

The ESC CONNECTION



SPRING 2015

LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP FOCUSES ON TEAMWORK

Page 16



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Superintendent's Message

By Dr. Bob Mengerink, *Superintendent*



Change is becoming the constant in the world of education, especially during a new state budget year. We recognize that it has become a daunting task for administrators and educators to keep track of the myriad of new legislation and requirements surrounding funding, accountability, assessments, curriculum, licensure and more.

Our goal at the ESC of Cuyahoga County is to serve as a clearinghouse of information and a technical assistance resource in the midst of these and other changes. We are also committed to our role as an intermediary between

school districts and the Ohio Department of Education, providing regional trainings and local expertise for immediate responses to questions and concerns. More importantly, as the education landscape evolves, we will continue to find new opportunities for innovation to offer support to you and your districts in meeting the needs of students and communities. Even while we're waiting for warmer weather, I know you are already planning for next school year. As you move forward, please do not hesitate to contact any of us for assistance or information. In the meantime, we will continue to keep you apprised of changes and updates to legislation and rules that impact your work.

Sincerely,
Bob



The First Ring Leadership Academy

A Project of the First Ring Superintendents' Collaborative

The First Ring Superintendents' Collaborative (FRSC) is an association of superintendents whose school districts are adjacent to the City of Cleveland. The Collaborative was established in 2000 to address its unique educational challenges, including poverty, student mobility, diversity, and the achievement gap. The First Ring is comprised of 16 school districts that collectively serve more than 60,000 students. The ESC of Cuyahoga County and the **Cleveland Metropolitan School District** are major partners with the organization.

In 2003 the superintendents established the First Ring Leadership Academy in conjunction with Cleveland State University's College of Education and Human Services. The program, supported by the Martha Holden Jennings Foundation and First Ring school districts, focused initially on aspiring administrators. It evolved over time to include teacher leaders, and now rotates annually between each group. As of May 2014, 191 administrators and teachers have graduated from the Academy, including two who became First Ring superintendents.

The superintendents are very proud that the Academy was featured in a presentation at the 59th annual Ohio School Boards Association's Capital Conference in Columbus in



November 2014. The format for the presentation was a panel discussion with Dr. Dennis Kowalski, lead instructor, Marty Motsco, Director of the FRSC, and three graduates of the Academy: Linda Reid, Superintendent in the **South Euclid-Lyndhurst Schools**, Heath Horton, Assistant High School Principal in the **Brooklyn Schools**, and Johnny Bollin, Administrative Intern in the **Berea Schools**.

For information, contact:

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First Ring Superintendents' Collaborative
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First Ring Safety and Security Network Seminar

Members of the First Ring Superintendents' Collaborative believe in the premise that, "We're smarter together!" Therefore, one of their goals is to support networks of colleagues in similar roles across the First Ring. The purpose is to promote professional development and enhance communication among school districts. One of these networks is comprised of Safety and Security representatives from the 16 First Ring districts and the **Cleveland Metropolitan Schools**. The members meet regularly to discuss issues and address challenges pertaining to their areas of responsibility. They frequently invite specialists in the field to present at their meetings. On Thursday, January 2nd, the First Ring, in partnership with the ESC of Cuyahoga County, hosted an all-day School Safety/Security Seminar for its members. The presenter was Dr. Dick Caster, Senior School Board Services Consultant with the Ohio School Boards



Association (OSBA), who is a frequent presenter at safety conferences across Ohio. Participants discussed a range of topics, including the selection and supervision of safety/security personnel, training requirements, legal mandates within security plans, and more. The group looks forward to meeting with Dr. Caster again.

Vision Eight Breakfast Meeting Held at ESC Building

Sixty-five business and educational leaders attended this year's **Cuyahoga Valley Career Center's (CVCC) Vision 8** community meeting for the **Cuyahoga Heights Local Schools**. This year's event was hosted by the ESC of Cuyahoga County at the new Independence facility.

CVCC Superintendent Dr. Celena Roebuck gave a presentation on the various program offerings, facilities, and expansion.

The discussions centered on the needs of local businesses as they relate to training, internships, support and recruitment of a qualified work force that the career center can provide.

