



# COVER PAGE FY2020 HIGH-PERFORMING ESC APPLICATION

**ESC:** Geauga County Educational Service Center  
**IRN:** 047159  
**COUNTY:** Geauga

**PRINCIPAL CONTACT:** Jennifer Felker

**TITLE:** Superintendent

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**LIST OF PRIMARY SERVICES & CLIENTS:**

**Primary Service 1: Alternative Educational Programming for Court Placed Students (Carrington).**  
Clients- Akron Public Schools; Ashtabula Area CSD; Beachwood CSD; Bedford CSD; Berea CSD; Brooklyn CSD; Cincinnati CSD; Cleveland Heights/University Heights CSD; Cleveland Municipal City School District; Columbus CSD; Conneaut Area Local School District; Dublin City Schools; East Cleveland CSD; Euclid CSD; Fairview Park CSD; Garfield Heights CSD; Groveport Madison CSD; Hamilton CSD; Hilliard CSD; Lakewood CSD; Lorain CSD; Maple Heights CSD; Massillon CSD, Mayfield CSD; Mt. Healthy CSD; North Royalton CSD; Orange CSD; Parma CSD; Richmond Heights CSD; Shaker Heights CSD; South Euclid/Lyndhurst CSD; Springfield LSD; Strongsville CSD; Toledo Public Schools; Warrensville Heights CSD; Youngstown CSD.

**Primary Service 2: Geauga Vocational Compact.**  
Clients-Berkshire, Cardinal, Chardon, Kenston, Newbury, West Geauga, Chagrin Falls Exempted, Riverside, Madison and Painesville City.

**Primary Service 3: Intensive Autism Program.**  
Clients - Ashtabula, Berkshire, Cardinal, Chardon, Kenston, Newbury, West Geauga.

**Primary Service 4: Speech Language Pathology Services.**  
Clients- Berkshire, Cardinal, Chagrin Falls Exempted, iSTEM Early College High School, and West Geauga.

**Primary Service 5: Intensive Needs Preschool Program (Twinkle)**  
Clients- Berkshire, Cardinal, Kenston, Newbury, and West Geauga

**ESC Approval:**  9/11/19  
Designated Official

## Geauga County Educational Service Center - Description of Services

### **1: Alternative Educational Programming for Court Placed Students (Carrington).**

The Carrington School Program educates students placed into a children's residential facility located in East Cleveland, Ohio. Students are placed either by the Cuyahoga County Juvenile Courts or by any children's services agency throughout the State of Ohio. The program's educational curriculum meets ODE standards and maintains an average 1:10 teacher-to-student ratio. Instruction is a hybrid of direct teacher instruction and access to on-line curriculum. Youth needing to recover credits or with specific educational needs are supported through a combination of individualized instruction in small groups and computer-based instruction. Students in the residential program receive counseling from facility therapists, for which districts are not billed. The program provides special education services including management of IEPs/ETRs.

### **2. The Geauga Vocational Compact.**

The Vocational Compact is a school age vocational program which provides transition services and on the job skill training to students with disabilities ages 16-21 who require assistance and support in order to transition from high school to post-secondary employment. Its goal is to help students obtain and maintain supported/competitive employment through individualized and community-based job training, collaborating with business partners and developing a support network. This collaborative team includes: students, parents, program director, transition service coordinator, intervention specialist/job training coordinators, job coaches, related service personnel, and community employers.

### **3. Autism Program (S.T.A.R.S.) *Specialized Teaching for Students with Autism in a Resource Setting***

The S.T.A.R.S. Program is an educational program that provides academic, communication, fine/gross motor, behavior, sensory and vocational services to students diagnosed with autism between the ages of 5-22 years. Classroom staff utilize evidence based methodologies (Applied Behavior Analysis and TEACCH). Classrooms are housed within three Geauga districts (Cardinal, Kenston, and West Geauga) which limits transportation costs and also allows for increased opportunities for inclusion, socialization, and

generalization of skills. In addition to providing direct, educational services to S.T.A.R.S. students, Geauga district personnel often consult with S.T.A.R.S. staff to receive educational strategies, supports and recommendations to promote success of students on the autism spectrum housed within their districts and remain in the least restrictive environment.

