North Central Ohio
Educational Service Center

# Welcome | From The Superintendent | Spring 2026

**A Message from Superintendent W. Todd Martin**

**Todd Martin**
*Superintendent/CEO*
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It has been an amazing year at the North Central Ohio Educational Service Center, and I am honored to be part of such an outstanding team. When colleagues ask for my first impression of the organization, I tell them it is like managing an "All-Star" team. My role is simple: provide our staff with the resources they need to continue delivering excellent service to our partner districts and organizations.

As we head into spring, our team is highly engaged in elevating our game. Because I am surrounded by "outside-the-box" thinkers, our districts can expect to see new professional development and partnership opportunities in the near future.

Throughout the upcoming spring and summer seasons, we are focusing our energy on:

- Prioritizing "Relationships and People" above all else.
- Creating new opportunities for collaboration with school districts, local and state organizations, and neighboring ESCs.
- Identifying innovative strategies to enhance professional learning.
- Launching a proactive marketing campaign designed to support our districts in meeting their critical staffing needs.

Together, we will continue building momentum, strengthening partnerships, and ensuring that every district we serve has the resources needed to thrive.

# "Drive to Succeed!"

NCOESC has been awarded a $1.5 million grant to provide driver training scholarships for eligible new drivers under the age of 21 through the Drive to Succeed program.

This initiative will serve students across a multi-county region, including Lucas, Ottawa, Sandusky, Seneca, Wyandot, Marion, Union, Morrow, Crawford, Richland, Huron, Erie, Lorain, and Cuyahoga counties, significantly expanding access to driver education for families who may otherwise face financial barriers.

Through this investment, NCOESC aims to increase equitable access to driver education, support safer driving outcomes, and remove systemic barriers that prevent young people from gaining essential life skills.

For more information and to apply for the funds, please go to our website, NCOESC.org and click on the ***"Drive to Succeed"*** tab.

Ignite Your Excellence

# New Superintendent at Old Fort

NCOESC proudly welcomes **Danny F. Kissell** as the new **Superintendent of Old Fort Local Schools**.

Mr. Kissell brings more than 32 years of experience in public education to his new role. Throughout his distinguished career, he has served in a variety of capacities, including technology, transportation, and special education. He spent 16 years as a PreK–12 principal and 9½ years as a superintendent, demonstrating strong leadership and a commitment to student success.

In addition to his administrative experience, Mr. Kissell has coached numerous sports over the years, including baseball, basketball, wrestling, track, cross country, and football—positively impacting countless students both on and off the field.

If his name sounds familiar, you may remember him as a 1986 graduate of Bettsville High School or from his photo displayed on the elementary school's Wall of Fame.

NCOESC extends its best wishes to Mr. Kissell as he begins this exciting new chapter in his career.

# A Warm Welcome to Our Newest NCOESC Board Member, James R. Gucker!

NCOESC is proud to welcome **James R. Gucker** as the newest member of our Board.

Mr. Gucker has served the Tiffin and Seneca County community as an attorney for the past 36 years. He earned his Bachelor of Arts degree from Bowling Green State University and his Juris Doctor from the University of Toledo.

Since 2014, he has been an Assistant Professor at Tiffin University and also serves as Solicitor for the villages of Carey, Sycamore, and Marseilles. Mr. Gucker has maintained a private law practice in Tiffin since 1988 and remains deeply committed to serving his community through his involvement on numerous boards and foundations.

In addition to his professional accomplishments, Mr. Gucker is the men's rugby coach at Tiffin University, where he has coached 12 USA Rugby Academic All-Americans.

NCOESC is honored to welcome Mr. Gucker to the Board and looks forward to the leadership and experience he brings to our organization.

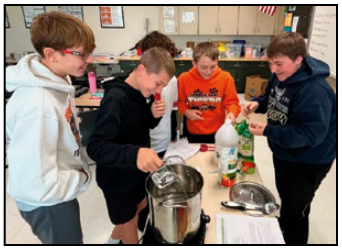
# NCOESC and CPSN are Partnering to Strengthen Career-Technical Education

NCOESC and The Northwest Ohio Career Pathway Support Network (CPSN) are proud to partner with districts across the region to strengthen Career-Technical Education and expand opportunities for students. Over the past several months, our team has worked closely with schools to support CTE-26 applications and the growth of career-tech programming in the middle grades.

Districts across Northwest Ohio continue to demonstrate a strong commitment to innovation—aligning programs to student interests and workforce needs. This work is already making a meaningful difference for students at Ontario and Seneca East schools.

At **Seneca East Middle School**, STEM classes showcase students fully engaged in hands-on, problem-based learning. From designing and building to testing and refining their ideas, students are not just learning concepts—they are applying them. These interactive experiences deepen understanding, increase engagement, and help students see the direct connection between classroom instruction and future career pathways.

**Ontario Middle School** and **Ontario Elementary School** are taking exciting steps forward with STEM and Career-Technical Education opportunities that spark curiosity and build real-world skills at an early age.



## Congratulations to our NCOESC Spelling Bee CHAMPIONS!

NCOESC Region 2 Spelling Bee CHAMPION, Hopewell-Loudon 6th Grader, **Kendall Bodart** with Hopewell-Loudon Principal Kendra Nelson

NCOESC Region 1 Spelling Bee CHAMPION, Mansfield City Schools 7th Grader, **Aliya Auger** with Mansfield Middle School Intervention Specialist Kimberly Moton

Marion County Spelling Bee CHAMPION (2 years in a row!) River Valley 8th Grader **Garrett Obenour** with NCOESC Superintendent Todd Martin

# North Central Ohio Educational Service Center

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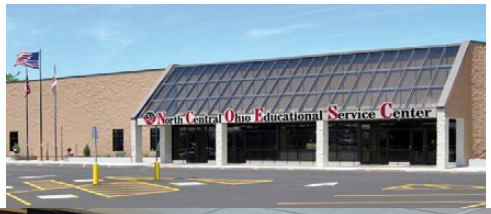
www.ncoesc.org



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# PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

SCAN HERE FOR A FULL CATALOG OF UPCOMING, NEW AND MANDATED PD OPPORTUNITIES!