Left to right:

Frank Mahnic, Jr. CVCC and ESC board member; Mayor Michael Procuk, Village of Brooklyn Heights; Joe Bergant, Superintendent, Cuyahoga Heights Schools; Dr. Celena Roebuck, Superintendent, CVCC; Mayor Jack Bacci, Village of Cuyahoga Heights; Dr. Bob Mengerink, Superintendent, ESC; Tony Miceli, ESC board member; Mayor Jerry Piasecki, Village of Valley View



Ohio Online Learning Program Update

This school year, the Ohio Online Learning Program, sponsored by the ESC of Cuyahoga County, expanded from students studying online at home to an actual brick and mortar building through a partnership with one of its districts, **Shaker Heights City School District**, along with the City of Shaker Heights.

The online program is what students use at Shaker Heights' Innovation Center for Personalized Learning and Family Engagement. The center opened in Fall 2014. The program currently has more than 25 students and its goal is to double that number by next year. The ESC trained the counselors on how to enroll students, guide students through the curriculum, and monitor each student's academic progress.

The students that learn at the Innovation Center are part of the high school in every way. They are able to participate in athletics, extra-curricular activities, and attend student assemblies.

Phase I, which began in the 2014-15 school year, provides high-quality alternative and accelerated learning opportunities for students who are not finding

success in the traditional setting. Phase I also includes a resource center where parents can interact, learn more about navigating the system, and gain access to online information about the schools and student performance.

Phase II, beginning in 2015-16, is to expand options for students who wish to take courses that are not offered at Shaker Heights High School or do not fit into their schedules.

In 2016-17, Phase III will provide professional learning for teachers through partnerships with local colleges and universities.

The Innovation Center is located on the lower level of the city-owned Stephanie Tubbs Jones Community Building, 3450 Lee Road. The city made the space available rent-free. The space was renovated over the summer and is equipped with Wi-Fi, computers, and other resources.

The curriculum at the Innovation Center is based on the Ohio Online Learning Program, an extensive selection of high-quality courseware approved for credit by the Ohio Department of Education. Professional educators are on-site to support and monitor student learning.

Integrated Services

Districts have been receiving data from various sources pertaining to student achievement. One of the data sources, Special Education State Performance Plan (SPP), indicates that there are continuing issues with Least Restrictive Environments (LRE) in Ohio.

The data led State Educational Agencies and regional personnel to identify the need for a platform that would support district, building and teacher leadership teams in rethinking service delivery models. It was decided to utilize Integrated Comprehensive Services (ICS) framework for supporting needed dialogue around the degree to which the instructional needs of students with disabilities and other marginalized groups are being met effectively through core instruction.

Dr. Elise Frattura is serving as an external advisor/presenter for this work, bringing a wealth of experience and expertise to bear on helping teams identify and act on needed changes to ensure that every child is fully included and benefitting from practices implemented through the facilitation of the Ohio

The ESC of Cuyahoga County is pleased to make the Ohio Online Learning Program available to all Ohio school districts so that they can provide multiple learning options, retain many students who might otherwise leave the district and reduce district costs. The Ohio Online Learning Program was successfully launched in 2011 and now serves close to 500 students throughout Ohio.

The Ohio Online Learning Program (OOLP) offers effective, innovative educational experiences in various formats, utilizing state of the art technology, such as a recently installed learning management system that provides easier access and greater flexibility. OOLP offers recently revised, aligned and rigorous Lincoln Interactive curriculum, and the guidance and support of highly qualified, certified instructors and Student Learning Advocates (SLA).

The program is available for students K-12 and provides over 250 courses aligned to Ohio’s new learning standards in math, language arts, science, and social studies, along with a variety of interesting, challenging electives.



The Ohio Online Learning Program (OOLP) allows districts to access courses for fulltime online students, single course students, credit recovery, newly developed “blended” models incorporating the best elements of both online and traditional classroom instruction, and more rigorous targeted curriculum courses. District teachers can also be trained to utilize OOLP’s regular online curriculum to develop a variety of online and face-to-face learning experiences.

The Ohio Online Learning Program can be customized to meet your district’s specific needs. **Contact us today!**

Toll free:	855-491-9660
Mark Curtis	216-901-4238
Angela Carpenter	216-901-4239
Web	www.ohioonlinelearning.org

Improvement Process (OIP). Through this process, teams review their data, including LRE data and data related to achievement gaps, then plan strategies related to fidelity for implementation. ICS can be characterized using four cornerstones which include focusing on equity, access to high-quality teaching and learning (focusing on curriculum and instruction, and building teacher capacity), equitable structures (addressing location and arrangement of educational services), and implementing change (focusing on funding and policy issues (Frattura and Capper, 2007). Through this framework, teams at all levels engage in a deep equity analysis of the data to develop strategies to resolve any issues.

