



To Whom It May Concern:

We, the West Geauga School District, are writing to express our interest in forming a consortia with the Chagrin Falls Exempted Village School District to complete the work described within the "S.T.R.E.A.M. for Progress" Straight A Fund Grant application. Our organization is supportive of our collaboration and is excited about the possibilities which will seek to more effectively and efficiently meet the needs of students with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD).

The innovative project promises to not only provide ASD services to students within a typical school environment, but will also afford these students the opportunity to access S.T.R.E.A.M. programming opportunities. As recently evidenced in the Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders Research (February 2013), "A study has found that students with autism chose majors in science, technology, engineering, and math, the so-called STEM majors, at higher rates than students without the condition." Similarly, this study found, "...that students with autism were more likely to choose STEM majors than the general population, the rate of students with the developmental disorder who actually enter college is far lower than average." This research suggests that opportunities for students with ASD to access S.T.R.E.A.M. (which includes STEM) programming may further enhance their post-secondary options.

We are excited to form a consortia with our neighboring district, Chagrin Falls Exempted Village School District, and to provide an educationally-based, rather than clinically-based, environment in which to service students with ASD.

Sincerely,

Brenda J Harriss

Coordinator of Testing, Grants & Special Projects