#### **4. Speech and Language Pathology Services**

Speech and Language Pathologists provide direct and indirect speech therapy to students in both individual and group settings who demonstrate deficits in speech and language development. Therapists are embedded into programs and districts, providing instruction in social pragmatics, articulation, expressive and receptive vocabulary, augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) devices, and functional communication. Our Speech and Language Pathologists are able to complete AAC evaluations for non-verbal students to determine the most appropriate speech generating device for each individual student, collaborate with classroom teachers to generalize skills across all environments and assist in behavior interventions through the use of social stories, video modeling, and functional communication usage.

#### **5. Intensive Needs Preschool Program (Twinkle)**

The Twinkle preschool program is a full-day preschool classroom for students with intense needs including communication, social, and behavioral needs. The Twinkle preschool program includes academic, communication, fine/gross motor, behavior, and sensory services. Students do not need to have an autism diagnosis to attend the Twinkle program, however, they must be between the ages of 3-6. The Twinkle classroom is a highly structured environment for learning. The principles of Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA), Treatment and Education of Autistic and Communication related handicapped Children (TEACCH), and sensory integration are incorporated into the classroom on a daily basis. There are two Twinkle classrooms and both classrooms are housed within the West Geauga Local District at the Metzenbaum Center. The maximum class size is 8 (eight) students. Currently, there is one lead intervention specialist per classroom and three educational aides per classroom.

## **Geauga County Educational Service Center (GCESC) – Supporting Evidence**

### **Primary Service 1: Alternative Educational Programming for Court Placed Students (Carrington Youth Academy)**

The Geauga County Educational Service Center charges for Carrington Youth Academy on a per diem basis for placements which may be for as little as a day or for several weeks or months. The rate charged to home school districts is \$145.00 per day.

Carrington Youth Academy can be closely compared to The Children's Home of Cincinnati, located in Cincinnati, Ohio as both schools serve students with behavioral and emotional needs. There are some differences. The Carrington Youth Academy is a residential facility with all educational services provided on-site. The Children's Home of Cincinnati's Upper and Lower School programs are not part of the residential facility, although all educational services are provided at their campus. Both facilities are licensed by the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services with embedded mental health services. The length of stay varies by student based on the student's diagnosis and/or reason for placement. Carrington and The Children's Home of Cincinnati both offer a continuum of intensity based on the needs of the student placed. Carrington has two programs, one for court-placed students and one for students placed by children's services agencies.

Carrington served a total of 239 students in the 2018/2019 school year, of whom 170 were court-placed and 69 were placed by a children's services agency. Of these 51% of children's services placed children and 38% of court-placed children received special education, compared to 100% of students at The Children's Home of Cincinnati.

The cost to districts for education of students at The Children's Home of Cincinnati is \$180.00 per day. Using the calculation, the educational program at Carrington through the Geauga County ESC is providing an overall 19.4% savings, in the amount of \$196,385.00, to the 36 districts that Carrington Youth Academy served in the 2018/2019 school year.

General Carrington School Program Profile: Student Demographics

Short Term Placement Capacity	28 beds (this can fluctuate)
Short Term Average Length of stay	27 days
Residential Placement Capacity	29 beds (this can fluctuate)
Residential average length of stay	89 days
Current Combined short and long term enrollment	239 total students over the period 8/13/18-5/24/19 39 Average Daily Student Population
% Placed by juvenile court	71%
% Placed by other agencies/parents	29%
% of enrollment who have an IEP or 504 Plan	Court-placed 51% Agency-placed 38% Overall 42%
Average grade level at the time of enrollment (Short and long term combined)	9.4
Average age at time of placement (short and long term)	Court-placed 15.6 years Agency-placed 15.9 years
% of students receiving mental health services	Approximately 29%.
When are Mental Health services delivered	Between 8:00AM and 3:30PM
<b>Transition Outcomes</b>	
% returning to their home school	Estimated 71%

### Primary Service 2: The Geauga Vocational Compact.

Gauga County ESC's Vocational Compact offers half and all day programming. Also, the students enrolled in the program can change per month. Students may come in during the school year, as well as, students may leave job training and move into our work study program. Due to the varying student counts each month per district, we used an average over the 10 months to calculate each district's cost for the year.

