



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

CENTER ON EDUCATION AND
TRAINING FOR EMPLOYMENT

Family-School Engagement Guide

Resources for families that strengthen family-school partnerships to support equity and excellence for every child.



Dedication

*This resource guide is dedicated to the Reverend Stanley Miller,
a long-term partner of the Education Leadership Learning Community and champion for the
children and families of Northeast Ohio.*



This guide was developed by Dr. Barbara Boone, Dr. Kenyona Walker, Thomas Capretta, and Kyanna Johnson of the Ohio Statewide Family Engagement Center at The Ohio State University in partnership with the Northeast Ohio Education Leadership Learning Community. Members of the Community include: Cleveland Metropolitan School District, Maple Heights School District, East Cleveland School District, Youngstown School District, Urban League of Greater Cleveland, Greater Warren-Youngstown Urban League and the Ohio Department of Education.

Resources listed in this guide were gathered from many sources. A website link to the original source of each resource is provided.

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OVERVIEW

What is this resource guide for?

Every child deserves an excellent education. When schools, families and communities work together, schools improve, and students do better in school. It takes all of us working together.

This resource guide is for families. It is full of tools families can use to help their child receive a great education. We recognize that not every child in Ohio is receiving an education that meets their needs, that honors their race, and culture, or that sets them up for a successful future. It will take all of us to eliminate these inequities, and families can help. Every child in school, kindergarten through graduation, needs their family to communicate with their school and advocate for their child's education needs. We hope these tools help.

Who made this resource guide?

It began with parents and caregivers like you. These parents, caregivers, and community members talked with a team from The Ohio State University (OSU) and described how they helped their children and others in their community get a great education. Their experiences and recommendations guided the development of this resource. They had four big recommendations to share with other families:

1. Communicate with your child's teachers and child about school.
2. Support your child's learning at home.
3. Take part in making decisions for your child's education, and
4. Find the community resources you need so your child is healthy and ready to learn.

The staff of the Urban League of Greater Cleveland and area school districts worked with the OSU team to gather tools, videos, websites, and other resources for families and then placed them here on the Urban League website. Here they are available for families and people who work with families to use. This resource guide will continue to fill up with tools for you.

How to use this resource guide

The resources in this guide are organized by the four recommendations of families. Families can select tools that fit their questions and their child's grade-level and needs. Professionals who work with families can use this guide to share specific tools with families one-on-one, or in groups. Let's keep this toolkit growing. Please send suggestions for updates and new tools for families to the Urban League of Greater Cleveland.

TOOLS FOR COMMUNICATING WITH SCHOOLS

Your voice is important for your child's education. The tools in this section are here to help you have clear communication with your child's school.

“Relationship building equals communication!”

Cleveland parent

Videos

Effective Strategies for Parent-Teacher Communication

This brief video (1:23 mins) explains the importance of two-way communication and how families can quickly communicate major and minor information to educators.

<https://youtu.be/MWNUM-XGpnU>

Notes from the Backpack Podcast

National PTA's podcast, Notes from the Backpack, offers tips for helping your child thrive in school, and “[Partnering with Your Child's Teacher](#),” featuring expert, Karen Mapp, is a great episode to start with!

<https://www.pta.org/the-center-for-family-engagement/podcast/notes-from-the-backpack/partnering-with-your-child-s-teacher>

Checklists and tools

Parent-Teacher Conference Checklists

These Parent Teacher Conference Checklists will assist you in considering questions you would like to ask or topics you would like to cover during your next school conference, in addition to things to do before and after conference.

<https://www.understood.org/articles/en/download-parent-teacher-conference-worksheet>

<https://dcps.dc.gov/publication/parent-teacher-conference-checklist>

(Available in English, Amharic, Chinese, French, Spanish and Vietnamese).

At-the-Conference

You can use this *At-the-Conference* tool during Parent Teacher Conferences as a guide to ask questions about your child's academic performance, interactions with other students and to establish communication preferences. *

Credit: Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools

Tips for parents Parent-Teacher conferences

This guide provides parents with tips and a checklist they can use to prepare for parent-teacher conferences. This resource is available in Spanish and English. It can be viewed online or as a PDF handout.