For information, contact

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State Support Team—Region 3
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Educator Quality Programs Support Educators and Districts

With both the Ohio Principal Evaluation System (OPES) and the Ohio Teacher Evaluation System (OTES) now almost fully implemented across the state, the Educator Quality Department at the ESC of Cuyahoga County offers districts and schools support in various ways.

- Early in the year, we spent time with districts explaining new changes that came about as a result of House Bill 362. Those changes include allowing less frequent evaluation of teachers receiving skilled and accomplished ratings. Another change is districts' choice between an alternative teacher evaluation structure and the original structure.
- We assist districts in implementing and building capacity around both OPES and OTES.
- We work with districts and schools to guide them through decision-making around the use of Student Growth Measures that includes the creation of Student Learning Objectives (SLOs). Teachers who have no Value Added data or vendor assessment data write their SLOs as a data point by which to measure student growth.
- Our newest offerings come in the form of modules that hinge on the educator standards. As we have learned from stakeholders, some teachers struggle with putting

standards into practice. As a result of that, we provide full-day sessions where teachers not only learn the nuances of the standards as they apply to the OTES rubric, but they also leave with strategies and methods which they can implement in their classrooms immediately to improve their practice. The modules are offered both at the ESC of Cuyahoga County and at the school site should a district prefer that choice.

- eTPES Student Growth training sessions will be occurring over the next month. During this session we will support districts as they enter in their student growth data and prepare to determine the final summative rating for their teachers being evaluated under OTES. You can register for this training using STARS on the ODE website.

Should you be interested in any of the modules or requesting support for any other need, please contact

Michele Shrefler, Director of Educator Quality Programs
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Global Programs at the ESC

Global Culture Café - April 14, 2015

8:30-10:30 a.m.

Sixteen secondary educators from Bangladesh, Brazil, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Morocco, the Philippines and Senegal will share Pop Culture from their countries with local educators. Join us for the Global Culture Café on April 14th from 8:30-10:30 a.m. at the ESC.



Cleveland Museum of Art Workshop - April 22, 2015

Educators are invited to a free workshop at the Cleveland Museum of Art centering around the exhibit Senufo: Art and Identity in West Africa.

For more information, contact:

Nadine Grimm, Coordinator of 21st Century Learning
216-901-4243
Nadine.grimm@esc-cc.org

Highly Qualified Teacher (HQT) Courses for Intervention Specialists - Low Incidence

At the beginning of the 2016-2017 school year, intervention specialists of students with low incidence disabilities who are eligible for the Alternate Assessment for Students with Significant Cognitive Disability (AASCD) in grades 7-12 are required to meet increased Highly Qualified Teacher (HQT) requirements by completing 45 hours of professional development for each core content area for which they are the teacher of record. To prepare for this change, State Support Team—Region 3 (SST-3) is offering a series of professional learning courses designed to provide teachers with the necessary hours of content knowledge specific to Ohio's New Learning Standards-Extended (ONLS-E), which are the basis of the AASCD.

The courses provide a combination of face-to-face and online learning, as well as discussion boards and evidence of incorporating specific research-based practices into their current teaching routines. A segment of the face-to-face time is spent in a "Community of Practice" in which teachers share ideas and resources with one another and begin to plan collaboratively with colleagues for the needs of their students. Teachers enrolled in the courses also

have access to a wealth of shared resources through our online platform.

Often intervention specialists who teach students with low incidence disabilities do not have colleagues nearby with whom to collaborate. As a follow-up to the courses, and in response to this need, we have also formed a Low Incidence Network that meets four times per year to discuss topics and share resources that are specific to students with low incidence disabilities and their teachers. Meetings for Spring 2014-15 are March 19th and May 19th.

The SST is offering courses in English/language arts, mathematics, science and social studies. The courses are available for 2014-15 and will again be offered for the 2015-16 school year.

For further information contact:

Angie Chapple-Wang, SST-3 Consultant
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"I learned many relevant skills and applications that I can use in the classroom that will directly benefit my students and myself."



