

Updates &
Outreach





The Ohio Alliance of Direct Support Professionals (OADSP) offers the DSP-U program to County Boards of DD and school districts to provide the opportunities for high school seniors and adult learners interested in the field of I/DD. The program offers three certification levels. Additionally, the DSP-U program gives high school students the opportunity to earn credentials while receiving credit toward high school graduation requirements.



Shor-term Funding



Department of Developmental Disabilities
Division of External Relations

Mike DeWine, Governor
Kim Hauck, Director

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Opportunities for High Schoolers to Earn Direct Support Professional Credentials

*Columbus-*The Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD) partnered with the Ohio Department of Education to contract with the Ohio Alliance of Direct Support Professionals (OADSP) to offer training to high school students to become Direct Support Professionals (DSPs).

“DSP-U is a unique opportunity to spark the next generation of passion for our field and support in-demand jobs,” said DODD Director Kim Hauck. “Partnerships like this are what will help us take our recruitment efforts to the next level.”

OADSP offers the DSP-U program to high school and career/vocational schools and through partnerships with local county boards of developmental disabilities. The program provides opportunities for currently enrolled high school students interested in working with people with developmental disabilities to be better prepared for a career in the field. Students participating in the DSP-U program can earn professional credentials while receiving credit toward high school graduation requirements.

WHAT IS



DSP-U is an educational program designed to prepare high school seniors and adult learners for work in the Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities field as DSPs - Direct Support Professionals.

DSP-U PROVIDES A RECOGNIZED INDUSTRY CREDENTIAL IN OHIO AND NATIONWIDE

DSP-U is nationally recognized, and in Ohio, it's accredited by the state's Department of Education and can serve as an alternative pathway to high school graduation, substituting for traditional testing requirements and adding to earned credits.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

DSP-U's full program - the **Certificate of Initial Proficiency (CIP)** - typically runs parallel with an entire school year, but it can be modified/abbreviated for the needs of a particular school or training program. DSP-U also offers the **Basic Certificate**, a program representing about half of CIP, and an excellent option for summer programming. Additionally, both the CIP and Basic programs are deliverable in classroom settings, online, or as an in-person/online hybrid. No matter how it's structured and delivered, DSP-U has three components:

1 LEARN

Instruction is based in DSPaths, a nationally recognized curriculum accredited for all learners. CIP represents 60 hours of instruction across 20 Modules; Basic represents 30 hours across 10 Modules; and either provides fundamental knowledge of the skills and abilities required to become a DSP.

2 APPLY

DSP-U students apply instructive lessons to internship experiences at I/DD providers, and settings may include Residential, Day, Respite, School, and Vocational support sites. On average, DSP-U students spend 100 hours interning.

3 DEMONSTRATE

Students demonstrate their skills in specific competency areas by submitting work samples to the National Alliance for Direct Support Professionals' E-Badge Academy. Each student earns 15 e-badges.



Outreach

I/DD Conferences

Educational Conferences

Provider & Community Connections/Networks

DODD & ODE Features

WHERE CAN DSP-U LEAD?



DSP-U helps students explore long-term career goals in the I/DD field, and it's an outstanding foundation for professional careers in other essential fields in healthcare and human services. Participating in DSP-U is a great first step into what can be -

VERY PROMISING AND MEANINGFUL CAREER PATHS

ARE THERE SCHOLARSHIPS?

Yes! Ohio's Department of Developmental Disabilities and Department of Education are investing in up-and-coming DSPs by offering various levels of funding through scholarships and stipends, helping high schools and career centers implement DSP-U throughout Ohio.



WHAT ARE NEXT STEPS?

Scan the QR code, fill out a simple form, and Team DSP-U will be in touch!



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WHAT'S A DSP

DSPs assist individuals with I/DD to live their best lives and to realize their full potential. DSPs provide people with individualized support, based on unique needs and distinctive preferences, so they can fully participate in their respective communities.



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