



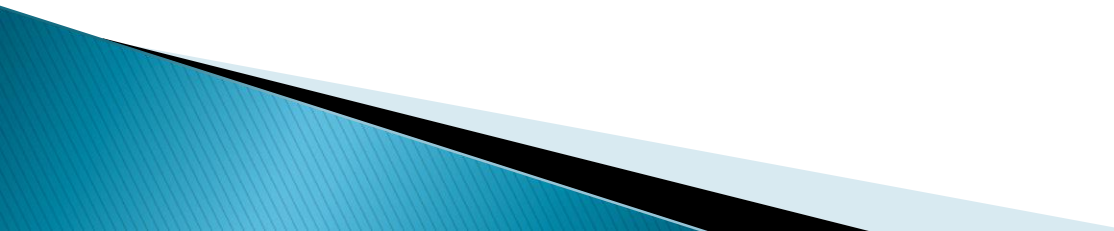
Ohio Partnership for Excellence in Paraprofessional Preparation: A Model for District Improvement

March 9, 2019

ACRES National Conference

Linda Bass-Johnoff, Lindsey Holeman, Judith Monseur

OPEPP Background

- ▶ Funded by Ohio Department of Education
 - ▶ Identified critical competency areas for paraprofessionals & developed associated guidelines
 - ▶ Conducted study of paraprofessional use in Ohio
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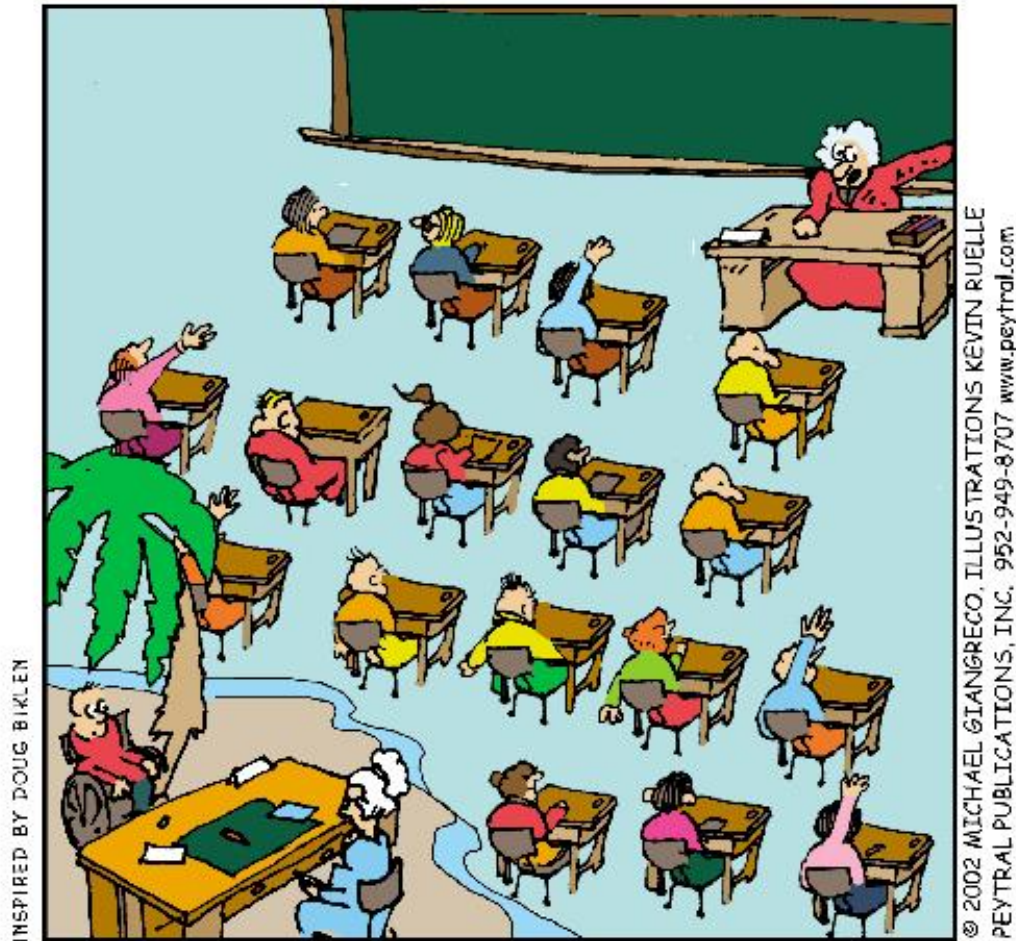
OPEPP Goals

