



## March 2026 ORSPN UPDATES

Hello ORSPN Community of Practice!

I hope all of you are well and finding the strength for the end of the school year which is coming faster than we can imagine.

Below are resources and information that may be of interest to you.

### 2025 ORSPN Q&As—SCHOOL AGE STUDENTS

This the last group of questions submitted during the ORSPN regional meetings. Federal and state resources, as well as email dialogues with state level contacts, were used to develop responses that are as accurate, clear, and comprehensive as possible. You can find this Q&A paper here: <https://www.orspn.net/faq/>. Scroll down to **2025 ORSPN Q&A Part 3** to see this resource regarding school age questions.

If you have more questions or need additional information about school age students, contact: [Exceptionalchildren@education.ohio.gov](mailto:Exceptionalchildren@education.ohio.gov)

### MORE ORSPN RESOURCES AND INFORMATION

You will find some helpful discussion papers under the **ORSPN Resource** tab <https://www.orspn.net/orspn-resources/> on a variety of topics. Below are some recent discussion papers:

- PT Section Guidance on Tiered Interventions October 28, 2025
- Overview of MTSS and Related Service Personnel Dec 2, 2025
- OT Evaluation requirements for Tiered Intervention February 2026.
- 2023 IEP Minutes Service Requirements

To see recent ORSPN Q&As as well as those from previous years, go to the **ORSPN FAQ** tab: <https://www.orspn.net/faq/>. These FAQs may help with common practice questions.

## **MEDICAID SCHOOL PROGRAM (MSP)**

### **Join ODM on April 7 at noon for our MSP Webinar on Quality Assurance and Monitoring Supports**

During this webinar, ODM will share insights into the quality assurance and monitoring supports available to local education agencies participating in Ohio's Medicaid School Program. It is a great opportunity to learn how ODM helps ensure strong, compliant, and effective program operations across Ohio's schools.

**Register** to join the webinar on April 7, 2026:

[MSP Webinar Registration: Monitoring and Quality Assurance.](#)

If you have questions, reach out to [MedicaidSchoolPrograms@Medicaid.Ohio.Gov](mailto:MedicaidSchoolPrograms@Medicaid.Ohio.Gov)

For more information about changes to the MSP program here are links for tools and resources on the ODM website:

- [Medicaid School Program webpage](#)
- [MSP Coordinator Guide](#)
- [School Services Plan of Care Form](#)
- [School Services Plan of Care Guidance](#)
- [MSP Services and Rates](#)

### **A NEW ORSPN RESOURCE PAPER REGARDING MSP EXPANSION**

RSPs have more questions about MSP and the new SSPC! See the practice paper regarding how the OT Plan of Treatment/Intervention and the PT Plan of Care relate to the SSPC. Here is the link to the **ORSPN Resources** tab: <https://www.orspn.net/orspn-resources/> See the new discussion paper titled **NEW MSP SSPC AND EXISTING PROFESSIONAL PLANS, March 17, 2026.**

## **SCHOOL AGE STUDENT INFORMATION**

### **REMINDER: OFFICE FOR EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN (OEC) Office Hours**

The Office for Exceptional Children holds monthly Office Hours on the last Wednesday of every month at 3 p.m. The content is be geared to anyone in special education. For more information about accessing Office Hours use this link:

<https://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Special-Education/Office-of-Exceptional-Children-Contact-Information>

For questions regarding school age students, contact:

[Exceptionalchildren@education.ohio.gov](mailto:Exceptionalchildren@education.ohio.gov)

## IDEA SUPPORTS AND MONITORING INFORMATIONAL SESSION (SAMIS)

The Office for Exceptional Children's Supports and Monitoring Team will hold monthly Informational Sessions on the first Thursday of every month at 1pm. These sessions focus on processes and procedures pertaining to school age students

<https://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Special-Education/IDEA-Monitoring-Process>

For Monitoring questions contact: [OEC.Monitoring@education.ohio.gov](mailto:OEC.Monitoring@education.ohio.gov)

## PRESCHOOL INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

### TUESDAY TIMES FROM THE DEPARTMENT FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

#### Session Two Coming Up! Virtual Early Childhood Transition Summit Series



Join OCALI for session two of its virtual series focused on strengthening early childhood transitions.

