

Parent Mentor Services

The Parent Mentor service provided by the Educational Service Center of the Western Reserve is a valuable resource designed to support the parents of Geauga County with navigating the educational journey of their children. Experienced and trained Parent Mentors work collaboratively with parents, offering guidance, information, and advocacy to ensure a positive and effective educational experience for students. Whether addressing special education needs, navigating school systems, or fostering effective communication between parents and educators, the Parent Mentor service is committed to empowering parents with the knowledge and tools they need to advocate for their children's success in the educational process.

Parent Mentor

Ohio Parent Mentors are parents of children with disabilities who provide free peer-to-peer support to other families of children with disabilities. They use first-hand experiences to work with schools and guide families to increase the educational success of students who receive special education services. Parent Mentors help families navigate special education processes and services so that children with disabilities get the most out of their educational experience.

How the Parent Mentor Provides Support

The Parent Mentor is a guide to help you navigate the special education process and develop your skills as an advocate - the best advocate for your child. Any family of a child with disabilities may request assistance and support from the Parent Mentor at no cost to the family.

Working together, as a unified team, can empower your child to succeed, not only in school, but in the years to come.

Districts and families must work together positively and productively to benefit all students who are served by an IEP, 504 Plan, or with any special accommodation, the Parent Mentor is available to:

- Facilitate communication between families, teachers, and administrators, all the essential people of the child's planning team.
- Guide families through the special education process.
- Help families understand their rights and responsibilities.
- Provide information and resources to families and the child's schools, including education laws, district programs, and updated information about special education.
- Engage community services and other resources to support schools and families.
- Attend Individualized Education.
- Program meetings and other meetings at parent or staff request.
- Listen to and support families and the child's teachers on an individual basis.
- Connect families, schools, and communities to benefit students with disabilities.
- Help families through the transition process from preschool to school and from high school and beyond.
- Host information sessions for families and staff members.