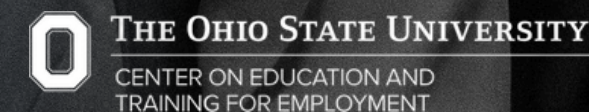




# OCALECON 2025

## CLOSED PARENT MENTOR SESSION

Wednesday, November 19, 2025





# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Smartsheet Data Reminder

- Do not enter your OSU required events
- Enter all other training including your OCALI sessions

## Podcast Completion & Attendance

- Link in description box to mark your completion
- Completion should occur within month of release

## Attendance at Required Events

- OSU required events always take priority over other meetings and activities
- Please be as proactive as possible about notifying us about attendance conflicts







**Department of  
Education &  
Workforce**

# Parent Mentor Project 25-26 Activities & Impact

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Strengthening Family Partnerships to  
Support Students with Disabilities



**Department of  
Education &  
Workforce**

# Presenters

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**Lyndsay Havey**

Education Program Specialist

**Brittany Williams**

Education Program Specialist

# Session Purpose & Agenda

## Purpose

- Connect around shared goals
- Highlight key strategies from your scopes of work to support families
- Gather insights to inform future support

## Agenda

- Overview of priorities (with guest speakers!)
- Interactive discussion throughout
- Impact and Measurement

# Vision

*Ohio students are prepared for success in the real world.*



# Mission

The Ohio Department of Education and Workforce supports Ohio's students, families, and educators to ensure every student gains the knowledge and life skills needed for the future.



# Education priorities



**Literacy:** Building a foundation for lifelong success by ensuring every student is reading at or above grade level.



**Accelerating Learning:** Advancing academic achievement for all students through statewide implementation of high-quality instruction, assessments, and supports.



**Student Wellness:** Fostering safe and supportive environments where students feel engaged and equipped to reach their full potential.



**Workforce Readiness:** Preparing students for success in life and careers through real-world knowledge, skills, and experiences.



**Organizational Effectiveness:** Delivering high-quality services and resources to strengthen Ohio's education community.



# Literacy

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Building a foundation for lifelong success by ensuring every student is reading at or above grade level.



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# Literacy – Key Strategies to support Families

- Support families in understanding the Science of Reading
- Share reading intervention tools and home routines
- Facilitate communication between families and schools
- Host literacy events and workshops



# Guest Speakers: Canton City Schools



# Canton City School District

For this school year, our parent mentor is working to:

## **Increase her knowledge about Literacy**

- Familiarize herself with reading development.
- Increase her awareness of literacy related vocabulary. This includes:
  - Intervention Programs
  - Assessments
  - Reading Improvement and Monitoring Plans
  - Specially Designed Instruction for Reading
- Increase her awareness of Multi Tiered Systems of Support within CCSD
  - Reading groups based on diagnostics



# Canton City School District

For this school year, our parent mentor is working to:

## **Share her knowledge with Parents**

- Literacy & Family Reading Nights, TGRG
  - Literacy Nights provide families with resources and activities they can use at home to support their child's reading development.
- Parent Mentor has revised her pamphlet and also has a ReadOhio handout to give to parents.
- Having conversations with parents about how kids learn to read
- Reviewing reading goals at IEP meetings

# Literacy – Discussion Prompts

- What's working well in literacy engagement?
- What tools or resources are most helpful?
- What barriers are you seeing?
- What support would help you go further?



# Accelerating learning

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Advancing academic achievement for all students through statewide implementation of high-quality instruction, assessments, and supports.

# Accelerating Learning – Key Strategies to support Families

- Help families navigate ETR and IEP processes
- Connect families to tutoring and intervention programs
- Clarify classroom instruction and IEP services
- Support understanding of academic progress monitoring



# Guest Speakers: Western Buckeye Educational Service Center



# How a Parent Mentor Helps Accelerate Learning

- **Build Partnerships**
- **Support Families During ETR & IEP**
- **Share Resources & Information**
- **Strengthen Community Connections**

## **The Goal:**

Empower families + strengthen collaboration = **accelerated student learning and growth**



# Accelerating Learning – Discussion Prompts

- What's working well in accelerating learning?
- What tools or resources are most helpful?
- What barriers are you seeing?
- What support would help you go further?

# Student wellness

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Fostering safe and supportive environments where students feel engaged and equipped to reach their full potential.



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# Student Wellness – Key Strategies to support Families

- Support families with PBIS, FBAs, and BIPs
- Emphasize the importance of attendance
- Discuss SEL and how it can be supported at home
- Connect families to mental health resources

# Student Wellness – Discussion Prompts

- What's working well in your work with student wellness?
- What tools or resources are most helpful?
- What barriers are you seeing?
- What support would help you go further?

# Workforce readiness

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Preparing students for success in life and careers through real-world knowledge, skills, and experiences.



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# Workforce Readiness – Key Strategies to support Families

- Assist with job shadowing, internships, and vocational training
- Support transition planning for post-secondary goals
- Provide resources for resume writing and interview prep
- Connect families with community workforce programs

# Guest Speakers: Oak Hills Local School District



# Workforce Readiness - Key Activities for a Parent Mentor

## Oak Hills Local School District

- **Actively participating in IEP meetings** to bridge communication between families, and educators, while providing clear explanations and examples of age-appropriate transition assessments to support transition planning.
- **Sharing information about local and state agencies** that assist with postsecondary employment, vocational training, and independent living, while remaining accessible to answer questions and clarify complex information.
- **Encouraging and supporting students** to take an active role in IEP meetings and transition planning, empowering them to voice their preferences, interests, needs, and strengths, and preparing them to become strong self-advocates.
- **Cultivating partnerships with local organizations, employers, and service providers** to broaden opportunities for students with disabilities and strengthen the continuum of supports available to families beyond high school.

These efforts will ensure that students with disabilities are **well-prepared** for postsecondary education, training, employment, and independent living, while fostering strong school-family-community partnerships.



# Workforce Readiness – Discussion Prompts

- What's working well in your work in workforce readiness?
- What tools or resources are most helpful?
- What barriers are you seeing?
- What support would help you go further?

# Anticipated Impact

## Student-Level

- Improved engagement, attendance, and behavior
- Increased understanding of rights and services

## Family-Level

- Stronger collaboration with school staff
- Greater awareness of community resources

# Measuring Impact

- Your submitted data on smartsheet
- Site visits
- Community of Practice & Connect meetings
- Family surveys – **COMING SOON**



# Why This Work Matters

- When families are supported, students thrive
- Strong family-school partnerships improve equity, access, and outcomes
- This work builds a foundation for long-term student success

# Closing & Next Steps

- Thank you!
- Compilation of discussion takeaways
- Stay connected at CoP and Connect meetings
- Contact us at [ParentMentors@education.ohio.gov](mailto:ParentMentors@education.ohio.gov)

*Thank you!*

A copy of today's slides will be made  
available on the Parent Mentor website

Please do not hesitate to reach out for support.  
*We're here to help!*

-  cete-parentmentor@osu.edu
-  parentmentors@education.ohio.gov
-  parentmentor.osu.edu