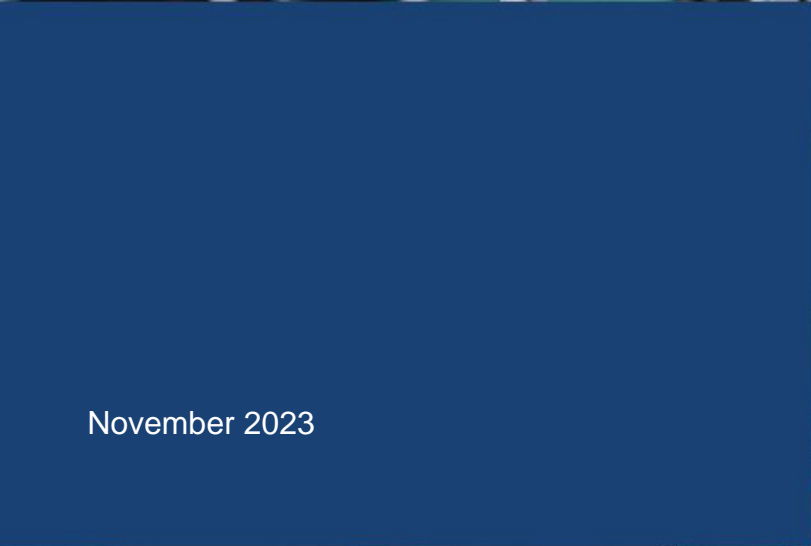


Exceptional Children Contact Information



November 2023



**Department of
Education &
Workforce**

Ohio Department of Education and Workforce

Jessica Voltolini, *Interim Director, Ohio Department of Education and Workforce*
Jessica.Voltolini@education.ohio.gov

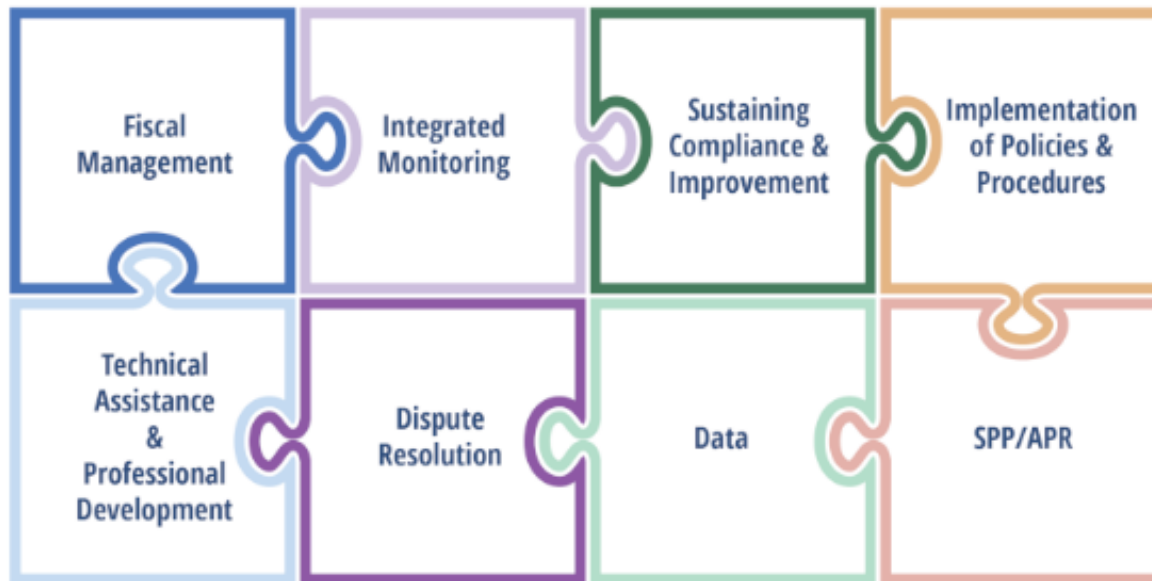
Jessica Horowitz-Moore, *Senior Executive Director, Center for Student Supports*
Jessica.Horowitz-Moore@education.ohio.gov

