North Central Ohio
Educational Service Center

ANNUAL REPORT
2025-2026

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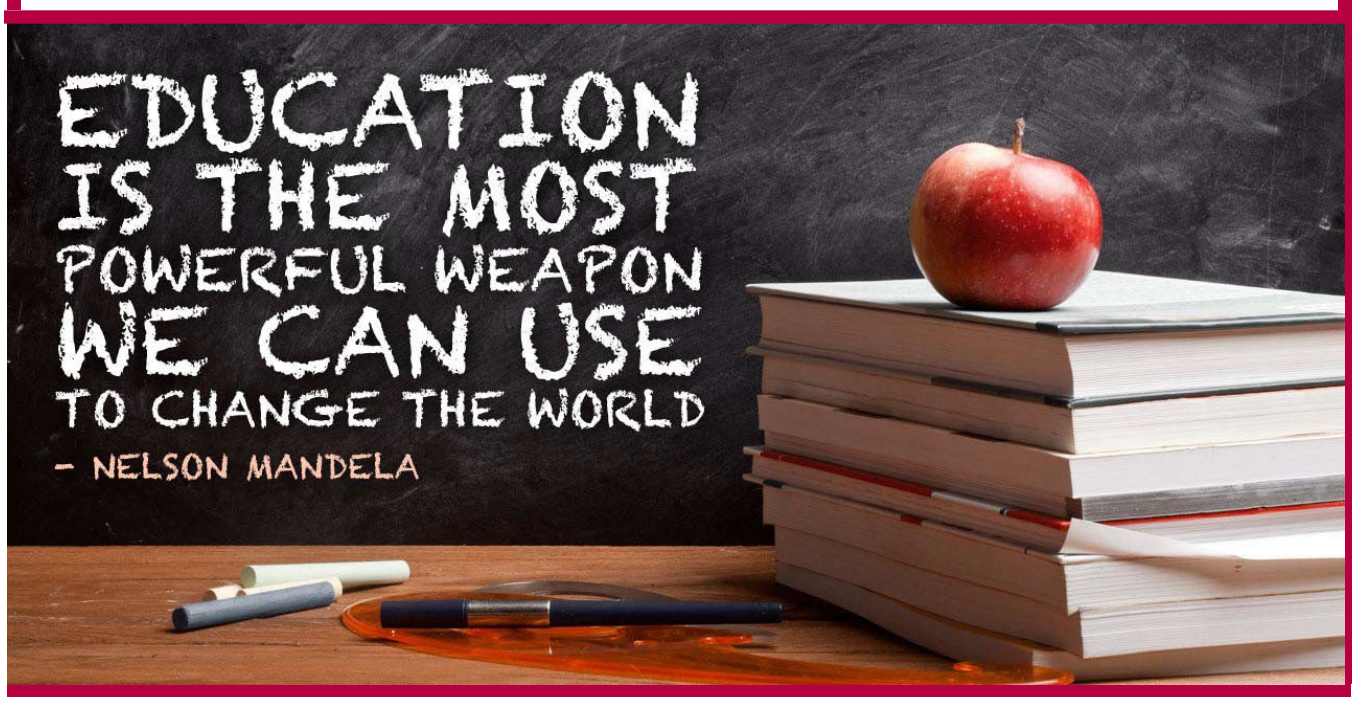

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Message from the Superintendent

NCOESC holds a long and proud tradition of educational excellence to provide quality services throughout our service region. NCOESC currently serves more than 26,000 students from Marion, Sandusky, Seneca, Wyandot, Union, Richland, Crawford and Morrow counties and sponsors 14 community schools that serve an estimated 2,630 students., with school size ranging from 40-800

In addition, NCOESC also serves as the fiscal agent for the Region 7 State Support Team enabling us to provide educational services for 155 school buildings in 52 school districts in Region 7 which includes the counties of Ashland, Richland, Morrow, Knox, Crawford, Marion, Huron, Medina, Seneca and Wyandot.

The North Central Ohio Educational Service Center is committed to offering quality programs and services that will help school districts and community schools meet their unique needs. We have an experienced staff with in-depth knowledge on a wide variety of topics. Our staff has the expertise and training to design programs, services and professional development to address the needs of each district.

