



# New Story State of the State: Ohio

Building Brighter Futures Together  
2023-2024 School Year



Applied  
Behavioral  
Services



## Letter from our Leadership

As we reflect on the 2023-2024 school year, I am proud to share the remarkable progress and achievements across our Ohio schools: New Story Schools, Applied Behavioral Services (ABS), and The Learning Spectrum (TLS). Together, we are making a meaningful impact on the lives of our students and families, ensuring that every child has access to the resources and support they need to thrive.

This year marked an exciting expansion as we welcomed The Learning Spectrum to the Ohio family. With three campuses dedicated to serving students with autism spectrum disorder (ASD), TLS has broadened our reach, providing families with individualized educational placements designed to meet their children's unique needs.

Meanwhile, ABS expanded its Partnership Program with local businesses, creating opportunities for students to gain work-based learning experiences in a supportive environment. At New Story Schools, we launched life-skills classrooms across our campuses providing students with the skills and knowledge to live independently in adulthood. These milestones reflect our commitment to equipping students with the tools they need for a bright future.

A cornerstone of our success this year has been the launch of our "One Ohio" initiative. By fostering collaboration among our three school brands, we have united their collective strengths to create a culture of innovation, opportunity, and shared vision. Our focus on staff growth and professional development ensures that our educators and administrators are well-equipped to deliver exceptional outcomes for students.

We are deeply grateful for your continued partnership and investment in our mission. Together, we are shaping a future where every student can achieve their full potential, and we look forward to building on this year's successes in the years to come.



**Dr. Jill Blanchard,**  
Senior Vice President,  
New Story Ohio





# Ohio Snapshot

New Story Ohio encompasses three school companies that provide targeted and comprehensive support to students with emotional and behavioral challenges. New Story Schools, Applied Behavioral Services, and The Learning Spectrum each have unique cultures, built by dedicated and passionate educators, clinicians, therapists, and support staff.



**695**  
Enrolled

**11**  
Locations

**10**  
In-district service programs



New Story Schools serves students with autism and emotional support needs in five locations across Ohio. New Story Schools delivers personalized education plans, therapeutic services, and a nurturing environment that promotes academic achievement, social-emotional growth, and independence.

Anchored in its collaborative partnerships with families and school districts, New Story Schools plays a vital role in equipping students with the tools they need to succeed and thrive within their communities.



**Applied  
Behavioral  
Services**

For over 20 years, Applied Behavioral Services has been a leader in providing educational and therapeutic support for individuals with autism spectrum disorder (autism) and developmental disabilities in Ohio. With three locations in Ohio, ABS specializes in evidence-based Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) therapy, academic instruction, and life skills training, all tailored to each student's unique needs. Dedicated to fostering confidence and independence, ABS empowers students to thrive both in and outside the classroom, making a lasting impact on families and the community.



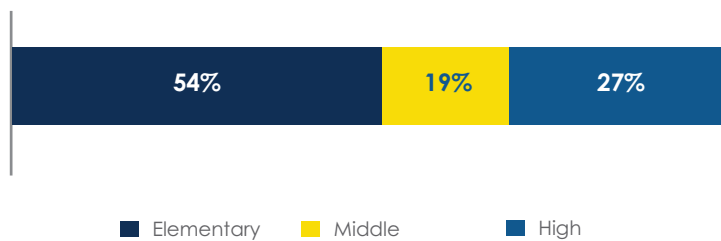
Founded in 2005, The Learning Spectrum brings nearly two decades of experience in supporting children with autism and related conditions. With campuses in Worthington, Canal Winchester, and Johnstown, TLS offers a broad range of services, including occupational therapy, speech therapy, music therapy, ABA therapy, support groups, and academic programming. Focused on addressing the individual needs of each child, TLS is supported by a team of licensed therapists, certified behavior analysts, and special education professionals who are passionate about helping students grow and succeed.