Aly Deangelo, *Senior Executive Director, Center for Performance and Impact*
Alyson.Deangelo@education.ohio.gov

Julia Simmerer, *Senior Executive Director, Center for Teaching Leading and Learning*
Julia.Simmerer@education.ohio.gov

IDEA General Supervision and Oversight

The Department of Education and Workforce will provide oversight and coordination of all requirements under the Individual with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). The Department ensures that all eight components of general supervision are connected and work together to support schools, educators, families, students, and communities. This includes ensuring compliance with IDEA, promoting equitable and improved student outcomes, and ensuring all eight aspects of general supervision function together coherently. We also ensure this compliance is guided by a clear vision and supported by aligned and integrated accountability and support activities, are well documented and transparent and that we continue to meaningfully engage stakeholders.



Contact information for Department team members who can assist with IDEA General Supervision components is available on the following pages.

Center for Student Supports

Office for Exceptional Children

Jo Hannah Ward, Director

JoHannah.Ward@education.ohio.gov

Joe Petrarca, Associate Director

Joseph.Petrarca@education.ohio.gov

Overview

The Office for Exceptional Children is part of the Center for Student Supports at the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce. The Office provides leadership, assistance and oversight to school districts and other entities that provide differentiated instruction for students with disabilities. Among its responsibilities, the office coordinates and administers programs to improve outcomes for students with disabilities; implements a statewide monitoring and complaint-resolution system designed to assess district/educational agency compliance with applicable federal and state laws and regulations; and provides technical assistance to districts and educational agencies around issues of compliance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEA) and the Operating Standards for Identifying and Serving Students Who are Identified under IDEA and those identified as twice exceptional. Additionally, the Office for Exceptional Children's Team is made up of sections that support the Urban Support Team lead the work of the 11 District Plan, working collaboratively with regional state support teams and (where applicable) to guide and support the districts on implementation of action items. The team is led by an assistant director and educational program specialists assigned to each of the 11 Districts.

Resources and Materials

[Each Child Means Each Child](#)

[Special Education web page with links and resources](#)

[Families of Students with Disabilities web page](#)

[Dispute Resolution](#)

Office for Exceptional Children Staff Information

General mailbox: Exceptionalchildren@education.ohio.gov

IDEA Monitoring: OEC.Monitoring@education.ohio.gov

Diverse Learners: diverse.learners@education.ohio.gov

OEC Leadership Team

Nikki Poindexter, Administrative Professional Director's Office

Nikki.Poindexter@education.ohio.gov

Beth Arledge, Program Administrator

Director's Office

Elizabeth.Arledge@education.ohio.gov

Molly Cairney, Grants Administrator

Associate Director's Office

Molly.Cairney@education.ohio.gov

Diane Loomis, Administrative Professional Associate

Director's Office

Diane.loomis@education.ohio.gov

Joe Petrarca, Interim Assistant Director

Urban Support Team

Joseph.Petrarca@education.ohio.gov

Parise Callahan, Program Administrator

Associate Director's Office

Parise.Callahan@education.ohio.gov

Sarah Brooks, Assistant Director

Supports and Monitoring Team

Sarah.Brooks@Education.ohio.gov

Sarah Buoni, Assistant Director

Diverse Learners

Sarah.Buoni@education.ohio.gov

Heidi Kleinman, Assistant Director

Dispute Resolution

Heidi.Kleinman@education.ohio.gov

Center for Performance and Impact

Office of Assessment

Lisa Chandler, Director

Lisa.Chandler@education.ohio.gov

Phone: 614-387-2218

Marie-Elena (Lana) Hall, Associate Director

Office of Assessment General Contact

Marie-Elena.Hall@education.ohio.gov

Phone: 614-387-2285

Main Phone: 614-466-1317

statetests@education.ohio.gov

Wendy McLaughlin-Stoica, Assistant Director

Office of Assessment Alternate Assessment contact

Wendy.Stoica@education.ohio.gov

Phone: 614-644-7307

Overview

The Office of Assessment provides support to districts and educators to ensure they have valid, reliable and actionable information about students' learning through the state's assessment system. Find more information here:

<https://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Learning-in-Ohio/OLS-Graphic-Sections/Assessments>

The Office of Assessment has a specialized staff member specifically for Ohio's' Alternate Assessment

Ma'Taya Hammond, Education Program Specialist

Office for Exceptional Children

MaTaya.Hammond@education.ohio.gov

Phone: 614-644-7304

Resources and Materials

[Alternate Assessments](#)

- [Administration Manuals](#)
- [Test Specifications](#)
- [Released Items](#)
- [Assessment Authoring](#)

Office of Accountability

Rachel Wakefield, Interim Director

Rachel.Wakefield@education.ohio.gov

614-387-2201

Karen Auble, Assistant Director, IDEA Data

Karen.Auble@education.ohio.gov

Online Resources:

Ohio School Report Cards - <https://reportcard.education.ohio.gov/>

Ohio Special Education Profiles - <https://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Special-Education/Special-Education-Data-and-Funding/Ohio-s-Special-Education-Profiles>

Regional Data Leads are education professionals who promote the use of student performance data among other educators regionally, both to strengthen professional practice and improve learning for all students. Regional Data Leads have extensive training and experience with value-added academic growth data, as well as a broad range of data and reports resulting from Ohio's accountability systems and educator effectiveness programs. For more information about ways to partner with Regional Data Leads, and who is in your area, please visit: <http://education.ohio.gov/Topics/District-and-School-Continuous-Improvement/Regional-Data-Leads>

Special Education Data Supports:

The IDEA Data Team fulfills federal reporting requirements such as the Special Education Annual Performance Report (APR), Special Education Profile, and Special Education Rating. The team also monitors Local Education Agencies compliance with IDEA through investigation of records, review and acceptance of self-review summary reports and improvement plans, review of individual corrections, and review of evidence of systemic improvement. Upon request, and pending staff availability, they fulfill data requests and provide resources for specialized program requests.

Questions about Special Education data should be directed to OEC.Profile@education.ohio.gov.

The Office of Accountability has a specialized staff specifically for IDEA Data

Shauna Schramke, *Education Program Specialist*

Shauna.Schramke@education.ohio.gov

Debra Shirley, *Education Program Specialist*

Debra.Shirley@education.ohio.gov

Ashley Rector, *Education Program Specialist*

Ashley.Rector@education.ohio.gov

Office of Fiscal-Administration

Brian Jones, *Chief Financial Officer*

brian.jones@education.ohio.gov

(614) 995-9936

IDEA Resource Management

Sarah James, *Assistant Director*

IDEA Fiscal

Sarah.James@education.ohio.gov

The Resource Management team supports districts by providing assistance for state and federal funding including [IDEA Part B funds](#). IDEA@education.ohio.gov.

[Maintenance of Effort](#) webpage provides Individuals with Disabilities Education Act & Maintenance of Effort.

[For support and further information, please contact \[IDEA@education.ohio.gov\]\(mailto:IDEA@education.ohio.gov\)](#)

The Office of Fiscal Administration has a specialized staff specifically for IDEA Funding

Earl Focht, *Education Program Specialist*

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Paul Sogan, *Education Program Specialist*

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Mark Lynskey, *Education Program Specialist*

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Jeff Tesnow, *Education Program Specialist*

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Ray Draghi, *Education Program Specialist*

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Matthew Loesch, *Education Program Specialist*

