



OHIO SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION

OHIO OFFICE OF BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT

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Media contacts at the end of this release

OSBA and Kasich Administration Unveil Shared Services Tool Kit
Online Guide Provides Local School Districts with Cost-savings Resources

COLUMBUS, OH -- The Ohio School Board Association (OSBA) and representatives of Governor John R. Kasich's administration today announced a new online tool kit [<http://beyondboundaries.ohio.gov/toolkit.aspx>] providing school districts with resources to help them reduce costs and improve efficiency.

"This tool kit, with its online catalog of successful examples, resources and promising practices, helps districts become smarter with taxpayer dollars by applying shared services strategies as a new and better way to do business," said Richard C. Lewis, executive director of OSBA.

Randy Cole, president of the state Controlling Board and the governor's point person for shared services initiatives, said, "It's clear that our schools must find new and more creative ways to reduce their costs and improve efficiency. By embracing shared services concepts and tools we're making available, they recognize that the old ways of doing business simply can't continue."

Earlier this year, the Kasich administration released a comprehensive strategic action plan, *Beyond Boundaries* [<http://beyondboundaries.ohio.gov>], designed to help Ohio's local governments and school districts benefit from the cost-saving efficiencies of shared services and cross-jurisdictional collaboration. *Beyond Boundaries*, with the new tool kit, provides a guide to resources available to local leaders who seek the benefits of shared services arrangements for their own communities.

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;
- 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,” Cole said.

The full report, including the new tool kit, and related materials are available at:

www.beyondboundaries.ohio.gov

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