Agency personnel have developed a network of resources at the local, state, and even at the national level to support initiatives needed by the agency and districts we serve. Staff members regularly attend trainings to stay current with the latest research-based best practices, state and federal regulations and updated standards. Each district is unique and has specific areas of need. It is our goal to provide each school district with services customized to meet their identified needs. We have a commitment to our children in our partner schools to provide each child with the necessary tools and knowledge to become successful adults when leaving our schools and entering the next phase of life.

Todd Martin
Superintendent/CEO

North Central Ohio Educational Service Center

Board of Governors

Jim McFarland
Board President

Ryan Pelter
Board Vice President

Bryan Bumgarner
Board Member

Jim Gucker
Board Member

Jack Koschnick
Board Member

Mick Landon
Board Member

Pamela Pinney
Board President

Steve Snavely
Board Member

J. Diane West
Board Member

North Central Ohio
Educational Service Center

OUR MISSION- WHAT WE DO
NCOESC provides innovative and exemplary services that promote deeper learning, foster meaningful relationships, and empower all stakeholders.

OUR VISION-WHAT WE WANT TO BE
A recognized leader committed to meeting the **evolving** needs of our educational partners.

NCOESC COMMITMENTS

01. INNOVATIVE PRACTICES
02. MEANINGFUL RELATIONSHIPS
03. DEEPER THINKING
04. EMPOWERED STAKEHOLDERS
05. EXEMPLARY SERVICE

Member Districts

Seneca County
Hopewell-Loudon Local
New Riegel Local
Old Fort Local
Seneca East Local
Fostoria City
Tiffin City

Wyandot County
Carey Exempted Village
Mohawk Local
Upper Sandusky Ex Village

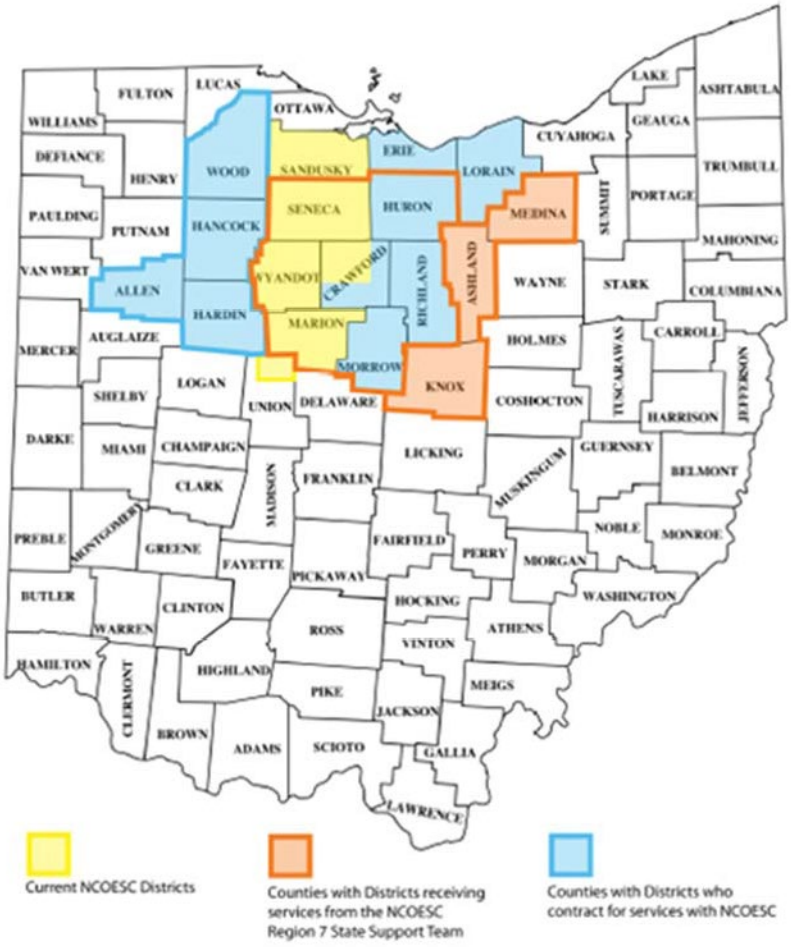
Marion County
Elgin Local
Pleasant Local
Ridgedale Local
River Valley Local
Tri-Rivers Career Center

Sandusky County
Vanguard-Sentinel Career Center

Richland County
Mansfield City
Ontario Local
Shelby City

Crawford County
Colonel Crawford Local
Wynford Local

Union County
North Union Local



Ashland County
Ashland City
Hillsdale Local
Loudonville-Perryville Exempted Village
Mapleton Local

