

ESCS AS OPEPP PARTNERS



an Educational Service Center can provide paraprofessionals and other special education personnel, services and PD to some of the districts in its catchment area. There are 51 such centers in Ohio. These centers, “serve as the conduit and delivery system for Ohio’s statewide [M(1)] school improvement and education reform efforts” (Ohio Education Service Center Association, 2023). The ESCs provide a range of services to the districts in their catchment areas.

- ESC spends the first year with the OPEPP consultant focusing on their own ESC needs around Paraprofessionals.

- ESC completes the needs assessment and action plans around their specific para concerns. They begin to make ESC changes with the help of an OPEPP consultant.

- The OPEPP consultant is simultaneously mentoring the ESC site coordinator who can (if they desire) become an OPEPP consultant within 1-3 years' time.

- When the ESC site coordinator feels ready, they can begin to let districts in their region know that they are available to consult as an official OPEPP consultant and can do this consulting with or without an OPEPP mentor consultant as a guide.

- The ESC can continue to get guidance and consultation from an OPEPP consultant during years 2-3 while also getting the OPEPP partnerships out to their districts

- In year 4 the ESC can become a mentoring ESC for other ESCs.