<https://www.colorincolorado.org/article/tips-parents-parent-teacher-conferences#h-parent-teacher-conference-checklists>

A 3-Step “Sandwich Method” for Saying Hard Things to Teachers

The Sandwich Method is an easy and effective way to communicate many things. The three-steps will help you address a variety of topics with educators.

https://www.canva.com/design/DAEIQUmhd0w/ecXYIPG5iRI0Sc9jDWQ6SQ/view?utm_content=DAEIQUmhd0w&utm_campaign=designshare&utm_medium=link&utm_source=sharebutton

Parent to Teacher Email Template

Do you spend a lot of time thinking about what to write in an email to your child’s teacher? This example email may help you think about the most important things you should include in your email.

<https://www.understood.org/articles/en/at-a-glance-anatomy-of-an-effective-email-to-your-childs-teacher>

Who To Turn To At Your Child’s School

You may have questions and concerns that change during the school year. This *Who to turn to at your child’s school* tool will help you determine who to talk to at your child’s school based on the topic or your concern. *

Building Successful Communication Between Parent or Guardian and Teacher

The Building Successful Communication Between Parent or Guardian and Teacher resource provides suggestions for ways to successfully communicate with your child’s school.

<https://publications.ici.umn.edu/nceo/improving-instruction-parent-educator-toolkit/building-successful-communication-between-parent-or-guardian-and-teacher>

Available in English, Simplified Chinese, Spanish, Arabic, Traditional Chinese, and Vietnamese

Quick reads

Conversation Starters to Use With Your Child’s Teachers

Are you planning to have a conversation with your child’s teacher? The *Conversation Starters to Use With Your Child’s Teachers* quick read can help you lead the conversation.

<https://ohiofamiliesengage.osu.edu/2020/10/23/conversation-starters-to-use-with-your-childs-teachers/>

Tips for Effective Parent-Teacher Conferences (or any meeting with a teacher)

Parent-Teacher conferences never seem long enough. The *Tips for Effective Parent-Teacher Conferences* quick read could help you use your time wisely. *

TOOLS TO SUPPORT YOUR CHILD'S LEARNING

Supporting your child's education outside of school is just as important as the support they receive in school. The tools in this section give families resources to support your child's learning after the school day has ended.

“Learning is a two-way street”

Northeast Ohio parent

The Smart Way to Talk to Teachers

This webpage provides parents with tips for how parents and caregivers can respond to common issues teachers may share with parents.

<https://www.parents.com/kids/education/back-to-school/the-smart-way-to-talk-to-teachers/>

Videos

Parent's Guide for Remote Learning: Video Series

The “Remote Learning: A Parent's Guide” series is for families about remote learning. This series includes three videos: Your Learning Environment, Routines Matter, and Guiding, Not Telling. The videos were created by the Ohio Department of Education, Broadcast Educational Media Commission, and ThinkTV.

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLU5d15PFey_odW1qqClzBFBmpZkAM5MLk

How Families Talk About Learning Makes a Difference

This video, What is a Growth Mindset?, shows how the way we talk about learning with children and teens impacts how well they learn.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E4KEQzOW3ps&t=8s>

SEL 101 for Parents

This is an informational video to inform parents about social-emotional learning in schools and provide them with insights into their own parenting practices to support their children's social and emotional development.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y2d0da6BZWA>

Websites

PBS Learning Media

If you're looking for additional web-based learning opportunities for your preschool-12th grader, then PBS Learning Media is just the tool you need. You can follow the link provided below to select grade appropriate, subject-based interactive lessons.

<https://wosu.pbslearningmedia.org/collection/reach/>

PBS for Parents

Designed for parents, The "PBS for Parents tool" gives you tons of options to choose from as you support your child's learning at home. Different children's shows, play-based activities, parent-based advice and learn and grow activities based on developmental milestones is just a few clicks away.

