

Educational Highlights for Leaders

Serving Erie, Huron, and Lorain Counties

Co-Planning to Co-Serve Professional Development Opportunity for Teaching Teams

by Jennifer Heim



In the first segment of a 3-part series, educators are learning to improve techniques to meet the diverse learning needs of students.

Fourteen teams of general education teachers and intervention specialists representing 7 school districts within the region attended a full day professional development session with Shawna Benson, OCALI and Jennifer Heim, State Support Team Region 2 on October 28, 2016 looking at ways to co-plan instruction in order to meet the needs of all of the learners in their classrooms. Planning frameworks which allow for the proactive planning for the needs of all students were shared with participants. Teaching teams decided their first step in this journey and will come back together for follow-up webinars in January and March, 2017.



Special points of interest:

Alternative
Assessment
Participation Criteria
Considerations

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EL Network

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Vision and Hearing
Screening Kits now
available

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Register Now!

Alternate Assessment
Trainings

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Alternate Assessment Participation Criteria Considerations

by Jennifer Heim

As IEP teams consider how students with disabilities will participate in state testing, the following guidance may assist in determining whether a student qualifies for the Alternate Assessment for Students with Significant Cognitive Disabilities (AASCD):

- The student has a significant cognitive disability.
- The student is unable to make progress within Ohio's Learning Standards and is receiving instruction utilizing the Ohio Learning Standards-Extended.
- The student requires extensive, direct, and individualized instruction and substantial supports to achieve measurable gains in the grade- and age-appropriate curriculum.

Furthermore, the decision for a student to participate in the Alternate Assessment should not be based upon:

- A disability category or label
- Poor attendance or extended absences
- Native language, social, cultural, or economic difference
- Expected poor performance on The Ohio's State Tests
- Academic and other services student receives
- Educational environment or instructional setting
- Percentage of time receiving special education service
- English Learners (EL) status
- Low reading level/achievement level
- Anticipated disruptive behavior on The Ohio's State Tests
- Possible impact of student scores on the accountability system
- Anticipated emotional duress
- Need for accommodations (e.g., assistive technology) to participate in the assessment process



Students with disabilities who do not qualify to take the Alternate Assessment and will be taking the Ohio State's Tests can not only access the Universal Tools and Designated Supports available to all students, but may also be eligible to receive accommodations such as how the test is presented to them, how they respond to test items, and the timing of the tests. IEP teams may contact Jennifer Heim heim@sstr2.org for further clarification.

2016 Kathe Shelby Leadership Award Recipient



Congratulations to Amy Bixler-Coffin, Autism Center Director of the Ohio Center for Autism and Low Incidence. Amy received the 2016 Kathe Shelby Leadership Award on November 16, 2016 at OCALICON. Many of you know Amy as she has been in your districts providing professional development around Autism Spectrum Disorders. Please join State Support Team Region 2 in congratulating Amy!



Region 2 English Learners Network

by Nancy Osko

State Support Team Region 2 hosted the second EL Network Meeting on October 27, 2016. This network has been created because regionally our districts have seen an increase in students' coming to them from more diverse backgrounds and with English as a Second Language.

Many of the districts in State Support Team Region 2, which serves Erie, Huron and Lorain Counties, have been proactively creating district plans, looking at instructional supports and going above their own districts' needs to help fellow districts who may be just beginning this journey.

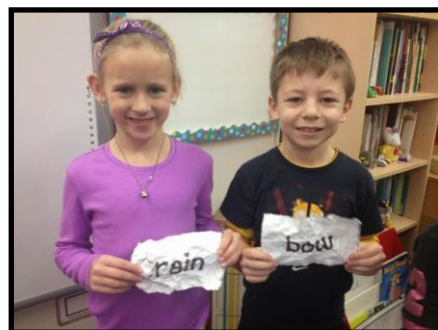
With such a rich professionalism within State Support Team Region 2, we decided the best and most effective way to help each other is create a network of local experts and give them a venue to share their knowledge and skills. State Support Team Region 2 EL Network was born.

Together we discuss questions, concerns and ways we can best build instructional supports for children. For instance, have you ever wondered what content area teachers can do to support English Learners? The following strategy was taken from "What Different About Teaching Reading To Students Learning English?" which was created by The Center for Applied Linguistics and adapted by a Lorain City school teacher, Rachel Meaney-Love. Rachel is a proactive advocate and an incredible support for students and families alike who are English Learners. Her knowledge and skills make teaching and learning possible. A special thank you to Rachel for taking the time to put together a wonderful resource and supporting EL's students in her district.

Instructional Strategy: Snowballs/Paper Airplanes

Grade Level: 3-12

1. Students write their names and respond to a prompt on a sheet of scratch paper then crumble the paper into a ball. Paper airplanes could be substituted.
2. Students line up on opposite sides of the room and throw their snowballs to a person across the room. Then, they meet with the person who made the snowball and discuss. Alternative: the teacher collects the snowballs in a basket/bag and the students pick one.
3. Provides opportunities for formative assessment. Beginning Reading Example: Student 1 is told a letter name/sound to write and student 2 identifies the letter name/sound when they open the snowball.



Vocabulary Example: Student 1 writes a definition/draws a picture of the word and student 2 identifies the word.

Math Example: Student 1 writes a Math problem and student 2 solves it.

As the network continues to grow, we invite school districts to attend these short but productive meetings. The next network meeting is January 19, 2017 at 3:00 PM. This meeting will be hosted by Doreen Morell at Clearview Local Schools. A special thank you to Doreen for hosting. If you are interested in attending please register in STARS.



**Congratulations to Amherst, Avon Lake, Elyria,
Perkins and Sheffield-Sheffield Lake**
for their recent Five-Star Step Up to Quality Rating
for their preschool programs.

