# Ohio's Parent Mentor Project

## Parent Mentors are trained to help

### We are guides, collaborators, and, most importantly, we are peers.

Ohio Parent Mentors are parents of children with disabilities who provide free peer-to-peer support to other families of children with disabilities in Ohio. We use our first-hand experiences to work with school officials and guide families to increase the educational success of students who receive special education services.

We help families navigate local and state special education processes and services so that children with disabilities can get the most out of their educational experience.

Together, we can help our students with special needs get the special attention they deserve and find their pathway to educational success.

## Finding solutions that work best for children

Ohio Parent Mentors work in collaboration with families, schools and agencies. With our support, families will understand the special education process and become better advocates for their children.

We use our passion and experience to create strong partnerships to make special education information and processes more accessible. Ohio Parent Mentors provide families with information on a variety of special education topics. Specifically, we provide information and support to assist in:

- Understanding the rights and responsibilities of families, students and schools.
- Transitioning from preschool and high school.
- Contributing to the increase in student success, like in literacy.
- Guiding families through any special education meeting at the request of the family or district.
- Hosting information sessions for schools and families.
- Connecting families and educators with agencies and organizations that support students with disabilities.

Additionally, our training helps us provide current and updated information about special education laws and policies.

## Our support runs deep

For over 30 years, Ohio Parent Mentors have helped families navigate special education processes and services so that children with disabilities can get the most out of their educational experience.

Ohio Parent Mentors are funded using federal and state funds through the Ohio Department of Education. We are employed by school districts and educational service centers. The Office for Exceptional Children at the Ohio Department of Education provides us with guidance and support in implementing our work as Parent Mentors. The Center on Education and Training for Employment at The Ohio State University provides us with oversight, professional development, resources and technical assistance.

## Are you a family member of a child with a disability who would like our support? We are here to help!

Your Parent Mentor

## For More Information


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