



Host Site: Ohio State Legal Services Association

Project: Rural Education Project

Location: Athens, Ohio; Chillicothe, Ohio; Marion, Ohio; Newark, Ohio; New Philadelphia, Ohio; Portsmouth, Ohio; or Steubenville, Ohio

Description of Fellow Project:

Our Education Law Team has identified several impediments to accessing education for low-income students in rural school districts. The first issue we have identified is that school districts charge students who qualify for free lunch a variety of “fees” to access their education, a practice that contravenes Ohio law. Secondly, the Rural Education Project will research and help formulate a plan to address the issue of students with behavioral issues caused by trauma being disproportionately subjected to school discipline or removal. The third issue to be addressed is the problem of students failing to receive certain educational services because rural districts claim they are unable to hire necessary professionals. Lastly, the Rural Education Project Fellow will support the work of the Education Law Team by reviewing and updating informational materials. In all four areas, the student fellow will assist in making progress on these systemic issues that prevent clients from completing their education.

