



Dear Parent/Guardian:

My name is Michelle Frygier and I am the new Parent Mentor for Geauga County. My goal is to assist you through the IEP/504 process and to provide support to families and their children in the five school districts consisting of Berkshire, Cardinal, Chardon, Kenston and West Geauga. There is no cost to you for parent mentor services. The Ohio Parent Mentor Project is funded through grants from the Ohio Department of Education.

A Parent Mentor is a guide to help you navigate the special education process and to develop your skills as an advocate, the best advocate for your child. The role of the Parent Mentor assists by:

- Guiding families through the special education process;
- Helping families understand their rights and responsibilities;
- Providing information and resources to families and the child's schools. This includes education laws and district programs;
- Engaging community services and other resources to support schools and families;
- Attending Individualized Education Program meetings and other meetings at parent or staff request;
- Listening to and supporting families and the child's teachers on an individual basis;
- Connecting families, schools and communities to benefit students with disabilities.

A unique aspect of this position is that Parent Mentors provide guidance based on a combination of training and personal first-hand experience. I am also a parent of a child with a disability. I have two children with Autism Spectrum Disorder and my son is also diagnosed with ADHD. My children receive their services through the Kenston School District and my daughter is a student in the Geauga ACHIEVE program. I have experienced the process of assessing and receiving services and the ETR and IEP process. I know it can be overwhelming and confusing at times and this is when the Parent Mentor can assist and offer some support and information.

Please do not hesitate to contact me and I look forward to working with you as you navigate the special education process.

Sincerely,

Michelle Frygier  
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