



Megan Wilhoit

Stephens County Department of Exceptional Children
Parent Mentor

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[Stephens County Department of Exceptional Children](#)
[PARENT VILLAGE](#)

“Special Education doesn’t mean a student is incapable of learning. It means that they may need different supports in order to succeed.”

Hey there! I’m Megan Wilhoit, the Stephens County DEC Parent Mentor, and I want to be one of those supports for you, your student, and your family!

What is a Parent Mentor?

A Parent Mentor is a parent of a child with a disability who also has professional experience supporting families. My daughter, Savannah, was diagnosed with autism (level three, nonverbal) before she was two and has had an IEP since she entered our school system in PREP at age three. She is now in the eighth grade and has been served in a small group classroom for all of her school journey so far. We have had a happy, positive, productive experience as a DEC family and I want to help other DEC families have that same great experience by working within the Home - School - Community Triangle to improve outcomes for students with disabilities.

Who can benefit from a Parent Mentor’s experience?

I am a resource for the parents/families of all students who receive special education services in Stephens County. I also support teachers and administrators in understanding parents’ perspectives, improving communication, and planning opportunities for family engagement.

How can a Parent Mentor help?

I can provide one-on-one assistance, resources, training, and opportunities for families to connect with one another. All of our DEC families are wonderfully unique, and I will

provide whatever support is necessary for your family's individual needs. Here's an overview of services I can provide:

- Understanding the special education process and helping you advocate for your student's success
- Communication with teachers, case managers, and administrators
- Preparing for an IEP meeting and attending IEP meetings to offer support and help in understanding the IEP process
- Helping you teach your student how to self-advocate and understand the basics of his/her disability
- Addressing challenging behavior at home
- Locating and accessing outside resources
- Applying for programs to help pay for healthcare, services, equipment, and community supports
- Assisting with transitions between schools as well as the transition from high school into post-secondary life

.....and so much more! I am here for you one hundred percent and will do all I can to help you and your family have a wonderful school experience. If you have any questions at all, please don't hesitate to reach out. I will either have the answer, know how to find the answer, or put you in contact with someone who has the answer. I work with an amazing team who all go above and beyond to serve families like ours!

Please reach out.....

I can be reached by email at megan.wilhoit@stephenscountyschools.org or you can visit our new DEC website: [Stephens County Department of Exceptional Children PARENT VILLAGE](#). There is a link to a google form on the home page that you can use to communicate with me.

I am so excited to work with you!