- ▶ Improving **district (and school and teacher) use** of parapro services to improve opportunities to learn/learning for all students
- ▶ Developing meaningful (*i.e., useful, usable, relevant, helpful*) **process for supporting districts**, schools, educator teams, and parapro
- ▶ Providing **information to the state** for actions that could improve parapro potential as part of developing inclusive service delivery models

The OPEPP Model

- ▶ 11 partner districts
- ▶ 6 OPEPP consultants
- ▶ Fall & Spring Academy
 - District audit of effective uses of paras
 - Action plans
 - Quarterly progress reports
 - Ongoing OPEPP consultant support
- ▶ Quarterly consultant meetings
- ▶ Feedback on the OPEPP model
- ▶ Additional resources on website

What Does “Inclusive Education” Mean at Main Street Middle School?



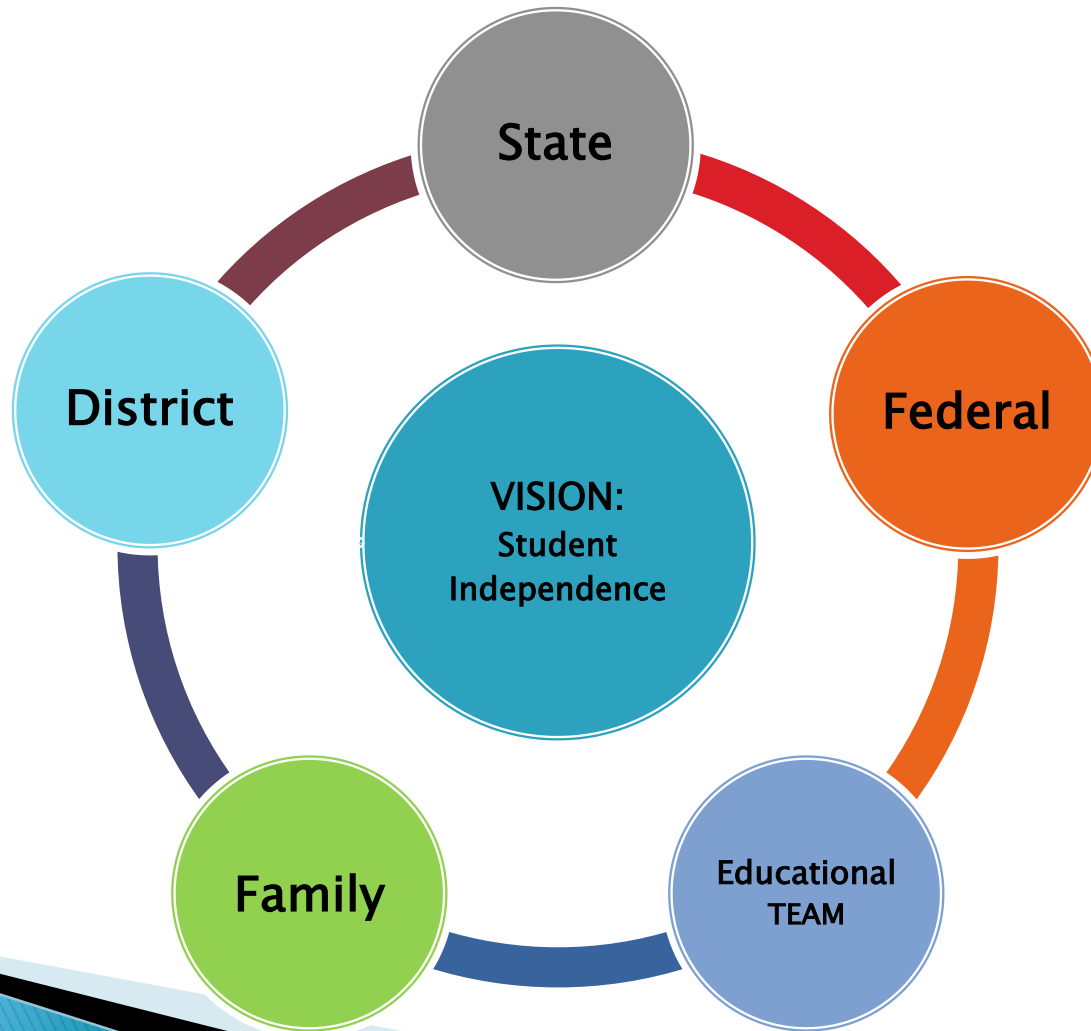
INSPIRED BY DOUG BIKLEN

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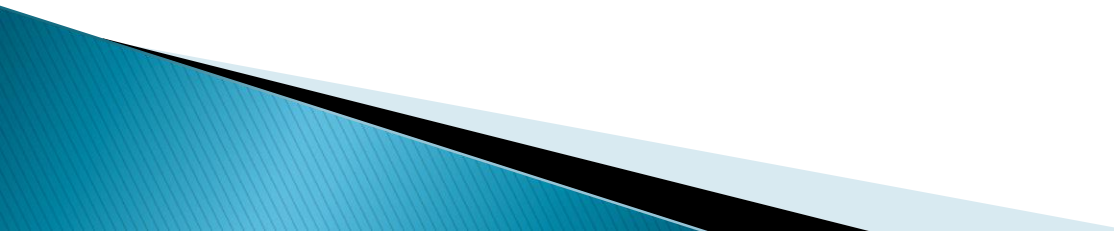
ISLAND IN THE MAINSTREAM
