



Foreword to the September 2008 Revision

Dear Educators,

As most who have been associated with community schools in any capacity will attest to, the “work” of community schools is extremely complex. Assuring that the requirements of the “Individuals with Disabilities Education Act” (IDEA) are met within the framework of Ohio’s community school statutes presents additional elements of complexity.

Ohio was very fortunate in 2007 to be one of twelve states to participate in a project sponsored by the National Association for State Directors of Special Education (NASDSE), designed to customize the requirements of IDEA to conform to the framework of Ohio’s community schools’ system. Originally, the collaborative efforts of NASDSE, the Ohio Department of Education’s Office of Community Schools and Office for Exceptional Children, and an Ohio “team”, consisting of a cross-section of professionals involved in community schools, culminated in the initial “Special Education Primers”. The original Primers have been updated with information from the recently adopted Operating Standards for Ohio Educational Agencies Serving Children with Disabilities.

Please find included herein five revised Special Education Primers, which contain reference materials relative to implementing IDEA and Operating Standards for Ohio Educational Agencies Serving Children with Disabilities in Ohio’s community schools. In addition to a complete glossary and background documents, there are three primers customized for specific audiences. Designed as “online” documents so that they can be updated as legislation and resultant standards change, this printed document is being provided for reference during our introductory presentation.

Providing FAPE to children with disabilities in Ohio’s public schools is very challenging, but it is an essential aspect of any school’s operation. Our hope is that these primers will not only facilitate this process, but will ultimately result in high quality services for children with disabilities in Ohio’s Community schools.

Sincerely,

Joni Cunningham
Associate Director, Office of Community Schools