South Central *Ohio*
Educational Service Center

SCOESC CURRICULUM CONNECTION

September, 2025

Achieve New Heights with the SCOESC Curriculum Department!

The SCOESC Curriculum Department is ready to elevate educational success through tailored professional development that meets the needs of each district we serve. We can help teachers connect item analysis results to strategies and resources, assist administrators to implement attendance improvement strategies, or support staff to incorporate artificial intelligence into their daily workflow. To address these or any other challenges, contact SCOESC Curriculum Department Administrative Assistant logan.baumgardner@scoesc.org or any Curriculum Specialist to schedule services or start planning for the 2025-26 school year.

T4AI

What Is Your AI Solution?

Are you looking for a tool to help you complete daily work and become more efficient, productive, and effective?

The AI Collaborative unites the trusted expertise of the South Central Ohio Educational Service Center (SCOESC) with the cutting-edge technology solutions of Innovative Consulting Associates (ICA) to advance practical, impactful AI integration across the education sector. This partnership exists to simplify AI integration, deliver hands-on training, and empower all education

professionals (from ESC employees to district administrators to teachers and everyone in between) to harness the power of artificial intelligence each and every day.

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Learn More About T4AI

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AI Professional Development

The SCOESC Curriculum Department has two Artificial Intelligence Professional Development options that we can offer to your staff.
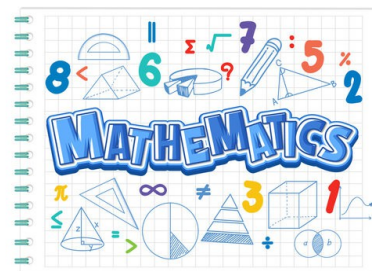
AI Tools for an Inclusive Classroom helps teachers learn how to create inclusive learning environments where students of all abilities and backgrounds can thrive. AI technology can support diverse learners by providing personalized assistance, adapting learning materials, and fostering engagement for every student. Participants leave the session with a variety of AI tools, resources, and instructional strategies.

AI Enhanced Assessments explores practical ways to use AI for creating quizzes, providing student feedback, and developing authentic assessments that actually work (and students can't ChatGPT their way through). Teachers will walk away with tools they can use immediately to improve assessment development, save time and enhance data collection.

In addition, if you'd like an AI PD tailored to your district or building's specific needs, we can do that, too! To schedule a session, please contact Tammy Hambrick at tammy.hambrick@scoesc.org or 740-354-0251.

Advanced Learning Opportunities in Mathematics

With the passage of HB96, state law ([ORC 3313.6032](#)) now requires each city, local, exempted village, and joint-vocational school district to provide each student who achieves an advanced level of skill on a mathematics achievement assessment or end-of-course examination with advanced learning opportunities in mathematics, including advanced mathematics courses in the following school year.

Under this provision, a school district is not subject to the requirement if it does not offer advanced learning opportunities in mathematics or an advanced mathematics course for the grade

level in which the student will be enrolled in the next school year. For districts that do offer such opportunities, the requirement to provide them will not take effect until the 2026–2027 school year.

2025-26 Evaluation System Training

SCOESC OTES, OPES, and OSCES training sessions for the 2025-26 school year are now available on STARS. Training sessions will be offered via a synchronous, online format. Dates are scheduled in August and September of 2025 in order to accommodate newly hired administrators. Click the button below for more information and to register for a session. For more information, contact tammy.hambrick@scoesc.org or (740) 354-0251.

South Central *Ohio* Educational Service Center

The South Central Ohio ESC Curriculum Department is offering the following ONLINE Trainings:

OTES 2.0 Training	OPES 2.0 Training	OSCES Training
August 26-28, 2025	**September 24-25, 2025**	**September 30, 2025**
The OTES 2.0 Evaluator Training is a 3-day course that is required to become a credentialed evaluator of teachers in the State of Ohio. Participants can be credentialed by completing all three days of the online, synchronous training and by passing the credentialing test.	The OPES 2.0 Evaluator training is a 2-day course required to become a credentialed evaluator of principals in the State of Ohio. The intended audience is superintendents, central office staff, and others who evaluate principals. Participants can be credentialed by attending the online, synchronous training and by passing the credentialing test.	The Ohio School Counselors Evaluation System training is a one-day course that is required of all evaluators of school counselors. The online, synchronous training provides an understanding of the OSCES Framework and Model and allows practice of skills and sharing of best practices.
Where: South Central Ohio ESC 522 Glenwood Ave. Conference Room D New Boston, OH 45662 **Time:** 8:30-2:30 **Cost:** $255.00 **Audience:** Building Administrators, Central Office Staff, Teachers **Facilitators:** Kara Copeland JD Emnett Tammy Hambrick Adam Michael	**Where:** South Central Ohio ESC 522 Glenwood Ave. Conf. Room A New Boston, OH 45662 **Time:** 8:30-2:30 **Cost:** $170.00 **Audience:** Superintendents, Building Administrators, Central Office Staff **Facilitators:** Kara Copeland JD Emnett Tammy Hambrick Adam Michael	**Where:** South Central Ohio ESC 522 Glenwood Ave. Conference Room A New Boston, OH 45662 **Time:** 8:30-3:30 **Cost:** $85.00 **Audience:** Superintendents, Building Administrators, Central Office Staff, School Counselors **Facilitators:** Kara Copeland JD Emnett Tammy Hambrick Adam Michael

In order to register for a session, please log in to STARS (https://ohid.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/ohid/login).
Do NOT pre-pay - districts will be invoiced *following* the completion of training.
For more information, you may contact the SCOESC Curriculum Department at 740-354-0253 or logan.baumgardner@scoesc.org
Kara Copeland, JD Emnett, Tammy Hambrick and Adam Michael are state trainers in the offerings listed above.

2025-26 Evaluation Training Flyer and Registration Directions

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Resident Educator Program Update

The SCOESC Resident Educator program is supporting approximately 60 Year 1 and 37 Year 2 teachers in 2025-26. Since recent legislation removed the requirement for Resident Educators to complete the Resident Educator Summative Assessment (RESA), the program has been revised to align with the OTES 2.0 rubric, with the goal to dig into the rubric criteria and help new teachers develop abilities included in the skilled rating.

All Year 1 and 2 teachers have been assigned a mentor who they will meet with regularly throughout the year to review topics including classroom management, lesson planning and delivery, assessment and use of data to drive instruction, and professionalism. Participants read and implement strategies from the Todd Whitaker book "Your First Year: How to Survive and Thrive as a New Teacher," and attend multiple in-person and online professional development sessions. All REs will conduct observations of colleagues and receive instructional coaching from their mentor, district Lead Mentor, and the SCOESC Curriculum Department.

Contact Tammy Hambrick, RE Project Director, at tammy.hambrick@scoesc.org or 740-354-0251 if you have any questions or concerns.

OST Item Analysis Released

The Ohio Department of Education and Workforce provides an item analysis through the Centralized Reporting System. In addition, several ESCs have collaborated to develop a more robust item analysis that allows teachers to review one-point items and the percent of students that selected the correct response, two-point items and the average score of all students, and all released items, organized by year. (Not all released items are from the 2025 tests; there are also items from previous test administrations that match the standards). Item analysis reports have been developed and sent to all districts that have provided the SCOESC with access to CRS data. Contact Adam Michael at adam.michael@scoesc.org if you have not received a report and would like to have one developed.

The SCOESC Curriculum Department is available to guide teachers through a process that helps them analyze item analysis data and make instructional adjustments to meet the needs of all students. Please contact your SCOESC Curriculum Specialist to schedule support.

Attendance Law Update

The passage of Ohio's budget bill in 2025 has shifted Ohio's attendance law from focusing almost solely on truancy to supporting students at risk of becoming chronically absent. The updates to

Ohio's attendance law have removed the "excessively absent" definition, no longer requiring notifications for specific hours of absence, and now encompass all absences under "chronically absent," defined as missing 10% of school hours. This new definition supports early intervention for students at risk of chronic absenteeism, differing from the chronic absence rate on Ohio's Report Card, which remains unchanged.

Court filing requirements for habitual truancy also persist, though absence intervention teams now focus on early intervention for all students, not just the habitually truant. By August 1, 2026, local policies must address chronic absenteeism, and districts are advised to collaborate with courts for alignment. Schools can set their own parameters for excused absences, considering special circumstances and aligning with health guidance. Attendance communications should foster community collaboration. For comprehensive updates, refer to the Department's Attendance Law FAQ.

