

The puzzle pattern reflects the mystery and complexity of the autism spectrum. The different colors and shapes of the puzzle pieces represent the diversity of the people and families living with the condition.

Dealing with autism can be a complex process for many people, including those involved with your child's education. If you are having problems with your child's school or school district, there are solutions and services available to you as a parent or guardian.

The mission of the Autism Society of Ohio (ASO) is to improve the lives of all affected by autism in Ohio. The ASO includes persons with autism, families, and professionals working together to improve services and support at the state level.

Allow the Autism Society of Ohio to connect your child to a great education.



IDEA Part-B Funds Disclosure Statement

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## SST Regional Offices



### SST Region 1

2275 Collingwood Blvd.  
Suite C  
Toledo, Ohio 43620  
419.720.8999

### SST Region 2

1885 Lake Ave.  
Elyria, OH 44035  
440.324.5777

### SST Region 3

5811 Canal Rd.  
Valley View, OH 44125-3000  
216.524.3000

### SST Region 4

382 Blackbrook Rd.  
Painesville, Ohio 44077  
440.350.2563

### SST Region 5

5555 Youngstown-Warren Rd.  
Unit 696  
Niles, Ohio 44446  
1.800.776.8298

### SST Region 6

1045 Dearbaugh Ave.  
Suite 1  
Wapakoneta, Ohio 45895  
419.738.9224

### SST Region 7

1495 West Longview Ave.  
Suite 200  
Mansfield, OH 44906  
419.747.4808

### SST Region 8

420 Washington Ave.  
Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44221

330.929.6634

### SST Region 9

2100 38th St. NW  
Door 6  
Canton, Ohio 44709  
330.492.8136

### SST Region 10

4801 Springfield St.  
Dayton, Ohio 45431  
937.236.9965

### SST Region 11

2080 Citygate Dr.  
Columbus, OH 43219  
614.753.4690

### SST Region 12

205 N. 7th St.  
Zanesville, OH 43701  
740.455.6700

### SST Region 13

11083 Hamilton Ave.  
Cincinnati, OH 45231  
513.674.4274

### SST Region 14

5350 West New Market Rd.  
Hillsboro, OH 45133  
937.393.1904

### SST Region 15

100 East 3rd St.  
P.O. Box 578  
Piketon, OH 45661  
800.282.4597

### SST Region 16

507 Richland Ave.,  
Suite 108  
Athens, Ohio 45701.  
740.594.4235



 **AUTISM SOCIETY**  
*Improving the Lives of All Affected by Autism*  
Ohio

# Resolving Problems with School

What to do if you are having problems with your child's school or school district

# Nine steps to resolving problems with your child's school or school district



## Get a copy of the Ohio Parent's Guide to Autism Spectrum Disorders

This guide was developed by Ohio parents of children with ASD who have a broad range of experience with interventions, resources and services. It contains information on curriculum, education practices and advocacy and is a great place to start when advocating for appropriate services. It can be downloaded from the Autism Society website at [www.autismohio.org](http://www.autismohio.org) under Resources, Parent Resources. You can also contact the Autism Society at [askASO@autismohio.org](mailto:askASO@autismohio.org) and a copy can be mailed.



## Start with the Teachers

Teachers can help in a variety of ways. Teachers may benefit from more information on the specific needs of a student or the impact of the student's disability on learning and participating. Start by having a meeting with your child's teacher to discuss concerns. Problems may be the result of miscommunication. Share information with school personnel and make sure concerns or requests are specific, detailed and understandable to everyone. Discuss and determine if there is more than one way to solve a problem.



## Work within the System

If problems cannot be resolved with teachers, discuss concerns with the principal. If there is no resolution, move up the hierarchy to the special education director to get problems resolved. Try to give district officials the opportunity to work out the problem at the level closest to the student. Remember that you and the district staff are partners in the educating your child. All parties should work together to address the needs of the child.



## Look for an Advocate

If additional help is needed navigating the school system, it may be beneficial to get assistance from a trained parent advocate. Parent mentors are parents of children with special needs who work within the school district to provide families with information and support. For parent mentors, call the Ohio Coalition for the Education of Children with Disabilities at 1.800.374.2806 or visit [www.ocecd.org](http://www.ocecd.org). For additional advocate options, contact the Autism Society of Ohio.



## Know your Rights

Parents and guardians should obtain a copy of "Whose IDEA is This?" from their district special education personnel at the beginning of the Individual Education Plan (IEP) process. If you don't have one, ask for one. This is a guide to the rights under federal law of students with disabilities. Read and be familiar with this important document. A copy can also be downloaded at [www.edresourcesohio.org](http://www.edresourcesohio.org).



## Discuss Concerns with the Regional State Support Team

If problems cannot be resolved with the district, parents and guardians can contact their regional State School Support Team (SST) to discuss their concerns. SSTs are a resource center and each SST has a special education and/or a parent support consultant. The Ohio Department of Education directs SSTs to assist in resolving disagreements or problems.

State Support  
Team



## Request a Facilitated Individualized Education Plan (IEP)

The IEP facilitation process can be used to resolve disputes involving special education plans and related services to children with disabilities. IEP facilitation is voluntarily inviting an external facilitator into the IEP team meeting to assist in the development of the IEP. The facilitator is a skilled special education mediator who has received specialized training in IEP development and is provided by the Ohio Department of Education at no cost. To request a facilitator, contact your district special education director, regional SST or the ODE at 614.466.2650 or 877.644.6338.



## Consider Mediation or Due Process

Mediation is a voluntary process for resolving disputes between two parties where a facilitator assists them to come to a mutual solution. An impartial due process hearing is a formal, administrative procedure where a third party resolves the conflict. Either can be used as part of the IEP process. Detailed information on both is available at [www.edresourcesohio.org](http://www.edresourcesohio.org) and in the "Whose IDEA is This?" document.



## File a Complaint with the Ohio Department of Education

If you have a complaint with your school district, you can also file a formal complaint with the Ohio Department of Education. ODE cannot work with schools if problems are not reported. Complete information on how to file a complaint with ODE is provided at [www.edresourcesohio.org](http://www.edresourcesohio.org).