Our Vocational program closely matches the Cuyahoga East Vocational Education Consortium (CEVEC) in Mayfield Heights, Ohio. CEVEC charges districts \$2,236.11 per student per month for a half day of the program. This converts to \$20,124.99 tuition for the year. For comparison purposes, Geauga County ESC's Vocational Compact annual half day cost per student was \$16,844.13. However, the costs reflected in the price

charged to the district vary, because it was billed by actual costs based upon utilization each month. As demonstrated in the cost savings table, our program offers \$195,820.09, a 21%, savings to the districts we serve.

**Primary Service 3: Intensive Autism Program.**

The Geauga County ESC Autism Program (S.T.A.R.S.) offers methodology-based comprehensive intervention determined by individual student needs. KidsLink and Monarch School also offer the same type of program. As shown in the chart, we converted the annual tuition cost of KidsLink and Monarch School into days based on their school year to come up with a comparable daily rate. Then, we calculated what the tuition cost would be given 180 days. Due to slight enrollment changes during the year, we computed the average student count for the year to calculate for the comparable costs. We also bill actual costs based on utilization, so the cost varied per quarter. The final program costs divided by the average number of students is how the 2018-19 tuition cost was calculated. Not only does the S.T.A.R.S. Program offer a very competitive tuition, we found that S.T.A.R.S. also offers the longest school day. Although this was not factored into the cost savings, the Geauga County ESC S.T.A.R.S.

***Cost Comparison of Intensive Autism Programming options:***

	S.T.A.R.S. Program	KidsLink	Monarch School
2018-2019 Cost	\$46,563.95	\$78,000	\$79,500
Calendar Days	180	205	180
Cost per day	\$258.69	\$380.49	\$441.67
Annual Cost based on 180 days (to compare to S.T.A.R.S.)	\$46,563.95	\$68,488.20	\$79,500
Hours Per Day	6.5	5.5 hours	6.25
Extended School Year	Offered +\$3000 (12 days)	Not offered, but childcare is offered at additional cost during breaks	Offered + \$6625 (4 weeks, 15 days)

#### **Primary Service 4: Speech and Language Pathology Services**

Speech services provided by the Geauga County Educational Service Center the 2018-2019 school were billed at the hourly rate of \$48.98. In addition to a cost savings to the district, there was a consistent service provider for the students served. ESC costs were compared to a private provider, Sunbelt staffing.

The hourly rate for Sunbelt was \$76.12. The total savings to the districts amounted to \$180,651.21.

#### **Primary Service 5: Intensive Needs Preschool Program (Twinkle)**

The Twinkle preschool program is a full day program, however, the program can be tailored to suit the academic and/or behavioral needs of individual students. For the 2018-2019 school year, there were two students that attended the program for a half day and the remaining students attended the program full day. The Individual Education Plan (IEP) team, which includes the district representative, parents, educational team that works with the student, etc., will meet to review past/current data in order to make an educational decision which meets the needs of the preschool student.

The chart on the following page shows the annual pricing for the Twinkle preschool program and two local entities that provide similar intensive preschool programming. KidsLink and Monarch School both offer similar programming to the Geauga County Educational Service Center's Twinkle preschool program. As one can see, the Twinkle preschool program is a cost effective option for school districts and provides comparable services similar to KidsLink and Monarch School.

