

Enhancing in-person, remote, hybrid and blended education opportunities for approximately 1 million students and 50,000 educators across Ohio

April 2021

Beginning in March 2020 and extending into most of the 2020-2021 school year, Ohio's public, community and private K-12 school buildings were closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Schools had to pivot quickly to deliver remote, hybrid or blended education opportunities to more than 1.6 million students in the face of significant initial challenges. Chief among those: students lacked access to internet and technology devices; schools lacked appropriate learning options for vulnerable student populations; school leaders did not always know how often educators were connecting with students; and educators lacked training on how to implement high-quality remote education.

A TRUE PARTNERSHIP: In quick response to those challenges, the **Ohio Department of Education, Ohio ESC Association, Management Council of the Ohio Education Computer Network, INFOhio, PBS stations, Broadcast Educational Media Commission and Philanthropy Ohio**, along with a few forward-thinking school leaders and education innovators, united to launch **RemotEDx**. Partnership is a core principle in achieving the vision outlined in Ohio's strategic plan for education, *Each Child, Our Future*. That vision: In Ohio, each child is challenged, prepared and empowered for future success. Illustrated in Figure 2, RemotEDx is a partnership of public and private thought leaders, capacity builders and educators who joined forces to assist Ohio's schools and districts in engaging and educating students during the pandemic and beyond. Each RemotEDx implementation partner specializes in a unique service.

TARGETED FEDERAL FUNDING: The Ohio Department of Education funded the components of RemotEDx through a **\$17.1 million investment from state activities funds made possible by the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Fund**. The Ohio Department of Education seeks to continue to use ESSER II and ESSER III funds to support RemotEDx in near term.

SUBSTANTIAL REACH AND IMPACT:

- RemotEDx and its implementation partners: Impacts approximately 1 million students and 50,000 educators across all 88 counties, as illustrated by figure 1.
- **Support Squad:** Impacts schools and districts in 86 of Ohio's 88 counties
- **Exchange:** Impacts schools and districts in 87 counties.
- **Connectivity Champions:** Impacts schools and districts in 88 counties
- **Ohio Collaborative Fund for Educating Remotely (OCER):** Serves 895,000 students in 71 counties.
- **Grants to Increase Industry-Recognized Credentials Remotely:** Provides grants to 11 partners in 33 counties.
- **Non-Profit and Community-Based Partner Grants:** Provides grants to 17 non-profit partners in 22 counties.

RemotEDx and its implementation partners look forward to further impacting the education community. **Future federal funding is slated to expand the footprint of this work dedicated to reimagining the future of education in Ohio.**