# Ohio Snapshot

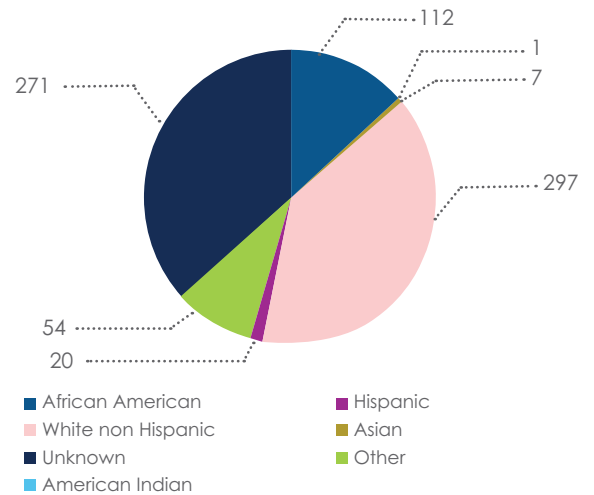
## Our Students:

Our students come from a variety of backgrounds, with unique experiences and needs.

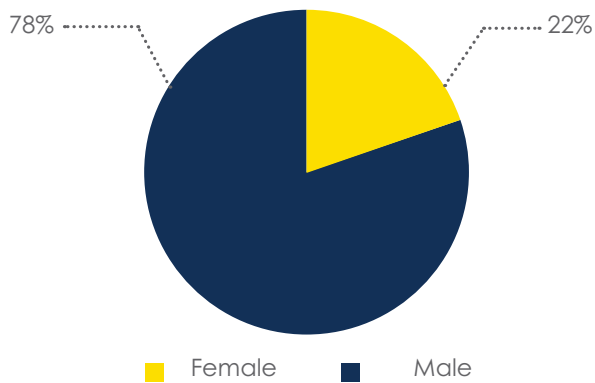
### Grade Level



### Race



### Gender

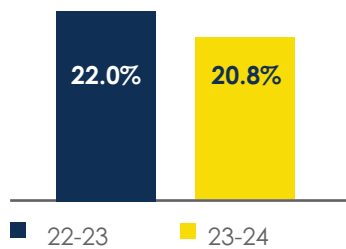




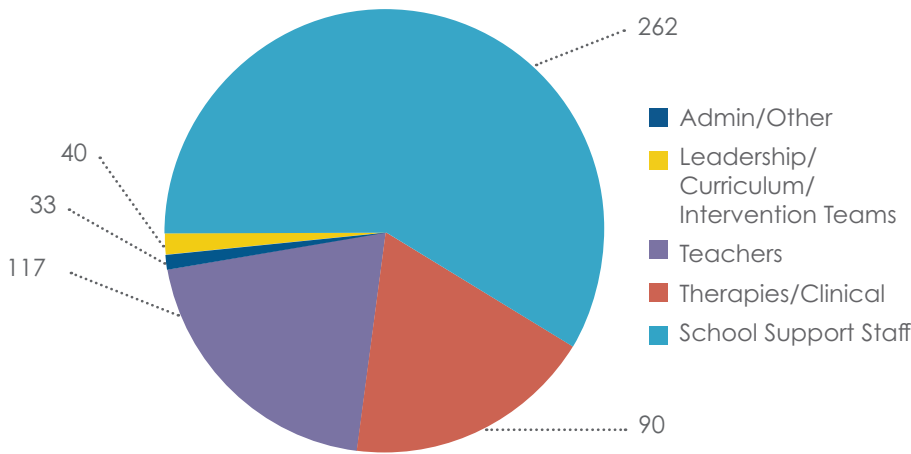
# People: The Heart Of Our Schools

At the heart of our success are the dedicated professionals who bring our mission to life every day. A holistic team of educators, clinicians, and support staff, the people of New Story Schools, Applied Behavioral Services, and The Learning Spectrum form a dynamic team committed to making a lasting impact on the lives of students and families. Their passion, expertise, and collaborative spirit create a nurturing environment where every student is supported to achieve their full potential.

Voluntary Turnover



Roles



Celebrating Our Outstanding Team

We celebrated 34 outstanding team members as part of our second annual Ohio Awards program, recognizing their exceptional contributions across a variety of categories, including Teacher of the Year, Behavior Technician of the Year, and Values Awards for traits such as Integrity and Inclusivity. These honors underscore the dedication and hard work of our staff, who continuously go above and beyond to support our students and uphold the values that define our schools. By fostering a positive and inclusive culture, our team not only drives academic and personal growth but also strengthens the bonds between our schools and the communities we serve.

