

State honors 2 Fremont preschools for programming

Craig Shoup , Reporter 3:58 p.m. ET Feb. 8, 2017



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FREMONT - Stamm and Otis Elementary Schools were honored by the Ohio Department of Education for their continued work in promoting learning and developmental programs that exceed health and safety standards.

The district received the honor of "Five Star Step Up to Quality" for its work on meeting educational standards for preschool students ages 3 to 5.

Fremont City Schools Student Service Director Abby Abernathy said the honor means the schools are meeting standards in an ever-changing world of education that include maintaining professional development hours for faculty and meeting certification requirements to teach early childhood education.

Included in the review, Abernathy said, are key indicators for base knowledge such as a preschooler's ability to remember their home address, shapes and colors.

Once the child has basic knowledge, the school begins to tailor their curriculum to meet state standards and benchmarks.

Although one of the first benchmarks a student will need to meet is reading at grade level in third grade, the building blocks to meet that requirement starts earlier, Abernathy said.

"Good education really starts at the preschool level," Abernathy said. "The program is run through the Ohio Department of Education and the Department of Job and Family Services. They review our reports on students and lesson plans we are implementing."

Program standards, Abernathy said, are based on national research identifying benchmarks that lead to positive outcomes for children.

Abernathy said the school also offers speech-language therapy and physical therapy to meet the needs of all students in the district.

Fremont City Schools provides services for 125 preschool students in three classrooms at Stamm Elementary and two at Otis Elementary.

Changes in state learning standards and benchmarks keep the schools on their toes when tailoring lesson plans and programs for students, Abernathy said.

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