

Description of Nature of COLA Partnership Partner Roles and Responsibilities

The CCESC (Columbiana County Educational Service Center) is a shared services entity which currently services 12 districts within Columbiana County. The CCESC's main responsibilities within this program include: professional development, technology support, and project assessment.

Professional Development

Serving as a partner in this grant, the CCESC will take the leadership role in providing high-quality professional development to create an environment for improved student achievement and support among the four partner school districts. Opportunities for professional development will be provided by staff from the Columbiana County Educational Service Center with expertise in instructional strategies with an emphasis on blending learning. The training will be tailored to support learning in a new instructional framework, focusing on strategies critical in a blended learning environment. Professional development sessions and summer institutes will help teachers to accept and develop their new role of "managing" instruction, and understand that much of the learning will take place outside of the traditional classroom. The CCESC professionals will work with member districts to facilitate the understanding of the content management system and its potential use. In addition, the CCESC will continually evaluate and modify the professional development program as needs emerge.

Technology Support

Existing district technologists, CCESC technology consultants and newly hired shared services employees will support the technological aspects of the COLA initiative. These individuals possess knowledge in the areas of network infrastructure, operating systems, distance learning, notebook configuration, hardware maintenance and repair, and instructional technology integration. They will prepare hardware for deployment and assist district technologists with ongoing support.

Assessment

The CCESC will provide staff who are formally trained and experienced in conducting program evaluations utilizing a variety of evaluation methodologies. The CCESC will assist consortium districts in the development and interpretation of formative and summative assessments. They will also aide in the development of a course of action based upon these results. As a partner in this grant, these services will be provided along with direct observation and peer review to create a foundation for evaluating the program's success.