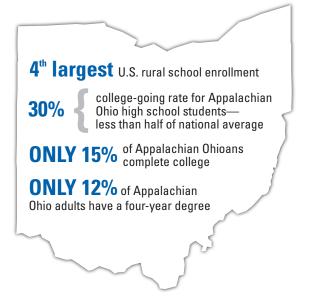


# **OAC FACT SHEET**

## **IT STARTED WITH AN IDEA & EARLY ADOPTERS**

In 2010 through Race to the Top, the Ohio Appalachian Collaborative (OAC) was established as a partnership among 21 rural districts and not-for-profit partner Battelle for Kids (BFK) to provide enhanced educational opportunities to its more than 34,000 students, strengthen the ties between education and economic development, and bring students hope and aspiration for a brighter future.

### WHY IT IS REGIONALLY IMPORTANT





**Staying ahead of the curve**–Districts know what's coming in the educational landscape, and how to prepare.

**THE VALUES** 



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

**Joining forces to generate resources**–Districts have joined together to secure, share, and save resources for rural education.



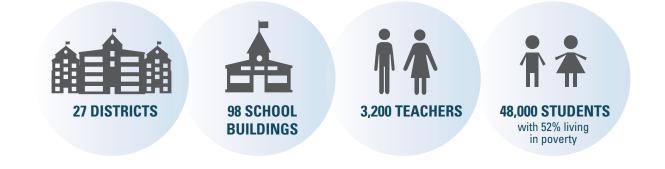
**Influencing**-The OAC creates an influential platform for districts to strengthen support for the work.



**Building a community**–Educators have opportunities to collaborate, communicate, and work together to solve common challenges.

## **BUILDING A MOVEMENT**

In December 2013, the Ohio Department of Education awarded a Straight A Fund grant to the OAC to continue its work around transforming rural education. The OAC expanded to serve:





## **THE WORK**

The major focus of the OAC's Straight A Fund grant work is building a shared dual enrollment and personalized learning pathways (career pathways) system for grades 6–12, supported by a shared professional learning community for educators. Personalized Learning Pathways integrate rigorous academic instruction with curriculum and provide real-life work experience.





#### THERE ARE NOW 54 NEW PATHWAYS:



Business & Entrepreneurship



Health & Human Services



22 Science, Technology, Engineering, & Math (STEM)

Pathways linking learning with student interests and career preparation leads to higher graduation rates, increased college enrollment rates, and, ultimately, a higher earning potential.