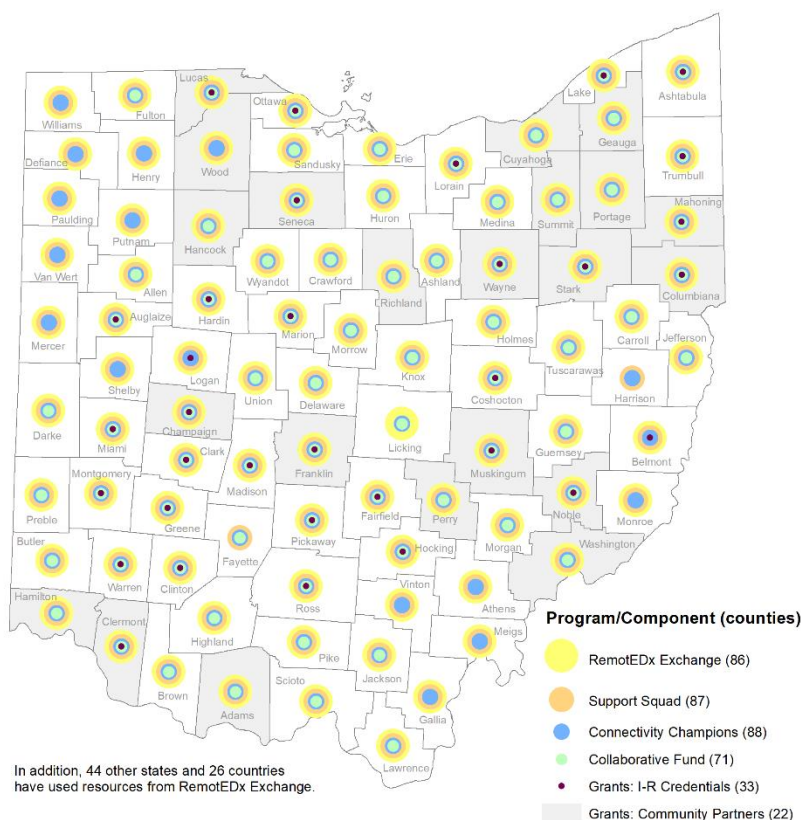


Figure 1 – RemotEDx Components and Implementation Partners

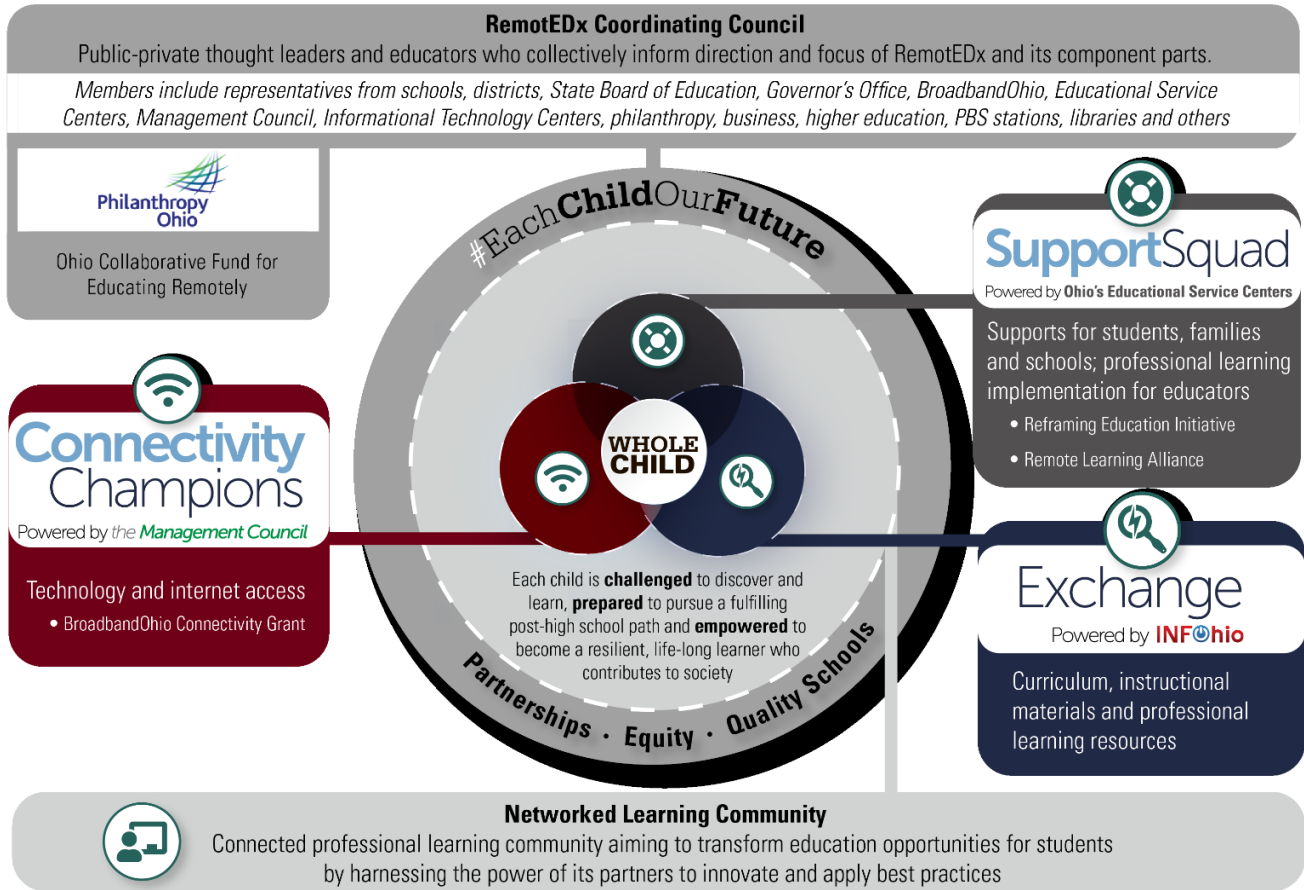


Figure 2 – Reach of RemotEDx in Ohio

RemotEDx IMPLEMENTATION PARTNERS:

CONNECTIVITY CHAMPIONS: Powered by Ohio's information technology centers, the Connectivity Champions were launched in summer 2020 to help schools and districts link students and families to internet connectivity and technology devices.

- **Impact:** Since its launch, the Connectivity Champions have engaged directly with schools and families across **all 88 Ohio counties to provide more than 600 connectivity or technology-related services**, including connecting families to reliable and sustainable broadband and supporting schools with the BroadbandOhio Connectivity Grant. Additionally, the Connectivity Champions assisted with the Opportunity to Learn Connectivity and Device Data Collection, obtaining data from **592 public districts, joint vocational school districts and community schools**.
- **Looking Forward:** Beyond continuing to help schools, districts, students and families gain access to internet and technology devices, the Connectivity Champions are partnering with BroadbandOhio to understand and address the condition of internet connectivity and technology across Ohio's schools and districts. They also will play a key role in supporting and coordinating state and federal broadband programs, including the **\$3.2 billion Federal Communications Commission Emergency Broadband Benefit program** and **\$7.2 billion Emergency Connectivity Fund**.