"Many strategies were presented and all the readings, activities and assignments were extremely user friendly and very applicable to my current practice."

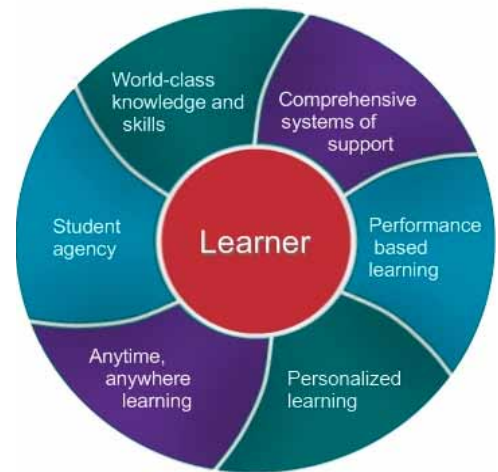
"Good community of colleagues! We shared many great tools and resources."

Innovation Lab Network (ILN)

The ESC of Cuyahoga County hosted more than 40 Northeast Ohio district administrators and faculty on December 16th for an information session about the Ohio Innovation Lab Network (ILN) and its work of promoting educational transformation through innovative teaching and learning practices. The ILN is a national network of education agencies that includes nine states whose state education agencies serve as lab leaders promoting research-based innovative practices to test, refine and align new system design elements at the state, district and school levels.

As districts implement competency-based pathways to develop college and career readiness for students, their work reflects the ILN's six student-focused design principles of Personalized Learning, World Class Knowledge and Skills, Student Agency, Comprehensive Systems of Learning Support, Anytime/Anywhere Learning Opportunities, and Performance-based Learning and Assessments. Ohio's network districts collaborate to exchange ideas and to foster a culture of experimentation and mutual support for educational innovation. The Council of Chief State Officers collaborates with ILN states to identify infrastructure components critical to supporting their work and to generate policy change for educational transformation. Currently, Ohio legislation has provided an

opportunity for ten ILN districts and STEM schools to apply for waivers from state assessments and teacher evaluation for up to five years in order to pilot educational innovations.



Currently, there are 17 ILN member districts in Ohio. In Northeast Ohio, in addition to those districts that have been long term network participants, **Kirtland, Perry and Northwestern Local School Districts** recently joined the ILN network to foster educational transformation.

Districts interested in learning more about the Innovation Lab Network are invited to contact:
Nadine Grimm, Coordinator of 21st Century Learning
216-901-4243
Nadine.grimm@esc-cc.org



Performance Task Writing Workshops



In collaboration with the Ohio Department of Education, the ESC of Cuyahoga County facilitated a series of five workshops on writing performance-based tasks and assessments to promote deep learning for students.

The process for developing the coordinated dyad of tasks and assessments

included training in brainstorming, task design and development, creating rubric development, and connecting hands-on practices that integrate technology and practical

applications and extensions of learning.

Working in teams, participants had practical experience integrating content knowledge and applications across disciplinary areas. Ultimately, educators created authentic performance-based tasks and assessments for use in their classrooms.



A three-day workshop for Performance Task Writing will be held at the ESC on May 19, 22, and 26, 2015. Register via your SAFE Account > STARS > keyword search: performance. For information, contact Lauren Monowar-Jones at lauren.monowar-jones@education.ohio.gov or Nadine Grimm at Nadine.grimm@esc-cc.org.

Unpacking the Standards

One of the many offerings the State Support Team—Region 3 (SST-3) has provided to educators in the area of best practice is “unpacking the standards.”

Ohio’s New Learning Standards (ONLS) provide the opportunity for students to think critically, apply their knowledge to other disciplines, and to prepare for college and/or careers. SST consultants model and facilitate the process of using the ONLS to carefully analyze the wording of the standards, identifying the knowledge (what students need to know) and the skills (what students need to do) to determine the level of critical thinking needed during classroom instruction.

“Unpacking” not only assists educators in a deep understanding of these standards, but it becomes the foundation to create student-friendly learning targets directly connected to the content. Within this process,

teachers not only have the opportunity to discover the increased level of rigor in Ohio’s New Learning Standards, but they are able to break-down the content descriptions to determine the skills that must be assessed. Once unpacking is complete, teachers collaboratively talk with grade-level or subject-specific teams to decide the instructional strategies required to promote deep understanding of the content, create standards-based rubrics aligned with the skills, and design assessments matching the rigorous expectations of ONLS.

