



A New Way; A Better Way

Ten Recommendations from

Beyond Boundaries: A Shared Services Action Plan for Ohio Schools and Governments

1. Local government and education leaders need to use their authority to enter into simple agreements with one another to simplify the process of creating shared services opportunities.
2. The State should continue the process to further remove identified barriers to shared services and collaboration, including legislative approval when necessary.
3. The State should make a thorough review of Ohio's existing network of educational service, information technology and education technology centers and provide recommendations on the necessary structure and governance that will provide an integrated system of regional shared service centers (RSSC) using implementation strategies detailed in this plan.
4. Apply additional market forces to encourage the use of shared services and ensure the quality of services provided by:
 - Reviewing the remaining direct state funding for ESCs and ITCs to define which funds can move from a subsidy payment to a competitive bidding for services through the FY 14-15 budget process;
 - Establishing benchmarks for performance and a review process prior to contract renewal for purchased services.
5. The State should continue developing tools to assist local governments and schools in implementing collaboration and shared services.

The State should support information portals related to shared services:

- The Auditor of State's Skinny Ohio.org should be expanded to serve as an Online Clearinghouse of information, sample materials and tools that aid in determining when savings may exist through shared services.
- The Department of Administrative Services should develop an Online Portal of services and products available through existing shared purchasing programs and/or state contracts.

- 6.** The Local Government Innovation Council should create and award bonus points to applicants for submitting projects that are consistent with recommendations or promising practices identified in this Shared Services Plan.
- 7.** The State should take the lead in developing benchmarks and access to information that aids local government and school officials in determining when savings opportunities may exist through shared services.
- 8.** The State should create “triggers” for districts and/or local governments in fiscal distress (categorized as fiscal caution, fiscal watch or fiscal emergency) or those with substantial recommendations coming out of performance audits.
- 9.** State associations that have participated in developing this Shared Services Plan should take a leadership role in developing draft agreements; educating their members; facilitating the relationships regionally – both within and across their memberships; training their members in using the tools available to them and communicating about shared services consistently over the next few years.
- 10.** The Shared Services Model should be used by state and local leaders to determine opportunities for shared services and the optimum manner for individual entities to join together for the provision of a specific shared service.