



educational service center
of Central Ohio

2023-2024 Annual Report



A Note from Superintendent Dr. Tom Goodney



The 2023-2024 school year was marked by a continued focus on the future and a further distancing from the pandemic-era educational landscape. Nowhere was this more apparent than the winding down of much COVID-related federal education funding, shifting the focus of schools and communities to pre-2020 funding streams and associated program and service costs. The impact of this shift varied from state to state, district to district, and school to school, but it was no doubt top of mind to most as the current state and future of education were envisioned.

For several years now, there has been consistent improvement in academic achievement across most schools. However, slow growth and persistent gaps in that improvement remained, especially for minority and economically disadvantaged populations. The struggle to accelerate learning and improve academic achievement for these students remained unacceptably low, and pandemic-related impacts were difficult to reverse. In response, literacy and how students are taught to read received heightened attention and support as state leaders stressed the need for schools to focus their efforts. Chronic absenteeism continued to be a key obstacle and concern as student attendance continued to lag, and mental and behavioral health were again high-priority focus areas of need. While these are big issues that won't be solved overnight, schools and educators were not deterred from pushing to make an impact and support these students, directing them toward success.

To make these big issues less burdensome, the ESC continued its response and efforts to be a critical partner of schools, educators, and students, ensuring they were not alone in working to meet their goals, no matter the obstacles. The purpose of the ESC is to lead when necessary, support all stakeholders, and share and leverage resources on behalf of client school districts and partners – and that is where we placed our focus this past school year to meet the needs of others. We are always working to support schools in educating students and to be a critical resource in their efforts to accelerate learning and provide for non-academic needs.

To address these needs, we continued providing people and services to meet the day-to-day staffing challenges of our partners and their long-term needs. We facilitated connections to foster a vast network of key community partners focused on quality student success. We fostered strong regional and state partnerships through collaborative grant opportunities that supported and will continue to support, the behavioral and mental health needs of districts and regional partners. We also aimed to improve student academics and quality education for all through targeted professional learning opportunities that provided educators and partners with tools and resources to improve outcomes as well as alternative educational opportunities aimed at improving outcomes for each student.

We are entering a new era in the country, state, and region, and as educators, we continue to focus on student needs, whatever those needs may be, to help each child find their path to success in life. This goal requires much hard work, but it is one I know we are ready to meet.

Thomas L. Goodney
Tom L. Goodney, Superintendent

At A Glance



The ESC aimed to **improve student outcomes and success with support for educators** to build their college- and career-focused ecosystems and create bridges from education to employment.

- We supported schools, educators, and students by enabling them to offer and access more pathways and opportunities to “what’s next” beyond their primary and secondary education. Much of this work was led by our Business Advisory Council and many partnerships with businesses and industry sectors throughout the region and state. The work focused on building pathways and opportunities for students while ensuring they have access and are able to take advantage of them. This included the ESC being named a finalist in the federal Career Z Challenge, a competition seeking creative solutions to expand student access to high-quality work-based learning (WBL) opportunities that will prepare students to be contributing members of today’s workforce and propel them into successful careers of the future.



The ESC **supported the behavioral and mental health service needs** of districts, schools, and regional partners.

- We continued to support the behavioral and mental health needs of students throughout Central Ohio via our Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) services, Specialized On-Site Support (SOS) Team, social worker support services, mental health specialist support services, and chronic absenteeism support through the Central Ohio Attendance Network, developed for educators to share research, resources, and effective practices to improve student school attendance.



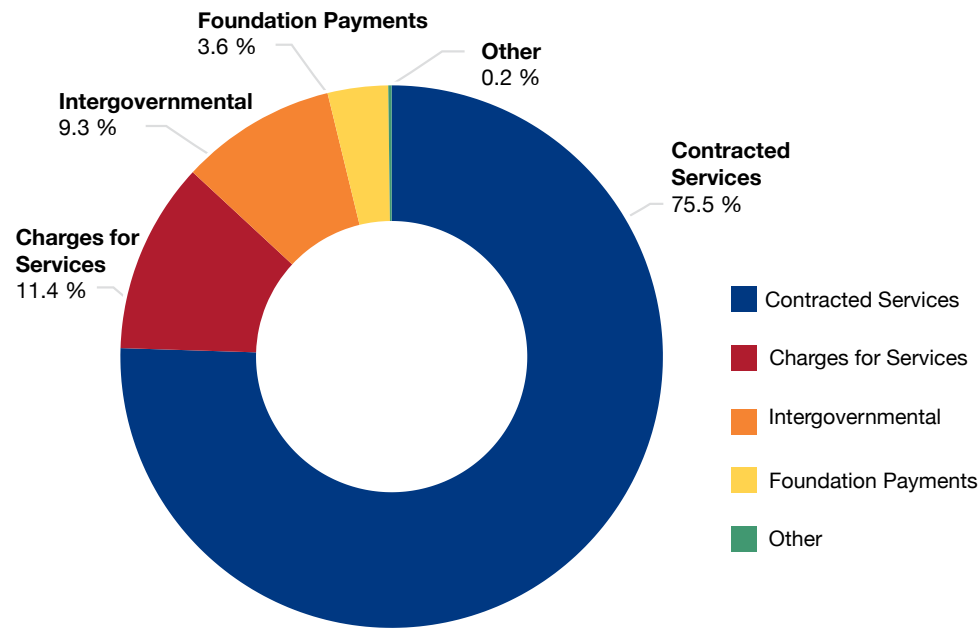
The ESC **provided people and services to meet the day-to-day staffing challenges** as well as the long-term needs of our partners.

