

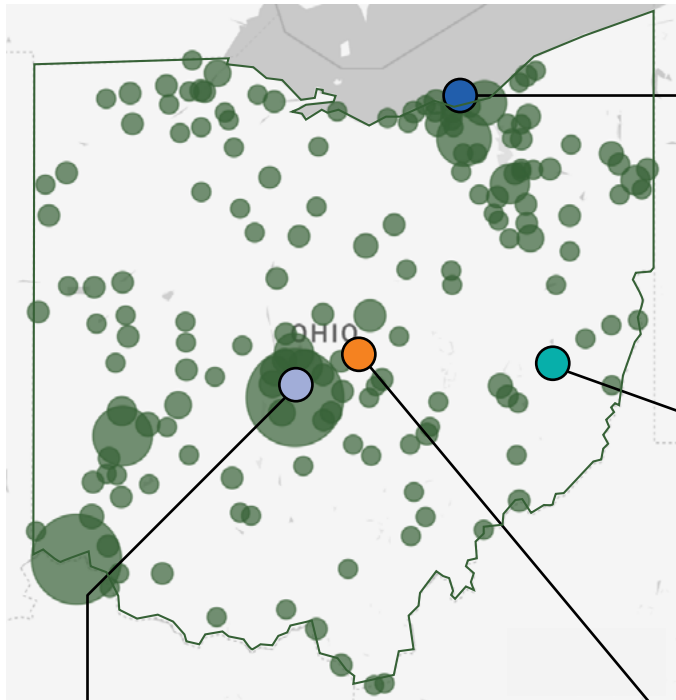
Family Engagement Survey Response Insights

Every family has a story, and each story is essential in shaping meaningful change. The Interagency Work Group on Autism (IWGA), in partnership with the OCALI Family and Community Outreach Center, launched in late 2025 the “Your Voice, Your Family, Your Impact” family engagement survey to better understand what matters most to families across Ohio. The insights highlighted in this report will help guide future work and ensure that family voices continue to lead the way.

Respondents from 165 Ohio Cities



401 Total Respondents



“(Ohio is) taking the extra steps necessary to help those on the spectrum who are in school thrive by helping them to be comfortable and feel supported.”

– Family member of loved one(s) with autism, Cleveland, OH

“The county board of disability has been a great access to finding providers, helping with IEP school needs, and providing a space to foster community with their special olympics program.”

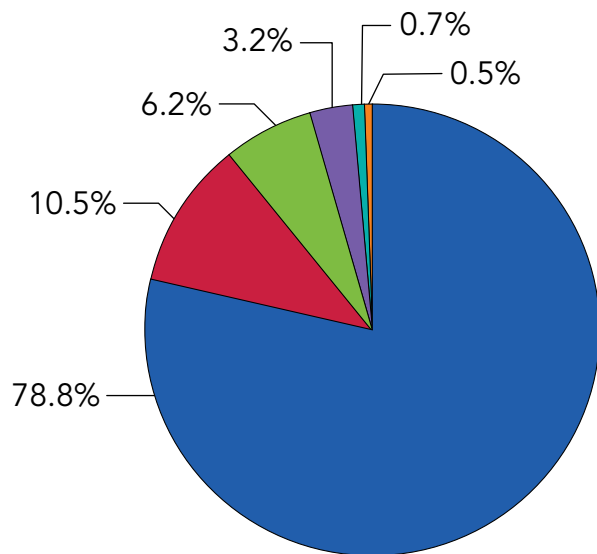
– Family member of loved one(s) with autism, Neffs, OH

“Work with organizations and restaurants to create accessible and inclusive environments for everyone so that disabled folks can participate in activities with others in the community.”

– Person with autism, Columbus, OH

“Additional support would be life changing for our entire family.”

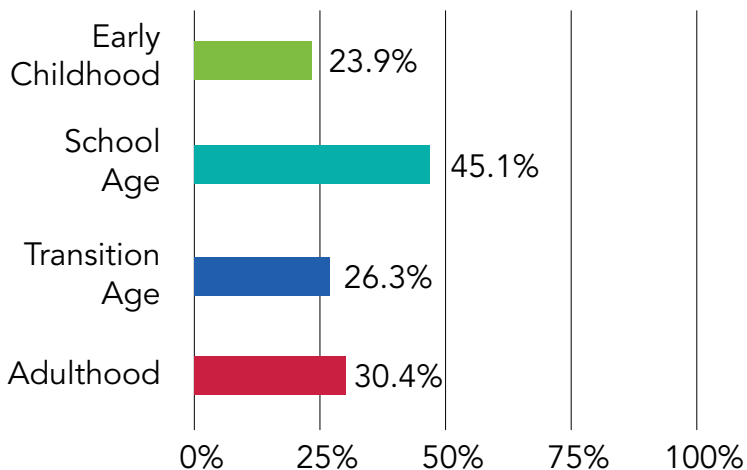
– Family member of loved one(s) with autism, Johnstown, Ohio



Respondent Roles

- Parent, Guardian, Family Member of loved one(s) with autism
- Service Provider
- Educator
- Person with autism
- Other
- Autistic parent of loved one(s) with autism

Which life stage (age) best represents the person/loved one(s) with autism?



What Matters Most

Respondents were asked to select the priorities that matter most to them and their loved ones. The top five identified include:

1. Educational Programming/School Support and Accommodations
2. Social Connection or Community Engagement
3. Access to Quality Health Care and Therapy
4. Finding or Keeping Good Services
5. Caregiver Support, Training, Resources, and/or Respite Care

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“Having a strong support system from family and friends has made a positive difference for us. **Programs that offer guidance, emotional support, and community connections have helped reduce stress and make us feel less alone.**”

– Family member of loved one(s) with autism, Hilliard, OH

“Family connection and community participation has developed ALL the opportunities for my son.”

– Family member of loved one(s) with autism, Columbus, OH

“My child attends special needs preschool. He was part of Help Me Grow when he was under age 3. **Early Intervention has made a huge difference in his life.**”

– Family member of loved one(s) with autism, Wheelersburg, OH

“ADA protection and policies that keep my nephew and others with autism involved in the conversation and in making decisions.”

– Family member of loved one(s) with autism, Columbus, OH

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