Session Two: Service Provision Essentials

- Friday, April 17, 2026
- 9 – 10:30 a.m. ET (90 minutes)
- Presenter: Angie Chapple, M.Ed., OCALI, Early Childhood Transition Specialist

This session explores key considerations for service provision during transitions and how teams can support continuity for children and families as they move from Part C to Part B.

Earn Professional Development Credits:

- Ohio Approved (ST#10160968)
- DODD: 1.5 CPDUs
- Certificate of Attendance available

Open to EI Service Coordinators, LEAs, SSTs, Head Start Personnel, and more.

[Register now at this link.](#)

#### Virtual Flip It! Training Focused on Strategy

Upcoming Flip It! trainings will be an opportunity for early learning educators, early childhood professionals, and IECMH consultants to learn four strategy steps for challenging behavior from the IECMH Master Training Team.

For more information and to register [view the flyer.](#)

## Understanding Screening Tools in Early Learning

Screening tools are commonly used in early learning and intervention to provide a quick snapshot of a child's development. These tools help educators:

- Support instructional planning
- Assess developmental progress and school readiness
- Adapt teaching strategies to individual needs
- Monitor growth over time
- Identify children who may need further evaluation

By serving these purposes, screeners help ensure children receive timely support, building a strong foundation for future academic and social success.

### Can Screeners Be Used for Special Education Evaluations?

**The short answer: No.**

*Under IDEA, "screening of a student by a teacher or specialist to determine appropriate instructional strategies for curriculum implementation shall not be considered an evaluation for eligibility for special education and related services."*

Screeners may indicate a possible concern that leads to a suspected disability. A comprehensive evaluation must be conducted if there is a suspected disability. Screeners are not sufficient for determining special education eligibility.

Ohio's Operating Standards align with IDEA:

- Schools must conduct full evaluations; screenings cannot replace them.
- Comprehensive Evaluations for Preschool children with a suspected disability must include assessments in all suspected areas of disability (cognitive, motor, language, social-emotional, adaptive, etc.) and use of technically sound, norm-referenced, or criterion-referenced tools, not screening instruments.

### Resources:

- [The evaluation road map](#)
- [Rule 3301-51-06](#)
- [IDEA Section 303.302 Screening for instructional purposes is not an evaluation](#)

**REMINDER: PRESCHOOL OFFICE HOURS:** Monthly meetings are held on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday, from 3 to 4:00. Upcoming office hours are scheduled for March 25, April 22, and May 27. Here is a link to the calendar: <https://childrenandyouth.ohio.gov/partners/calendar> Click on the date for more information join the meeting.

**PRESCHOOL QUESTIONS?** Contact the DCY Preschool Education Team at: [preschoolspecialeducation@childrenandyouth.ohio.gov](mailto:preschoolspecialeducation@childrenandyouth.ohio.gov)

## LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES FROM OCALI

**OCALI NOW MARCH 2026 (excerpts)**

### **Spotlight on Sensory and Interoception**

Have you come across the concept of interoception? This often-overlooked system plays a crucial role in how youth understand and respond to the world around them.

This month's toolkit spotlight, [Sensory: A Focus on Interoception Navigation Essentials](https://navigationessentials.org/Sensory-A-Focus-on-Interoception), provides an in-depth exploration of sensory processing and interoception. Through a collection of informative videos, engaging activities, and practical strategies, this toolkit equips you with the knowledge and practical tools needed to help a youth build interoceptive awareness. Explore the toolkit today and strengthen your capacity to support youth on their path toward greater self-awareness and well-being: <https://navigationessentials.org/Sensory-A-Focus-on-Interoception>

