Ohio's Regional Education Partnerships: Strong Starts, Strong Futures

Strengthening connections among the organizations that support young people, **so more reach key milestones** from early childhood through education and into the workforce.

Ohio's Commitment to Young People

Too often, the people and organizations supporting young people are working hard but not always working from the same information, toward the same priorities, or in close coordination with one another.

Ohio is building a new statewide model to change that. It builds on years of work across the state and carries forward Ohio Governor Mike DeWine's focus on early learning and literacy, career-connected learning, workforce preparation, and stronger regional collaboration.

Through 12 locally led regional partnerships, communities can better connect the people, programs, and support around young people and families so more children begin school ready to learn, more students stay on track through graduation, and more young adults continue into college or training and get a strong start in the workforce.

Why Stronger Connections Matter

Young people are supported by many different organizations as they grow, including child care providers, schools, colleges, employers, workforce organizations, state and local agencies, and community organizations.

Together, those organizations contribute to important milestones, from access to early learning and reading on grade level to staying on track through graduation, continuing into college or training, and preparing to enter the workforce. When their efforts are not connected, needs can go unnoticed, opportunities can be missed, and programs and support may not be coordinated around what young people and families need.

A Stronger Statewide Structure for Work Already Happening Locally

New state legislation gives this work a statewide structure through 12 locally led regional partnerships.

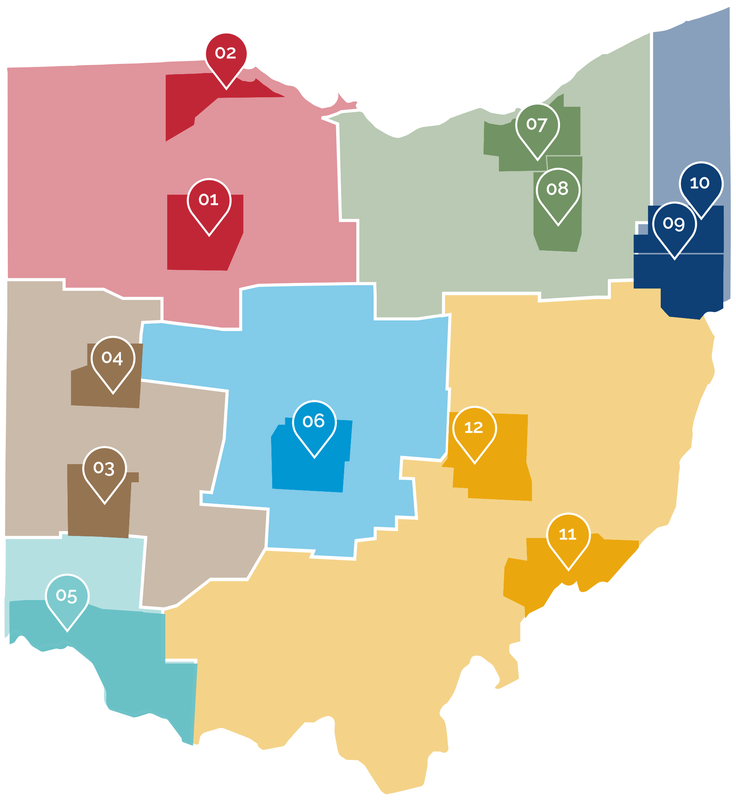
Each region now has a designated partnership responsible for bringing local organizations together, building a shared understanding of the data, identifying priorities, and coordinating action.

Ohio is not starting from scratch. The model builds on earlier regional partnerships, Educational Service Centers and other regional structures, philanthropic support, and years of collaboration among local organizations and state leaders.

It also carries forward Governor DeWine's focus on literacy, career-connected learning, workforce preparation, and regional collaboration.

Meet Ohio's 12 Regional Education Partnerships

The 12 designated regional partnerships span all seven JobsOhio regions and bring different kinds of regional experience to the statewide network — from early childhood and cradle-to-career collaboration to education, workforce development, and employer partnerships.



Northwest
01. Raise the Bar Hancock County
02. Toledo Tomorrow

West
03. Learn to Earn Dayton
04. West Central Ohio Regional Education Partnership

Southwest
05. United Way of Greater Cincinnati

Central
06. Central Ohio Talent Network

Northeast
07. Educational Service Center of Northeast Ohio
08. Summit Education Initiative

East
09. Team Workforce
10. United Way of Youngstown and the Mahoning Valley

Southeast
11. Building Bridges to Careers
12. Enterprise Muskingum

How Ohio's new statewide model of **12 regional partnerships** brings communities together so more young people can succeed

Stronger, better-connected paths for Ohio's young people and families — from early childhood through education and into the workforce

Step 1

Identify a regional challenge in early childhood, education, or workforce entry

Use regional data and local knowledge to identify an outcome that needs attention.

Step 2

Understand what's driving it

Combine data with young people, family, and community perspectives and on-the-ground expertise to understand what's behind the challenge.

Step 3

Map what exists and what's missing

Understand how current programs, resources, and partnerships connect, where stronger connections could help, and whether something new is needed.

Step 4

Bring the right partners and resources together

The regional partnership provides a clear point of regional coordination — bringing together schools, employers, colleges, public agencies, service providers, and community organizations around shared roles, information, resources, and action.

Step 5

Strengthen what exists or build what's missing

Better connect or expand existing efforts, or develop a new response where the region has a gap.

Step 6

Act, measure, and improve

Put the response into action, track results, and keep strengthening what works.

What Makes This Model Different

One Partnership Responsible for Keeping the Work Connected

The regional partnership in each area is responsible for bringing organizations together, helping them maintain a shared understanding of regional priorities, and keeping coordinated action moving over time.

Local Priorities, Statewide Support

The work will look different in each region because needs vary across Ohio. Regional partnerships receive coaching, data tools, peer learning, grant funding, and practical support while remaining focused on local priorities.

The Full Path from Early Childhood into Work

The model connects work that can otherwise be separated by age, institution, or system. It reaches from access to early learning through school success, college or career training, and a strong start in the workforce.

What This Can Add Up to For Ohio's Young People & Families

- More children begin school ready to learn
- More students read on grade level and stay on track
- More young people graduate and continue into college or training
- More young adults earn in-demand credentials and get a strong start in the workforce

Examples of Regional Priorities

- Access to early learning
- Kindergarten readiness
- Third-grade literacy
- School attendance
- High school graduation
- Completion of college or career training
- Stronger connections into the workforce

Looking Ahead

As the 12 regional partnerships learn from one another and respond to local priorities, Ohio can strengthen the connections among the organizations, programs, and resources already working with young people and families.

The goal is not another disconnected program. It is a stronger way for the people and organizations already doing this work to see shared challenges, coordinate their efforts, and act together so fewer needs and opportunities are missed.