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Attendance Law FAQ

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Overview of Attendance Law Updates and Local Implementation Considerations

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Cell Phone Policy Requirements

Ohio law requires each [school district](#), [community school](#), and [STEM school](#) to adopt a policy prohibiting cell phone use by students during the instructional day by Jan. 1, 2026. An "instructional day" is any period of time in which a student is expected to be in attendance and includes not only formal instruction time but also supervised activities, such as transitioning between classes, recess, meal periods, and field trips.

Districts and schools that adopt a cell phone policy after Sept. 30, 2025 must do so at a public meeting of the board. Each district board must make their cell phone policy publicly available and post the policy prominently on its publicly accessible website, if it has one.
Districts and schools may prohibit students from carrying cell phones on school property.
Districts and schools may also prohibit the use of all electronic communications devices which includes cell phones, smart watches, and other devices that are powered by batteries or electricity and that are capable of receiving, transmitting, or receiving and transmitting communications. This policy should list exceptions and disciplinary actions for violations. If a

policy prohibiting cell phones on school property is implemented, the policy must be posted in a central location in each school building and available to students and parents upon request.

Students may need access to their cell phones for educational or medical reasons. The law allows students to use their devices for specific purposes related to:

- the student's individualized education program developed under Ohio law pertaining to the education of children with disabilities;
- the student's plan developed under section 504 of the "Rehabilitation Act of 1973," 29 U.S.C. 794;
- student learning;
- monitoring or addressing health concerns; or
- an active threat or emergency as detailed in the building's comprehensive emergency management plan adopted under Ohio law.

If a student has a written statement from a doctor requiring the use of a cell phone to monitor a health concern, the district or school must allow the student to use a cell phone for that purpose.

Schools and districts can use the Department's Model Cell Phones in Schools Policy to assist with crafting local policies.

Cell Phones in Ohio Resources and Toolkit

Ohio's Plan for K-12 Mathematics

The Ohio Department of Education and Workforce has released Ohio's Plan for K-12 Mathematics.

The Ohio Department of Education and Workforce invites all educators and partners to view a recorded overview of Ohio's Plan for K-12 Mathematics to deepen their understanding of Ohio's vision for mathematics. Additionally, they encourage you to download the discussion guide to facilitate conversations regarding the plan.

Questions: Mathematics@education.ohio.gov

Ohio's Plan for K-12 Math Webpage

Upcoming Changes to District and School Reading Diagnostic Assessments

Beginning in the 2026-2027 school year, the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce is required to make significant changes to its approved list of reading diagnostic assessments. Under upcoming changes to Ohio law, the Department must approve up to five reading diagnostic assessments aligned with the academic standards for each grade from kindergarten to grade three by June 30, 2026.

As a result, several assessments currently on the Department's approved list of K-3 reading diagnostics will be removed beginning in the 2026-2027 school year. Many districts and schools will need to adopt and purchase new assessments for the 2026-2027 school year and beyond.

To help districts prepare, the Department will share updates regarding the upcoming changes with district leaders via email, on the reading diagnostic webpage, and during the ReadOhio policy hour webinar series.

Please direct questions to ThirdGradeGuarantee@education.ohio.gov.

HB 96 Science of Reading for New Teachers

An individual hired by the district or other public school as a teacher or administrator on or after July 1, 2025, shall complete the training described in division (B)(1) of this section within one year after the date of hire and shall complete the training described in division (B)(2) of this section every five years thereafter.

However, an individual shall not be required to complete the training described in division (B)(1) of this section if the district superintendent or head administrator of the other public school has verified that the individual did either of the following within five years prior to the date of hire:
(a) Completed that training or a similar training, as determined by the department;
(b) Completed appropriate coursework in the science of reading as part of the individual's educator or licensure preparation program.

Revised 2025-26 Gifted Services Calendar

Click the link on the button below to access a revised calendar of services from Sharee Price, SCOESC Gifted Services Coordinator, for the 2025-26 School year.

Meet the SCOESC Curriculum Team

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Contact Us!

The SCOESC Curriculum Department is ready to be your number one provider of educational services and support!