For additional information, contact:

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Student Achievement Fair Booths

The ESC of Cuyahoga County would like to recognize those districts who were among the 100 participating booths at this year's Capital Conference Student Achievement Fair in November.

Aurora City: Independent Learning Program

This innovative high school program allows students to explore topics of personal interest and relevance. Teachers, students and technology come together in innovative ways that challenge traditional learning methods.

Bedford City: Brain Training with emWave

Students learn to remain calm and focused through a research-based software application with real-time biofeedback translated into on-screen visualizations and games.

Cuyahoga Heights Local: Student Advisory Council

This council is comprised of middle and high school student leaders and school board members. The council meets to discuss matters of interest to both students and board members.

North Olmsted City: Students Supporting Students

Students share responsibility for school safety by creating a positive environment. Students from different social groups come together to develop understanding, acceptance and solutions.

Facilitating Students' Transition from High School to University Writing



Martha Holden Jennings Foundation

Promoting high school students' competencies in close reading, writing, and research as they prepare for their transitions to post-secondary education are the goals of a project funded by the Martha Holden Jennings Foundation.

The project evolved from the ESC's prior High School-Higher Education Alignment pilot supported by the Ohio Department of Education and the Ohio Board of Regents to alleviate high remediation rates in mathematics and English as students entered Ohio public colleges and universities. With both projects, high school and higher education administrators and faculty have collaborated on extended professional development for faculty, as well as specific strategies for student improvement in English Language Arts (ELA) content and writing skills aligned to the Common Core standards.

With this project, English faculty from **Cleveland Metropolitan, Maple Heights, Olmsted Falls** and **Strongsville Schools** are participating in professional development workshops with English faculty from Baldwin Wallace University and Cleveland State University. Workshop topics range from current research on composition theories and strategies to developing high school writing centers to writing across the curriculum. High school administrators and faculty are designing and developing their own writing centers within their high schools as a result of the project, while college mentors are assisting with writing assignments.

For information, contact:

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H.I.T. It! Workshop

On February 13th, hearing impaired teens had the opportunity to interact with each other for the second meeting of the Cuyahoga County Area Chapter of Hit It! The event was for middle and high school students who have a hearing loss and was an educational and social

experience to learn and grow with peers. Topics covered included personal transition goals for work and college. The event was hosted at the ESC of Cuyahoga County offices and sponsored by the University of Akron, Cleveland Hearing and Speech Center, and the ESC.



17th Annual Summer and Beyond Fair

Free Disability Fair Highlights Year Round Activities for Students with Disabilities

The ESC of Cuyahoga County's State Support Team-Region 3 in collaboration with The Arc of Greater Cleveland, the Ohio Coalition for the Education of Children with Disabilities and the Northeast Ohio Parent Mentor Project hosted the "17th Annual Summer and Beyond Fair" for families of students with disabilities in the Greater Cleveland area on Saturday, February 21st at the ESC building in Independence.

The familiar task of planning support activities throughout the school year and summer is often challenging for families of children with disabilities. "Families want their children to experience all aspects of childhood," states Terri McIntee, a Family and Community Involvement Specialist with the State Support Team for Region 3 at the ESC. "The Summer and Beyond Fair offers opportunities for community integration of children with various abilities."

"Many local and regional agencies and organizations offer not only recreational opportunities but also academic, social/emotional and therapeutic choices throughout the

year for students with disabilities," said McIntee. "For some students, nine months of learning is not enough for them to close the achievement gap, and sometimes additional academic and therapeutic choices help level the playing field when they return to school in the fall."

Representatives from area camps and organizations were available to answer questions and share information. New York Life Insurance Company representatives provided free fingerprinting ID cards for children with disabilities during the event. Special demonstrations were offered this year from the Cleveland based Dancing Wheels, face painting was provided by Dixie by Design and fun balloon designs were available to the children from the Flower Clown. Families were encouraged to browse the information tables and pick up their free copy of the "2015 Summer and Beyond Directory" booklet.





