Ohio Coalition for the Education of Children with Disabilities
2012 Public Policy Priorities
March 2012

Outlined below is a listing of the 2012 Ohio Coalition for the Education of Children with Disabilities (OCECD) public policy priorities.

1. **Educational Growth Assessment.** Review the state's academic assessment and reporting system for students with disabilities and support appropriate use of value-added assessment to better measure functional academic and behavioral skills (including successful transition to postsecondary education and work), which should help lead to educational and vocational improvements for these students. These efforts and others should be improved through the creation of: a) special education value-added demonstration project; and b) Special Education Report Card (state/local focus).

2. **Early Education.** Participate as appropriate in state's $70 million, multi-year federal Early Childhood Challenge Grant (Race to the Top) project, which is focused primarily on kindergarten readiness. Make sure a special education focus is a central priority as the state works to improve system quality and participation for "high-needs" children, including those with disabilities.

3. **Teacher Evaluation.** Improve teacher evaluation in the special education arena and do so with appropriate coordination with state's ongoing teacher evaluation enhancement efforts.

4. **Regional Education.** Monitor effectiveness of Ohio's special education related regional services (SSTs) and related state and federal funds with particular focus on ensuring no loss of special education service scope or quality with the likely evolution of Educational Service Centers (ESCs) to regional shared service centers.

5. **Special Education and Juvenile Justice.** Support improved special education related intervention and prevention services for at-risk students in danger of being (or having already been) incarcerated in a juvenile justice facility. Monitor work of state's Behavioral Health Juvenile Justice Initiative.

6. **Special Education Related Legislation.** Monitor and, as necessary, advocate for effective implementation of special education related legislation.

7. **Special Education Teacher Recruitment and Training.** Strengthen recruitment, retention and professional development of qualified teachers of

students with disabilities (special education and general education teachers) and related service personnel.

8. **Redesign Project and OCECD Policy Priorities.** As appropriate, align and integrate OCECD Special Education Redesign (Stage Two) initiative, specifically including proposed policy redesign levers, with 2012 public policy priority work. Develop *written strategy* to advance this work and in so doing build a bridge between OCECD 2012 public policy priorities and OCECD's 2012 Stage Two Special Education Redesign Project.

9. **School Funding Reform.** School funding reform will be foundational to FY 2014-15 state budget policy development with focus on:
    - Support reforms that improve *both* special education funding and educational outcomes;
    - Full funding for an ODE updated, cost-based, six weight special education funding formula;
    - Full state funding for special education enhancements, including *all* preschool special education units;
    - Full funding for catastrophic aid; and
    - Appropriate funding and effective management of health care coordination and related special education services for students with disabilities.

10. **Best Practices and Innovation.** Facilitate advancement of these policy priorities through the creation of a Special Education Best Practices and Innovation Center.