

Funding Options

Students typically attend the Heidt Center through three funding pathways:

1. Ohio State Scholarships (School Choice Programs)

Scholarship Program	Eligibility Highlights	Value (2025-2026)
Ohio Autism Scholarship Program (ASP)	Ages 3-21 (or until 22/graduation); ASD diagnosis (medical or educational) AND an IEP.	Capped at \$34,000 annually.
Jon Peterson Special Needs Scholarship Program (JPSN)	Grades K-12 (expanding to ages 3-21); finalized IEP from public school district.	Varies based on disability category, up to \$27,000 annually.

Note: Acceptance of either scholarship transfers the responsibility for providing a Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) from the public district to the approved provider (Heidt Center).

2. District Referrals

Occurs when a student's IEP team determines the public school cannot provide the necessary specialized education and services (FAPE).

The district refers the student and covers the cost of tuition and services.

3. Financial Aid

- 2025-2026 Tuition:
 - 1:4 ratio: \$40,275
 - 1:6 ratio: \$37,590
- Financial Aid: Financial aid awards are based on demonstrated need, and all decisions are subject to the availability of institutional funds.
- We support families with flexible payment options, including 10-month and 12-month plans.
- Families will receive the Best Point Financial Aid Application in the Spring of the calendar year prior to the academic year of enrollment.
- Tuition payments may be covered by waivers from Ohio and County DDS (Developmental Disabilities Services). Please contact these community resources to explore their available aid options.

Graduation and Diploma

High School Diploma: Graduates successfully meet all Ohio Graduation Requirements and are awarded a high school diploma.

Diploma Deferral: Students can defer acceptance of their diploma to pursue the Heidt Transition Program or an external transition program, requiring agreement during an IEP meeting.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Front Office Main Line: 513-639-0863
Website : <https://bestpoint.org/autism-services/>

Dr. Courtney Reece, Principal - heidtleadership@heidtcenter.org

Address: Heidt Center of Excellence 4550 Red Bank Expressway, Cincinnati, Oh 45227



HEIDT CENTER OF EXCELLENCE

Autism Services

The Heidt Center of Excellence, by Best Point Education & Behavioral Health, is a specialized educational and transitional program designed for youth with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and related disabilities, serving students in Grades 6-12 and offering a Transition Program up to age 21.

We focus on individualized learning, social-emotional development, community integration, and preparing students for successful futures.

Why Families Choose Us

- ✓ **Specialized ASD-focused education**
- ✓ **Vocational & transition programming**
- ✓ **Approved OOD Provider**
- ✓ **Low student-to-staff ratios**
- ✓ **Academic, functional, and community-based learning**



PROGRAMS OFFERED

- Grades 6–12 School Program: Provides specialized instruction, community integration, and curriculum designed for students with ASD and other disabilities.
- Transition Program (Ages 18–21): Focuses on advanced career and life skills training, internships, and job coaching.
 - Provider Status: Approved provider through Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD).

ACADEMIC STRUCTURE & TRANSITION FOCUS

The center utilizes a structured, differentiated approach to align support with student needs and long-term goals.



1. Secondary School-Based Programs (Grades 6–12)

A color-coded system structures the school-based classrooms, differentiating environments based on academic, social, and functional profiles.

Color	Academic Profile	Social/Executive Function Profile	Transition Focus
Purple	1–2 grade levels below.	Independent in class transitions/rotations.	Vocational training, transition programs, college/career, ACT participation.
Yellow	No more than 4 grade levels below.	Developing peer interaction, independence, and executive functioning.	Building comprehensive independence skills across all settings.
Green	At or above grade level.	Independent, refining social skills, peer relationships, and executive functioning.	Vocational, college/career. Focus on ACT and college preparatory coursework.

2. The RISE Program (Functional Academics & Independent Living)

A specialized curriculum designed for students who benefit from semi-self-contained environments and functional academics.

Academics: Functional academics, with student levels varying from Kindergarten through 4th grade.

Structure: Mixed-grade classrooms, divided into Underclassmen/Upperclassmen groups based on support levels. Utilizes an every-other-day rotation into integrated classrooms for specific instruction.