Crawford County
Buckeye Central Local
Colonel Crawford Local
Crestline Exempted Village
Galion City
Wynford Local

Huron County
Willard City

Knox County
Centerburg Local
Danville Local
East Knox Local
Fredericktown Local
Mount Vernon City

Marion County
Elgin Local
Marion City
Pleasant Local
Ridgedale Local
River Valley Local
Treca Digital Academy
Tri-Rivers Career Center

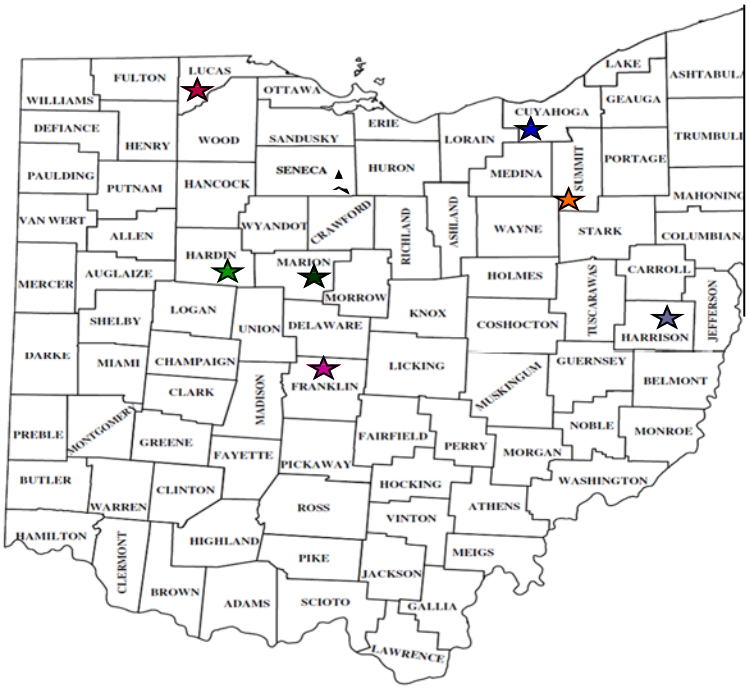
Morrow County
Cardington-Lincoln Local
Goal Digital Academy
Highland Local
Mount Gilead Exempted Village
Northmor Local
The Tomorrow Center

Richland County
Clearfork Local
Crestview Local
Foundation Academy
Goal Digital Academy
Lexington Local
Lucas Local
Madison Local
Mansfield Local
Ontario Local
Plymouth-Shiloh Local
Shelby Local
The Richland Academy of Academic Arts

Seneca County
Bridges Community School
Hopewell-Loudon Local
New Riegel Local
Old Fort Local
Seneca East Local
Tiffin City

Wyandot County
Carey Exempted Village
Mohawk Local
Upper Sandusky Exempted Village

2025-2026 Sponsored Schools



Academy of Arts and Technology

Ann Jerkins-Harris Academy of Excellence

Albert Einstein Academy-Lakewood

Albert Einstein-Strongsville

Eastland Preparatory Academy

Educational Academy for Boys and Girls

Focus Learning North Columbus

Focus Learning Central Columbus

Hardin Community School

Hope Learning Academy

Imagine Columbus Primary Academy

Imagine Leadership Academy

Midnimo Cross Cultural Academy

Rise and Shine Academy

Unity Academy

Community School Sponsorship

Mission

To build strong partnerships with developers and educational leaders of community schools by providing sponsorship service and technical support that meets and exceeds excellence in support of school choice options

Vision

To be recognized across the state as a sponsor with high standards and integrity

Goals

1) ***To form partnerships and provide assistance to community schools through commitment to quality school choice and establishing high-quality school programs in Ohio.***

2) ***To provide support in helping our community schools meet the needs of students they serve.***

3) ***To service as critical partners to help community schools maintain compliance with state and federal laws.***

Community School Sponsorship Performance Summary

Each year, the Ohio Department Workforce and Education (DEW) submits a report on Ohio's community schools to the governor and members of the Ohio General Assembly. As part of this process, the North Central Ohio Educational Service Center (NCOESC) is submitting this report to evaluate and summarize the performance and compliance of its sponsored schools in four areas: Academic Performance, Fiscal Performance, Organization and Operation, and Legal Compliance.

