

## Ohio Coalition for the Education of Children with Disabilities

Is a statewide, non-profit organization dedicated to advancing the educational interests of children with disabilities since 1972.

Has experienced staff available to assist individuals or groups with advocacy for appropriate preschool and school age special education services, early intervention contacts and referrals.

Offers free inservice trainings for parents and professionals in Ohio on advocacy and educational topics.

Provides State Parent Library Services-including resource materials related to special education, specific disabilities and best practices, staffed full-time by a certified librarian.



**Is your child having difficulty in school?**

**Does your child have Speech and/or Language problems?**

**Does your child have behavior problems at school or at home?**

*Download the free mobile barcode reader on your smartphone at [www.i-nigma.com](http://www.i-nigma.com) and scan this barcode to visit our website instantly and get more information about OCECD.*



### OHIO COALITION FOR THE EDUCATION OF CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

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## DOES YOUR CHILD HAVE SPECIAL NEEDS?

### Information on Special Education Services



**Executive Office**

**Marion, Ohio**

**1-800-374-2806**

## Does your child need Special Education and Related Services?

Special education and related services are available for children over the age of three through age 21 who have been identified with a disability. The Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEA) provides the legal grounds for children with disabilities to receive a free appropriate public education (FAPE) in the least restrictive environment (LRE). These services are administered by the school district in which you live.

In order to be eligible, your child must have a disability that affects his or her ability to learn. These disabilities are: (from Ohio Operating Standards)

- Autism
- Intellectual Disability (Cognitive Disability)
- Deaf-Blindness
- Deafness
- Emotional Disturbance
- Hearing Impairment
- Multiple Disabilities
- Orthopedic Impairment
- Other Health Impairment
- Specific Learning Disability
- Speech or Language Impairment
- Traumatic Brain Injury
- Visual Impairment

## 8 Basic Steps in Special Education

**1. Know your rights:** These rights are based on IDEA 2004 and Ohio Operating Standards serving children with disabilities.

**2. Request Special Education Services:** Send by certified mail a written request for an initial evaluation, to the principal of your child's school.

The school, with your help, will determine if your child is a child with a suspected disability. If they don't suspect a disability, they will inform you (prior written notice) within 30 days and provide you with a copy of your rights called "Whose IDEA is This?".

**3. Appropriate Evaluation:** The evaluation must be comprehensive and provide information about your child's unique abilities and needs. Evaluations include information from parents and a group of evaluators.

Tests and assessments, given as part of an evaluation, must be given in your child's language by people who are trained, knowledgeable and/or certified to give the tests. The tests must be fair and not discriminate racially or culturally.

The school has 60 days from your written consent to finish the evaluation.

**4. Eligibility:** After the evaluation is completed, you will be invited to a meeting to discuss the results of the evaluation. Based on the information from the evaluation and information that you provided, the team (including yourself) decides if your child is eligible or ineligible to receive special education or related services. If you disagree with the evaluation done by the school district you are entitled to request an Independent Educational Evaluation (IEE) at public expense.

**5. Individualized Education Program:** If the child is eligible for special education and related services, the team (including yourself) will develop and implement an Individualized Education Program (IEP) to meet the child's unique needs related to your child's disability (such as communication needs, behavior, etc.)

**6. Progress is measured and reported to parents:** The child's progress toward the annual goals is measured, as stated in the Individualized Education Program (IEP). The parents are regularly informed of the child's progress and whether that progress is enough for the child to achieve the goals by the end of the year. These progress reports must be given to the parents at least as often as parents are informed of their nondisabled children's progress.

**7. Annual Review:** At least once a year, you and other members of the IEP team will review your child's Individualized Education Program (IEP). You may request a meeting sooner than that. Together you will make decisions about any necessary changes to your child's program. If you are not in agreement with any changes that the school wants to implement, you need to let them know in writing.

**8. Reevaluation:** At least once every three years, your school district will reevaluate your child to determine your child's continuing eligibility for special education and related services or if new additional information is needed for other services.

A reevaluation must be sufficient to determine your child's individual needs, educational progress and achievement, and your child's ability to participate in regular education classes.