Who We Are
What We Do

Ohio Coalition for the Education of Children with Disabilities (OCECD)

165 W. Center St., Ste. 302

Marion, Ohio 43302

1-844-382-5452

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Parent Training and Information Centers (PTI's)

- Authorized in Part D of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)

- Funded by the U. S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP)

- Every state must have at least one Parent Center

PTI's are mandated to help parents:

- Better understand their child's disability and educational needs
- Communicate more effectively with the school and related professionals
- Understand their rights and responsibilities under IDEA
- Obtain appropriate services
- Resolve disagreements with the school
- Connect with other community resources

About OCECD

- Established in 1972
- Statewide, non-profit organization
- Composed of over 35 parent and professional organizations representing over 50,000 individuals

OCECD Mission

- The mission of the Ohio Coalition for the Education of Children with Disabilities 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 continuously strive to improve the quality of our services for all children and youth with disabilities in Ohio.

OCECD Offices

- Executive Office located in Marion, Ohio

- Fifteen Regional Offices located throughout the state of Ohio

Stars represent OCECD office locations

OCECD Staff

- Twenty-six staff members

- Most are parents of children and adults with disabilities, persons with disabilities and education professionals

- Trained in IDEA 2004 and Operating Standards for Ohio Educational Agencies Serving Children with Disabilities

OCECD Multicultural Staff

- Currently contracts with six parents to assist families in their native language.
- Goal is to increase the knowledge and understanding of:
  a. Disabilities and related issues
  b. IDEA 2004 provisions and service delivery options among parents/consumers of children with disabilities

All outreach materials are being translated into Spanish, Somali, Chinese Mandarin, Korean, Japanese, Thai, and Vietnamese.

OCECD Services

- Information about early intervention services for infants and preschoolers
- Family support systems
- Resources for parents and professionals
- Free trainings for parents and professional
- Reading Mentoring
- Teamwork between family members of children with disabilities and service providers
- Transition from high school to community
- Public policy and school reform
- Technical assistance to parent mentor projects

Tools used to provide assistance:

- Phone support
- One-on-one consultation
- Group presentations and training sessions
- "It's My Turn" student transition trainings
- Published bi-lingual materials
- Quarterly e-newsletters
- Website describing services, trainings and conferences, resources, publications, public policy and links to other helpful special education resources and organization

Information Specialist-Parent Interaction

- Inform parents of their rights and responsibilities
- Help parents identify their options
- Assist parents to develop self-advocacy skills
- Inform parents about special education services and supports
- Prepare parents to attend IEP meetings
- Information Specialists are not legal representatives

Parent's Perspective

How does it feel to be the parent of a child with a disability?

- The parent has a great investment in the child's future
- The parent may be intimidated at the IEP meeting.
- The parent may be emotional when discussing their child's needs.

Thank You!

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www.ocecd.org