	Twinkle Program	KidsLink	Monarch School
2018-2019 Costs	\$31,191.10	\$78,000	\$58,000 (full day) \$28,500 (half day)
Calendar Days	154	205	194
Cost Per Day	\$202.54	\$380.49	\$298.97 (full day) \$146.91 (half day)
Annual Cost based on 154 days (compared to the Twinkle program)	\$31,191.10	\$68,488.20	\$46,041.38 (full day) \$22,623.71 (half day)
Hours Per Day	6 hours	5.5 hours	5.5 hours (full day) 2.75 hours (half day)
Extended School Year	~Offered~ (3 weeks, 9 days, cost \$2,250)	Not offered, but childcare is offered at additional cost during breaks	Not offered for preschool students



**FY20 High Performing ESC Cost Savings Table  
(Based on FY19 Data)**

**PRIMARY SERVICE #1: Alternative Educational Programming for Court Placed Students (Carrington Youth Academy)**

Clients	Price Charged to Client by ESC	Cost of providing Primary Services by the Client or another Vendor	Calculated Cost Savings
Alcron Public School District	\$27,985.00	\$34,740.00	\$6,755.00
Ashtabula City School District	\$10,730.00	\$13,320.00	\$2,590.00
Beachwood City School District	\$14,210.00	\$17,640.00	\$3,430.00
Bedford City School District	\$10,295.00	\$12,780.00	\$2,485.00
Berea City School District	\$1,160.00	\$1,440.00	\$280.00
Brooklyn City School District	\$290.00	\$360.00	\$70.00
Cincinnati Public School District	\$13,050.00	\$16,200.00	\$3,150.00
Cleveland Heights/University Heights School District	\$37,990.00	\$47,160.00	\$9,170.00
Cleveland Metropolitan School District	\$353,220.00	\$438,480.00	\$85,260.00
Columbus City School District	\$29,870.00	\$37,080.00	\$7,210.00
Conneaut City School District	\$3,625.00	\$4,500.00	\$875.00
Dublin City School District	\$8,700.00	\$10,800.00	\$2,100.00
East Cleveland City School District	\$11,310.00	\$14,040.00	\$2,730.00
Euclid City School District	\$22,040.00	\$27,360.00	\$5,320.00
Fairview Park City School District	\$1,740.00	\$2,160.00	\$420.00
Garfield Heights City School District	\$16,965.00	\$21,060.00	\$4,095.00
Groveport-Madison City School District	\$2,465.00	\$3,060.00	\$595.00
Hamilton City School District	\$8,120.00	\$10,080.00	\$1,960.00
Hilliard City School District	\$1,015.00	\$1,260.00	\$245.00
Lakewood City School District	\$39,440.00	\$48,960.00	\$9,520.00
Lorain City School District	\$1,305.00	\$1,620.00	\$315.00
Maple Heights City School District	\$52,055.00	\$64,620.00	\$12,565.00
Massillon City School District	\$2,755.00	\$3,420.00	\$665.00
Mayfield City School District	\$3,190.00	\$3,960.00	\$770.00
Mt. Healthy City School District	\$26,535.00	\$32,940.00	\$6,405.00
North Royalton City School District	\$19,865.00	\$24,660.00	\$4,795.00
Orange City School District	\$8,410.00	\$10,440.00	\$2,030.00
Parma City School District	\$22,475.00	\$27,900.00	\$5,425.00
Richmond Heights School District	\$5,365.00	\$6,660.00	\$1,295.00
Shaker Heights City School District	\$1,305.00	\$1,620.00	\$315.00
South Euclid/Lyndhurst School District	\$17,400.00	\$21,600.00	\$4,200.00
Springfield Local School District	\$3,915.00	\$4,860.00	\$945.00
Strongsville City School District	\$2,030.00	\$2,520.00	\$490.00
Toledo Public School District	\$14,645.00	\$18,180.00	\$3,535.00
Warrensville Heights City School District	\$17,110.00	\$21,240.00	\$4,130.00
Youngstown City School District	\$1,015.00	\$1,260.00	\$245.00
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$813,595.00</b>	<b>\$1,009,980.00</b>	<b>\$196,385.00</b>