**542** staff members

# People: The Heart Of Our Schools

New Story received its certification as a Most Loved Workplace<sup>®</sup> by the Best Practice Institute, and recognition by Newsweek as one of America's Most Loved Workplaces<sup>®</sup>. This prestigious certification is awarded to companies where employees are happiest and most satisfied.

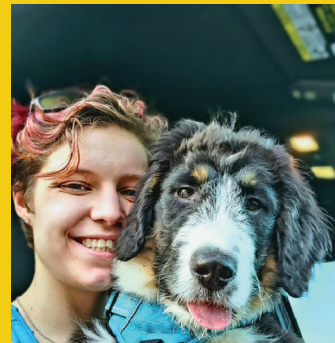


90%

of staff are satisfied working for New Story Ohio

74

staff took part in the New Story Leadership Development program



**Harlee Tripp**  
In-district Consultant, Assistant Director and Outreach Director

Harlee began her work with New Story Schools as a Behavior Technician, and since has grown in responsibility and role, becoming an in-district Consultant, Assistant Director and currently Outreach Director.

“There are many reasons I show up to work each day. The most important reason is that when I was a student, I faced low-income school rampant with violence, drug use, bullying. Most of the adults simply weren't prepared for or coping with the things happening around them and this trickled down into the children. Growing up, I had always wished that my teachers and role models had done things differently, I just wasn't exactly sure what 'differently' should look like. Working with New Story Schools has made that picture clear. Now, I can build a culture that enables our staff to be the adults I always wanted back when I was a student.”

– Harlee Tripp

# Quality: Enhancing Support And Empowering Our Students

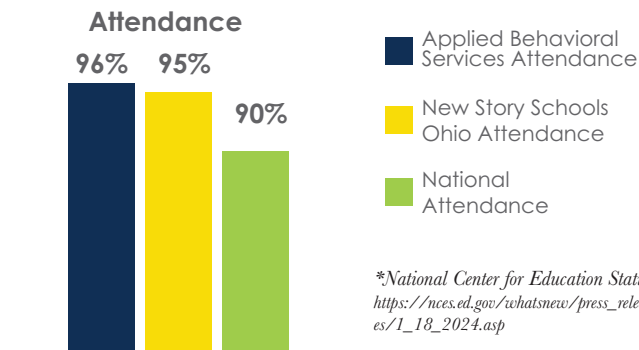
At New Story, fostering a culture of quality is a top priority. Whether it's building the teams that work directly on student IEP and progress, or the tools to support educators and clinicians, New Story is leading with a continuous improvement mindset. The 2023-2024 school year, New Story Ohio invested in building robust support systems and resources to enhance staff instruction and care, implemented impactful professional development programs, and created opportunities for teams to collaborate and share best practices across schools and organizations.

## Special Education Team Expansion at New Story Schools Ohio

New Story Schools established its Intervention Specialist team to develop and implement state-aligned Individualized Education Plans (IEPs) tailored to each student's unique needs. Acting as liaisons, the team bridges communication between teachers, families, and districts, ensuring alignment on student progress and goals and ensuring the student is receiving the appropriate services and support. By fostering collaboration and delivering measurable growth toward IEP goals, the team not only supports student success but also saves districts valuable time and resources.

"Whitehall has been impressed with the communication and responsiveness from New Story's Ohio SPED Team. When issues have arisen with a student's behavior or a parent has questions, both of which are common when serving students with complex needs, the New Story Schools staff and leadership team has quickly made themselves available to meet with the district and the family in order to work together to find answers and solutions."

-Anna Telerski Shultz,  
Director of Special Services for Whitehall City Schools



# 100%

of districts are satisfied with the progress students have made while in our programs.

January 2024 district survey to New Story Schools and Applied Behavioral Services district partners



# Quality: Enhancing Support And Empowering Our Students

## Preparing for Independence: Life Skills for a Bright Future

Applied Behavioral Services implements robust postsecondary preparation programs, designed to prepare students for post-high school success. These programs emphasize essential transition skills outlined in Section 5 of a student's IEP, focusing on increasing independence, employability, and the ability to navigate daily living tasks. Through targeted programming, students receive instruction in soft skills for employment, independent living, leisure skills, and preparation for adult day services. The goal is to empower students with skills that will support them for a lifetime.

