



# Office of Budget and Management

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## NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **New Shared Services Action Plan Helps Local Governments and Schools Find Cost-Saving Efficiencies through Collaboration**

*Kasich Administration Report Aids Local Leaders Seeking Benefits of Shared Services*

COLUMBUS – A comprehensive strategic action plan, designed to help local governments and school districts in Ohio benefit from the cost-saving efficiencies of shared services and cross-jurisdictional collaboration, was released today by the Kasich Administration. The plan is accompanied by detailed survey results on the present status of shared services in Ohio and a guide to resources available to local leaders who seek the benefits of shared services arrangements for their own communities.

*Beyond Boundaries: A Shared Services Action Plan for Ohio Schools and Governments* includes a comprehensive study of public policy recommendations, potential collaborations and needed changes to the overall way of doing business in Ohio's public sector. The 56-page report is based on a statewide survey of existing collaborative arrangements in Ohio and local officials' attitudes toward shared services strategies. Prepared for the Kasich Administration under the direction of Timothy S. Keen, director of the Office of Budget and Management, and Dr. Richard A. Ross, director of the Governor's Office of 21<sup>st</sup> Century Education, the study drew input from a wide cross-section of local officials and other professionals across the state.

*Beyond Boundaries* provides ten signature recommendations as well as information and tools needed by local leaders to help them realize the benefit of shared services opportunities.

Recommendations include:

- Local government and education leaders need to utilize existing authority to enter into simple agreements;
- The State should continue to seek legislative approval, when necessary, to further remove identified barriers to shared services;

## **New Shared Services Action Plan - 2**

- Formation of regional shared service centers must become a priority; and
- The State should continue developing tools to assist local collaboration and shared services.

“The objective of this plan is to provide leaders a roadmap for a more cost-effective, collaborative way of doing business, including strategies that reduce costs, improve efficiency and deliver improved government and educational services. Ohioans deserve action. And the time for action is now,” Keen and Ross write in their introduction to the report.

The full report, including survey results, and related materials are available at:

[www.beyondboundaries.ohio.gov](http://www.beyondboundaries.ohio.gov)

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