortium approach. This model provides participating districts with access to an ESC online tech coordinator who facilitates the enrollment processes and supports the districts in navigating the online options they select. The virtual options are expansive and all-inclusive (available grades, K-12 in all content areas). Choices include content supported by local teachers, or content supported by a dedicated Ohio licensed teacher who personally supports and instructs the enrolled student.

** Online learning is emerging as a new option in the continuum of educational services to personalize learning.*

** Reach out for more information on our GOLC online educational resources.*

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Kraig Aukerman

Coordinator of Online Technology Program Collaborative (GOLC)
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Business Advisory Council (BAC)

Mission Statement

The Greene County Business Advisory Council, in partnership with Greene County schools and businesses, will assist in the assessment of workforce needs and employability skills for student success in the regional economy.

The BAC Responsibilities:

- To advise the districts on changes in the economy and job market and the area in which future jobs are most likely to be available.
- To advocate for the employment skills most critical to business and industry and the development of curriculum to teach these skills.
- To aid and support districts by offering suggestions for developing a working relationship among businesses, labor organizations, and educators.

Membership:

All public school districts in Greene County are aligned with the GCESC BAC.

The districts include the following:

Beavercreek City	Greeneview Local
Bellbrook-Sugarcreek Local	Greene County Career Center
Cedar Cliff Local	Xenia Community
Fairborn City	Yellow Springs Exempted Village

Each county school district is represented by the Superintendent or a designee.

The remainder of the committee consists of leaders from businesses, government agencies, economic development bodies, higher education, and the military. The BAC meets four times each year. Those interested in learning more about the BAC may contact one of the committee's co-chairs.

Co-Chairs:

Dr. Amy Baldridge

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Chad Mason

Career Connections Coordinator
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The Ohio Educational Service Center Association Franklin B. Walters Award

The awards program, named in honor of Ohio's 31st State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Franklin B. Walter, was established in 1987 by the Ohio Educational Service Center Association to promote and recognize outstanding student leaders for their academic achievement and service to their schools and communities. One senior from each county/ESC region in Ohio is eligible to receive this honor.

Eligible applicants are high school seniors enrolled in a public school district within an ESC's service region. Recipients are required to demonstrate outstanding academic, extra-curricular, and service achievement as indicated by high school grades, test scores, and school activities and awards.

Amy Leach

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Excellence in Education Annual Awards

The Greene County ESC holds an annual awards program honoring teachers from Greene County schools. Each year, the valedictorians, salutatorians, or graduates with distinction are asked to choose the most influential teachers in their K-12 careers. At the awards program held in the spring of each school year, the teachers being recognized are presented their awards after the nominating students share their stories of how the teachers impacted them positively. This is a very special event in Greene County where many emotional and touching memories have been created.

The Excellence in Education Awards is named in honor of former Greene County ESC Superintendent Howard L. Post. Many teachers have remarked that this is the most meaningful recognition they have received in their teaching career. The Greene County ESC is pleased to continue this tradition of recognizing teachers who have made a *DIFFERENCE*.

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