

Benson creates Smarter Schools organization

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Veteran non-profit executive Andrew Benson has created a new organization to further promote the efficiency and effectiveness in education that he started in Ohio for KnowledgeWorks.



Smarter Schools will advance the concepts and approach of Ohio Smart Schools that Benson spearheaded in Ohio beginning in 2010, an effort that ushered into law policy changes that promoted innovation in the state.

"The work in Ohio is far from over, and we are hearing from other states that are interested in replicating what we we accomplished in Ohio," said Benson, who was Vice President for KnowledgeWorks. "Smarter Schools has shaped what we've learned into a model that can be helpful to other states."

The Ohio Smart Schools work, responding to a request from state leaders in 2010, highlighted the potential for greater efficiencies and also provided a path for the state and school districts to follow to do more with less.

The initiative sparked changes to promote:

- Shared services among local governments
- Blended and digital learning to improve productivity in the classroom
- More efficient purchasing of products and services
- Best practices to lower non-instructional spending costs.

Visit the [Resource](#) page for more information on the Ohio Smart Schools work.

Smarter Schools, a non-profit based in Cincinnati, will explore opportunities to apply the lessons learned from Ohio in other states. Benson will serve as Executive Director of the organization.