

# SST8 FAMILY NEWSLETTER

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## What is co-teaching and what are the benefits of a co-taught service delivery system for my child?

A co-taught classroom may or may not be the best placement for your child. Schools are legally required to provide a full continuum of services for students with disabilities (SWD). Schools are also required to educate SWD in the “least restrictive environment” (also known as LRE), which means that students with disabilities should have the opportunity to be educated with their non-disabled peers, and should have access to the general education curriculum or programs, to the greatest extent appropriate. This means a child may receive their special education services in a separate school, a resource room, a mix of both resource room and general education classroom, or only in a general education classroom. A student’s services and LRE are always decided on an individual basis - it is up to the IEP team to collaborate and look at a student’s progress and needs to decide what the most appropriate *setting will be*.

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# Co-Teaching

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A co-taught classroom indicates that your child will receive his or her education in the general education classroom with both a general education teacher and an intervention specialist instructing the classroom jointly. Major benefits to this type of instruction are the access to the general education curriculum and interactions with positive peer models both academically and behaviorally. At times, SWDs feel more challenged in a co-taught classroom, particularly if they have not been participating in general education classes in the past .

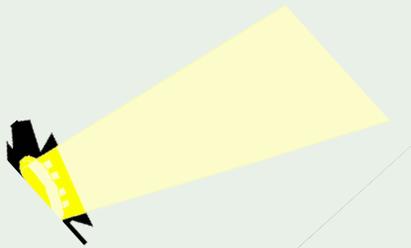
Photo Caption

*Sometimes parents want their child to receive instruction in a resource room because they feel their child will have more one-on-one attention and more specifically tailored instruction. The possible negatives to a resource room is the lack of positive peer modeling and potential slower pace through the curriculum which sometimes cause students to not receive all of the same content as students in the general education classroom. Additionally, some students who receive specialized instruction in a separate classroom, or from a separate teacher, may find it difficult to make connections between the learning they receive in different classrooms and environments. This may mean that gains in learning seen in a resource classroom or “pull-out” group are not observed when the student returns to the larger classroom environment.*

The key to finding the right placement for your child is open communication with the IEP team, an understanding of what exactly instruction and supports in each setting will entail and the use of student data to make an appropriate decision regarding the best fit.



**American  
Red Cross**



## Agency Spotlight

The American Red Cross provides care to those in need. With their network of generous donors, volunteers and employees they share a mission of preventing and relieving suffering, here at home and around the world.

The Red Cross provides five key areas of service:

- **Disaster Relief** - They work in partnership with other agencies and organizations to provide services to disaster victims.
- **Supporting America's Military Families** - They help an average of 150,000 military families and veterans prepare for, cope with, and respond to the challenges of military service.
- **Lifesaving Blood** - Your donations of blood are what make the American Red Cross the largest single supplier of blood and blood products in the U.S. Nearly 4 million people donate blood each year comprising more than 40% of America's blood supply.
- **Health and Safety Services** - Each year more than 9 million American receive training from the Red Cross in CPR, Lifeguard training, First Aid and other health and safety courses. Those who participate in these trainings include: babysitters, first responders, educators, and people who want to be prepared to help in an emergency.
- **International Services** - They are part of the largest humanitarian network with 13 million volunteers in 187 countries.

**The Summit, Portage, and Medina Counties Chapter of the Red Cross** is located at:  
501 West Market Street, Akron, OH 443013 Phone **330 535-6131**

**Medina County Office** is located at: 120 W. Washington St. Suite B-2, Medina, OH  
44256 Phone **330 535-6131** website: [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org)

## Contact Us:

To subscribe to the SST8 Family Newsletter, contact Alice Doyle at [aliced@cybersummit.org](mailto:aliced@cybersummit.org) and type “parent email list” in subject line.

Check out our website at: [sst8.org](http://sst8.org)



The Topic for January’s PAC Meeting is:  
An overview of Special Needs Trusts will  
be presented by Albert Hehr III, Esquire.  
This is for children of all ages.

### **State Support Team - Region 8**

***Supporting Medina, Portage, and Summit  
Counties***

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