MRS. JONES AND MRS. COOPER ARE
STILL TRYING TO FIGURE OUT WHY FRED
DOESN'T FEEL LIKE PART OF THE CLASS.

Universal Vision

Student Independence

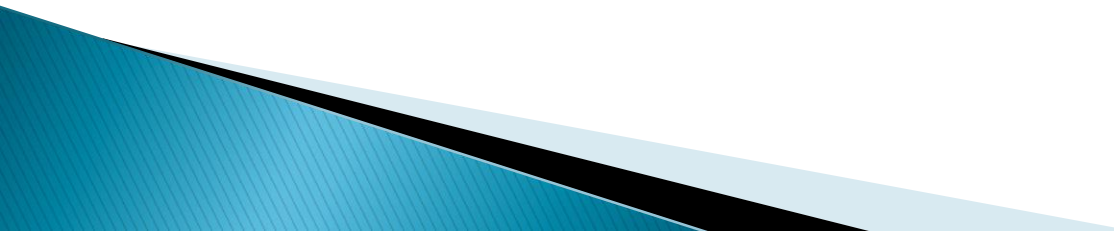


TEAM Bridge Builders

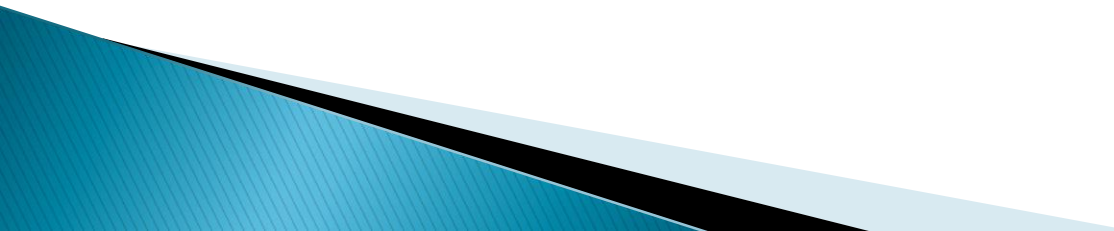
- ▶ Student
 - ▶ Parents
 - ▶ All District Members
 - ▶ Teachers -General Education & Intervention Specialists
 - ▶ Support Staff (OT, PT, Speech, Gifted, Adap.PE)
 - ▶ Paraprofessionals, Assistant, 1:1
 - ▶ Peers
 - ▶ Community
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What is the Mindset ?

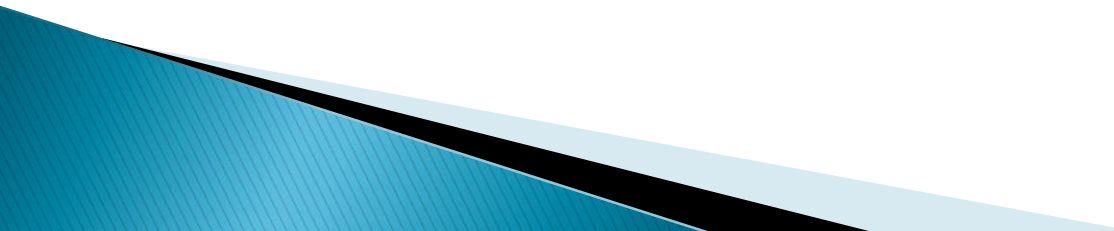
Student Independence & Success

- ▶ What is the TEAM vision for every student?
 - ▶ Are policies and procedures in place for all team members?
 - ▶ Is this TEAM vision discussed at placement?
 - ▶ Who is part of the TEAM?
 - ▶ Do the current practices align with the vision?
 - ▶ If not...What changes are needed?
 - ▶ What are the obstacles?
- 

Are Your Paraprofessionals Supported?