**PRIMARY SERVICE #2: The Geauga Vocational Compact**

Clients	Price Charged to Client by ESC	Cost of providing Primary Services by the Client or another Vendor	Calculated Cost Savings
Berkshire Local School District	\$186,871.57	\$228,083.22	\$41,211.65
Cardinal Local School District	\$80,931.82	\$96,152.73	\$15,220.91
Chagrin Falls Exempted Village Schools	\$68,962.70	\$82,736.07	\$13,773.37
Chardon Local School District	\$70,591.40	\$84,972.18	\$14,380.78
Kenston Local School District	\$169,958.86	\$212,430.45	\$42,471.59
Newbury Local School District	\$90,358.73	\$107,333.28	\$16,974.55
West Geauga Local School District	\$68,962.70	\$120,749.94	\$51,787.24
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$736,637.78</b>	<b>\$932,457.87</b>	<b>\$195,820.09</b>

**PRIMARY SERVICE #3: Autism Programming (STARS)**

Clients	Price Charged to Client by ESC	Cost of providing Primary Services by the Client or another Vendor	Calculated Cost Savings
Ashtabula Area City School District	\$46,081.46	\$73,994.10	\$27,912.64
Berkshire Local School District	\$254,104.24	\$406,967.55	\$152,863.31
Cardinal Local School District	\$299,010.22	\$480,961.65	\$181,951.43
Chardon Local School District	\$230,407.30	\$369,970.50	\$139,563.20
Kenston Local School District	\$511,550.46	\$832,433.63	\$320,883.17
Newbury Local School District	\$184,325.84	\$295,976.40	\$111,650.56
West Geauga Local School District	\$241,571.17	\$388,469.03	\$146,897.86
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$1,767,050.69</b>	<b>\$2,848,772.85</b>	<b>\$1,081,722.16</b>

<b>PRIMARY SERVICE #4:</b>		<b>Speech Language Pathology Services</b>	
<b>Clients</b>	<b>Price Charged to Client by ESC</b>	<b>Cost of providing Primary Services by the Client or another Vendor</b>	<b>Calculated Cost Savings</b>
Berkshire Local School District	\$176,695.03	\$274,602.90	\$97,907.87
Cardinal Local School District	\$13,591.93	\$21,123.30	\$7,531.37
Chagrin Falls Exempted Village School District	\$47,388.07	\$73,646.10	\$26,258.03
iSTEM Geauga Early College High School	\$6,795.96	\$10,561.65	\$3,765.69
West Geauga Local School District	\$81,551.55	\$126,739.80	\$45,188.25
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$326,022.54</b>	<b>\$506,673.75</b>	<b>\$180,651.21</b>

<b>PRIMARY SERVICE #5:</b>		<b>Intensive Needs Preschool Program (Twinkle)</b>	
<b>Clients</b>	<b>Price Charged to Client by ESC</b>	<b>Cost of providing Primary Services by the Client or another Vendor</b>	<b>Calculated Cost Savings</b>
Berkshire Local School District	\$63,374.66	\$120,892.33	\$57,517.67
Cardinal Local School District	\$85,327.22	\$159,068.86	\$73,741.64
Kenston Local School District	\$116,518.30	\$216,333.65	\$99,815.35
Newbury Local School District	\$62,382.19	\$114,529.58	\$52,147.39
West Geauga Local School District	\$124,764.38	\$229,059.16	\$104,294.78
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$452,366.75</b>	<b>\$839,883.59</b>	<b>\$387,516.84</b>

TOTAL COST OF PROVIDING SERVICES BY THE CLIENT OR ANOTHER VENDOR	\$6,137,768.06
TOTAL PRICE CHARGED TO CLIENT BY ESC	\$4,095,672.76
<b>TOTAL COST SAVINGS</b>	<b>\$2,042,095.30</b>
<b>TOTAL COST SAVINGS %</b>	<b>33.27%</b>