

The Ashtabula County Parent Mentor Program



What does a parent mentor do?

- Guides families through the special education process;
- Helps families understand their rights and responsibilities;
- Provides information and resources to families and the child's schools. This includes education laws and district programs.
- Engages community services and other resources to support schools and families;
- Attends Individualized Education Program meetings and other meetings at parent or staff request;
- Listens and supports the families and the child's teachers on an individual basis;
- Hosts information sessions or workshops for families and professionals;
- Connects families, schools, and community to benefit students with disabilities.



For more information:

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The Ashtabula County Parent Mentor Program



Guiding Families Through the Special Education Process

The Ashtabula County Parent Mentor Program



Definition

A parent mentor provides information and support to families of a child with a disability and school districts. The mentor is an employee of the Ashtabula County Educational Service Center and also is a parent of a child with a disability.



No Cost for Services

All parent mentor services are free of charge. The Ohio Department of Education provides the funds for Ohio Parent Mentor projects.

Goal

School districts develop and provide a meaningful educational program for all students. Parent mentors work to support the relationship between the school and the family of a child with a disability. The school and family work together to provide a pathway for the child's success. By working closely with parents and teachers, the parent mentor is an important part of the student's educational team.



The Parent Mentor Program is offered by school districts. Mentors provide information and support to families about special education issues. Additionally, they make sure the district receives the perspective and input from families.

Background

The Ohio Department of Education recognizes the need for parents to be able to communicate back to the school. Parents of a child with a disability are in greatest need of this help.

Created in 1990, the Parent Mentor Program promotes communication between the family and school. Parent mentors provide resources, guidance, and support to families. They work with the school, families, and the community to find the best possible option for the child.

Currently there are approximately 75 Parent Mentor Projects in Ohio. They serve nearly one-third of the schools and families in Ohio's school districts.