

Resource Guide for the Social Worker

Special Education Law and regulations

See the **Ohio Department of Education** website for information about special education. *A Guide to Parent Rights in Special Education* https://education.ohio.gov/getattachment/Topics/Special-Education/Federal-and-State-Requirements/Operational-Standards-and-Guidance/ODE_ParentRights_041217.pdf.aspx and *Ohio Operating Standards for the Education of Children with Disabilities* <https://education.ohio.gov/getattachment/Topics/Special-Education/Federal-and-State-Requirements/Operational-Standards-and-Guidance/2014-Ohio-Operating-Standards-for-the-Education-of-Children-with-Disabilities.pdf.aspx> provide good information about the law and parent rights for children with IEPs.

See the **U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights website** <https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/frontpage/pro-students/disability-pr.html> for information on protecting the rights of students with 504 plans.

Special Education Parent advocacy

The **Disability Rights Ohio (DRO)** website provides self-advocacy resources to help parents with their special education issues <http://www.disabilityrightsohio.org/special-education>. Disability Rights Ohio will also provide direct advocacy services to parents. To access services, parents should contact the intake department at 614-466-7264 or 1-800-282-9181.

See the **Ohio Coalition for the Education of Children with Disabilities (OCECD)** website <https://www.ocecd.org/> for information about parent mentors and information specialists who help school district and families by providing training, support, and information to help resolve disputes, or contact them at 740-382-5452 or 844-382-5452.

For a private attorney, contact Disability Rights Ohio for a list of private attorneys who represent parents in special education cases, or contact the **Ohio State Bar Association attorney referral service** <https://www.ohiobar.org/ForPublic/AboutLawyers/Pages/StaticPage-72.aspx>

Some **Legal Aid offices** provide special education advocacy to parents. See their website for information about eligibility and services offered. <https://www.ohiolegalaid.org/>

Community and other services

Ohio Family and Children First Council can provide wraparound services for students with complex needs who are involved in multiple systems (such as education and mental health). A plan can be developed to help coordinate and provide necessary services and connections to supports. See the FCFC website <http://www.fcf.ohio.gov/Home.aspx> for information on finding your county FCFC and making a referral.

County board of developmental disabilities can provide service coordination and funding for services for students with developmental disabilities. Services include service coordination, transition services, and waiver services. See the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities website to find your county department <http://dodd.ohio.gov/CountyBoards/Pages/default.aspx>

The ARC of Ohio provides information and advocacy services to families of children with intellectual and developmental disabilities. <https://www.thearcofohio.org/>

The **University of Cincinnati Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCCEDD)** provides support to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) and their family members in managing and understanding state and local systems, including medical, educational and community systems. UCCED also provides community trainings for caregivers and professionals on advocacy and navigating service system, and provides 1:1 short-term support via phone and email. https://www.ucucedd.org/?page_id=123

The Ohio State University Nisonger Center, a University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities provides a number of services for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities throughout the lifespan. In addition, they provide technical assistance and training on issues related to developmental disabilities to partners in the community. They can be available for brief consultation on a case-by-case basis (<http://nisonger.osu.edu/>)

Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD) is the State of Ohio agency that partners with Ohioans with disabilities to achieve quality employment and independence. OOD also makes determinations on Social Security disability. OOD can provide assistance with transition services for older students who are looking for help with getting and keeping a job, or help with going to college. For more information, see the website <http://www.ood.ohio.gov/Core-Services/BVR>

The Family Center at the Ohio Center for Autism and Low Incidence (OCALI) connects families to the information they need regarding services, supports, training and resources, including the free OCALI Lending Library. It offers training and products to help families and to support agencies serving them. <https://www.ocali.org/center/family>

The Family Resource Network of Ohio (FRNO) is a website where families visit to discover various types of resources. Those resources include listings for agencies and providers, therapists, books, webinars, programs, calendar of events. This includes various trainings, such as Charting the LifeCourse. <https://www.frnohio.org/>

The **Autism Speaks** website contains a number of information toolkits addressing issues relevant to those with autism spectrum disorders and their families. <https://www.autismspeaks.org/family-services/tool-kits>

Project AWARE Ohio is a partnership between the Ohio Department of Education, the Center for School Based-Mental Health Programs at Miami University and the educational service centers within three pilot communities: Cuyahoga County, Warren County and Wood County. The project provides training to school staff and community partners to raise awareness of the mental health needs of youth and how to intervene. <http://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Other-Resources/School-Safety/Building-Better-Learning-Environments/PBIS-Resources/Project-AWARE-Ohio>

NAMI Ohio provides support and education to consumers of mental health services and their families throughout Ohio. http://www.namiohio.org/mental_health_support/family_support

Special Education Dispute resolution

The **Ohio Department of Education, Office for Exceptional Children** maintains a complaint and hearing process to help families resolve disputes with their schools. For more information on the type of procedures available, visit the website <https://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Special-Education/Dispute-Resolution>

The **U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights** has a process to file a complaint regarding disability discrimination or disputes over services under Section 504. For more information on this process, visit the website <https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/howto.html?src=rt>

Other Resources

Cap4kids.org is a website that provides reliable, up-to-date information about resources in the Columbus area for children and families.

Housing issues: The **Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in Ohio (COHHIO)** supports Ohio residents and organizations seeking guidance on a variety of housing issues: landlord-tenant law, the Fair Housing Act, tenant organization and affordable housing preservation. If you are seeking advice on how to deal with a specific issue, email COHHIO at: rentinfo@cohhio.org or call the Housing Information Line: 888-485-7999. Your local legal aid agency can provide legal assistance with housing issues.

Immigration issues: **Community Refugee and Immigration Services (CRIS)** provides services to refugees, asylees, and immigrants, including:

Free employment counseling, skills training and job placement help.

Services for new refugees for the first 3 months of their arrival in the U.S.

ESOL (English) classes and translation services.

Immigration legal programs, including help with citizenship applications, notary services, visa extensions, green card applications, immigration photos and work authorization.

Counseling and support to limited English proficient (LEP) people who are victims of crimes or trafficking.

Health and wellness programs.

Access to Healthcare: **Medical-Legal Partnerships** are projects where medical providers and lawyers work together to help children and families access necessary healthcare. For a list of medical-legal partnerships in Ohio, visit <http://medical-legalpartnership.org/>