- ▶ Do paraprofessionals have what they need to do their job?
 - ▶ Are they included in the educational team? (family, general education teacher, intervention specialists, OT, PT,SLP)
 - ▶ In what capacity are they included? (lesson planning, understanding grade band standards or extended standards, individual/ group intervention, data collection, collaboration time)
 - ▶ Are they provided with professional development to support the services they provide?
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What Can Schools Do?

- Rethink decision-making about para supports
 - Use existing para supports wisely
 - Identify and pursue alternatives to overreliance on paras
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PERKINS LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Our Perkins Promise is to empower students to pursue their dreams and achieve success.



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OPEPP PARTNERSHIP

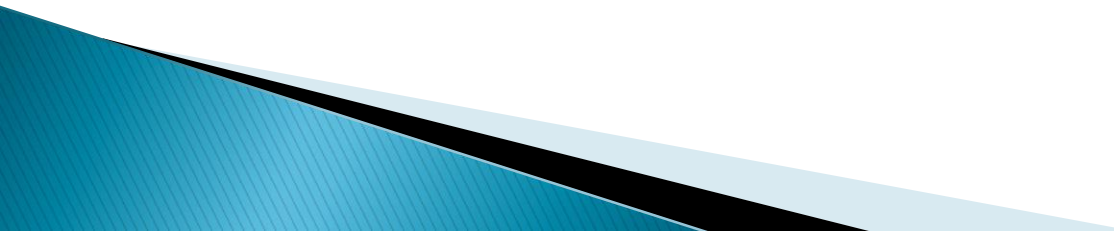
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for District Improvement.

Perkins School District

Demographics

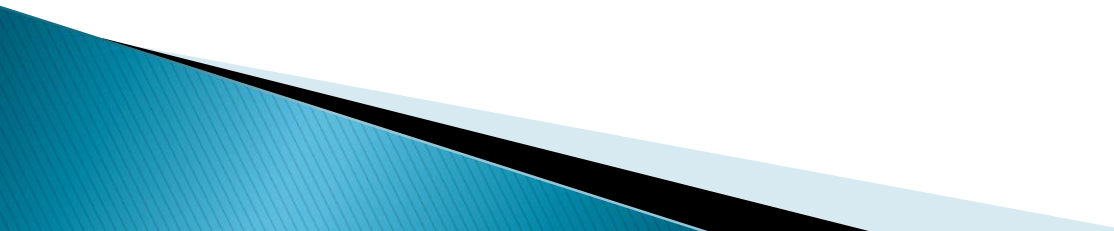
- ▶ The Perkins Local School District is located in Perkins Township and also contains parts of five contingent townships.
- ▶ Originally a rural school district, most of the district's approximately 2,100 students now live in a suburban setting.
- ▶ The district has four buildings: Furry Elementary, PK-2; Meadowlawn Intermediate Elementary, 3-5; Briar Middle School, 6-8; and Perkins High School, 9-12.
- ▶ 31.5% low socioeconomic status

Perkins Team Members

- ▶ Lindsey Holeman, Director of Student Services
 - ▶ Brittany Remaklus, Student Services Coordinator/School Psychologist
 - ▶ Hillary Turner, School Psychologist
 - ▶ Jenn Long, Elementary Principal
 - ▶ Linda Bass-Johnoff, OPEPP Consultant
 - ▶ Jamie Tischer, SST2 Representative
 - ▶ Sarah Marcinko, Paraprofessional
 - ▶ Paege Murphy, Paraprofessional
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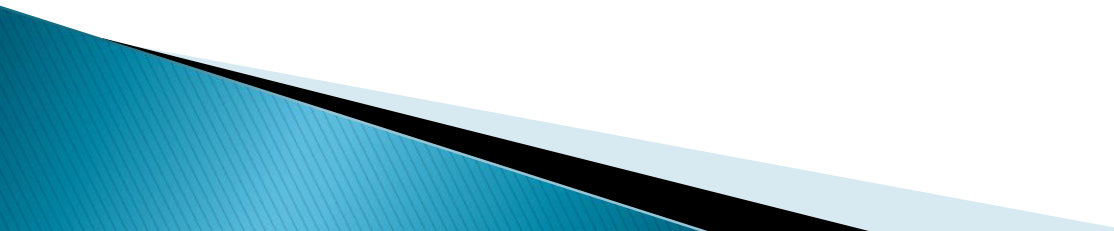
District Work

