



June 13, 2012

To the Honorable John R. Kasich, Governor and Members of the General Assembly:

Pursuant to H.B. 153, section 267.50.90, the director of the Governor's Office of 21st Century Education, assisted by the Office of Budget and Management, conducted a shared services survey of Ohio schools, other educational service providers and local political subdivisions. This information was to be used to prepare legislative recommendations improving government cost savings.

Ohio's local schools and governments have reached a critical juncture. Service expectations continue to grow and costs are rising faster than the economy. Our school systems and government entities must find ways to reduce costs and improve efficiency. The status quo simply can't continue. Shared services provide hope.

To help address this challenge, and fulfilling our obligation under section 267.50.90, we are pleased to present the results of the survey and recommendations for action as well as auxiliary documentation to support the plan's findings and recommendations. *Beyond Boundaries: A Shared Services Action Plan for Ohio Schools and Governments* reflects the work of numerous participating partners, representing a wide cross-section of education and local government professionals from across Ohio.

Beyond Boundaries is a comprehensive study of public policy recommendations, potential collaborations and needed changes to the overall way of doing business in Ohio's public sector. This plan is based on a statewide shared services survey, which collected baseline data on existing shared services arrangements and identified future opportunities for local entities to share staffing, equipment and facilities across jurisdictions.

Beyond Boundaries presents ten recommendations for action, including:

- 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. Achieving those goals will require strong, concerted leadership at every level of government. Ohioans deserve action. And the time for action is now.

Respectfully submitted,

Handwritten signature of Richard A. Ross in blue ink.

Richard A. Ross, PhD – Director
Governor's Office of 21st Century Education

Handwritten signature of Timothy S. Keen in blue ink.

Timothy S. Keen – Director
Office of Budget and Management