<https://www.pbs.org/parents>

Ohio Imagination Library: Free Books for Ohio Children

The Ohio Governor's Imagination Library—inspired by Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, created in 1995 by renowned entertainer and philanthropist Dolly Parton—endeavors to send a new book every month to Ohio children from birth to age five. The high-quality, age-appropriate books are chosen by early childhood experts. And best of all, the books are free to all families. Parents can enroll on the website to start receiving a new book each month.

<https://ohioimaginationlibrary.org/>

InfoOhio

InfoOhio is an Ohio-based digital library. This online resource is full of grade-based activities for you and your family to explore. Whether you want to engage in read-aloud with your preschooler, explore science facts with your middle schooler or assist your high schooler as they conduct research for a class project, InfoOhio has you covered.

<https://infoohio.org/>

Ohio Department of Education Parent Resource Page

Families are an essential resource for Ohio's schools in making the most of every child's educational experience, from pre-kindergarten all the way through high school. This page has information you can use to help guide your child's education.

<http://education.ohio.gov/Parents>

Talking Is Teaching

Talking is Teaching website gives you tools and tips to help you create early learning opportunities in literacy, math and social and emotional development areas by providing activities for you to do with your infant, toddler or preschooler. If you'd like to take it a step further, you can also sign up to receive a themed monthly bundle of content.

<https://talkingisteaching.org/>

Checklists and tools

DaybyDay Ohio

Families, caregivers, educators, and librarians can use the Day By Day Ohio Family Literacy Calendar at home, library, classroom, or on the go. With a calendar featuring songs, activities, book suggestions, and videos, Day By Day Ohio supports early literacy skills and helps young children get ready for school.

<http://www.daybydayoh.org/>

Back to School Planning Tool for Families

The “Back to School Planning Tool” gives your family an organized space to write in your plans for supporting your child’s school experience no matter what school option you choose. Use the first column in the table below to write down your district’s plans for different ways school may occur this year. Then, in the second column, write notes for how your family would need to support your child for each district plan. The second page of this tool is for those who would rather be guided in taking notes about their family’s plans using a series of questions about topics like transportation, childcare, and meals.

<https://ohiofamiliesengage.osu.edu/2020/08/19/option-a-b-or-c-a-back-to-school-planning-tool-for-families/>

Parent Teacher Planning Tool

The Parent Teacher Planning Tool (created by National PTA and Learning Heroes) offers simple steps families can take to partner with their child’s teacher.

<https://belearninghero.org/parent-teacher-planning-tool-2021/>

Quick reads

Cleveland Academic Playbook

The Academic Playbook was created to empower parents/caregivers to ask the necessary questions regarding their child’s academic progress, and work collaboratively with teachers to foster development of your child.

<https://www.clevelandmetroschools.org/Page/18202>

A Family Guide for Student Success

This set of guides are available in English and Spanish. Parents can read these guides for each grade from kindergarten to 8th grade. The guides provide tips on how parents can support their learning in the classroom at home.

<https://www.mdek12.org/OAE/OEER/FamilyGuidesEnglish>

<https://www.mdek12.org/OAE/OEER/FamilyGuidesSpanish>

Reading Tip Sheets for Parents

This webpage provides short, one-page tip sheets that are available in 13 languages. The tips sheets offer parents ideas for parent support their kids reading at home.

<https://www.colorincolorado.org/reading-tip-sheets-parents>

Put Reading First: Helping Your Children Learn to Read A Parent Guide

This resource was created to help parents support their child's reading at home . This guide is for preschool through third grade.

https://www.mdek12.org/sites/default/files/documents/OAE/Literacy/ResourcesForParents/PutReadingFirst_ParentGuide.pdf

Tips for Families to Develop Effective Elementary Writing Skills for Children at Home

This practical guide from the REL Mid-Atlantic offers families and caregivers three main suggestions for supporting their children's elementary writing skills at home

https://ies.ed.gov/ncee/edlabs/regions/midatlantic/app/Docs/Infographics/Tips_for_Supporting_Elementary_Writing_Skills_at_Home_508.pdf

Tips for Supporting Learning for Families of Middle Schoolers

Your child may experience a lot of changes as they transition to the middle school years. Which means your support for their learning may need a change. The *Launching Your Middle Schooler to Success* tool will help you continue supporting your child during these critical years.