SUPPORT SQUAD: Powered by Ohio's educational service centers, the Support Squad was launched in late summer 2020 to enhance and expand professional learning in a remote education setting, bolster student finding services and engagement strategies and augment personalized teaching approaches.

- **Impact:** Since launch date, the Support Squad has served **10,500 educators** through targeted training opportunities, including student and family engagement trainings. **Thirty-two educational service centers** also received training on how to integrate resources and services available through RemotEDx. Through a partnership with North Central Ohio Educational Service Center, more than **750 educators** have received training to support students' social and emotional well-being.

- **Looking Forward:** The Support Squad will continue to assist school and district leaders as they identify, re-engage, intervene and monitor students to ensure they are on track for success. They also will provide ongoing professional development and coaching supports that build capacity for delivering high-quality, engaging and personalized in-person, remote, blended and hybrid education.

THE EXCHANGE: Powered by INFOhio, the Exchange is expanding high-quality and standards-aligned in-person, remote, hybrid and blended education options and resources.

- **Impact:** Since launch, the Exchange has coordinated and curated more than **80,000 standards-aligned instructional materials** from Ohio content providers into statewide curriculum repositories and provided professional development to educators focusing on remote education and digital educational content. The resources have been used in almost all **88 counties in Ohio, 44 other states and 26 countries**. Through the RemotEDx Curriculum Library, more than **1.6 million students, their families and educators** have free and easy access to more than **5 million digital resources** including eBooks, videos, interactive learning resources and more. **Fifty-six educators** representing **33 educational service centers, seven Ed Techs and four information technology centers** have received training on how to integrate RemotEDx resources into teaching and learning.
- **Looking Forward:** The Exchange plans to leverage RemotEDx and other programs to develop a comprehensive peer-to-peer tutoring and technical support; create Ohio Learning Standards-aligned computer science curriculum; and support development of digital literacy, social-emotional learning and workforce readiness skills.

OHIO COLLABORATIVE FUND FOR EDUCATING REMOTELY AND TRANSFORMING SCHOOL (OCER): The Ohio Department of Education partnered with Philanthropy Ohio to fund OCER. **Fifty-seven grants** helped schools and districts improve remote education practices and outcomes and use remote education as a catalyst for reimagining and re-engineering the delivery of high-quality whole-child focused education opportunities for Ohio's underserved students.

- **Impact:** OCER awarded grants to 57 school partners that are serving **895,000 students in 71 counties**.
- **Looking Forward:** Philanthropy Ohio is working to support and evaluate the grants, including deployment of a YouthTruth survey aimed at securing the student, educator and parent voices and understanding their perspectives through the pandemic. Similarly, the PAST Foundation was selected through a competitive process to conduct a listening tour and survey students, parents and educators throughout the state to understand their needs and continuous improvement opportunities.

GRANTS TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS EARNING INDUSTRY-RECOGNIZED CREDENTIALS: The number of students earning [industry-recognized credential](#) decreased significantly in the 2019-2020 school year (from 62,210 in the previous school year to 46,569 in 2020), and many students continue to experience multiple barriers to earning industry-recognized credentials. RemotEDx awarded subgrants to [Business Advisory Councils](#), industry sector partners and other eligible partners to increase the numbers of students earning industry-recognized credentials.

- **Impact:** Eleven grantees will serve more than **10,837 students** and deploy awareness and outreach campaigns reaching students in all 88 counties. Grantees are poised to provide training and professional learning opportunities to more than **10,319 educators**.
- **Looking Forward:** Grantees will have an opportunity to participate in the RemotEDx Networked Learning Academy, which is designed to support the success of schools, districts and partners who are implementing high-quality, engaging and personalized in-person, remote, hybrid and blended education opportunities.

GRANTS FOR NONPROFIT AND COMMUNITY-BASED REMOTE EDUCATION PARTNERS: RemotEDx awarded **17 grants to nonprofit and community-based partners** who are well positioned to help improve, enhance and enrich remote caring, teaching and learning opportunities for vulnerable students in Ohio.

- **Impact:** The **17 grantees** are expected to serve more than **86,070 students** through their partnerships with schools and districts to enhance remote, hybrid and blended education opportunities. In some cases, grantees will support educators through professional learning supports and families by providing in-home learning supports. **More than 2,011 educators** will be supported by grantees.
- **Looking Forward:** Grantees will have an opportunity to participate in the RemotEDx Networked Learning Academy.

For more information about RemotEDx and the work of its implementation partners, please visit <https://remotedx.infohio.org>.

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