



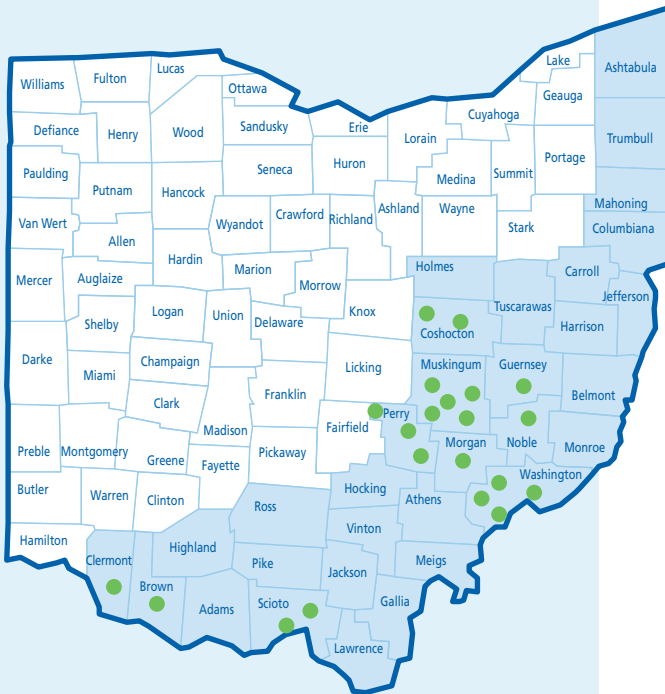
The Ohio Appalachian Collaborative

Ohio's rural students, as do all American students regardless of where they live or their socio-economic background, deserve access to a high-quality education. For today's students, that means an education that provides them with the knowledge and skills to be prepared for future success after graduating high school.

But rural school districts face unique challenges in preparing students for success in college and careers. These challenges include serving higher numbers of economically-disadvantaged and special education students, serving students that span large geographic areas, having limited financial and human resources, and being in regions that many times lack high-paying jobs.

Responding to these challenges, the Ohio Appalachian Collaborative began in 2010 with a common passion and mission: **transforming rural education to ensure students graduate from high school prepared for college, careers, and life.**

Education that Works for Rural Communities



The Collaborative Represents:

- 21 rural school districts
- 74 schools
- 2,066 teachers
- 34,000 students

Our Story, Our Values

The Ohio Appalachian Collaborative began in 2010 as a partnership between 21 districts and Battelle for Kids.

The goal of the OAC is to create sustainable change in education, not only to prepare the students of the OAC for bright futures, but to also positively impact the communities and economies of the region.

Working together, districts in the OAC have focused on five main values:



Staying ahead of the curve: Being in the OAC helps districts know what's coming in the educational landscape, and how to prepare.



Learning and sharing: The OAC fosters a collaborative network for educators to learn from each other to enhance rural education.



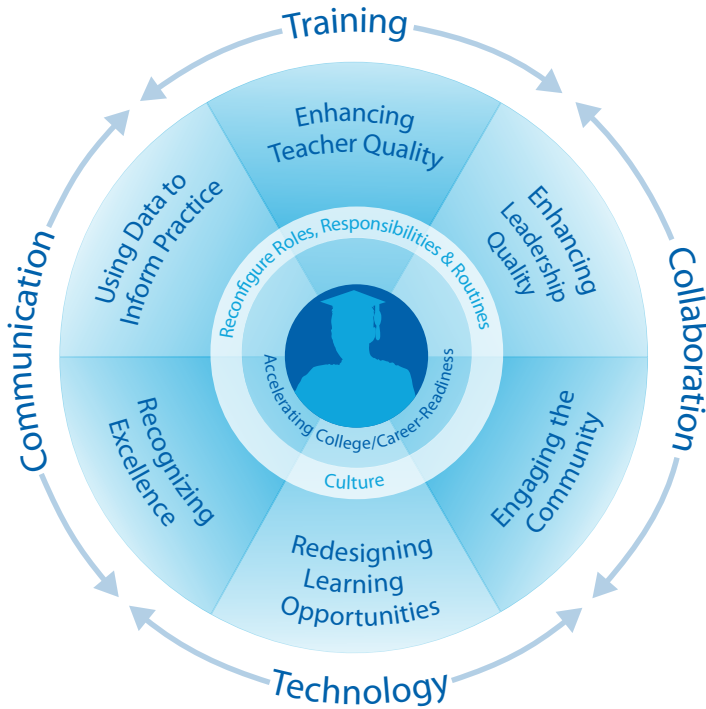
Joining forces to generate resources: Districts in the OAC have joined together to secure, share, and save resources for rural education.



Influencing: The OAC creates an influential platform for districts to strengthen support for the work.



Building a community: Educators in the OAC have opportunities to collaborate, communicate, and work together to solve common challenges.



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Our Impact

Being a part of the OAC has impacted districts in a variety of ways:

- OAC districts have worked together on innovative approaches to some of today's most complex education challenges, including evaluations, standards, and assessments.
- The OAC has leveraged the Rural Ohio College High School model to expand dual enrollment and early college opportunities to students.
- OAC districts have established the Personalized Learning Network to develop common approaches to personalized learning for all students.
- OAC leaders and educators have met with representatives from the U.S. Department of Education as well as the Ohio General Assembly to discuss policies and their impact on rural education.

The Rural Education Transformation Approach

The Ohio Appalachian Collaborative's mission is to strengthen and leverage educator effectiveness to accelerate college and career readiness for every student. Uniting research-based and results-proven strategies for accelerating student outcomes, the Rural Education Transformation Approach addresses six components for transformational change, including:

Redesigning Learning Opportunities, Enhancing Teacher Quality, Using Data to Inform Practice, Enhancing Leadership Quality, Engaging the Community and Recognizing Excellence.



About Battelle for Kids

Battelle for Kids is a national, not-for-profit organization that provides strategic counsel and innovative solutions for today's complex educational-improvement challenges. Our mission-driven team of education, technology, communications and business professionals specializes in creating strategies that advance the development of human capital, the use of strategic measures, the implementation of effective practices, and communication with all stakeholders in schools. At the heart of this work is an unwavering focus on accelerating student growth. We partner with state departments of education, school districts and education-focused organizations to advance these strategies with the shared goals of: improving teaching effectiveness and student progress; informing instructional practice in real time; recognizing and rewarding teaching excellence; and aligning goals and maximizing impact in schools. For more information, visit www.BattelleforKids.org.

For more information, contact us at (614) 481-3141 or visit www.BattelleforKids.org.