Notably, students:

- Engage with assessment kits to practice workplace tasks and daily living skills.
- Participate in intern opportunities where they work 1:1 with a job coach in supported environments, using state-standard Pre Employment Transition Services (PRE-ET) curriculum.
- Attend virtual classes through partnerships with organizations such as Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD), IKRON, and Easter Seals, learning workplace readiness, self advocacy, and career exploration.
- Develop independent living skills in Community Living Centers, which simulate real-life environments like kitchens and laundry areas, using the Assessment of Functional Living Skills (AFLS) to build practical independence.



**MJ**  
Student at Applied  
Behavioral Services

At Applied Behavioral Services, building community partnerships provides students with valuable employability skills, integrates them into their community, and creates opportunities for them to give back in meaningful ways. In the West Chester's Step Up 2 classroom, MJ, a student preparing for future employment, showcased his passion for football through an "About Me" project. Highlighting his volunteer role with the Badin High School football team, MJ shared how this opportunity has helped him develop social and employability skills while pursuing his love for the sport. MJ's responsibilities included attending practices and games and conducting interviews with key team members, strengthening his work ethic and providing valuable experiences in teamwork and community engagement. Praised by Coach Yordy and the team trainer, MJ's dedication shone through his 15-slide presentation and video interviews. His story exemplifies how ABS partnerships with the community empower students to learn, grow, and achieve their dreams.

# Quality: Enhancing Support And Empowering Our Students

## Coaching Staff for Success

New Story piloted the tool, School Mint Grow, designed to enhance teacher development and classroom observation. It supports a range of activities including teacher coaching, classroom observation, teacher evaluation, analytics, and feedback. This allows staff to not only make data-driven decision making about student programming, but also have the added benefit of real-time coaching and support. During its pilot year, staff used this to give and receive feedback, track their own growth, and leaders use the data to help decided on needed professional development for their buildings.



## Partnerships That Make an Impact

Key to New Story's model is building strong and sustained partners with districts and the broader community. New Story Schools' Sandusky Campus exemplifies this foundational belief. Head of School Annabel McFadden formed a meaningful partnership with Sandusky Law Enforcement, where through weekly visits, officers build connections with students. These efforts address critical issues, as individuals with disabilities are disproportionately likely to encounter law enforcement. The program emphasizes hands-on engagement, with students—verbal and nonverbal—practicing communication and officers gaining insight into autism-related behaviors.

*"It's important that we maintain our role as an active community partner," said McFadden. "Building and nurturing these connections empowers us to be a valuable resource, break down stereotypes, and promote a culture of acceptance."*

**The Sandusky school was nominated for the Community Partner of the Year award in 2023 by the Erie County Board of Developmental Disabilities.**

+27

new district partners

109

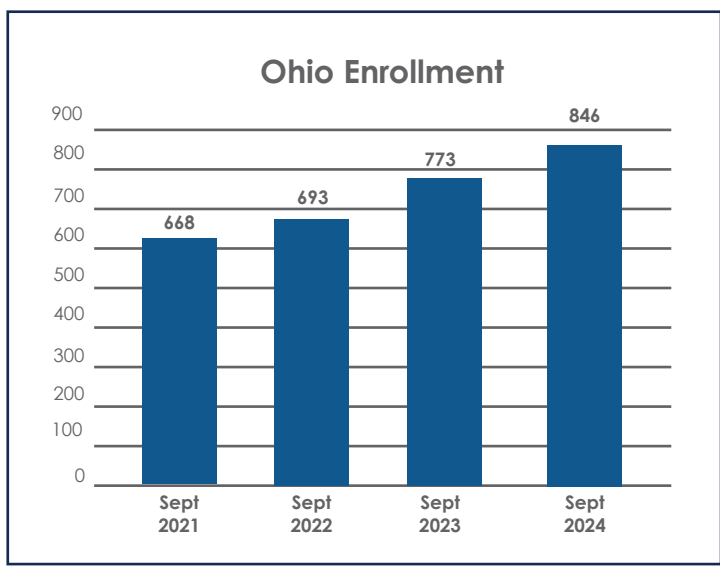
district partners

*"Katie was the first teacher that my son had when he first transferred to New Story, and to say she changed our lives is an understatement."*

