



#SERVE

# OVESC UPDATE

May 2026 - Vol. IV, Issue IV

## A YEAR OF IMPACT, A FUTURE OF OPPORTUNITY

As we close out another successful school year, I want to take a moment to express my appreciation to each of you for the work you do every day on behalf of students across our region. Your commitment, resilience, and focus on excellence continue to make a meaningful difference in the lives of those we serve.

This year marked an especially memorable milestone for the Ohio Valley Educational Service Center as we hosted our first annual “Heart of” Awards Ceremony. It was a privilege to recognize students and staff who exemplify dedication, compassion, and service. Celebrating the people who make our member districts strong was both inspiring and long overdue, and I look forward to this becoming a valued tradition. Throughout the year, OVESC remained focused on supporting our member districts through a wide range of professional development opportunities, operational services, and collaborative initiatives. Whether through targeted trainings, specialized programs, or day-to-day support, our goal has been to equip educators and staff with the tools they need to help students succeed. Your engagement in this work is what makes these efforts impactful.

As the school year comes to a close, I hope each of you can finish strong, accomplish your goals and reflect on the progress made. Just as importantly, I encourage you to take time to rest and recharge over the summer months. The work you do is demanding, and that time for renewal is essential.

It is truly my pleasure to SERVE alongside you. I am excited about the opportunities ahead and the positive changes on the horizon for OVESC. Together, we will continue to grow, innovate, and strengthen the support we provide to our schools and communities.

Thank you again for an outstanding year. I look forward to all that we will accomplish together in the 2026–2027 school year.

*Dafon Summers*  
Superintendent

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## New Faces at the OVESC



### Grace Campos

*Director of Data Analysis and Special Assignments*

Grace Campos is a dedicated education professional with 10 years of experience supporting district and school leaders in using data to drive meaningful decisions, ensuring EMIS compliance, and integrating educational technology that enhances teaching and learning. She is passionate about helping schools operate more efficiently and effectively so educators can focus on what matters most—student success. Known for her collaborative spirit and problem-solving mindset, Grace excels at turning complex challenges into practical, user-friendly solutions.

Outside of her professional role, she enjoys reading and listening to audiobooks, watching documentaries, and exploring new ideas through podcasts. At home, her tuxedo cat, Bear, keeps things lively and serves as a reminder to balance hard work with a little fun.



### Ryan Werry

*Director of Science Learning and Special Services*

Ryan Werry has been teaching science for 28 yrs in Southeast Ohio. He has a Bachelor's and Master's from Ohio University and has an Educational Black Belt from Lean Six Sigma. Ryan has served in many leadership roles, including department head, BLT, and 25 yrs of coaching 6 sports. Ryan enjoys hiking, board games, and a passion for fostering the growth of others. He is married to his high school sweetheart (Rachel) and they have three adored children.



### Ally Trew

*Director of Gifted and Special Services*

Ally Trew, a Marietta native, earned her undergraduate and graduate degrees from Otterbein University and began her teaching career in 2010 at Teays Valley Local Schools. After returning to the area with her husband, Scott, she served as a literacy consultant with the State Support Team, Curriculum Director for Belpre City Schools, and education faculty at Washington State College of Ohio. She has also supported the Ohio Valley ESC in recent years and will join the administrative team next school year as Director of Gifted and Special Services. She is passionate about systemic practices that enhance instruction and foster critical and creative thinking in students. Ally and her husband, who owns Wolfe Camper Sales, have four children and stay active with their sports and activities. They enjoy spending summers at the lake and traveling to Florida in the winter, when possible.



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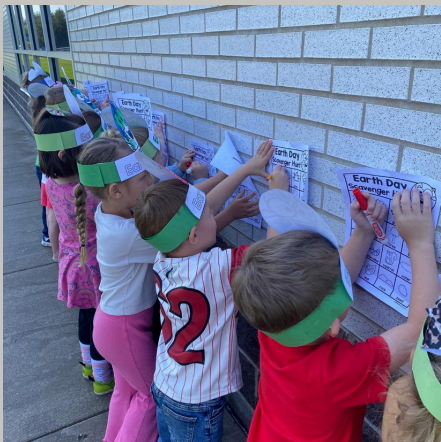
## Bright Beginnings and WSCO Educational Lab Partnership Provides Exceptional Learning Opportunities!

