

# NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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## **NCOESC AND FAMILY LEARNING CENTER OFFERS WORKSHOP FOR PARENTS OF CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS; FOCUSES ON UNDERSTANDING THE IEP PROCESS.**

Tiffin, Ohio—(September 2, 2014) The North Central Ohio Educational Service Center (NCOESC) in concert with the Ohio Coalition for the Education of Children with Disabilities and Family Learning Center will offer a series of workshops for parents of children with special needs starting with one on September 25, 2014, according to Jim Lahoski, PhD, Superintendent/CEO of NCOESC.

The workshop will be held twice on Thursday, September 25 from 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. or 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the North Central Ohio Education Service Center, 928 W. Market Street, Suite A, Tiffin, Ohio 44883. Call Stephanie Brown at 419.447.2927 or email [pd@ncoesc.org](mailto:pd@ncoesc.org) for reservations. Tours of the Family Learning Center will be available after each workshop, according to Dr. Lahoski.

“NCOESC hopes to become a go-to information source for Seneca and all touching counties when it comes to advocating for children with special needs,” said Dr. Lahoski. “We will schedule meaningful workshops and seminars as well as provide valuable information through the Family Learning Center Section of our website, [www.ncoesc.org](http://www.ncoesc.org).”

The first workshop will cover Individualized Education Programs (IEPs), IEP tactics and strategies, IEP law and regulations, and the power of parents. It is entitled “What you need to know about the IEP Process.”

“In today’s education system it is essential that the parent be a strong advocate for their child,” said Dr. Lahoski. “If the parents believe they cannot represent their child well, assistance is available.”

The Family Learning Center website will provide links to frequently asked questions, free books, publications and newsletters that will be helpful to parents.

### About NCOESC

The North Central Ohio ESC is a recognized educational leader committed to meeting the needs of their educational partners through excellent service. The ESC currently serves over 30 school districts in Ohio. For more information, visit [www.ncoesc.org](http://www.ncoesc.org).

### About Ohio Coalition for the Education of Children with Disabilities

Established in 1972, the Ohio Coalition for the Education of Children with Disabilities (OCECD) is a statewide nonprofit organization that serves families of infants, toddlers, children and youth with disabilities in Ohio, and agencies who provide services to them. OCECD works through the coalition efforts of over 40 parent and professional disability organizations. Visit [www.ocecd.org](http://www.ocecd.org).

### About the Family Learning Center

The Family Learning Center at Sentinel is a collaborative project of the Seneca County Department of Development Disabilities, Vanguard-Sentinel Joint Vocational Schools, WSOS Head Start and the North Central Ohio Educational Service Center with the cooperative efforts of the Seneca County General Health District. The Family Learning Center strives to provide comprehensive medical, educational, social and mental health support to both children and their families. It is designed to empower families as we strive to meet our nation's number one educational goal-all children will start school ready to learn. Visit [www.ncoesc.org](http://www.ncoesc.org).

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