As a community school sponsor (authorizer), NCOESC strives to be a leader in the charter school movement, advocating for school choice. Our mission is to build strong partnerships with educational leaders to promote unique and high-quality educational experiences for students in Ohio, advocating excellence in education. During the 2025-2026 school year, NCOESC sponsored fifteen community schools with enrollment of approximately 2,661 students. NCOESC sponsored 1 drop-out recovery schools and thirteen general education schools in 2025-26. These schools represent a variety of grade -level configurations and unique educational opportunities for students they serve.

Performance Ratings

NCOESC provides rigorous oversight, monitoring, and technical assistance to our sponsored schools with processes and protocols that align with standards developed by the National Association of Charter School Authorizers and the state of Ohio's Sponsor Performance Review. NCOESC collects data from its sponsored schools throughout the year to determine specifically the extent to which each school is performing in the following four areas: academic, fiscal, operational/organizational and legal compliance. Data gathered through a variety of means reviewed and analyzed to determine school's performance includes the following:

- Site visits to schools, including walkthroughs while school is in session with findings reported to the governing authority at meetings;
- Monthly financial reviews;
- Attendance at community school governing authority board meetings;
- Ongoing reviews of assessment data highlighting student achievement and growth;
- Ongoing reviews in the areas of state and federal compliance, academics, special education, operations, and finance;
- Ongoing technical assistance delivered by trained and experienced staff; and,
- Reviews of reports electronically submitted to the NCOESC compliance-tracking database.

Information provided below also addresses criteria to determine whether a school exceeds, meets, or does not meet the expected performance level in each of the four areas; academic performance, fiscal performance, organizational/operational performance, and legal compliance.

Academic Performance (Overall Rating)

As a community school authorizer, the North Central Ohio ESC has a duty to monitor and provide oversight and technical assistance to all of its sponsored schools. This includes an assessment of each school's academic performance on an annual basis. During a typical year, the North Central Ohio ESC uses multiple measures of academic performance and the results of the school's attainment of goals outlined in the charter contract's Academic Assessment & Accountability/Performance Framework (Attachment V of Sponsorship Contract) to determine a school's rating.

The Ohio Department of Education& Workforce transitioned from letter grades to a star-reporting system in the current grade card components. Each star rating (1-5) relates to a performance level or a performance percentage in the components; achievement, early literacy, graduation and gap closing. For the progress component the star ratings of each school are related to the amount of annual growth or progress of each student.

Fiscal Performance

NCOESC rated each school's fiscal performance using information from the following: board-approved financial reports, Ohio Auditor of State audits (including any findings and successfully addressing such findings), monthly financial reviews, five-year forecasts, annual budgets, and other financial information as requested of the school throughout the year.

With the information described, NCOESC rates the school's Fiscal Performance by calculating scores in six areas:

- Current Ratio (Total Assets/Liabilities- Is school keeping up with short-term financial obligations?)
- Days cash on hand (45 days or more is good while 15 to 45 fair, and under 15 days signals potential financial distress)
- Change in Fund Balance Ratio (Is school living within their means?)
- Enrollment trends (Main revenue stability)
- Five-year forecast review
- Most –recently released audit results

A school "exceeds" expectations if it meets the NCOESC measurement standards in all six areas. A school "meets expectations" if it meets the NCOESC measurement standards in at least four areas. If the fiscal performance was below these standards, it is determined the school "did not meet" expectations for its fiscal performance rating.

Organization and Operational Performance

NCOESCS rated the school's organization and operational performance based on combined information showing how successfully the governing authority executed its governance duties under the contract. The factors considered include conducting required number of meetings, maintaining sufficient number of approved members, maintaining sufficient board meeting minutes, fulfilling member-training requirements, maintaining compliance with the governing authority's Code of Regulations, conducting monthly financial reviews, and complying with open meetings requirements.

A school "exceeds" expectations if the minimum contractual requirements are met in all areas and exceeded in at least one of the areas. A school "meets" expectations if the minimum contractual requirements are met in all of the areas. If the organization and operational performance was below these standards, it is determined the school "did not meet" expectations for its organizational and operational performance rating.

Legal Compliance

NCOESC rated the school's Legal Compliance based on a combination of its adherence to state and federal statute, the community school contract, and compliance items from the sponsor evaluation. A school will have met expectations if it has a 100% compliance rate with health and safety requirements and at least 95% for all requirements.