(Available in Arabic, Chinese Simplified, English, Nepali, Somali, and Spanish)

<https://ohiofamiliesengage.osu.edu/2019/11/05/mstransition/>

High School English Parents' Guide

This resource guide provides parents with tips to support their high schoolers language arts learning. This guide is available for download as a PDF or can be viewed as a webpage in Spanish and English.

<https://www.pta.org/home/family-resources/Parents-Guides-to-Student-Success>

High School Math Parents' Guide

This resource guide provides parents with tips to support their high schoolers math learning. This guide is available for download as a PDF or can be viewed as a webpage in Spanish and English.

<https://www.pta.org/home/family-resources/Parents-Guides-to-Student-Success/high-school-math>

Preparing Your Child for the Career: Ohio Means Jobs

Family members have a lot of influence on a child's career decisions. For ideas for you're your family can help your child explore different jobs, this guide can get you started.

http://education.ohio.gov/getattachment/Topics/Career-Tech/Career-Connections/Resources-for-Families-and-Communities/Career-Connections-Guide-Parent_4-2014.pdf.aspx

Ohio Means Jobs: Career Connections Resources for Families

Information for students and families to start thinking about your child's future. At Ohio Means Jobs families can find careers that match your child's skills and interests.

http://education.ohio.gov/getattachment/Topics/Career-Tech/Career-Connections/Resources-for-Families-and-Communities/Career-Connections-Brochure_Student_061115.pdf.aspx

Family Reading Experience: National Parent-Teacher Association's (PTA)

Foster your family's love of reading with PTA's activities and resources, including the Family Reading Challenge which will help you diversify your home library!

<https://www.pta.org/home/programs/family-reading>

<https://www.pta.org/home/programs/family-reading/diversity-in-literature>

Resources for Special Education

Ohio Parent Mentor Program

A Parent Mentor is the parent of a child with a disability employed by local education agencies and Educational Service Centers to help families and school districts by providing support, information and training services. A Parent Mentor guides families through the Special Education process.

<https://parentmentor.osu.edu/>

A Guide to Parent Rights in Special Education

This guide for families in Ohio is available in 14 common Ohio languages. It provides information for families of students who receive special education services about their family's rights and what do to if you think your child is not receiving the services they need.

https://parentmentor.osu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/Evaluation_Process.pdf

TOOLS TO HELP WITH MAKING DECISIONS FOR YOUR CHILD'S EDUCATION

You make important decisions for your child's education every day. Sometimes these are big decisions. The tools in this section will provide you with questions parents and caregivers frequently ask when making big education decisions.

"As parents we want to know what they are learning"

Northeast Ohio parent

What should I consider when selecting a school for my child?

Choosing a School Tool

The *Choosing A School Tool in Ohio* tool will ask you a few questions designed to provide you with information as you begin to make your decision.

<https://ohiofamiliesengage.osu.edu/choosing-school-in-ohio-home/>

Credit: The Ohio Statewide Family Engagement Center

My child receives special education services, and I am concerned about COVID and their learning. What should I consider if my child remains online vs in-person?

Making decisions about your child's education can be difficult. Especially if your child receives special education services. This checklist will provide you with things to consider as you determine if online or in-person learning is best for your child.

https://www.ucucedd.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/UCCEDD_School-Decision-Making-Tool_August-2020-final-fillable2.pdf

My child receives special education services, and I speak and read a language other than English. What can my child's school do to communicate this critical information in ways I can understand?

Start with your child's teacher and request the information in your native language. If you would like more information review the Special Education Factsheet.

Special Education Factsheet

Schools are required to provide information to parents of children with disabilities in a language they can understand. This U.S. Department of Education factsheet answers common questions that English learning parents may have regarding special education.

<http://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Special-Education/A-Guide-to-Parent-Rights-in-Special-Education>

What if my child says they are being bullied at school?

