

# OESCA Newsflash

## Project MORE:

### Mentoring in Ohio for Reading Excellence

*The mission of Project MORE is to help every student in Ohio maximize their reading potential, no matter their ability level.*

Established in 1999 with funding from The Ohio General Assembly

Bob Holl, President and Co-Founder of Learning A-Z



Project MORE: Mentoring in Ohio for Reading Excellence is a 1:1 supplemental reading mentoring project for students with disabilities and students not on-track. Students are mentored four times per week for 30-minute sessions. During the 15-year history of Project MORE, independent evaluators from Bowling Green State University's Center for Evaluation Services have found that students who

have mild disabilities gain one month reading level for each month they receive 1:1 mentoring and students receiving Project MORE outperform students receiving small group instruction often at a statistically significant level.

Dr. Bonnie Kantor-Burman,  
Director,  
Ohio Department of Aging

 Ohio | Department of Aging



The Ohio ESC Association

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A key component to the success of the project is the rich reading mentoring content (books and lessons) accessed from Reading A-Z's "Tutoring and Mentoring Packs". Teachers/coordinators can download and print the appropriate packets for individual students based on corresponding individualized assessment data. Students and teachers have multiple packets at each grade level PP-Grade 6 available for ongoing reinforcement. Many of the Reading A-Z books and materials

Molly Fender, Educational Consultant, Office for Exceptional Children



can be taught to students by using a computer or tablet thus eliminating the need for the time and cost of printing the materials for individual mentoring sessions. The quizzes for the books are also online and they are auto-graded with reports generated on student performance. Since the books are low cost and printed by the school, the books can be sent home with the students for individual enjoyment as well as family engagement.

As a supplemental reading program, Project MORE can be adapted to meet the needs of diverse student populations: students with disabilities, students not on-track and students who are English Language Learners. Project MORE is guided by the goals of being: **Effective** for student performance, **Affordable** for schools, **Replicable** for any school that has a need for reading improvement, and **Sustainable** because of low cost, ease of use, community engagement and evidence-based.

**Project MORE has been helping students with disabilities and students not on-track to improve their reading since 1999.** Project MORE has trained over 300 schools (urban, suburban, small city and rural) in Ohio. Since August 2014, 116 educators and administrators have been trained and 30 new schools have established a partnership with Project MORE. Students served include the following disability categories: developmental disabilities, multiple disabilities, specific learning disabilities, cognitive disabilities, speech and language impairment, emotional disturbance, autism, etc., as well as students not on-track.

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During the 2013/14 school year, 3215 reported students with disabilities and students at-risk for reading failure were mentored. More than 3693 mentors volunteered 82,914 reported hours in Project MORE schools.

On December 2, the Ohio National Guard announced their partnership with Project MORE. This partnership was modeled after the very successful partnership developed by Bonnie Kantor-Burman and the Ohio Department of Aging. Soldiers, airmen, spouses, college students, and Ohio National Guard Alumni will help enhance children's reading skills through one-on-one time spent with students.

The 9th annual Project MORE conference was held on Thursday, October 23, at Cherry Valley Lodge in Newark. "Celebrating 15 years of Project MORE...and Counting" proved to be a successful event for both new and veteran Project MORE school



Jennifer Wene, Director of Academic Achievement and Professional Development, Worthington City Schools



Dr. Jan Osborn, Project MORE Co-Found & Director

participants. Presenters included Bob Holl, President and Co-Founder of Learning A-Z, Bonnie Kantor-Burman, Ohio Department of Aging Director, Bonnie Nelson and Molly Fender, Office for Exceptional Children Educational Consultants, Stacey Rychener, Grants Administrator for BGSU/Center for Assessment & Evaluation Services, Jennifer Wene and Kathy Moore, Worthington City Schools.

**The Ohio ESC Association**



For more information, please contact Dr. Jan Osborn, Putnam County Educational Service Center, at 888-319-3560, extension 3002, email [josborn@pm.noacsc.org](mailto:josborn@pm.noacsc.org), or visit [www.ohioprojectmore.org](http://www.ohioprojectmore.org). Project MORE was conceptualized by Dr. Jan Osborn, Putnam County Educational Service Center Superintendent, and is funded by Award number H027A140111, CFDA 84.027A through the Ohio Department of Education/Office for Exceptional Children 12/11/2014



# Reading Excellence

Ohio Department of Aging + Ohio National Guard + Ohio Project MORE = Reading Excellence