Ratio: Dedicated 1:4 student-to-staff ratio.

Color	Grade Level Group	Support Level	Description
Pink	Underclassmen	More Supportive	Focus on foundational independence skills.
Blue	Upperclassmen	More Supportive	Foundational independence applied to life skills.
Orange	Underclassmen	Semi-Independent	Developing greater independence and functional application of skills.
Gray	Upperclassmen	Semi-Independent	Applying functional and academic skills with high levels of independence.

3. Curriculum, Instruction, and Programming:

- Core Curriculum: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt HMH Curriculum (Literacy, Math, Social Studies, Science), Unique/News2You/EverWay, Actively Learn, Edgenuity, Character Strengths (Social Skills)
- Curriculum Supports: Nearpod, IXL Learning, Ed Puzzle, Prodigy, Common Sense Media, Mystery Science.
- Technology Tools: YETI (Technology), Tinkercard (3D Printing)
- Electives & Clubs: Art, Music, Health, Student Council, Book Club, Anime, Current Events, Lego, Roblox, Trivia, Sports, and Fitness.
- Special Olympics: Bocce Ball, Volleyball, Basketball, Flag Football, Track, Soccer, Tennis, Pep Squad (promotes social skills and physical health).
- Extracurriculars: Prom, Fall Festival, Ensemble Theatre, Talent Show, Scholastic Book Fair, and HEATS Fair (History, ELA, Art, Technology, Science), Autism Community Event Fundraiser, Monthly Pep Rallies, Monthly Character Strength Award Assembly, Quarter Awards, Poetry Event, Mental Wellness Week, Spirit Week, Mindfulness Mondays.

Transition & Job Readiness

- Goal: Prepare students for successful post-secondary transitions, including college, career, and independent living.
- Community-Based Instruction: Year-round real-world opportunities to build job readiness, vocational, social, and functional skills.
- Hands-on Facilities:
 - Mock Apartment: For practical, daily living skill training.
 - PAES LAB (Practical Assessment Exploration System): Provides structured vocational assessment and exploration.
 - Heidt Culinary Kitchen
- Work Experience & Internships: Students gain experience at various community partner locations:
 - Work Experience: Got Special Kids, Matthew 25 Ministries, Save the Animals Foundation, Indian Springs Nursing Home, Got Special Kids Retail Store.
 - Formal Internships: U.S. Bank, Crayons to Computers, Aspiritech, Taglio's, Brewhouse Dog Bones, I Am Coffee.

Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD) Provider Services:

- Employment Exploration: Access to vocational exploration activities to identify diverse job interests and career pathways.
- Job Coaching: Connection with a qualified job coach for personalized support throughout the job search and placement process.
- Summer Youth Services: Specialized pre-employment transition services for eligible youth.

Student Support & Environment

- Low Student-to-Teacher Ratios:
 - 1:4 Ratio: Maximum capacity of 8 students.
 - 1:6 Ratio: Maximum capacity of 12 students.
 - Every classroom has an Intervention Specialist/Homeroom Teacher and an Educational Assistant.
- Holistic Care (On-site): Occupational Therapy, Speech Therapy, and Mental Health Counseling.
- Behavior Support Team: Includes a BCBA (Board Certified Behavior Analyst) and Registered Behavior Technicians. This team collaborates on Behavior Support Plans and intervention strategies, including student motivation systems.
- Therapy dog visits on Friday through an outside organization.

Student Motivation System: Teaching-Family Model (TFM)

The student point sheet system is rooted in the Teaching-Family Model (TFM), an evidence-based, trauma-informed approach focused on teaching social, relationship, and life skills.

- Core Principles: Integrates cognitive-behavioral techniques and person-centered interventions (though the center explicitly does not use full ABA practices).
- Skill Teaching: Uses planned procedures such as Effective Praise, Teaching Interaction (for correcting unwanted behaviors), and Planned Teaching (for new skills like problem-solving).
- Self-Government: Encourages student participation in decision-making and problem-solving through role-playing.
- Point System: Level-based (Level 1, Level 2, Transition) to provide immediate, consistent reinforcement for mastering target skills aligned with IEP goals.