The Pacer Center

From time to time your child and their peers may have disagreements. But there are times when school-based disagreements cross the line into bullying. The Pacer Center provides resources parents can use to address bullying concerns with educators.

<https://www.pacer.org/bullying/parents/helping-your-child.asp>

Bullying Resource Center

The American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry provides answers to frequently asked questions about bullying for families and educators.

[http://www.aacap.org/aacap/Families and Youth/Resource Centers/Bullying Resource Center/Home.aspx](http://www.aacap.org/aacap/Families_and_Youth/Resource_Centers/Bullying_Resource_Center/Home.aspx)

Listen to National PTA's podcast episode, "How to Handle Bullying" for advice from expert, Dr. Deborah Temkin. <https://www.pta.org/the-center-for-family-engagement/podcast/notes-from-the-backpack/how-to-handle-bullying>

What if I receive a letter from my child's school telling me my child is behind in reading?

If you get a letter, email, or phone call from your child's school letting you know your child is not on track in reading, contact your child's teacher and ask for details about how the school is going to provide extra and different reading instruction for your child that will help your child gain the skills he or she needs. You may also ask for the school to notify you regularly about your child's progress so you know if the extra help is working for your child. You may also ask for the school to tell you specific ways you can help your child with reading at home. And, you may also ask the teacher to tell you about other resources in the community, like after school programs, library programs, and other ways your child can get additional help with their reading.

What if my child is not challenged by their classes at school?

If your child lets you know they are bored at school, contact your child's teacher(s) to let them know. Ask the teacher how they can help your child be more engaged in their learning and ensure that what your child is learning is meeting their learning needs. This is important because if students do not feel like they are learning and are bored in school, they may be more likely to miss school or act out.

You may also request that your child is tested to measure their abilities to do schoolwork at higher levels than others their age and grade level. The best person in the school to contact is the school counselor. They can help you understand how to get your child tested for advanced or gifted education. This link provides families with a Quick Start Guide.

http://education.ohio.gov/getattachment/Topics/Other-Resources/Gifted-Education/Gifted_QuickStartGuide.pdf.aspx

What if my child's school tells me my child is going to be suspended?

Parents should ask to see all of the documentation related to the incident and review the district's policy on suspensions. Additionally, parents should ask about in school suspension such as: is it available, how is it staffed, what is the occupancy capacity?

What if my child's school tells me my child is missing school?

Every school in Ohio sends letters to families if their child has "excessive absences," which means the child was absent without a medical excuse for 38 hours in a month or 65 hours in a school year. School districts must notify a student's family within seven days of the absence that met the limit in writing.

Another time you may be notified about your child's attendance is if they have met the threshold of "habitual truancy". This means being absent without legitimate excuse from the school the child is supposed to attend for thirty or more consecutive hours, forty-two or more hours in one school month, or seventy-two or more hours in one school year. Truancy only counts excused absences and requires administrative follow up from the school.

For more information about Ohio's attendance laws, check out [these frequently asked questions](#) from the Ohio Department of Education.

It is important that your student attends school regularly and whenever possible. Attendance is important in every grade and has a direct impact on student learning. For more information about how to encourage your student to get to school, check out these resources from Attendance Works.

[Building the Habit of Good Attendance in Preschool and Kindergarten](#)

[Building the Habit of Good Attendance in Elementary School](#)

[Keep Your Child On Track in Middle and High School](#)

What can I do if I'm not sure my child is scheduled for the best high school classes to prepare them for after graduation?

Parents and caregivers are the best supporters for their children's education. In middle school, many children begin to take classes at school that put them on a track to take more advanced classes in high school. If you have a middle school child, it is a good idea to check with the school about what classes your child will be taking and discuss if those classes will prepare your child to take the high school classes they want to take. As a parent or caregiver, you know a lot about your child's abilities and interests. Talk with your child at home about their

classes and about their ideas for what they think they may want to study in high school. It is a great idea to include your child in decisions about their classes.

