



Parent News

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Learn more about our Wood County Prevention Coalition

The Wood County Prevention Coalition's (WCPC) primary focus is to reduce and prevent youth from substance use. Since 2014, 30-day alcohol and marijuana has been reduced amongst Wood County 12th graders by 26% and 16%, respectively, and has helped make significant reductions in most other substances through the use of environmental strategies. The WCPC is comprised of virtually every sector of the community and parents are encouraged to participate.

The next WCPC meeting will be November 2nd from 8:30 to 10:00 AM at the Wood County Educational Service Center and the featured presenter will be Tessa Miracle who will provide a toolkit that will help caregivers navigate through questions for their child when they are in situation that may dictate pain management. For more information or to RSVP for a meeting, please contact Milan Karna at mkarna@wcesc.org or 419-354-9010.

The Parent Mentor Program

What exactly is a Parent Mentor?

A Parent Mentor is a parent of a child with a disability, and provides a support network to school districts and parents of children with disabilities. The Parent Mentor can provide information and resources to families and school districts free of charge. Services provided by the Parent Mentor include guiding families through the special education process, listening to and providing support for families and educators on an individual basis, attending Individual Education Program (IEP) meetings or other school meetings, organizing workshops or trainings, and building collaborative partnerships between families, schools, and committees to benefit students with disabilities. As a Parent Mentor for Wood County, we are just a phone call away if you need help with your child's special education services, if you need information, or if you have questions.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Vanlerberg and Jenny Myers

Training Opportunities

Join friends, fellow parents and colleagues for the OCALI conference (OCALICON) coming to Columbus November 14-16. Come and hear about most recent information about Autism, current research, or practical suggestions for your home or classroom. Par-

ents or professionals welcome. You can attend for one day, or enjoy all three. (conference.ocali.org)

Learn more about how you can save money for your child's future by attending a STABLE account training on October 10 from 5:30 to 6:30 PM at the Wood County Educational Service Center. Register by phone: 419-354-9010 (Ask for Jenn or Jenny) or by email: jvanlerberg@wcesc.org or jemyers@wcesc.org.

Join fellow teachers or parents for an "Appy Happy Workshop Series". It benefits anyone that works with individuals that benefit from assistive technology. The location is Bittersweet Farms at 12660 Archibold-Whitehouse Road, Whitehouse Ohio, from 10:30 to 12:00. The dates and topics are: November 10: "Apps for Gaining Independence", December 8: "Fine Motor and Visual/Perceptual Skills," January 12: "Speech, Language, and Communication", February 9: "Literacy and Communication." To register visit itaalk.org and click on upcoming workshops and conferences to register. Registration is required to receive CEUs, free app codes, and giveaways.

"I believe that education is all about being excited about something. Seeing passion and enthusiasm helps push an educational message." — Steve Irwin

Stable Accounts *Have questions about STABLE Accounts? Find answers at our upcoming training and at www.stableaccount.com*

Q: What is a STABLE Account?

A: A STABLE Account is an investment account available to eligible individuals with disabilities. STABLE Accounts are made possible by the federal Achieving a Better Life Experience ("ABLE") Act. STABLE Accounts allow individuals with disabilities to save and invest money without losing eligibility for certain public benefits programs, like Medicaid or SSI. Earnings in your STABLE Account are not subject to federal income tax, so long as you spend them on "Qualified Disability Expenses" (see below).

Q: Are STABLE Accounts like my bank checking or savings account?

A: STABLE Accounts have some similar features, but they are not checking or savings accounts. STABLE Accounts are investment accounts. You will be investing your money in different options we provide. While you can still withdraw and spend your money as-needed, STABLE Accounts also allow you to grow your money and to save long-term for disability expenses.

ELIGIBILITY

Q: Who is eligible to open a STABLE Account?

A: The "Eligible Individual" is someone who developed their disability before the age of 26. The individual must have been living with their disability for at least one year, or they must expect their disability to last for at least a year.

Q: Do I have to be a resident of Ohio to open a STABLE Account?

A: No! Residents of all states can open a STABLE Account.

Q: What kinds of disabilities qualify someone for a STABLE Account?

A: Any condition that results in marked and severe functional limitations will qualify an individual to open a STABLE Account. A qualifying condition can be physical, developmental, mental, or other. For examples, see the Social Security Administration's [Blue Book](#) (Parts A and B), as well as the SSA's [List of Compassionate Allowances Conditions](#). These lists are instructive, but not exhaustive. Your condition may qualify you even if it does not appear in these specific lists.

