

#GrandUnderstandings

Our Message to Grandfamilies

Your care for your grandchildren is important for them today and for their future. We recognize that raising your grandchildren and supporting their learning and growth requires a lot of you. At the Ohio Statewide Family Engagement Center, we are here to help you work together with schools, and to point you to helpful resources. Below you will find some recommendations based on lessons we have learned from Ohio grandfamilies and from research. The list includes resources you can turn to in order to support your grandchildren's education and health, and the well-being of your entire family.

YOU ARE NOT ALONE.

185,469
children

in the state of Ohio

live with their
grandparents.



The Ohio Statewide Family Engagement Center's *GrandUnderstandings* project is working to improve how schools and communities support grandparents raising school age children. When grandfamilies, schools and communities work together, children are more successful in learning and in life.



CONNECT EARLY WITH EDUCATORS.

As soon as possible, connect to educators. Schools can help with resources to support your grandchildren's transition to your home, and to help with issues they may face – things like **motivation and attention for learning, academic achievement, or friendships**. In addition, they can provide **YOU** with **emotional support, review school information with you, and connect you to other grandfamilies**.

Emotional Support and Resources

- Teachers
- School Counselors
- School Social Workers
- Administrators
- Psychologists
- School Nurses



CONNECT TO OTHERS IN YOUR COMMUNITY.

Many grandfamilies find it helpful to have the **support of others** as well. Consider who you can reach out to for support.

The following relationships may **provide you additional support**:

- Extended Family
- Religious Organizations
- Grandparents in Community
- Friendships as a Personal Support
- Social Groups



CONNECT TO RESOURCES.

The following organizations may help meet your grandfamilies' **financial and nutritional needs**.

Financial Resources:

- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
- Social Security Income
- Ohio Grandparent/Kinship Coalition
- Kinship Navigator
(legal, financial, education & referrals)

Food Resources:

- Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP)
- The Ohio Food Program
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)