In high school, student's take the lead in scheduling their classes with the support of their school and their family. If your child does not think they are scheduled for classes that fit their needs or that will prepare them for their future goals, talk with your child. Then, encourage them to talk with their school counselor or school principal to change their classes to meet their needs. You may also attend a meeting, email, or talk with the counselor or principal with your child to show your support and to ask your questions.

What can I do if I think my child is depressed or worried?

Children have common worries about school, relationships, etc. However, there are times when a child may show signs of extended bouts of depression and/or high anxiety that should be addressed by a professional. There are a few things that you can do to address your concerns:

Provide emotional support

1. Spend time with your child
2. Encourage open and honest conversations
3. Listen to what your child has to say
4. Acknowledge their inner struggles

Contact a professional

1. Talk to your pediatrician to seek further guidance
2. Inform your child's school (e.g., school counselor or school psychologist)
3. Take your child to see a mental health professional
4. Contact a local mental health service

The Cleveland Clinic

The Cleveland Clinic provides resources related to the causes, signs, and when possible, ways to prevent and address childhood depression and anxiety.

<https://my.clevelandclinic.org/health/diseases/14938-depression-in-children>

Be Present Ohio

Teenagers and children who have a trusted adults they can talk to have lower risk of suicide, depression and anxiety. Be present Ohio offers a call in number and resources on their website for families. Families can find resources at this website,

<https://bepresentohio.org/caregivers/> or Call the Ohio CareLine at 800-720-9616 or text '4HOPE' to 741-741.

I've heard so much from others about COVID-19 and children and COVID-19 and in-person learning. Where can I get the most accurate information?

There are many places to find information. The best place to start is your child's school's principal. You can find the principal's email address and phone number on the school's website. Families can find more information about how children can be safe at school during the COVID-19 pandemic at these resources.

The American Academy of Pediatrics

The American Academy of Pediatrics provides information about the health and safety of children. In addition to regular medical information, they also provide information specific to COVID and in-person learning.

<https://www.healthychildren.org/English/Pages/default.aspx>

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) provides information about COVID-19. Additionally, they have information about major developmental milestones that may be important to you. Like keeping your child on schedule with their well-child visits, developmental screenings and regular vaccines.

Ohio Department of Health COVID-19 Resources for Families

The Ohio Department of Health opened a call center to answer questions from the public regarding COVID-19. The call center will be open 7 days a week from 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. and can be reached at 1-833-4-ASK-ODH (1-833-427-5634).

The Ohio Department of Health has a guide for Ohio schools during COVID-19 that you may find here <https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/static/responsible/schools/K-12-Schools-Guidance.pdf>

What if my child decides to wear a mask if there is not a mask mandate?

While masks are no longer required, it is STRONGLY ENCOURAGED that schools follow CDC guidance, which states that unvaccinated populations should still mask and socially distance. If your child is harassed or bullied at school by anyone about wearing a mask, first contact your school's principal. Schools in Ohio are required to prevent and address bullying or harassment when it occurs and have a plan in place with strategies to address this behavior.

Confronting COVID-19-Related Harassment in Schools A Resource for Families

This document provides families with four steps to take if their child experiences harassment or bullying related to COVID-19.

<https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/ocr-factsheet-aapi-202105.pdf>

TOOLS TO FIND COMMUNITY RESOURCES SO YOUR CHILD IS HEALTHY AND READY TO LEARN

Learning is academics and much more. Physical and social needs can impact your child's ability to learn. These tools will help you find help to meet your child's or your family's needs.

[မြန်မာစကား \(Burmese\)](#) | [简体字 \(Chinese - Simplified\)](#) | [繁體字 \(Chinese – Traditional\)](#) | [Hakha Chin \(Hakha Chin\)](#) | [日本語 \(Japanese\)](#) | [ကညီကိုပ် \(Karen\)](#) | [ខ្មែរ \(Khmer\)](#) | [한국어 \(Korean\)](#) | [ພາສາລາວ \(Lao\)](#) | [Tagalog \(Tagalog\)](#) | [ไทย \(Thai\)](#) | [Tiếng Việt \(Vietnamese\)](#)

Resource Websites

United Way First Call for Help: dial 211

Provides information for social services in the community (food, health, housing, legal aid, etc.)