- As staffing challenges have become the norm for districts and schools, we worked hard to recruit, train, and provide staff that were available to support their needs. These staff included thousands of substitute teachers, mental health support specialists, social workers, intervention specialists, teaching assistants, and more. While the ESC has provided staffing supports for many years, a heightened sense of urgency and emphasis was placed on this effort to ensure we were working to alleviate these needs for districts and schools.

Financial Activity

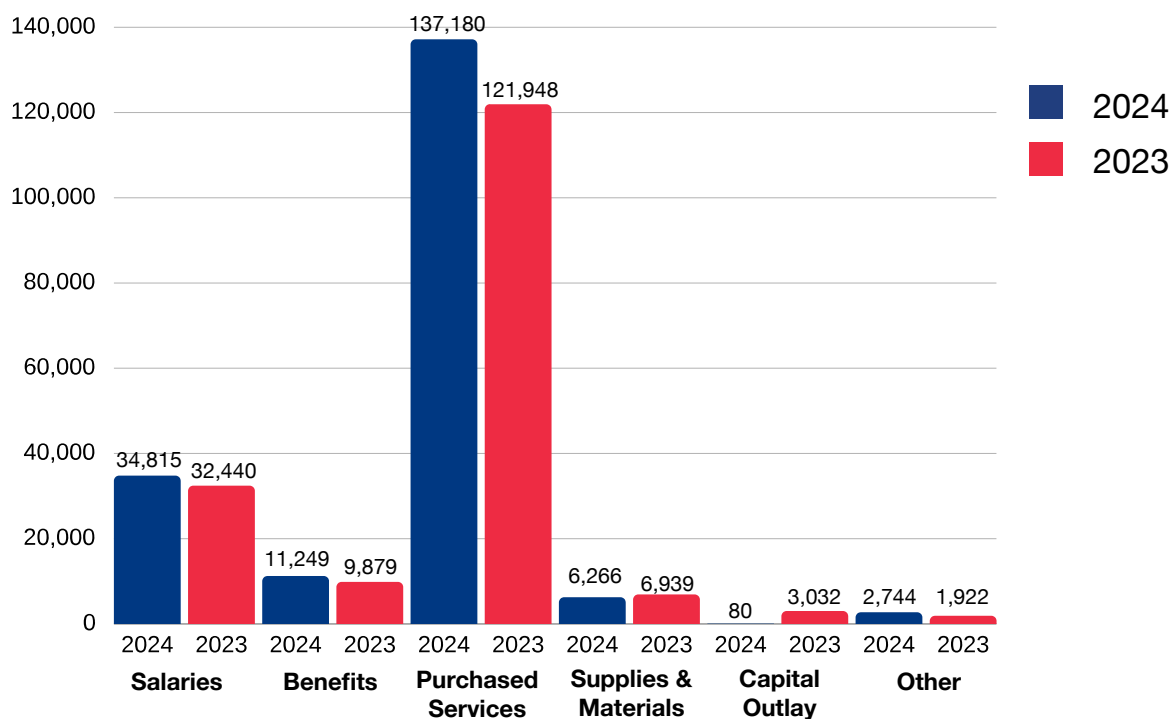
Revenue by Type

(in thousands)



Expenditures by Type

(in thousands)



Revenues

(in thousands, unaudited)

	General Fund		All Other Funds*		Total All Funds	
	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023
Revenues						
Program Receipts: Contracted Services	\$143,861	\$127,958	\$3,486	\$2,734	\$147,347	\$130,692
Charges for Services	18,317	19,035	1,056	698	19,373	19,733
Intergovernmental Program Receipts	-	-	21,760	16,015	21,760	16,015
General Receipts: State Foundation Payments	6,497	6,267	-	-	6,497	6,267
Investment Earnings	747	343	-	-	747	343
Other Misc. Receipts	5	13	8	2	13	15
Total Receipts	\$169,427	\$153,616	\$26,310	\$19,449	\$195,737	\$173,065

Notes:

1. All other funds include the following:
Special Revenue Funds (Grant Funds), Capital Project Fund, Agency Funds (Fiscal Agent Services), and Self Funded Internal Service Fund.
2. Certain 2023 amounts have been reclassified to conform to 2024 presentation.

Expenditures and Changes in Cash and Investments

(in thousands, unaudited)

	General Fund		All Other Funds*		Total All Funds	
	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023
Expenditures						
Salaries	\$33,706	\$31,623	\$1,109	\$817	\$34,815	\$32,440
Benefits	10,831	9,590	418	289	11,249	9,879
Purchased Services	114,610	105,504	22,570	16,444	137,180	121,948
Supplies & Materials	5,541	6,320	725	619	6,266	6,939
Capital Outlay	13	1,315	67	1,717	80	3,032
Other	947	774	1,797	1,148	2,744	1,922
Total Expenditures	\$165,648	\$155,126	\$26,686	\$21,034	\$192,334	\$176,160
Increase (Decrease) in Cash & Investments before Advances & Transfers	3,779	(1,510)	(376)	(1,585)	3,403	(3,095)
Advances & Transfers, Net	(457)	(532)	457	532	-	-
Loan Proceeds	-	1,100	-	-	-	1,100
Increase (Decrease) in Cash & Investments	3,322	(942)	81	(1,053)	3,403	(1,995)
Cash & Investments July 1	32,345	33,287	2,289	3,342	34,634	36,629
Cash & Investments June 30	\$35,667	\$32,345	\$2,370	\$2,289	\$38,037	\$34,634

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Notes



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