Summary

During the 2025-2026 school year, NCOESC sponsored 14 community schools. NCOESC is pleased to report the following:

- 8 out of 13 (1 Drop out recovery schools are not included) schools received 3 Stars or great on their overall report card rating
- 12 out of 13 schools (1 Drop out recovery schools are not included) received a 3-star rating or better in the Progress category.
- 9 out of 13 schools achieved 3 or more Stars in Gap Closing.
- 1 Drop Out Recovery Exceeded Graduation Rates and Exceeded Gap Closing.

NCOESC staff members work diligently to provide technical assistance to school leaders, governing authority members, fiscal officers, and other stakeholders to improve compliance and ensure steady progress for those schools not meeting expectations in a given area. NCOESC remains committed to working with each school to individualize our technical assistance offerings so that more Ohio students have access to high-quality educational options.

North Central Ohio ESC Sponsored Community Schools' Performance

In evaluating the performance of our schools, NCOESC looks at multiple measures but particularly Achievement and Progress.

Achievement answers the questions—How many students passed the state tests (Indicators Met) and how well each student performed on the state tests (Performance Index).

The progress component looks closely at the growth that all students are making from year-to- year based on their past performances.

The next page is a snapshot of our schools' achievement and progress for the 2024-2025 school year. It is important to note that 13 of our 14 schools serve high percentages of students who are economically disadvantaged.

North Central Ohio ESC Sponsored Community Schools' Performance for SY 2025-2026

School/IRN	Grade Levels Served	% of Economically Disadvantaged	% of SWD & ELL	Attendance Rate	County	Academic (Overall Report Card Rating)	Fiscal Performance	Organization & Operation	Legal Compliance
Academy of Arts and Technology/017585	K-8	100%	SWD- 26.6% ELL- NC	87%	Marion	2 Stars	*Met	Met	Met
Ann Jerkins-Harris School of Excellence/013195	K-8	97%	SWD- 20.4% ELL- NC	90%	Lucas	2.5 Stars	Met	Met	Did Not Meet
Albert Einstein Academy/013994	K-12	28%	SWD- 30.2% ELL- NC	89%	Cuyahoga	2.5 Stars	Exceeds	Exceeds	Met
Eastland Preparatory Academy/014090	K-8	100%	SWD- 13.7% ELL- 1.8%	80%	Franklin	2.5 Stars	*Did Not Meet	Met	Met
Educational Academy for Boys & Girls /000779	K-5	100%	SWD- 5.9% ELL- 91%	93%	Franklin	4.5 Stars	*Met	Met	Met
Focus Learning Academy of Central Columbus/142943	K-3	100%	SWD- NC ELL- 82%	95%	Franklin	5 Stars	*Did Not Meet	Met	Met
Focus Learning Academy of Northern Columbus/142943	K-8	100%	SWD- 5.6% ELL- 58.5%	95%	Franklin	3.5 Stars	*Met	Met	Met
Hardin Community School/011324	7-12	95%	SWD- 24.1% ELL- NC	97%	Hardin	Meets	Exceeds	Exceeds	Exceeds
Hope Learning Academy/014091	K-8	64%	SWD- 67.6% ELL- NC	90%	Lucas	3 Stars	Met	Exceeds	Met
Imagine Columbus Primary Academy/014139	K- 8	100%	SWD- 13% ELL- 74.6%	91%	Franklin	2.5 Stars	*Did Not Meet	Met	Met
Imagine Leadership Academy/014121	1-6	100%	SWD- 25.3% ELL- NC	93%	Summit	3 Stars	*Did Not Meet	Met	Met
Midnimo Cross Cultural Academy/000780	6-8	100%	SWD- 9.9% ELL- 32.4%	91%	Franklin	4.5 Stars	*Met	Met	Met
Rise & Shine Academy/013999	K-6	99%	SWD- 11.3% ELL- NC	90%	Lucas	3 Stars	Exceeds	Met	Met
Unity Academy	9-12	95%	SWD- NC ELL-38%	93%	Franklin	5 Stars	*Did Not Meet	Met	Met

*Under Fiscal Column- Management Company and per agreement all financial obligations are met.