*-Karolyn R., Parent*

# Growth: Expanding Our Reach, Impacting Our Community

At New Story Ohio, we are dedicated to serving as many students as possible, ensuring they receive the programs they need to succeed. In the 2023-2024 school year, we proudly welcomed The Learning Spectrum to the New Story network, adding three locations. Our school enrollment grew, positively impacting more families. Our In-district Inclusion program partnered with 10 school districts to deliver special education and clinical services in both private and public-school settings. Our Outreach program worked in 25 locations providing in-home services to students. It is an honor to work with students and families both within our schools and in the broader community, providing essential services that make a meaningful difference.



**THE LEARNING SPECTRUM**

We were proud to welcome TLS to New Story, providing essential services to students with special education and therapeutic needs. With a shared mission and purpose, TLS makes an incredible addition to the New Story family.





# Growth: Expanding Our Reach, Impacting Our Community

## Leading the Special Education Field



Independence Principal Berry Thompson presented “Getting to the Heart of the Matter: The Power of Positive Student-Teacher Relationships” at the Milestones National Autism Conference in June 2023. As a founding principal at New Story Schools Independence campus and a Milestones Associate Board member, Berry shared insights on the impact of positive student teacher relationships on learning. His presentation highlighted research-driven strategies, student-centered practices, and approaches to enhance student engagement and achievement in classrooms.

## Supporting Ohio Students in the Least Restrictive Environment

Ohio schools have deep partnerships with districts, bringing their expertise not only to out-of-district settings, but also the public-school environment. In-district Services are designed to keep students in the least restrictive environment while meeting their specialized needs. Bringing evidence-based, best practice programs to public schools ensures our school partners are equipped with the support to meet each student’s Individualized Education Plan (IEP) goals. While some students benefit from an out-of-district placement, many are better positioned to succeed within their home schools. Our programs span the in- and out-of-district continuum, ensuring students receive tailored support in the setting that best suits them.



# About New Story Schools

New Story Schools has five locations in Ohio, and supports children and young adult students ages 3-21 in pre-kindergarten through grade 12 experiencing social, emotional, educational, and behavioral challenges. New Story Schools partners with families and school districts to meet the needs of students in a safe learning environment. As a leading special educational provider, New Story Schools offers authentic learning environments, small class sizes, and individualized learning plans focused on empowerment, skill-building, and academics. Our multi-disciplinary teams of educators, behavior analysts, therapists, and support staff apply evidence-based strategies to promote growth and development, in support of students' personal goals. All New Story Schools across Ohio adhere to the state's operating standards for Ohio schools, are chartered by the State Board of Education, and provide multiple pathways towards earning an accredited Ohio High School Diploma.

# About Applied Behavioral Services

Located on three campuses throughout Ohio, Applied Behavioral Services provides educational placements and clinical services for students with autism spectrum disorder and other developmental delays. Grounded in Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) therapy, children and young adults 3-22 have access to full treatment interventions, including one-on-one support. Its education services, clinical services, and hybrid services are tailored to each student, client, and family, and led by a holistic team of educators, behavior analysts, and support staff. Applied Behavioral Services has served the Ohio community since 1999.

# About The Learning Spectrum

The Learning Spectrum located in three campuses in Ohio aims to serve with excellence. TLS serves children with autism and related special needs in their natural environment. TLS' goal is to educate the whole child through a multi-disciplinary approach that meets each child's individual needs and facilitates the highest level of success. In addition to its school locations, TLS provides special education services in private schools through its Inclusion program. TLS has provided special education and therapeutic services to students in Ohio since 2005.

# About New Story

New Story is a leading provider of special education and therapeutic services in the United States. Through our network of schools and services, we embrace the incredible potential of each child and young adult. Our tailored education and therapeutic programs are designed to support their unique needs, fostering achievement, growth, and development. We offer a comprehensive spectrum of support for children and young adults with special needs, leveraging the diverse expertise, methodologies, and legacies within our network. Together, we empower every child and young adult to reach their highest potential.

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