



Michigan Department of Education Office of Special Education (OSE)

OSE Update

April 2025

What's New?

Alt+Shift

- "Quick Wins" are short, self-paced modules focused on a specific topic. Alt+Shift partnered with MDE-LIO to create quick wins on [Cortical/Cerebral Visual Impairment \(CVI\) Fundamentals](#) and [Augmentative and Alternative Communication \(AAC\) and CVI](#).

Resource for Blind/Low Vision and Deaf/Hard of Hearing (RBLVDHH)

- MDE-Low Incidence Outreach (LIO) is currently in the process of separating our operations into two divisions. The purpose of this is to help the field clearly identify who we are and who we serve.
Part of this reorganization will entail rebranding with two separate names:
 - Michigan Department of Education Resource for Blind/Low Vision (MDE RBLV)
 - Michigan Department of Education Resource for Deaf/Hard of Hearing (MDE RDHH)
- The Language Equality and Acquisition for Deaf Kids (LEAD-K) movement works to end language deprivation and ensure that children who are deaf or hard of hearing have a strong language foundation and are kindergarten-ready. The effort provides families with information on language milestones and assessments for children ages 0-5. The launch of LEAD-K in Michigan is just around the corner.

There will be several regional information/open house sessions in June throughout the state to learn more about legislation PA256 and its requirements.

Grant opportunities are available to implement PA256 (LEAD-K). Intermediate school districts and collaborating partners from local education agencies, public school academies, and the Michigan School for the Deaf are eligible to apply for the grant.

Applicants must consist of a minimum of two collaborating Intermediate School Districts. Additional collaborators may include local school districts,



public school academies, and the Michigan School for the Deaf. The inclusion of both a teacher of the deaf/hard of hearing and an early interventionist or early childhood educator is required for grant application.

- For more information, details will be coming soon on the [RBLVDHH Home Page](#) or email mde-liv-events@michigan.gov.

Medicaid School Based Services (SBS) Program

Since 1993, Michigan ISDs have participated in a federal and state-funded Medicaid reimbursement program.

Quarterly Medicaid SSP Implementer Meetings

Implementer meetings are presented quarterly for coordinators who support the Medicaid School Services Program (SSP). Implementer meetings for 2024-25:

- June 10, 2025, 1 p.m.-3 p.m. Ingham
- September 9, 2025, 1 p.m.-3 p.m. Ingham
- December 9, 2025, 1 p.m.-3 p.m. Ingham

For more information, please contact Dana Billings at BillingsD1@michigan.gov.

Regional Medicaid SSP Meetings

[Regional SSP meetings](#) are held in the fall and spring conferences. Dates for fall 2025 TBD. For more information, please contact Dana Billings at BillingsD1@michigan.gov.

New Implementer/Coordinator Training

Medicaid SSP New Implementer/Coordinator Training 2024 Fall was hosted by Gratiot Isabella Regional Education Service District (RESN) – The PowerPoint recording and slides can be found in the SSP Google Drive. For more details, please contact BillingsD1@michigan.gov.

School Services Program Medicaid Conference

The [2025 School Services Program Medicaid Conference](#) May 6-7 will take place at the Kensington Hotel, Ann Arbor. Registration is now open.

Please note, there is no conference registration fee because it is supported by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS); therefore, registration is limited to 5 attendees per ISD. If your ISD would like to send more than 5 people, please contact bauerk2@michigan.gov or billingsd1@michigan.gov.

A link with hotel information and rates can be found on the conference registration under the "accommodations" tab. Hotel costs and arrangements are the responsibility of the attendees.



Medicaid Policy Updates

For more information about Medicaid SSP Policy, contact Kevin Bauer at BauerK2@michigan.gov.

Public Consulting Group (PCG)

For more information on the SPL, Quarterly Reports, and/or the RMTS process, send emails to miaop@pcgus.com.

Google Drive

Access to the drive is administered to the ISD Coordinators and Implementers who support their county's Medicaid SSP and/or provide oversight and training to local entities. Included in the Google Drive are resources that partners are currently utilizing, editing, and sharing with others in the field to help provide Quality Assurance and Compliance with Medicaid Policy.

Documents in Dropbox and Google may represent historical and outdated information and are not meant to supersede current Medicaid Policy and are not vetted by MDHHS and/or MDE. For questions about the drive or to update or remove staff members, please contact Dana Billings at BillingsD1@michigan.gov to forward the information to the coordinator in charge of the drive.

