

February 28, 2011

Notice of Public Parent Meeting

ODE Onsite Review of

Ohio Connections Academy's Special Education Program

The Ohio Connections Academy has been selected by the Ohio Department of Education, Office for Exceptional Children (OEC), for an onsite review of its special education program. OEC will hold a public meeting to give parents, guardians and other members of the public the opportunity to address OEC regarding the Ohio Connections Academy's special education program on March 22, 2011.

Information about the Public Parent Meeting

Public meeting information:

Date: March 22, 2011

Time: 5:30 – 7 p.m.

Location: Marriott Northeast, 9664 Mason-Montgomery Rd., Warren Room, Mason, Ohio 45040

Alternative meeting information (in case of cancellation due to bad weather or other emergency):

Date: March 23, 2011

Time: 5:30 – 7 p.m.

Location: Marriott Northeast, 9664 Mason-Montgomery Rd., Warren Room, Mason, Ohio 45040

Public Parent Meeting

Individuals may participate in the public meeting by providing spoken and/or written comments. There are three ways for you to share your comments with OEC:

- 1) Provide public comment:
 - a) At the public meeting in person: Upon arriving, sign-in and if needed complete the form 'Request to Address the Office for Exceptional Children' available at the sign-in table and return it to an OEC representative; or
 - b) By teleconference at the following call-in number: 1-800-747-5150, access code: 8646815#. The caller will then state their name and press the # sign. As soon as the chair signs in, all callers are permitted to enter the conference.

- 2) Provide written comments: Written comments forms are available at the public meeting or by:
 - Mail to Dolores Fantroy, Office for Exceptional Children, Ohio Department of Education, 25 S. Front St., MS 202, Columbus, OH 43215-4183;
 - Fax to Dolores Fantroy at (614) 752-1429; or
 - E-mail to Dolores Fantroy at Dolores.Fantroy@ode.state.oh.us.

The Office for Exceptional Children must receive your written comments by 5 p.m. on April 22, 2011.

- 3) Through individual meetings: Parents may request an individual meeting with OEC consultants while they are in the district. Approximately 20 minutes will be scheduled for each meeting, depending on the number of individuals making requests. Please contact: John Magee at 614-728-1115 or John.Magee@ode.state.oh.us to arrange for an individual meeting.

Special Accommodations: All meeting sites are accessible to individuals with disabilities. Please notify OEC if you need accommodations for a disability to participate in the public and/or individual meeting (e.g., interpreting services, assistive listening devices, materials in alternate format). Requests for special accommodations are required one week before the meeting. OEC will make every attempt to comply with a late request, but cannot guarantee that every requested accommodation will be available.

Meeting Attendance: Although not required, please confirm your attendance to help OEC make arrangements that give everyone an opportunity to participate. Please contact John Magee at 614-728-1115 or John.Magee@ode.state.oh.us. If you are not able to register in advance, you may still attend the meeting.

Copies of *Whose IDEA Is This? A Parent's Guide to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004 (IDEA)* will be available at the meeting.

Please Note: The Public Parent Meetings are *not* intended to resolve complaints about services for an individual child. Comments made at the public meeting, individual meetings or submission of written comments to OEC do not constitute a formal complaint. Information about IDEA procedural safeguards and the formal complaint process will be provided at the meeting. Any issues addressed, either in writing or during the public meeting, will be considered but may not be included in OEC's summary report to the district. However, they will be considered during the monitoring process.