Have you heard about the Ohio Coalition for the Education of Children with Disabilities?

If not, now is the time! If you are a parent, grandparent, or school staff member that has or works with children with disabilities, please take the time to check out this wonderful resource. You can ask their consultants questions about special education, browse their free trainings, and download free resources for further information. Check out these resources found at www.ocecd.org.

Download One-Page Tip Sheets on IEP, ESY, Evaluation, Transition, Communication and More Attachments Available To Download:

- ▶ [Extended School Year Disability Rights Ohio](#)
- ▶ [Extended School Year](#)
- ▶ [Informed Parental Consent](#)
- ▶ [How Will I Know If My Child is Making Progress](#)
- ▶ [Ohio Discipline Action Flow Chart](#)
- ▶ [Transportation - Ohio Department of Education 7 2013.pdf](#)
- ▶ [Transportation Handout 5 2015.pdf](#)
- ▶ [Transportation Operation and Safety Rules 2013.pdf](#)
- ▶ [ODE transition resources UPDATE.docx](#)
- ▶ [Functional Behavioral Assessment and Positive Interventions-What Parents Need to Know](#)
- ▶ [Mediation Handout 12-2014](#)
- ▶ [Facilitation Handout 12-2014](#)
- ▶ [Communication Tips for My Child's Right to FAPE Training 9-20-16](#)
- ▶ [Evaluation and Reevaluation Tips for My Child's Right to FAPE Training 9-20-16](#)
- ▶ [How To Find Parent Assistance In Your Area for My Child's Right to FAPE Training 9-20-16](#)
- ▶ [IEP Goal Tips for My Child's Right to FAPE Training 9-20-16](#)
- ▶ [IEP Progress Report Tips for My Child's Right to FAPE Training 9-20-16](#)
- ▶ [IEP Signature Tips for My Child's Right to FAPE Training 9-20-16](#)
- ▶ [Independent Educational Evaluation Tips for My Child's Right to FAPE Training 9-20-16](#)
- ▶ [Postsecondary Transition Tips for My Child's Right to FAPE Training 9-20-16](#)
- ▶ [Private Evaluation Tips for My Child's Right to FAPE Training 9-20-16](#)
- ▶ [Related Services Tips for My Child's Right to FAPE Training 9-20-16](#)
- ▶ [School Work Sample Tips for My Child's Right to FAPE Training 9-20-16](#)



“Do not train children to learning by force and harshness, but direct them to it by what amuses their minds, so that you may be better able to discover with accuracy the peculiar bent of the genius of each.” — Plato

“Never take away another person’s dignity because it’s worth nothing to you and it’s worth everything to him.” — Mark Twain

What is Special Olympics?

Special Olympics provides year-round sports training and athletic competition in a variety of Olympic-type sports for children and adults with intellectual disabilities. Athletes are given opportunities to improve their physical fitness, show their talents, demonstrate courage and see themselves for their abilities through training and competition. Just like high school sports, athletes regularly train and teams have practices at least two times per week. Games or events are scheduled throughout each sport season with other programs.

Game and event officials are certified in their sport. Athletes can advance to area, sectional, and state competition. Certified officials are utilized.

What are the benefits of Special Olympics?

- Participation in sports goes beyond the experiences of training and competing. It gives individuals the chance to increase fitness and well-being, self-esteem and self-confidence, and expand their circle of friends in the community.
- Athletes gain confidence when they learn a new skill or travel and interact with athletes and volunteers. These experiences improve their social relationships, social skills, and help them see the abilities and talents they possess.
- Athletes learn that they are a key part of their community as good neighbors, valuable employees, and involved citizens.

About our athletes

More than 450 individuals are active in the program throughout Wood County. Athletes are eligible at age 8. There is no age limit beyond that and individuals can compete for life.

Competition is based upon age, gender, and ability. They develop confidence and are empowered by their accomplishments. They are able to experience joy through participation and sharing of gifts, skills, and gainful friendships with other athletes, volunteers and the community.



How can I get involved?

Special Olympics is a program of Wood Lane – The Wood County Board of Developmental Disabilities

Contact a member of the Special Olympics staff at:

419-352-5115

contact@woodlane.us

www.woodlane.us

“Let me win. But if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt.”
— Special Olympics Oath