GIFTED AND TALENTED STUDENT PROGRAM

Leadership Workshop

On January 27th, high school students from **Beachwood, Bedford, Brunswick, Ledgemont, Lorain City Schools, Maple Heights, and Warrensville Heights**, participated in a leadership workshop conducted by Paul Pendleton, Director of Leadership Services for the ESC of Cuyahoga County.

The workshop encompassed areas such as Leadership Styles, Importance of Vision, Reaching Consensus, Team Building, and Creating Positive Environments for Success. Examples of various activities were used to help the students develop techniques to use in school projects.



Public Speaking Workshop

On February 26th, the ESC of Cuyahoga County hosted high school students from **Bedford**, **Brecksville**, and **Westlake** Schools for a public speaking workshop.

“Speaking to Win: How Mastering the Art of Public Speaking will Help You in School and Life” was led by

Lisa Ryan of Grategy, Inc. She taught the students fear reduction, skill development, preparation tips, winning style, and presentation design. The students will now be able to use these techniques in various projects in their high school settings.



BEDFORD



BRECKSVILLE



WESTLAKE



**For information about Gifted and Talented Services, contact
Steve Rogaski, Director of Human Resources and Pupil Services**

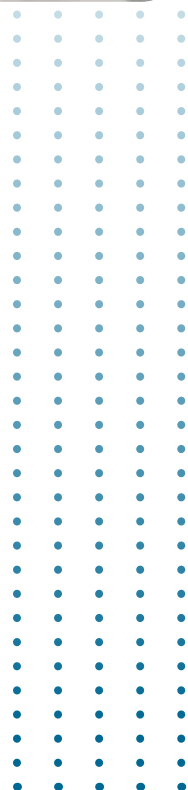
216-901-4210

Steve.rogaski@esc-cc.org

Beck Center for the Arts - Peaceful Solutions

On November 12th, high school students from **Bedford, Cuyahoga Heights, Lakewood, Rocky River, Warrensville Heights** and **Lakewood Schools** learned how to create peaceful solutions through the arts. This one-day workshop at the Beck Center for the Arts in Lakewood, included opportunities for students to write songs, play instruments, paint, mold with clay, and learn how cultural arts can have a positive impact on their lives and society.





Exploring the Arts at the Beck Center

On March 4th, The Explore the Arts Workshop was held at the Beck Center for the Arts. Students from **Bedford, Westlake, South-Euclid Lyndhurst, and Warrensville Heights Schools** attended. The annual event allows middle school students to express themselves in several forms of artistic expression. Whether it was improv, mime, drumming, clay, or sculpture, professional artists helped students explore their passions.





A New Standard For Parent-Teacher Collaboration

The **Parma City School District** is actively involving parents in the education of their children. They have introduced a systemic family engagement plan with the intent of maximizing student learning in school and at home. With the support of their parents, students are better positioned to take full advantage of the opportunities available to them to reach their full potential.

This Straight A Fund initiative orients parents to the Ohio Department of Education K – 12 college and career readiness benchmarks, and provides them with the information and strategies they can use at home to support grade-level learning goals. Recognizing that college and career readiness are not defined by academic achievement alone, a non-cognitive factors checklist will be developed as a conferencing tool to support the development of the skills, traits, strategies and attitudes associated with academic performance and other lifelong outcomes.

Through this project, Parma became the first district in the state of Ohio to introduce the Academic Parent Teacher Teams (APTT) model. The APTT practice is becoming the standard for family engagement throughout the country and unlike traditional parent-teacher conferences, this

innovative practice includes whole-class parent meetings. During these meetings, parents learn about foundational grade-level skills and expectations, review current student academic performance data, practice home learning activities, establish SMART goals for student achievement and network with other parents to establish a culture of high expectations for student achievement.

An information session and presentation by Dr. Maria Paredes, family engagement expert, took place at the ESC of Cuyahoga County on February 5th. She discussed impact of the project to date, including data about parent engagement as a result of the Parma Schools program. On the same date, representatives from the Parma City Schools APTT pilot project presented at the Straight A Fund Innovation Conference at the Ohio Statehouse. ODE Superintendent Ross and state legislators attended the program that showcased more than 40 innovative projects that were funded through the Ohio Straight A grant.

To learn more about this initiative, please contact:

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Michele.wargo@esc-cc.org



Above photos were taken at Renwood School in Parma. Teachers are conducting parent-teacher conferences to inform parents on student progress and how to support their students at home to achieve academic goals.