



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**DODD Partners with Governor DeWine's Children's Initiative and DSACO
to Provide Supplemental Education Support During Pandemic**

Columbus, Ohio – As many families are balancing working from home and assisting their child with a disability learn through a remote or digital education platform, the Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD) has partnered with the Ohio Governor's Children's Initiative to provide financial support to families who may need supplemental assistance outside of what is provided by their Individualized Education Programs (IEPs).

The program, Learning Aid Ohio, connects tutors, aides, and in-home providers who can offer distance learning support with students who have IEPs. Students with IEPs have individualized accommodations that are difficult to achieve without in-person help and Learning Aid Ohio will help bridge the gap in services to help promote academic success this school year.

The Learning Aid Ohio program, administered by Down Syndrome Association of Central Ohio (DSACO), will expand their already existing program. The technology to support these additional services is made possible by Michelle Salsberry, owner of Fam-ess, LLC.

Applications for this program can be submitted at www.LearningOhio.com. To qualify a student must have an IEP, be enrolled in remote education 100% of the time, and be experiencing financial hardship. Families who qualify will be awarded up to \$1,500 in financial support to be used for learner provider services.



About the Ohio Governor's Children Initiative

Governor Mike DeWine created the Governor's Children's Initiative just moments after being sworn in as Ohio's 70th governor. The Governor's Children's Initiative helps to advance policies that improve the lives of Ohio's children and families so that every child, regardless of where they live, has the chance at a bright future.

About the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities

The Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD) provides leadership, oversight and funding for a statewide system of supports and services for approximately 90,000 people with developmental disabilities. The agency's mission is continuous improvement of the quality of life for Ohio's citizens with developmental disabilities and their families.

About DSACO

The Down Syndrome Association of Central Ohio is the leading source of information, support, and referral assistance to more than 1,200 families throughout 23 Central and Southern Ohio counties. Our mission is to support families, promote community involvement, and encourage a lifetime of opportunities for people with Down syndrome.