

Ohio Related Services Virtual Meet-Up
September 1, 2022
3:30- 4:30 PM EST
Low Incidence Disabilities and Inclusion

The Office for Exceptional Children (OEC) at the Ohio Department of Education is proudly hosting the virtual meet-up for special education related services professionals on September 1, 2022. The OEC supports all educational professionals in the inclusion of students with low incidence disabilities. We are honored to have an expert in this area, Shawna Benson, as our special guest in this facilitated discussion.

Pre-reading three short articles Shawna has provided will enhance your experience of this discussion. The articles are linked on the [Ohio Related Services Webpage](#) and are attached to the email with this announcement.

Some questions in this facilitated discussion include:

- Do students with significant cognitive disabilities have too many challenges and needs for support to benefit from inclusion in general education classes?
- Will the inclusion of students with significant cognitive disabilities negatively impact students without disabilities?
- Is it possible to provide specially designed instruction and other services for students with significant disabilities in general education classrooms?
- Is intelligence quotient (IQ) testing needed to determine intellectual ability?
- Do most students with significant cognitive disabilities need an alternative curriculum?

Send questions about inclusion for students with low incidence disabilities you would like addressed in this facilitated discussion, to Bernadette Laughlin at Bernadette.Laughlin@education.ohio.gov by August 30, 2022.

All are welcome to attend! Registration is not required. Your questions and comments will be welcomed during this Meet-Up.

Each **Child**
Means
Each **Child**

**Ohio's Plan to Improve Learning
Experiences and Outcomes for
Students with Disabilities**





Shawna Benson

Professional Bio

Shawna Benson has been employed at OCALI since August 2008, where she is currently the Program Director for the Teaching Diverse Learners Center. She was the recipient of the Kathe Shelby Leadership Award in 2014. Benson has two degrees from Ashland University, a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education grades 1-8 and a Masters in the Education of the Handicapped (K-12). From 2004-2014 she worked as an Associate Professor at Urbana University. Benson's teaching experience includes courses such as Educational Technologies, Curriculum, Materials and Strategies for the Intervention Specialist, Diagnostic Reading and Remediation, Role of the Intervention Specialist, and Classroom Management. She has also worked as the Director of assessment and the Director of Disability Services at the same institution.

Previously, she was employed through Knox County ESC/SST 7 as the Assistive Technology, Autism, and Low Incidence Consultant for the region. Prior to consulting, she taught students with and without disabilities in ages ranging from infancy thru age 21. She has experience co-teaching in inclusive settings and providing intervention to students with a range of exceptionalities ages, needs, and interventions, which has provided her with a wealth of information that she now applies to her current work.

Join the Teams Virtual Meet-Up on September 1, 2022, at 3:30 P.M. at this link: [SEPTEMBER MEET-UP](#)

The Ohio Department of Education is committed to providing access and inclusion and reasonable accommodation in its services, activities, programs and employment opportunities in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and other applicable laws. To request a reasonable accommodation due to a disability, please contact Aleshia McNutt, ADA coordinator, at ADAaccommodation@education.ohio.gov or (614) 387-2200 (voice) no later than August 29, 2022

Each **Child**
Means
Each **Child**

**Ohio's Plan to Improve Learning
Experiences and Outcomes for
Students with Disabilities**

