



## Graham Local School District

7790 West US Highway 36 Saint Paris, OH 43072-9496

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*"SUCCESS TODAY, PREPARED FOR TOMORROW"*

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Superintendent Mr. Kirk Koennecke • Treasurer Mrs. Judy Geers • Director of Operations Mr. Don Burley  
• Director of Student Services Mrs. Emily Smith • Secondary Education Coordinator Mr. Adam Mowery  
• Elementary Education Coordinator Mr. Joe Jude

The Graham Local School District joins school districts across the state by participating in an effort to identify, locate, and evaluate all children through 21 years of age who may have a disability. A disability refers to one of the following conditions: Autism, Blindness, Deafness, Emotional Disturbance, Hearing Impairment, Intellectual Disability, Orthopedic Impairment, Other Health Impaired, Specific Learning Disability, Traumatic Brain Injury, or Visual Impairment. Public schools have responded to federal and state mandates, which provides a Free and Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) regardless of a child's disability. Before a school district can provide specially designed instruction, the child must qualify for services as determined by one of the 13 eligibility determinations. The school district, in collaboration with community partnerships, work together to identify students that may need additional supports within the school setting. It is important to note that the identification of a student with a possible disability is not limited to school-age students, but preschool age students as well. Early intervention is key in regards to addressing skill deficits that are demonstrated by struggling learners.

Parents/Guardians and/or families may not be aware that their child has a disability, or that there are programs and services available, which is why it is so important that school districts and community organizations work together to address potential areas of need. When a referral is made, school district personnel will ask for information about the child. For example, "What needs are currently being demonstrated by the child?" "What current and/or previous services has the child received?" "What other relevant information can be provided regarding the child's educational and/or functional living skills?"

The above information can be collected in several ways, which includes, but is not limited to, interviews, observations, various types of screenings, and possible evaluation. This information may be obtained from parents/guardians, the child, or from other agencies that have information regarding the child that is being referred. This information will be considered to determine whether or not the child has a disability, and what services are necessary for the child to be successful.

School districts are committed to meeting the needs of all children. If you have, or know of a child who may have a disability, please contact Emily Smith, Director of Student Services at 937-663-4123, ext. 2612 for more information and assistance.

**Emily Smith, Director of Student Services**  
Graham Local School District

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*Partnering with our community, Graham Local Schools offers a safe and nurturing environment to educate the whole child, focused on developing responsible individuals and lifelong learners to better our world.*