Step Up To Quality (SUTQ) is a five–star quality rating and improvement system administered by the Ohio Department of Education and the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services. SUTQ recognizes and promotes learning and development programs that meet quality program standards that exceed licensing health and safety regulations. The program standards are based on national research identifying standards which lead to improved outcomes for children.

Congratulations to all of our high quality preschool programs in Region 2!



Lorain County Professional Development Day

by Jennifer Jackson-Ausperk



State Support Team Region 2's Educational Consultant Jennifer Jackson-Ausperk presents information to educators in one of two sessions that she co-presented with SST's PBIS and Parent Engagement Consultant Darren Conley.

Five consultants from the State Support Team Region 2 were excited to be a part of the Lorain County PD Day, which was held on November 7, 2016. The event was attended by Clearview, Columbia, Firelands, and Keystone Local School Districts, and was held on the Keystone Local School District campus. Darren Conley and Jennifer Jackson-Ausperk provided learning opportunities to 168 participants around the topics of Addressing Challenging Behaviors in the Classroom and De-Escalation. During the first session, attendees had the chance to become a community of practice and engage in real-time problem solving with a variety of colleagues. During the second session, participants learned techniques to help de-escalate students in crisis.

Jennifer Heim, assistant director of State Support Team Region 2, presented to forty-seven participants on Successful Inclusion of Students with Autism. Participants were able to learn simple strategies to use to successfully include students with Autism in the general education setting.

Jamie Tischer presented to fifteen attendees on Career Advising using Ohio Means Jobs and Career Connections. Throughout the presentation participants had the opportunity to share what is currently going well within their classrooms while sharing successful strategies. Several attendees of the session noted this topic was not a policy familiar to them and are looking forward to working with their districts on incorporating career planning and advising within their curriculum.

Janet Kubasak presented to fifty-one participants on Data Analysis. Participants were able to look at both quantitative and qualitative data and participate in an activity to familiarize themselves more with both data types. They also were able to dig into building and district data while learning strategies on how to collect, organize, and interpret available data and make decisions based on it. The SST staff members all enjoyed interacting with so many individuals from across Lorain County.

This event was so successful that districts requested it be held annually. Next year's event is already in the works and will be held on Monday, November 6, 2017. If your district is interested in participating, please contact Moira Erwine at the Educational Service Center of Lorain County at erwine@esclc.org or 440-324-5777 x1156.

2017 Alternate Assessment Trainings Coming Soon

by Jennifer Heim



Trainings for those who will be administering the 2017 Alternate Assessment for Students With Significant Cognitive Disabilities will be offered in January, 2017. Training opportunities for new test administrators and second raters will be held from 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM on January 6, 2017 in Elyria and January 27, 2017 in Norwalk.

Optional refresher sessions for returning test administrators and second raters will take place from 3:30 PM – 4:30 PM also on January 6th in Elyria and January 27th in Norwalk.

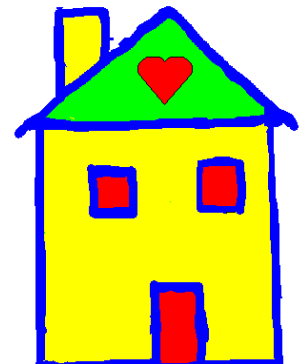
Registration for these events will be available in STARS by following this link: <https://safe.ode.state.oh.us/portal>. Please search by the date of the training you wish to attend and be certain to choose the appropriate full day new administrator/second rater training or hour refresher session.

State Support Team Region 2's Year of Giving Continues with Donations to the Blessing House

by Nancy Osko

Blessing House is a children's crisis care center, caring for children birth through 12. Parents or caregivers that are facing a crisis or emergency or who are experiencing a high level of stress that might put their children at risk of abuse or neglect, rely on the Blessing House. The mission of the Blessing House is to *"serve as a safety net for children of families in crisis by providing a temporary safe home for children and support for their families."*

Blessing House is open every day of the year and is staffed with trained employees who care for the children in a safe loving environment. As true with many of our hard working agencies across Lorain County, they are always in need of help to provide just what the children need. The State Support Team Region 2 staff saw an opportunity to help the Blessing House. Our staff recently donated over 350 toiletry items to help with caring for our communities' youngest children. The Blessing House stated that they "intend to create gift bags for our children to take home when they are able to leave us and return to their families."



If you are interested in helping the Blessing House, please call 440-240-1851 or visit http://www.blessinghouse.org/?page_id=72.

Vision and Hearing Screening Kits Available Through SSTR2

by Jennifer Heim

State Support Team Region 2 has teamed up with the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) to house both hearing and vision screening kits for school personnel to borrow at no cost.

District personnel should contact ODH at:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/hvequip?sm=B1%2fLHrAxm6%2bTjEv8zK4gaoPD7k%2fAYvdYOa15B2kRkfw%3d> to request the hearing screening kit, vision screening kit or both. Once the request has been made, you will be notified when the equipment can be picked up.

For more information about the ODH Children's Hearing and Vision Program, call 615-644-0139 or visit <http://www.odh.ohio.gov/odhPrograms/cfhs/hvscr/hvscr1.aspx>.



State Support Team Region 2's New Website Coming Soon

State Support Team Region 2 is working to bring you a completely re-designed website with easier access to locate all the great professional development opportunities we offer. We are hoping to launch the new site in January 2017.





The State Support Team Region 2 staff would like to wish you and yours the happiest of holiday seasons!

State Support Team



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Check the Events Calendar for professional development opportunities at www.sstr2.org.

**Don't Forget to Check Out our State Support Team 2
Facebook Page and Twitter Feeds!**



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@OIP_SST2
@Literacy_SST2

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