The collaboration between OVESC Bright Beginnings Preschool and the Washington State College of Ohio education program creates a meaningful bridge between theory and practice for future educators. By partnering together, the preschool provides a real-world learning environment where college students can apply what they've learned in their coursework. Education majors gain firsthand experience working with young children, while preschool students benefit from engaging, thoughtfully planned activities. This partnership strengthens the preparation of aspiring teachers by giving them early exposure to classroom dynamics, child development, and instructional strategies in an authentic setting.

Bringing preschool students into the college classroom for a lab experience offers unique advantages for everyone involved. Education students have the opportunity to design and implement lessons, practice classroom management, and adapt instruction in real time based on student needs. Meanwhile, college professors can observe these interactions directly, providing immediate, targeted feedback that helps refine teaching practices. For preschoolers, the experience introduces a new learning environment that can spark curiosity and excitement. Overall, this hands-on model fosters confidence, collaboration, and professional growth for future educators while enriching the learning experiences of young children.



## A Glimpse Across the OVESC



## Strengthening Mathematics Instruction Through Collaboration, Data, and Student Discourse

This spring has been filled with meaningful collaboration and continued support across our schools. Working alongside teachers and students in classrooms has provided valuable opportunities to focus on personalized skill reinforcement and targeted review assignments designed to meet the diverse needs of learners.

In addition to classroom-based support, work has continued in several key areas of instructional improvement. This includes supporting MTSS implementation efforts, providing instructional feedback aligned with the Ohio Math Plan, and developing Ohio-specific facilitator guides to support districts in implementing Tier 1 math instructional materials with fidelity and clarity. Collaboration has also extended across subject areas to help teachers collect, analyze, and interpret standards-based data, strengthening instructional decision-making and student support systems.

A key focus of this work continues to be strengthening instructional practices that promote student thinking and engagement. Student-facilitated classroom discussion is a strong indicator of deep learning and student ownership. When students lead discourse, they engage in reasoning, justify their thinking, and learn from one another. This shifts the cognitive responsibility to students and helps cultivate a classroom culture where learners actively construct understanding and feel safe taking intellectual risks. We are grateful for the opportunity to work alongside educators across the region and to contribute to the important and impactful work happening in our districts. There is great anticipation for the continued momentum and the opportunities it will bring to further support teaching and learning.

For questions or to request support, reach out to Shannon Leasure at [shannon.leasure@ovesc.org](mailto:shannon.leasure@ovesc.org)

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## Specialists in Action: Closing the Year and Planning Ahead

As we close out another successful school year, we extend our sincere appreciation to the dedicated specialists who support students and staff across our region. Their expertise and commitment play a vital role in ensuring that students receive the services they need to succeed.

Looking ahead to the upcoming school year, we are excited to welcome several new team members, including one school psychologist, two speech-language pathologists, and one occupational therapist. At the same time, we continue to seek qualified candidates for a few key positions, including an occupational therapist and preschool school psychologist at Switzerland of Ohio Schools, as well as a school psychologist serving Wolf Creek Local and Belpre City Schools.

We also recently held our final quarterly specialists meeting during the week of April 27 at Washington State College of Ohio. The session included valuable Medicaid billing updates, with district treasurers joining the conversation to ensure continued alignment and compliance.

Thank you again to our specialists for the meaningful impact they make each day. We look forward to building on this strong foundation in the year ahead.

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# Summer of Discovery: Fueling Your Child's Curiosity

As the school year winds down, the quest for meaningful summer engagement begins. For students who thrive on intellectual challenge, these months are a golden opportunity to dive deep into passions that don't always fit into a standard school day. Here are some of our favorite ways to keep those bright minds humming from June through August.

## For Our Youngest Explorers (Grades K–5)

At this age, enrichment is all about wonder and tactile discovery.

**The "Genius Hour" at Home:** Set aside one morning a week where your child "owns" their learning. Whether they want to research why the ocean is salty or build a skyscraper out of recycled cardboard, let them lead the way.

**Citizen Science:** Turn your backyard or local park into a laboratory. Use apps to identify local flora and fauna, contributing real data to global scientific databases.

**Logic & Strategy Play:** Trade standard board games for those that require deep spatial reasoning or complex planning. It's "stealth learning" at its finest.

## The Middle School Deep-Dive (Grades 6–8)

Middle schoolers often crave social connection alongside mental stimulation.

**Creative Tech Projects:** Encourage them to move from being consumers to creators. This could mean scripting and filming a stop-motion movie, or learning the basics of game design to build their own digital world.