Services Offered at No Cost to Member Districts and NCOESC Sponsored Community Schools

The North Central Ohio Educational Service Center offers a variety of professional Development support services to Member Districts and NCOESC's Sponsored Community Schools. Networking sessions for Principals, Curriculum Directors, Special Education Directors, School Counselors, School Testing Coordinators and Teachers cover a wide-range of educational topics including but not limited to those listed below:

School Leadership/Curriculum Director Network Meetings, School Counselor/Social Worker Network Meetings, Superintendent Meetings, Special Education Meetups, OTES/OPES 2.0 Network, Federal Programs Network, & State Curriculum Updates as well as many other professional development options on the topics listed below:

- English Language Learners
- EVAAS
- Threat Assessment Training
- Local Report Card
- Gifted Education
- Mental Health
- Resident Educator
- Child Safety & Prevention

In addition to the above, The North Central Ohio Educational Service Center provides monitoring, oversight and technical assistance to its sponsored community schools in the following ways:

- Monitors progress and compliance with Sponsorship Agreement, Education Plan and Accountability Plan
- Completes annually, opening assurances by conducting site visits 10-days prior to the school's opening date
- Completes at least two other site visits (fall and spring) during the school year and reviews academic programming and compliance requirements
- Attends board meetings on a monthly or bi-monthly basis where the sponsor shares updates
- Provides financial reviews per ORC
- Provides legal updates and timely information relative to DEW initiatives via email and/or newsletter
- Serves as a liaison between school and DEW with any investigations or complaints

- Provides technical assistance and regular communications to sponsored schools regarding academic performance, professional development, law updates and any other issues or concerns that arise.
- If needed, provides intervention through consultation, assistance, assignment of corrective action plan and/or probationary status. Fiscal corrective actions are assigned by the treasurer.
- Reviews/assesses new and renewed contracts
- Compiles annual reports on each of the schools.

