

Milestone Scenarios Ages 16-21

Jim will be graduating from school soon. He says he wants a job like his big brother, but I don't know where to begin with finding him a job! Is there anyone who can help?

The Bureau of Services for the Visually Impaired (BSVI) can assist Jim. BSVI is part of the Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission (RSC), and they help people with disabilities find and maintain employment. The Helen Keller National Center for Deaf-Blind Youths and Adults can also help Jim learn skills that can help him obtain employment, as well as independent living skills.

Bureau of Services for the Visually Impaired – www.rsc.state.oh.us
Helen Keller National Center – www.hknc.org
HKNC Regional Representative Laura Thomas – HKNC5LJT@aol.com

I feel like Carrie's IEP doesn't address our major concerns. How can we make changes?

The Ohio Department of Education (ODE) has a publication entitled Whose IDEA is this? which explains the IEP process and the proper steps that need to be taken. The Ohio Coalition for the Education of Children with Disabilities (OCECD) is a great resource for parents when it comes to IEPs. The Coalition publishes several booklets explaining parents' rights and the IEP process.

The Ohio Department of Education – www.ode.state.oh.us
The Ohio Coalition for the Education of Children with Disabilities – www.ocecd.org/publications.php

It sure would be nice to talk to someone who understands Ohio's Special Education system. Where should I turn for help?

The Ohio Coalition for the Education of Children with Disabilities (OCECD) understands special education and the struggles parents can sometimes encounter. They have a number of resources that can help parents, including a Parent Mentor program. Information about the Coalition can be obtained on their website.

Ohio Coalition for the Education of Children with Disabilities – www.ocecd.org

Sometimes I feel like no one listens to me at Alex's IEP meetings. Is there someone who can help me with the IEP process who isn't affiliated with Alex's school?

The Ohio Department of Education (ODE) offers IEP Facilitation. This is where a skilled special education mediator who has specialized training in IEP development attends the IEP meeting to assist team members with the IEP. More information about IEP Facilitation can be found on the ODE website.

Ohio Department of Education – www.ode.state.oh.us – look under “Learning Supports”, click on “Students with Disabilities”, then click on “Mediation, Complaints & Due Process” to find information on IEP Facilitation.

Is it true that there is another registration in the state for children with vision loss?

Yes. The Center for Instructional Supports and Accessible Materials (CISAM) conducts the Federal Quota Registration of Blind Students in Ohio at the direction of the Ohio Department of Education. Using the number of children reported, funds are disseminated and administered by CISAM for specialized instructional materials (e.g. textbooks and equipment) through the American Printing House for the Blind. More information can be found on the CISAM website.

The Center for Instructional Supports and Accessible Materials – www.ossb.oh.gov/CISAM/CISAM.php

Where can I go for information and resources related to my rights as a parent?

The Ohio Coalition for the Education of Children with Disabilities (OCECD) and the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) both have information about parent's rights on their websites, and each has a publication regarding parent's rights. Both publications can be obtained through their websites.

Ohio Department of Education – www.ode.state.oh.us
Ohio Coalition for the Education of Children with Disabilities – www.ocecd.org/publications.php

Is there a resource that can give me information on a variety of topics related to deafblindness that I could reference at any time?

The National Consortium on Deaf-Blindness (NCDB) has a lot of helpful information on their website including DB-Link, the largest collection of articles and research information related to deafblindness worldwide. You can also access OCDBE's library through their website to borrow books, videos, DVDs, and manuals.

National Consortium on Deaf-Blindness – www.nationaldb.org
Ohio Center for Deafblind Education – www.ohiodeafblind.org

How can I find out about other services in the area that can help my child?

The Ohio Center for Autism and Low Incidence (OCALI) houses a database on their website of agencies in Ohio and neighboring states who offer services to individuals of all ages who have disabilities.

Ohio Center for Autism and Low Incidence – www.ocali.org

We were told to look into assistive technology to help Mario function better as he gets older. Is there a place that can help us learn more about assistive technology?

The Family Center on Technology and Disability (FCTD) has information on their website about assistive technology that can be helpful to both caregivers and teachers. FCTD has several publications that are available and can be obtained from their website. The Deafblind Technical Assistance Program (DBTAP) through OCDBE can assist parents and teachers with technical assistance by making suggestions and, when applicable, demonstrating how to use certain items. You can request a DBTAP visit by contacting Leanne Parnell or visiting the OCDBE website.

Family Center on Technology and Disability – www.fctd.info
Ohio Center for Deafblind Education – www.ohiodeafblind.org
Leanne Parnell – lparnell@ohiodeafblind.org or 800-229-0844 x106