**Themed Reading Challenges:** Instead of a generic list, help them curate a "Deep Dive" list around a specific niche—think historical fiction set in Ancient Egypt or memoirs of famous innovators.

**Summer Interest Circles:** See if a few like-minded peers want to start a summer book club or a weekly "shark tank" style invention workshop.

## High School Horizons (Grades 9–12)

For older students, summer is the time to bridge the gap between academic theory and real-world application.

**University-Style Seminars:** Many colleges offer residential or virtual programs where high schoolers can study advanced topics like epidemiology, astrophysics, or social justice with experts in the field.

**Meaningful Internships & Volunteering:** Encourage them to find a cause that matches their talent. A math whiz might tutor at a local community center, while a budding scientist might volunteer at a nearby nature preserve.

**Self-Directed Mastery:** High schoolers can tackle complex certifications or independent research projects. Writing a full-length novel, building a functional computer, or learning a new programming language are all excellent ways to demonstrate initiative.

**The Golden Rule for Summer:** Whatever path you choose, make sure there is plenty of "white space" in the calendar. Even the most gifted minds need downtime to daydream—that's often where the best ideas are born.

Reach out to Ally Trew, Director of Gifted and Special Services for more information.

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## Driving Forward: New Vehicle Opportunities for Driver Education Program

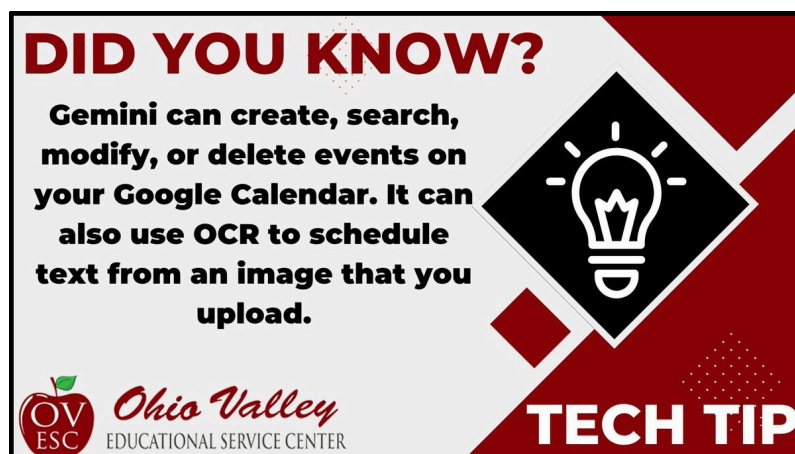
The MOV ESC Driving School is facilitating a project that will provide the original school districts participating in the Driver Education Consortium with a new vehicle. Due to the Ohio Valley ESC receiving a donation from the Honda Foundation, certain districts in the consortium will be able to purchase a car for driver education and training at a competitive price through a local dealership, with grant assistance helping to reduce overall costs.

According to Driver Education Director, Richard Hall, several districts are taking advantage of this opportunity. The original districts joined the consortium from the beginning and have been offering driver education programs since the fall of 2022. As the program approaches the four-year mark, it is an appropriate time for some districts to replace their driver education vehicles.

The goal is to support districts in maintaining the most up-to-date driver education and training vehicles possible, enhancing the learning experience for students while keeping costs affordable for schools.

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## Smarter Scheduling Starts Here: Save Time with Gemini and Google Calendar



**DID YOU KNOW?**

**Gemini can create, search, modify, or delete events on your Google Calendar. It can also use OCR to schedule text from an image that you upload.**

**TECH TIP**

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Looking for a simple way to stay organized? Staff are finding real value in using Gemini to manage their Google Calendar more efficiently. With just a few steps, events can be created, reviewed, and added seamlessly. Even more impressive, Gemini can turn a screenshot of a date or event into a calendar entry; saving time and reducing the chance of missed commitments. A small tool that can make a big difference in daily productivity.

For more information, reach out to Teresa Schuerman ([teresa.schuerman@ovesc.org](mailto:teresa.schuerman@ovesc.org)) at the Ohio Valley ESC.

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## INFOhio Presents Celebrating America's Past, Present, and Future



July 4, 2026, marks the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. To help celebrate this historic milestone, INFOhio has developed a collection of engaging activities that highlight community, citizenship, and exploration.

Through the link below, you'll find resources designed for students in grades PreK-8, with activities organized into two grade bands: PreK-4 and 5-8.

Find out more here: <https://www.infohio.org/document-library/item/celebrating-americas-past-present-and-future>

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