Community Health Automated Medicaid Processing System (CHAMPS)

For more information about [CHAMPS](#) or Medicaid reimbursement, contact Amy Kanter at KanterA@michigan.gov.

31n State School Aid

[School-Based Behavioral Health Newsletter](#)

Resources

- National Alliance for Medicaid in Education (NAME), Inc
- [Become a NAME Member](#)
- Healthy Schools Campaign (HSC) [released a new report](#) based on its nationwide survey of school districts, showing how Medicaid cuts will impact student health services and schools. View the [executive summary and full report](#).
- "[Cuts to Medicaid Could Harm Students](#)," and report, "[How Medicaid Supports Student Success](#)," developed by Georgetown Center for Children and Families in partnership with HSC, to learn about the research showing all the ways Medicaid helps children reach their full potential — and how cuts to the program will make it harder to access the care they need to support healthy development and school success.



Michigan Alliance for Families (MAF)

- MAF staff support families through outreach and mentoring and by providing a wealth of printed and electronic information and resources throughout the year.
- MAF welcomes Kara Clarke as the new Northwestern Wayne Regional parent mentor and Beth Allen as our Virtual Meeting Support Specialist.
- MAF provides information through a wide variety of virtual learning opportunities with MAF staff and partner agencies; recorded videos; and courses that are free to families, educators, and caregivers. See our [upcoming events](#) on our website. Our previously recorded webinars can be viewed on our [videos page](#).
- Michigan Alliance for Families will host its first Youth Summit. The event is for young adults, aged 14 to 25, who have active individualized education programs (IEPs), and their parents. The summit will be held in Livonia, May 2-3, 2025.
- The Leaders in Policy Advocacy Series (LIPA) is a leadership development program for adults with developmental disabilities and parents of minor children with developmental disabilities. More information can be found on our [LIPA page](#). LIPA 2025 begins the weekend of April 25. The series will feature a hybrid training model with three in-person sessions in Novi, one in-person session in Lansing, and two online sessions. For more information, check out the [LIPA flyer](#).
- MAF continues to work with the Opening the Pipeline of Talent into Michigan's Special Education (OPTIMISE) core planning team, taskforce, and action teams. The goal is to build, support, and sustain a new education system that can enthusiastically attract, prepare, and retain an effective and diverse special education workforce to serve individuals across Michigan. OPTIMISE also now has a newsletter. Sign up at the [OPTIMISE's Constant Contact Page](#).
- Our newsletter is a great way to stay up to date with Michigan Alliance for Families events and special education news. We recently reached a milestone of 10,000 subscribers and are so pleased that our information and resources are reaching so many families and professionals across the state. [Sign-up for our e-newsletter](#) to receive special education information, find out about our upcoming events, and connect with Michigan resources.
- MAF has released its [full school year calendar](#) to allow families to register and mark their calendars for topics of interest through May of 2025.



Michigan's MTSS Technical Assistance Center (MiMTSS TAC)

- In collaboration with Dr. Anita Archer, the TA Center invites applicants to join the Explicit Instruction Facilitator Network. The network kicks off with a five-date trainers academy led by Dr. Archer and is designed for educational leaders across all grade levels.
 - [Applications](#) accepted until May 2, 2025.
- Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS)/State Personnel Development Grant (SPDG):
 - Beginning work with three sites: Carrollton, Mildred C. Wells Academy, and Pennfield.
 - Continuing sites include Benton Harbor Area Schools, Francis Reh/Saginaw Prep Academy, and Merrill School District.
- Having conversations with partnership district sites about training options for the 2025-2026 school year:
 - Beecher School District, Detroit Public Safety Academy, Detroit Service Learning Academy, and Benton Harbor Area Schools.

Special Education Mediation Services (SEMS)

- A presentation on [How to Prepare for and Participate in Mediation and Facilitation](#) has been posted to our website and can be viewed on-demand.
- From January 1-March 31, SEMS provided the following services:
 - Mediations – 74
 - Agreements – 57 (including 13 state complaints and 8 in lieu of resolution session)
 - Facilitations – 198
- Year in review (October 1, 2023-September 30, 2024):
 - 776 facilitations
 - 125 independent mediations (99 agreements)
 - 57 state complaint mediations (39 agreements)
 - 7 due process mediations (5 agreements)
 - 18 due process mediations (7 agreements)

Statewide Autism Resources and Training (START) Project

- Registration is open for the [24th Annual START Conference](#): Empowering Students through Communication. The conference is set for **April 28, 2025**, at the Lansing Center in Lansing. The conference will feature keynote sessions from Caroline Gaddy, MFA, MA, CCC-SLP and Ashley Larisey, MS, CCC-SLP/L as well as afternoon breakout sessions.



