



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.

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.

As the demand for highly-skilled workers continues to rise, a high school diploma no longer guarantees future success or employment. Post-secondary education or advanced training after high school remain students' best pathways for increased employment and financial opportunities, which ultimately lead to a better quality of life.

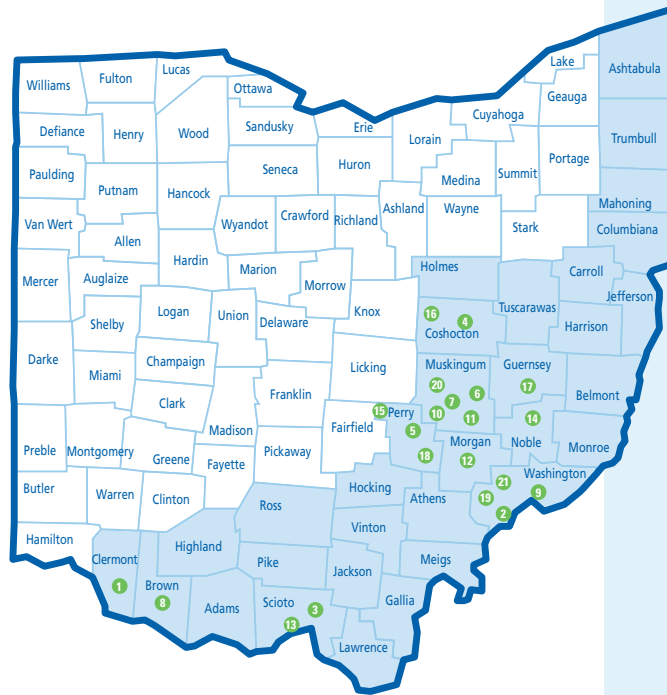
The reality facing Ohioans is that only 25 percent of the state's adults have a four-year college degree. In Appalachia Ohio, this percentage is even lower at less than 12 percent.

Responding to these and other regional challenges, Battelle for Kids and a collaborative of 21 Appalachian Ohio school districts joined forces in 2010 to create and implement a comprehensive approach to transform rural education and student outcomes.



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

Strengthening and Leveraging Educator Effectiveness to Accelerate College- and Career-Readiness for Rural Ohio Students



The Collaborative Represents:

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

Establishing Mutual Respect for Mutual Benefit

A fundamental requirement for OAC participation was agreement to adopt a framework of measurable, high-stretch college- and career-readiness goals and strategies signed by the district superintendent, union president, and school board president. This early collaboration laid the foundation for establishing "mutual respect for mutual benefit" among other administrators and educators within OAC districts.

The design of the Collaborative is based on three principles:

1. **Make teamwork work.** Connect, develop, and improve current school improvement communities and teams within and across OAC districts (i.e. Professional Learning Communities, District/Building Improvement Teams, etc.)
2. **Leverage strengths.** Appropriately identify, engage, and leverage the impact of effective educators within and across OAC districts.
3. **Build skills together.** Amplify and accelerate shared local capacity to implement new policies, procedures, and practices (i.e. Scopes of work, educator evaluation systems, Common Core, etc.).

Investing in Transformation

Battelle for Kids and OAC district representatives have worked collaboratively to develop a strategy designed to keep districts' investments in this work cost-neutral while leveraging external resources.

This approach has resulted in investments from federal Race to the Top (RttT) and Teacher Incentive Fund (TIF) programs, private foundations, and corporations.

Long-term sustainability is a priority. Battelle for Kids will continue to work with district representatives to leverage ideas and implementation strategies for future sustainability.



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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 dramatically improving human capital development and 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.

Connecting these components are four core processes: **collaboration, communication, technology, and training.** As a result of integrating these components and processes, roles, and responsibilities will change and a new culture for 21st century learning will be realized.

The Results We Expect

The primary success measure will be the dramatic and sustained increase in the participating districts' college/career-technical school entrance rates and, ultimately, completion rates.

Building on Appalachia Ohio's strong sense of community and culture, the 21 OAC districts have an extraordinary opportunity. They know that the fastest way to innovate and improve is to learn. And, they know that collaboration accelerates innovation, energizes change, and activates sustainability.

United by a common mission of strengthening and leveraging educator effectiveness to accelerate college- and career-readiness, these districts truly are leading and learning together.