

East Central Educational Service Center

Impact Report

2025-2026 School Year

During the 2025–2026 school year, ECESC strengthened schools across East Central Indiana through innovative student experiences, educator development, career-connected learning, and collaborative support services. Together with our member districts, we are building stronger systems, expanding opportunities, and preparing students for success in school and beyond.



“We believe that students’ strengths and interests serve as a blueprint for shaping futures of success and impact.”

-The ECESC Team

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Meet Our Strategy, Finance, & Member Engagement Team



Pat Haney
Executive Director



Lindsey Lovern
Director of Strategy
and Innovation



Teresa Amick
Treasurer



Ben Burris
Technology
Consultant



Amber Lear
Member Engagement
Specialist

MISSION & CORE VALUES



At the East Central Educational Service Center, our mission and core values aren't just abstract ideals; they are the foundation of every decision we make and every partnership we build. You can view our mission and core values statements below.

We invite you to join us as partners in this vital mission to help shape the educational landscape of East Central Indiana. Together, we can create pathways for students to succeed and innovate solutions that drive educational and economic growth!

We Serve

14 Counties

43 Organizations

4,500+ Teachers

67,000+ Students

→ Mission

Empower East Central Indiana educators, schools, and communities through innovative educational and workforce solutions that support career-connected learning, prepare students for post-secondary success, and drive educational and economic growth.

→ Core Values

- **Service:** Understand the needs of our schools and communities and respond with meaningful solutions that drive successful outcomes.
- **Support:** Foster strong relationships to empower and celebrate schools and communities with the respect and commitment they deserve.
- **Collaboration:** Believe in and model the power of partnerships to create shared success and collective impact.
- **Joy:** Bring positive energy, gratitude, and personal connection into all interactions.
- **Stewardship:** Honor the trust placed in us by acting with integrity and strategic discernment, embracing initiatives and practices that foster sustainability and ensure lasting impact.

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Pat Haney

ECESC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As we reflect on the 2025–2026 school year, I am proud of the meaningful impact ECESC continues to have across East Central Indiana. This year represents more than growth; it reflects a deepened commitment to serving our member districts with intention, innovation, and partnership.

Across all areas of our work, one theme remains clear: we are building capacity. Whether through hands-on student experiences like Forge Your Future, the expansion of career-connected learning and Work-Based Learning, or the strategic support provided through our consulting and support packages, we are helping schools create stronger systems that directly benefit students. At the same time, we are investing in educators by providing high-quality professional learning, resources, and ongoing support that empower them to lead and innovate in their classrooms and communities.

We also recognize the importance of operational excellence. Through cooperative purchasing and the continued growth of ECPA, we are helping districts maximize resources, reduce complexity, and focus more time and funding on what matters most—teaching and learning.

None of this work happens in isolation. It is made possible through strong partnerships with our member districts, educators, community organizations, and fellow service centers. Together, we are creating a regional ecosystem that supports student success from early learning through postsecondary pathways.

As we look ahead, we remain committed to listening, adapting, and leading alongside our districts. The needs of education continue to evolve, and we will continue to meet them with thoughtful, collaborative solutions.

Thank you for your continued trust and partnership. It is an honor to serve alongside you in support of the students, educators, and communities of East Central Indiana.



→ 7,473 Participants
Student Experiences

→ 2,981 Participants
Educator Experiences

→ \$406,700
Estimated Cooperative
Purchasing Savings

FORGE YOUR FUTURE & CAREER COACHING

Program Update

Forge Your Future is expanding as a hands-on, career-connected learning experience that helps students envision meaningful futures. During the 2025–2026 school year, we broadened this work by introducing an elementary experience, ensuring even the youngest learners can begin building awareness of their interests and future possibilities.

The program's impact also extends meaningfully to educator development. We continue to host educators from member districts through on-site Educator Experience sessions, providing practical strategies and a replicable framework for integrating career-connected learning into the classroom. In addition, this year, the program expanded to include preservice educators, delivering a mobile training experience at Ball State University. Through this hands-on session, future teachers were introduced to the RIASEC framework and engaged in collaborative learning with ECESC staff, building early awareness of the importance of career-connected learning and equipping them to carry this work into their future classrooms.

As a recipient of the Indiana Department of Education's Career Coaching Grant for 2026–2027, we were awarded \$1,410,000 to support more than 30 school districts. This funding allows us to expand access to on-site career coaching, provide high-quality training and collaboration for those coaches, and continue advancing future readiness initiatives. At the center of this growing ecosystem, Forge Your Future serves as a model for engaging and scalable career-connected learning.

Meet Our Forge Your Future Team



Taylor Philhower
RIASEC Coordinator/
Instructional
Specialist



Laura Hamm
Regional Career
Coach/Associate
RIASEC Coordinator



Liz Ferris
Regional Career
Coach



Ashley Mann
Regional Career
Coach

→ 3,069 ↑ 609 2024-2025
Student Experience On-site
Participants

→ 4,404
Mobile Experience
Participants

→ 27 Districts Participated
37 Schools Participated

Thank You to Our Grant Partners



Thank You to Our Business Partners



Dot Foods
Primex Plastics

WORK-BASED LEARNING, APPRENTICESHIPS, RAZ-32

Program Update

Across East Central Indiana, career-connected learning continues to gain momentum as an essential component of student success. With the implementation of Indiana's new diploma requirements and school accountability model, Work-Based Learning (WBL) is no longer viewed as an optional opportunity, but as a critical pathway for preparing students for life beyond high school.