Matthew.Loesch@education.ohio.gov

Randy Kempton, *Education Program Specialist*

Randall.Kempton@education.ohio.gov

Center for Teaching Leading and Learning

Office of Learning and Instructional Strategies

Sherry Birchem, Director

Sherry.birchem@education.ohio.gov

614-387-2258

Kerry Martinez, Associate Director

Kerry.martinez@education.ohio.gov

614-387-0430

**Ohio Materials Matter,
Math, Computer Science, Technology**

Wendy Jones, Associate Director

Wendy.jones@education.ohio.gov

614-387-0430

Social Studies, Financial Literacy, Fine Arts, World Languages, Physical Education/Health

Teresa Castellaneta, Assistant Director

Teresa.castellaneta@education.ohio.gov

614-466-8704

Ohio Materials Matter, Science

Maria Lohr, Assistant Director Gifted Education

maria.lohr@education.ohio.gov

Gifted

Sarah Wilson, Tutoring and Policy Administrator

Sarah.wilson@education.ohio.gov

Accelerating Learning Through High-Quality Tutoring Programs, Libraries Accelerated Learning Grant, State-Funded High-Dosage Tutoring Programs

Overview

The Office of Learning and Instructional Strategies focuses on supporting Ohio educators with high-quality instruction. This includes the development and revision of Ohio's learning standards and model curricula, as well as supporting districts with accelerating learning through high-dosage tutoring and high-quality instructional materials. For more information, please visit the [Learning in Ohio](#) webpage.

Among its responsibilities is [Gifted Education](#). Supports access to identification and services for students who are gifted and twice exceptional by providing technical assistance to districts, families and other stakeholders regarding state laws and regulations. Provides professional learning opportunities that promote effective practices for identifying and serving students who are gifted and twice exceptional. The gifted team facilitates Ohio's Gifted Advisory Council and conducts audits of public school district gifted identification and service numbers once every three years or based upon complaint or suspicion of non-compliance. The gifted team supports districts identified as gifted watch and reviews districts gifted education expenditures. They analyze data relative to gifted identification, services, and staffing and prepare related reports.

The Office for Learning and Instructional Strategies has a specialized staff specifically for Gifted Education

Michael Demczyk, Education Program Specialist

Michael.Demczyk@education.ohio.gov

Jeffrey Shoemaker, Education Program Specialist

Jeffrey.Shoemaker@education.ohio.gov

Megan Vermillion, Education Program Specialist

Megan.Vermillion@education.ohio.gov

State Education Governance Transition

Changes are underway to Ohio's education governance structure stemming from [recent legislation](#). The state's commitment to supporting school communities continues through the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce and the State Board of Education of Ohio. Experienced team members from both agencies will continue to provide the resources and supports essential to supporting Ohio's education community.

Ohio Department of Education and Workforce

The Ohio Department of Education and Workforce will expand its focus on student success by prioritizing workforce readiness while accelerating learning opportunities. This is a new cabinet agency with [Jessica Voltolini](#) currently serving as interim director. Ohio Governor Mike DeWine will appoint a permanent director along with two deputy directors who will oversee the divisions of Primary and Secondary Education and Workforce Readiness.

The Department of Education and Workforce's responsibilities include setting minimum operating standards for schools, developing academic standards and model curricula, administering state assessments, publishing the state report cards, administering state scholarship programs, overseeing community schools, enforcing special education laws, and distributing state funding to districts and schools.

Visit the Department of Education and Workforce website at education.ohio.gov.

State Board of Education of Ohio

The State Board of Education of Ohio continues as an independent state board. In accordance with the Ohio Constitution, the State Board will continue to appoint the superintendent of public instruction. The work of the State Board will focus on establishing the requirements and qualifications for educator licensure and monitoring professional conduct. The State Board also oversees teacher and school counselor evaluations, the Ohio Teacher of the Year recognition and the Educator Standards Board. [Dr. Chris Woolard](#) currently is serving as the interim superintendent of public instruction for the State Board of Education of Ohio.

State Board of Education team members have new email addresses with the configuration "[FirstName.LastName@SBOE.Ohio.Gov](#)." Emails sent to their old email addresses automatically will forward to the new address.

Visit the new State Board of Education's website at SBOE.Ohio.gov.