### **Navigating Accessible Educational Materials (AEM) Module**

Ensure students with disabilities can access curriculum materials by understanding which accessible educational materials (AEM) are appropriate to use and by providing accessible formats. The new ATIM module shares foundational information about AEM and guidance for providing accessible formats as required by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). Authored by Cynthia Curry. Learn more at: <https://atinternetmodules.org/m/2883>

### **Digital Accessibility**

Is your digital content accessible to everyone? Accessibility ensures that all users, including those using captions, alt text, or assistive technologies, can access and understand digital content. By applying the POUR principles, you can create materials that work for more people, more of the time. Get quick tips and watch the short video at:

<https://ataem.org/digital-accessibility>

### **Cued Language and Multisensory Reading**

Do you support students who are deaf or hard of hearing with literacy? The new module series, Cued Language and Multisensory Reading, equips practitioners and administrators with tips for implementing cued speech as a multisensory tool to connect language and literacy, which results in strong deaf/HH readers. Explore more at:

<https://deafandblindoutreach.org/m/3227>

## LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES FROM OCDBE

The Ohio Center for DeafBlind Education (OCDBE) invites related service personnel to learn more about an innovative approach for children with complex needs.

### Active Learning Workshop

Presented by Kirstyn Martino, CTRS, Active Learning Specialist

May 4th and 5th 2026, 8:30 am to 3:30 pm (EST)

The Conference Center at OCLC, Dublin, OH 43017

**Workshop Description:** Active Learning, an innovative approach developed by Dr. Lilli Nielsen, focuses on establishing motivating learning environments for children with complex needs. Join Ms. Kirstyn Martino, CTRS, as she provides you with this fresh and pioneering approach. Learn how to increase functional independence and developmental skills while reducing stereotypical, self-injurious or aggressive behaviors. This exciting conference will feature lecture, video, and demonstrations. Active Learning equipment and materials will be on display throughout this conference.

**Register** here for this no-cost event:

[https://uceducation.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_eFDtnWvM0PLK4Xs](https://uceducation.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_eFDtnWvM0PLK4Xs)

Questions or additional information needed?

Contact Jodi Dowell at [dowelljr@ucmail.uc.edu](mailto:dowelljr@ucmail.uc.edu)

### FROM ME TO YOU

Lastly, a message to all of you doing the hard work every day!

I want to let everyone know that I will be stepping back from the ORSPN Community of Practice. This has been a difficult decision, however, after 50 years of professional commitment to students and therapists alike, I now need to focus on some upcoming surgeries/rehab and developing the next chapter of my life. In person meetings will not be scheduled this year, however, virtual meetings will be arranged on hot topics through the next couple of months.

I have enjoyed supporting the work of Related Service Personnel through this Community of Practice, starting in 2019. My efforts have focused on helping RSPs stay on top of practice issues, build strong collaborative school teams, and connect with others in their region, across all disciplines. I hope in some way I have fortified your knowledge-base, made a difference, and contributed to the ever-evolving role of RSPs within the school setting.

As part of this process, the ORSPN website will shut down effective May 28<sup>th</sup>, 2026. Please take the time, at your earliest convenience, to go to the ORSPN website ([www.orspn.net](http://www.orspn.net)) to download/print and any documents or resources you may want to have for future use.

The ORSPN Mailchimp account for email distribution of relevant notices and any practice updates will be maintained for a few months. I will continue to monitor and assist with questions sent to me directly via email, [bmgeorge173@gmail.com](mailto:bmgeorge173@gmail.com). Recently, OEC announced that they will be rolling out a timeline and training opportunities regarding the new ETR and IEP forms once the schedule is internally approved. I will work to support that effort and send out information as I receive it.

Continue to do the hard, but very important work. Sometimes it is difficult to know the long-term effects of our everyday efforts, but I can assure you, *you* matter and *you* make a difference in the lives of everyone you touch. Continue to meaningfully support each other to make real differences for the children and youth we serve. Continue to learn, grow, and re-invent yourself.

Thank you all for your support and encouragement over the years and for the opportunity to serve you. Take time to enjoy the spring that is all around us.

All the best,

Brenda