ECESC is actively supporting this shift by helping schools connect classroom learning to meaningful, real-world experiences. Through intentional collaboration and resource-sharing, we are building a strong regional foundation for career readiness. This work is supported through communities of practice, including the WBL Alliance, WBL Spark, the Career Coaching Network, and the Counselor Affinity Group—each designed to foster collaboration, consistency, and shared learning across districts.

Looking ahead, ECESC will continue to deepen this impact through the development of a comprehensive K–12 career-connected learning playbook, scalable classroom models, and strengthened alignment among educators and staff. Together, this work ensures that a high school diploma represents more than completion—it serves as a strong launchpad into postsecondary opportunities and the modern workforce.

Meet Our WBL & Apprenticeship Team



Paula Fiscus
Secondary
Instructional Specialist



Jo Ann McCowan
RAZ-32 Director/
Instructional Specialist

→ Regional WBL Coordinator Participation	81	
→ State-wide WBL Coordinator Participation	375	
→ Apprenticeships in Our Region	32	2025-26
	40+	Expected in 2026-27
→ RAZ-32 Increase in Enrollment	60	Shared Students Enrolled in 2025-26
	↑ 44	From 2024-25

Work-based learning has shifted from an "optional elective" to a core currency for school and student success!

Business Partners	15	Community Organizations	4
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Occupations	Apprentices	Schools
7	22	12

Community Organizations & Partners



The 2025–2026 school year marked a strategic shift in how we support member districts, with the launch of our Consulting and Support Packages. This multimodal framework is designed to meet schools where they are, moving beyond one-size-fits-all approaches to deliver targeted, responsive professional learning.

Through this work, we partnered with 16 districts to provide customized support that strengthens teaching and learning from PK–12. These tailored packages focused on key priority areas, including Principal Mentoring, Career-Connected Learning, Student Behavior, Literacy, Science, and Assessment. In addition to instructional support, we served as an operational partner, assisting districts with access to specialized personnel.

The reach of this work is reflected in its scale and depth. This school year, we engaged more than 1,600 educators through workshops, training sessions, and ongoing support. Our Training Support Specialists continued to advance foundational literacy by supporting 19 schools through the Indiana Literacy Cadre. Additionally, our staff's expertise was recognized beyond the region, with team members contributing to learning at other Indiana service centers and presenting at state and national conferences.

Together, this work reflects our commitment to building long-term capacity within schools, ensuring educators are supported, systems are strengthened, and students benefit from high-quality learning experiences.

Professional Development

→ **2,981** Educators Supported
162% increase

Professional Development Satisfaction

→ **99%** of Participants Find the Content Highly Relevant

Consulting and Support Packages

→ **16** Districts Supported

Indiana Literacy Cadre

→ **19** Schools Supported
25-26. And 40 since 2022-23



Dr. Lora Wilson
Program Coordinator/
Instructional Specialist



Lori Ward
Training Support
Specialist



Sarah Heppner
Training Support
Specialist



Jane Haudek
Program Support
Specialist



Program Update

We remain committed to helping member districts maximize resources and operate efficiently. Through long-standing programs such as the Natural Gas Consortium, School Insurance Trust, Food and Nutrition Co-op, and ESCRFT, we continue to support districts in reducing costs and keeping dollars focused on student learning.



This work continued to advance during the 2025–2026 school year as cooperative purchasing through ECPA evolved. What began as a valuable service has grown into a strategic partnership among eight regional service centers, working together to simplify procurement and increase districts' purchasing power.

By leveraging this collective approach, ECPA provides access to competitively bid contracts that individual districts would find difficult to secure independently. In its first year, ECPA has expanded to include 57 contracts across 25 purchasing categories, offering districts cost-effective options for both instructional and operational needs, with continued growth anticipated. We are proud to share that all our members utilized ECPA contracts this school year.

Beyond cost savings, ECPA delivers meaningful operational benefits. By streamlining the purchasing process and reducing the need for time-intensive bidding procedures, districts gain valuable time to focus on their core work: supporting students and staff.

Together, these efforts reflect ECESC's commitment to collaborative solutions that strengthen district operations, increase efficiency, and ensure resources are directed where they matter most.

ECPA Contracts Update

→ **52** Contracts **26** Categories
+53 Vendor Partnerships & Discounts

ECPA Amazon Business Contracts

→ **19** Participating Districts
2026-27 Growth - 7 New Districts

ECPA Sales Calendar Year 2024-2025

→ **54.5%** Growth Over PY

Natural Gas Consortium

→ **51+** Participating Districts
2026-27 Growth - 5 New Districts



“I was blown away by how much we gleaned from the trainings. We loved them!”

-Elizabeth Miller, Principal
Western Wayne Elementary
Regarding the MTSS Series

"I learned that there are more careers that I could be good at than I thought... I am capable of more things than I think."

7th Grade Student
Driver Middle School
Regarding the Forge Your Future
Student Experience

“Educational Service Centers provide a remarkable range of services, providing a backbone of support for schools and districts by sharing a common mission; enabling schools, regardless of size, to collaborate, share resources, decrease costs, and extend educational opportunities to students.”

—AASA