

Improving Educational Experiences and outcomes for Students with Disabilities Steering Committee Meeting Report

The Ohio Department of Education developed a steering committee, Improving Educational Outcomes for Students with Disabilities, which met on January 30, 2019. The steering committee is composed of the Ohio Department of Education Staff, (Superintendent, Paolo Maria, Executive Director of the Center for Student Supports, Stephanie Siddens, Early Learning and School Readiness Director, Wendy Grove, and Exceptional Children Director, Kim Monachine) and a cross section of many Ohio educational organizations, advocacy groups, universities, school districts, State Board of Education Board members and Ohio House of Representative, Catherine Ingram. The steering committee is facilitated by Mary Watson, a Consultant for Special Education Leadership at the National Center for Systematic Improvement.

This steering committee will be engaged in a data driven stakeholder process to develop recommendations for a plan to improve educational experiences and outcomes for students with disability. This plan will be aligned with the new Ohio Strategic Plan For Education: 2019-2024, "*Each Child Our Future*".

During our first meeting time was devoted looking into state data related to students with disabilities, which included safe and supportive environments, discipline, restraint and seclusion, performance and preparation. The committee provided feedback on questions for *Family Town Hall* meetings that will be held in five regions across Ohio during April and May of this year. (Northwest, Northeast, Central, Southwest, and Southeast). The purpose of the *Family Town Hall* meetings is to hear directly from adults who have navigated the special education system. The structure of the meetings will include a script of five to six focused questions to hear from families about what is going well and what can be improved across the education system. Parent meetings will be held in five regions of the state

The committee also provided feedback on a survey that will be sent to staff and administrators who work with students with disabilities in February of this school year. The survey will be used by the Ohio Department of Education to identify the challenges, exemplars, and needed improvements needed in the area of evaluation, identification of service providers, providing services in the least restrictive environment, professional development and instructional practices best practices.

Our next meeting will be held in March.

Thanks,
Donna J McCance
Director of Student Services
Lancaster City Schools