

# About OCECD

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Established in 1972, the Ohio Coalition for the Education of Children with Disabilities (OCECD) is a statewide, non-profit organization dedicated to advancing the educational interests of children with disabilities. OCECD promotes efforts to provide appropriate quality education for children and youth with disabilities, to insure public policy and school reform efforts always consider best practices for students with disabilities.



OCECD is composed of over 35 parent and professional organizations representing over 50,000 individuals. Staff across Ohio collaborates with local parent support organizations to offer information, training and support to parents of children with any disability ages birth-26.



OCECD's experienced staff, many of whom have children or other family members with disabilities, are available to assist individuals or groups with information about:

- Early intervention for infants and toddlers
- Family support systems
- Special Education in public and community schools
- Resources for parents and professionals
- Free trainings for parents and professionals in Ohio on educational topics
- Teamwork between family members of children with disabilities and service providers
- Community based services
- Transition from high school to employment/college in the community



Tools used by OCECD to provide assistance include:

- Phone support
- One-on-one consultation
- Group presentations and training sessions
- "It's My Turn" student transition trainings designed to increase the capacity of youth with disabilities to make choices and to advocate for themselves
- Published bi-lingual materials including booklets about Evaluation, IEP, 504, ADHD, Rights, Transition, etc.
- Mentoring 4 Reading Achievement Program (M4RA): 1:1 Reading Mentoring for students reading below grade level.
- An informational website describing OCECD's services, schedule of trainings and conferences, resources and links to other helpful special education resources and organizations.

As a state-level organization, OCECD is an important policy development organization deeply committed to working with the state legislature, the Office of the Governor, and state agencies on legislative and policy issues of importance to Ohio's children with disabilities.

OCECD is a non-profit organization and has 501 (c) 3 tax-exempt status.



*The mission of the Ohio Coalition for the Education of Children with Disabilities, (OCECD), is to endorse and promote efforts to provide appropriate quality education for children and youth with disabilities. We do so in the belief that all children have a right to a meaningful and relevant education. This belief affirms the dignity of each child or youth with disabilities, whose needs are unique and whose needs must be met equally and appropriately.*

*OCECD is dedicated to insuring that every child with disabilities is provided a free, appropriate public education. We will continually strive to improve the quality of our services for all children and youth with disabilities in Ohio.*

**Ohio Coalition for the Education of Children with Disabilities**

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