Find a meal site in Ohio

Children's Hunger Alliance, in collaboration with many community partners, is providing free meals to children at over 190 sites across Ohio. This map shows the locations and serving times of the drop-in sites. The grab-and-go meals are available to kids 18 and younger.

<https://childrenshungeralliance.org/meal-site-map/>

Ohio Energy Assistance Program

Provides heating and cooling assistance and utility discounts, with eligibility based on household income. The HEAP program offers a one-time payment for utility customers during the winter and summer throughout Ohio. Call or download an application from the website. They also provide weatherization services.

Link: <https://cap4kids.org/columbus/378794003/>

Resources for Families During COVID-19 Pandemic

This is an interactive resources of Ohio (and other state) resources to help families find available resources and information.

<https://maec.org/covid-19/state-resources/#OH>

Video

A Conversation with Latinx Families

This video is a discussion with Latinx families hosted by the Center for Education Equity (Equity Assistance Center Region I).. Latinx parents discussed how the global pandemic has affected their students' educational experience and explored key questions related to access and equity.

<https://maec.org/covid-19/a-conversation-with-latinx-families/>

Childcare and After School

YMCA

YMCA offers before and after school childcare for school age children. Some sites are located in schools and others are a local YMCA. Follow the link provided to learn more about these services.

<https://www.ymca.org/what-we-do/youth-development/child-care>

Are you in need of school-aged childcare, and need assistance paying for it? Your child may qualify for enrollment in a 21st Century Community Learning Center (CCLC). CCLCs provide high quality, out-of-school time learning opportunities for certain students. Follow the link to determine if your family qualifies for this free after school enrichment care.

(INSERT LINK-Updated on 8/16)

CMSD Out of School Time Programs

Each school in the Cleveland Metropolitan School District provides extended day program, clubs, and extracurricular activities. Families should contact their child's school for more information.

Tutoring & Homework help

Free one-on-one and/or group tutoring, and homework help offered in partnership with Cleveland State University's America Reads tutoring services and Case Western Reserve University.

<https://cpl.org/kids-teens/tutoring/>

PEOPLE WHO HELP FAMILIES FIND INFORMATION AND RESOURCES THEY NEED

“Support is readily available”

Northeast Ohio parent

School districts

Cleveland Metropolitan School District (CMSD)

[Family and Community Engagement at Cleveland Metropolitan School District](https://www.clevelandmetroschools.org/FACE)
<https://www.clevelandmetroschools.org/FACE>

The Cleveland Transformation Alliance is a public-private partnership dedicated to growing a portfolio of quality district and charter schools. The Alliance works to ensure every child in Cleveland attends a quality school, and every neighborhood has great schools from which families can choose. Find a school by visiting <https://mycleschool.org/find-a-cleveland-school/#/>.

COVID-19 Health Hotline	216.838.WELL(9355)
Rapid Response Hotline for Social & Emotional supports	216.838.2273
IT Computer support	216.838.0440
School Choice & Enrollment including other remote learning options	216.838.3675 or visit ChooseCMSD.org
Early Childhood Education	216.838.0110
Family & Community Engagement	216.838.3223
Multicultural Multilingual support	216.838.0140
Special Education Office	216.838.7733
Project ACT Foster & Homeless support	216.838.0210
All other District-related supports	216.838.0000 216.838.0001 - Spanish

SOCIAL EMOTIONAL WELLNESS – CMSD HumanWare Department

<https://www.clevelandmetroschools.org/Page/12975>

(216) 838-0185

Humanware is an initiative of the Cleveland Metropolitan School District supporting the commitment to providing safe and supportive schools where our scholars can succeed and thrive.

Humanware advocates for evidence-based best social emotional learning (SEL) practices. Humanware Partners serve as thought-partners, planners, professional learning providers, and coaches to CMSD Educators to facilitate the integration of SEL core competencies into schools to engage students, family, educators, and community to create safe, supportive, and successful learning environments.