2017-2018

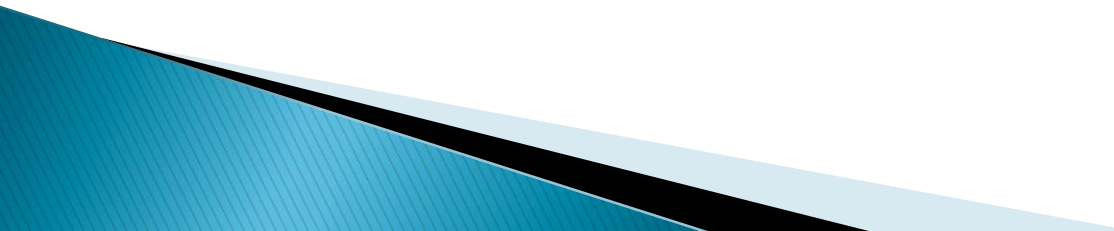
- ▶ Asked the question – What data are driving decisions on paraprofessionals?
 - ▶ Began reviewing resource allocation
 - ▶ Re-wrote job description
 - ▶ Biggest barrier – Union Contract
 - Identified new evaluation system to mirror OTES
 - Collaborated on recreating forms to align with new job description and updated contract
 - Re-defined paraprofessional placement procedures in order to align with Perkins Promise
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District Work

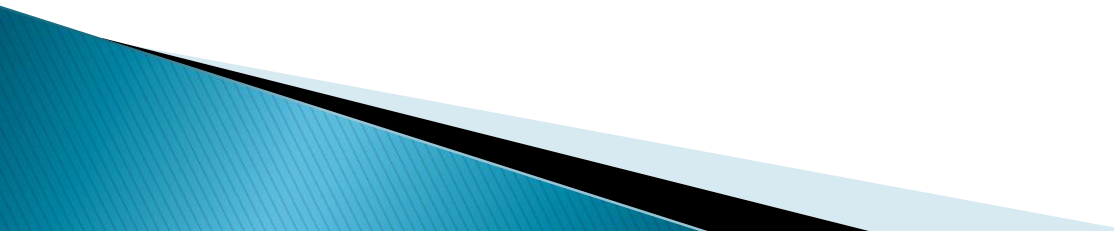
2017-2018

- ▶ Developed Inclusive Needs Assessment at each grade level based on assessment data and discipline
 - ▶ Began developing student fade plan form in order to support in IEPs for the 2018-19 school year
 - ▶ Created book study in collaboration with OPEPP and SST2 in order to support paraprofessional instructional support for 2018-19 school year
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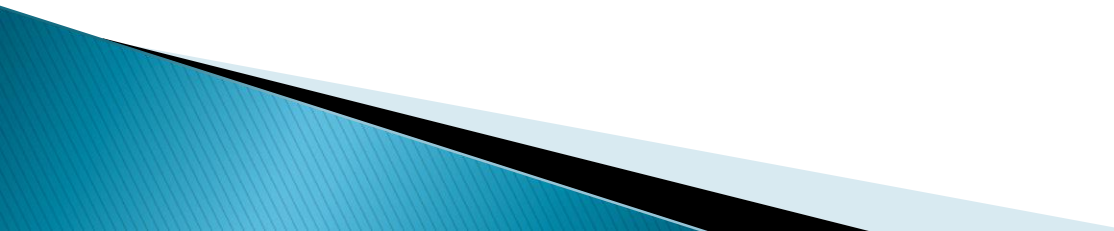
Successes

- ▶ Revised a district process to include paraprofessional roles, evaluations, goal setting and placement
 - ▶ Refined a system for placement of paraprofessionals based on student needs and paraprofessional strengths
 - ▶ Developed a process for requesting paraprofessionals based on data
 - ▶ Expanded opportunities for professional development to increase assisting with instruction
 - ▶ Worked to further enhance trust and made paraprofessionals feel valued in their roles
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Challenges

- ▶ Working with Union to make changes – past trust issues created barriers
 - ▶ Placement of paraprofessionals based on student need versus paraprofessional choice or convenience
 - ▶ Time for collaboration with educational team
 - ▶ Strengthening trust with paraprofessionals
 - ▶ Inclusion of parapros as members of the educational teams
TBT, BLT, DLT
 - ▶ Fading supports to increase independence for all students
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2018-19 Action Plan

- ▶ Empower paraprofessionals to support teachers with instructional practices
 - ▶ Create better communication through self-assessment, goal setting and evaluation process
 - ▶ Create times for co-planning opportunities for paraprofessionals and teachers to collaborate
 - ▶ Create an implement rubric for Inclusive Needs Assessment
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OPEPP Website

- ▶ Webinars & Podcasts
 - ▶ Online District Audit
 - ▶ English Language Learner Toolkit
 - ▶ Resource Guides
 - ▶ OPEPP Professional Development Modules
 - Helping with Instruction
 - Communication & Collaboration
 - Helping Students Read
 - Helping Students Do Math
- www.OPEPP.org

Thank You!

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