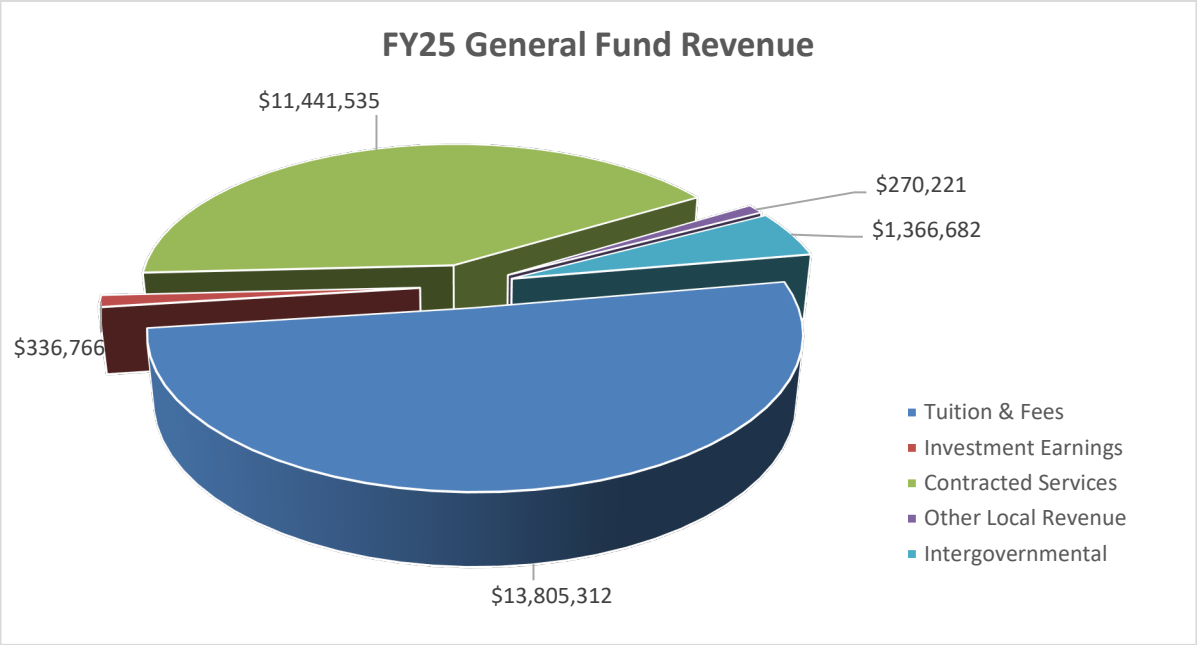
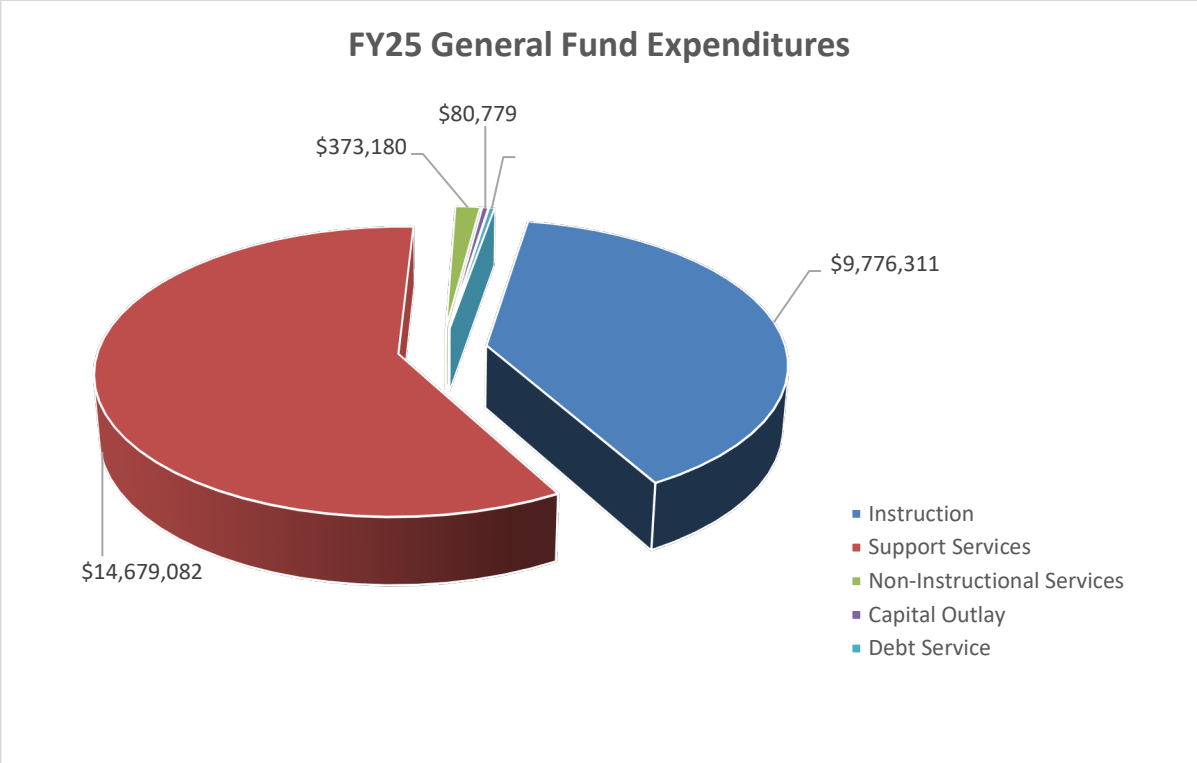
Fiscal Services

The North Central Ohio ESC's mission is to be a recognized leader committed to meeting the needs of our educational partners through excellent service exhibited by honesty, trust and integrity. We serve as fiscal agent for the Seneca, Marion and Crawford County Family and Children First Council, State Support Team Region 7, and the North Central Ohio Trust Joint Self Insurance Consortium.

The Ohio Department of Education and Workforce has designated our organization a "High Performing ESC" as a result of our application which demonstrated 20.3% cost savings to districts in five primary service areas.

Our ESC continues to grow by providing new services, programs, technology, professional development and special education services on behalf of the schools we serve through cost effective delivery and quality customer service to meet the educational needs of our partners.

Specifically, for our community schools, we have dedicated the services of a Director of Community Schools to provide guidance and oversight to the schools we sponsor. We also employ licensed school treasurers to conduct monthly fiscal reviews and provide feedback on financial reports to the school board and directors. Our community school compliance officers provide further assistance to our schools by attending school board meetings and conducting site visits. We are able to offer the services of an EMIS Coordinator as a shared service with other community schools to minimize costs while providing quality financial services at the school's request.

By utilizing the ESC model of shared services, we are able to provide significant cost savings to our local, city, and exempted village school districts, as well as community schools throughout Ohio. The exemplary resources we offer in Curriculum, Special Education, Early Childhood, and other Specialized Services are recognized throughout the region by our districts and partners.

FY25 General Fund Financial Activities