CMSD Career and College Readiness

Anthony Battaglia, *Director of Career and College Readiness*

Telephone: (216) 838-0154

Email: Anthony.battaglia@clevelandmetroschools.org

College and career readiness means that a high school graduate has the knowledge and skills necessary to qualify for and succeed in postsecondary coursework without the need for remediation -- the graduate has the skills needed to successfully complete postsecondary job training and/or pursue a degree in their chosen career pathway (i.e. community college, university, technical/vocational program, apprenticeship, or significant on-the-job training).

- [Ohio College Tech Prep](#)
- [College Now Greater Cleveland](#)
- [Ohio Means Jobs](#)

Ohio Secondary Career-Tech Value-Added Student Data



98.7% Graduation



85.6% Placement in college, military, jobs overall



62% Employment or advanced training



50%+ College enrollment

Download [Preparing Students for College and Careers](#) from the Ohio Department of Education and CTE.

Say Yes Cleveland

Family Support Specialists in SAY YES schools provide support services. A student's success is the result of many academic, social-emotional, and health-and-wellness factors. To address the diverse range of supports needed by students, from pre-K through 12th grade, to succeed, Say Yes Cleveland is working to better identify and connect individual students to those services.

www.sayyescleveland.org

Telephone: (216) 273-6350

Say Yes Scholarships

ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible for a Say Yes scholarship, students must be continuously enrolled in a CMSD or partnering charter high school, and live continuously within the city of Cleveland, or one of the areas served by CMSD*, from 9th grade through graduation.

*Students who reside in Bratenahl, Linndale, Newburgh Heights, and parts of Brook Park and Garfield Heights assigned to the Cleveland Metropolitan School District are also eligible if they meet enrollment requirements.

SayYesScholarship@collegenowgc.org

Say Yes Cleveland provides scholarships up to the value of tuition to:

- [All public universities, community colleges, and Pell-eligible certificate programs in Ohio](#)
- Over 100 private colleges and universities in Ohio and across the nation in the [Say Yes National Higher Education Compact](#).

To learn more details about the opportunity, read the [Scholarship FAQ](#).

For a detailed walk-through of the scholarship process and requirements, [download our Scholarship Guidebook](#).

Warrensville Heights City Schools

Donshon Wilson, Director of Student Wellness and Parent Engagement

Email: donshon.wilson@whcsd.org

Telephone:

Sherry Farmer,

Email: Sherry.Farmer@whcsd.org

Telephone:

East Cleveland City Schools

Dennis Bunkley, Director of Systematic Integration Alignment

Telephone: (216)268-6689 (Office)

216-353-2273 (Zoom phone)

Maple Heights City Schools

Angelique Shy, Family Engagement Community Coordinator

Telephone: (216) 587-6100 ext. 3704

Email: angelique.shy@mapleschools.com

For questions regarding Special Education services:

Dr. Megan Shelby, Special Pupil Services Director

Telephone: (216) 587-6100 ext. 3600

Secretary Debbie Szalkowski (216) 587-6100 ext. 3601

Other community organizations:

Cleveland Transformation Alliance

<https://mycleschool.org/>

MyCOM

www.mycomcle.org

Contact: Beverly Burks

(216) 789-2045

Email: Beverly@mycomcle.org

Information for Families about Education in the Cuyahoga County Region

The State Support Team for the Cuyahoga County region (supported by the Ohio Department of Education) recognizes that family and community are the crux of a child's well-being and school success. They offer direct support as well as resources and information for families. Call or email a consultant for information about your education questions. All services are offered at no cost.

Terri McIntee, M.A.

State Support Team Specialist

216-446-3810

Terri.McIntee@escneo.org

Patti Porto, M.A.

State Support Team Consultant

216-446-3823

Patti.Porto@escneo.org

Yvonne Daycak

State Support Team Administrative Assistant

216-446-3803

Yvonne.Daycak@escneo.org



Ohio Statewide
**Family
Engagement
Center**