

## Parent Mentor Project

Many districts in our region participate in the Parent Mentor Project which enables their parents to receive the services of a parent mentor. A parent mentor is a parent of a child with a disability employed within our region to help parents and school districts to obtain information, training and support. The mission of the Parent Mentor Project is to provide necessary support and resources to families of children with disabilities and the professionals who serve them. Parent mentors can attend meetings at the request of the parent or school district or can connect via phone or email in order to answer questions or just to listen. If your district does not participate in the Parent Mentor Project, contact your local Educational Service Center to find out more.

## Surrogate Parent Training

Ohio law requires that when children are in foster care they be assigned a surrogate parent. Surrogate parents are community members who have been trained by SST and appointed by the district superintendent to act as a parent in all matters related to education for that particular child. The Region 2 SST offers annual surrogate parent trainings. Please contact us or your local district if you are interested in being trained to serve as a surrogate parent. Remember that it takes a village to raise a child.



## Contact Information

The following districts participate in the Parent Mentor Program and are served by:

**Canda Papa** - 440- 324-3178 ext. 1257

papa@esclc.org

Amherst	Avon Lake
Columbia	Elyria
Lorain	Midview
North Ridgeville	Oberlin

**Sarah Baldwin** - 440- 324-3178 ext. 1258

baldwin@esclc.org

Bellevue	Firelands
Keystone	Monroeville
New London	Norwalk
Sheffield/Sheffield Lake	South Central
Wellington	Western Reserve
Willard	

**Vicki Deel-Lezon** - 419-684-5385 ext. 27

vlezon@npesc.org

Berlin-Milan	Huron
Margaretta	Perkins
Sandusky	Vermilion

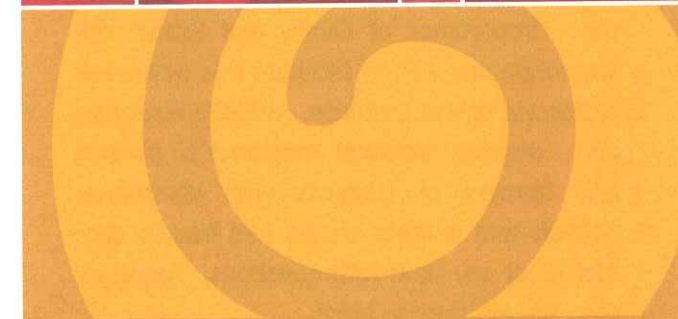
*There are no copyright restrictions on this document/product/software. However, please cite and credit the source when copying all or part of this document/product/software. This document/product/software was supported in whole or in part by the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs. The opinions expressed herein do not necessarily reflect the policy or position of the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs and no official endorsement by the Department should be inferred.*



Educational Service Center of Lorain County  
Region 2 State Support Team

1885 Lake Avenue • Elyria, OH 44035  
www.loraincountyesc.org

# Parent Services



[www.loraincountyesc.org](http://www.loraincountyesc.org)



### Region 2 State Support Team

The Region 2 State Support Team delivers services formerly provided by the Northern Ohio Special Education Regional Resource Center (SERRC) and the Regional School Improvement Team (RSIT). We provide technical assistance and high quality professional development to school districts, educational service centers, community schools and families throughout Erie, Lorain and Huron Counties. Our services include School Improvement, Special Education, and Learning and Early Learning and School Readiness. We provide high quality professional development on research based practices proven to improve achievement for all students including students with disabilities. Professional development opportunities include in person trainings and distance learning opportunities. We recognize the importance of Family and School collaboration and aim to facilitate this within our region via parent trainings, website resources and ongoing technical assistance to parents and families of students with disabilities. Schools and parents should feel free to contact us at any time with questions, requests, etc. We are here to help!



### Special Education

The Region 2 State Support Team provides special education support to school districts and parents in our region in a variety of ways. We offer technical assistance and professional development aimed to improve outcomes for all students. We focus on helping districts and parents understand and comply with federal and state mandates regarding educating students with disabilities and those students suspected of having disabilities. We help to keep parents informed of their rights related to initial evaluations and reevaluations, least restrictive environment, alternate assessment, preschool special education, assistive technology, post secondary transition, and autism and low incidence services. We work in conjunction with the Ohio Center for Autism and Low Incidence (OCALI). If you have any questions related to Special Education, please contact Christie Palumbo at 440-324-5777 ext. 1136 or palumbo@esclc.org.



### Parent & Community

Research shows that parent and community involvement can improve educational outcomes for all students. Parents and community members can become more involved in public education by participating in our surrogate parent training and acting as surrogate for a student in need. Parents are invited to utilize the resources of our Parent Mentor Project. The Region 2 State Support Team recognizes that parents and families are a child's first and most important teachers. Thus, we work in conjunction with the Educational Service Center of Lorain County, The Ohio Department of Education and the Ohio Coalition for the Education of Children with Disabilities to offer the services of Parent Mentors within our region. We offer parent and community trainings and support networks throughout the academic year in order to enable parents to become active participants in their child's education. Information is also available to parents via the Lorain County Educational Service Center website. Choose the "Parents" tab.

[www.loraincountyesc.org](http://www.loraincountyesc.org)



### Parent Networks

The Region 2 SST provides two opportunities for parents to connect and learn with each other as a community. **The Parent Engagement Network** is available to parents of children with any type of disability while the **Autism Parent Engagement Network** is offered to parents of students with Autism Spectrum Disorders. These support networks meet through out the school year from 6pm-8pm. Meetings are held at the ESC of Lorain County located at 1885 Lake Avenue in Elyria, Ohio. Visit our website for specific dates.

For more information concerning these networks, contact:

Jennifer Heim,  
Region 2 State Support Team  
heim@esclc.org  
(440) 324-5777 ext. 1148