- [Paths to Learning](#) is START's training framework. Designed to give learners the opportunity to direct their professional development experience through flexible options and formats, START's Paths to Learning involves both live learning opportunities (in-person and virtual) and self-paced learning.
- [START Connecting articles](#), supporting educators and families of students with autism spectrum disorder (ASD), are available on the START website. Currently, there are more than 3,350 subscribers. Anyone wishing to receive the updates can sign up on the [START website](#).
 - Recent articles:
 - [Taking Steps to Develop a Coaching Structure: Learning from One District's Experience](#)
 - [A Spotlight on Family Resources](#)

Employment Opportunities

Michigan School for the Deaf (MSD)

Michigan School for the Deaf is hiring!

- Speech Therapist - Audiology/Speech Consultant 9-P11 - State of Michigan Position
- Speech and Language: Augmentative and Alternative Communication Specialist
- Youth Dorm Manager - Departmental Manager 14
- High School Math Teacher
- High School Social Studies Teacher
- Middle School Social Studies Teacher
- Second Grade Teacher
- High School English Language Arts Teacher
- Middle School Science Teacher
- Multi-Age Elementary Resource
- Multi-Age High School Resource Teachers
- Transition and Employment Teacher
- Art Teacher
- School Counselor
- Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA)
- Teacher Consultant for the Visually Impaired



Upcoming Learning Opportunities

Alt+Shift

- Get SETT for Success: Navigating AAC Decisions with the SETT Framework
 - Session at [START Conference](#)
 - **April 28, 2025** (8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.) – Lansing Center, Lansing, MI
- [Outputs to Outcomes in the Least Restrictive Environment](#)
 - **June 19-20, 2025** (8:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m.) – North Central Michigan College, Petoskey, MI
 - Please register by April 30, if possible, to give us an accurate count for planning purposes
 - Registration deadline: June 6, 2025

Resource for Blind/Low Vision and Deaf/Hard of Hearing (RBLVDHH)

- Join the Michigan Department of Education Resource for Deaf/Hard of Hearing (MDE RDHH) and Michigan Hands & Voices as we offer an online event series for adult family members raising children who are Deaf, Blind, or Hard of Hearing resources.

[Empowering Parents: Preparing for the Future | MDE-LIO](#)

Date: Thursday, April 24, 2025

Time: 8:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Registration closes April 24, 2025

- Join Michigan Department of Education Resource for Blind/Low Vision (MDE RBLV) and the Technology Team for the last webinar in the Talk Tech Tuesday Series! This session offers participants the opportunity to learn skills and techniques for teaching access technology (AT) to students who are Blind or Low Vision (BLV).

[Talk Tech Tuesday: Organizing and Labeling | MDE-LIO](#)

Date: Tuesday, May 27, 2025

Time: 2:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Registration closes May 27, 2025

- For more information on the events listed above and other events offered by MDE RBLVDHH, sign up for the [MDE-LIO email list](#) or visit [MDE-LIO Events](#).



Michigan Alliance for Families (MAF)

Families and professionals can access our [on-demand webinars](#) at any time. Find more details on all learning opportunities on our [event page](#).

- [IFSP: A Closer Look](#)
 - **April 16, 2025** (12:00 p.m.-1:30 p.m.) – Virtual
- [Building Parent Leadership Skills in Early Childhood](#)
 - **April 17, April 24, May 1, and May 8** (9:30 a.m.-10:30 a.m.) - Virtual 4-part Series
- [Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports \(PBIS\)](#)
 - **April 21, 2025** (4:00 p.m.-5:30 p.m.) – Virtual
- [Supporting AAC at Home](#)
 - **April 22, 2025** (12:00 p.m.-1:00 p.m.) – Virtual
- [IEP: A Closer Look](#)
 - **April 23, 2025** (12:00 p.m.-1:30 p.m.) – Virtual
- [Behavior Is Communication](#)
 - **April 25 and May 2** (1:00 p.m.-2:30 p.m.) - Virtual 2-part session
- [Skills for Effective Parent Advocacy](#)
 - **May 5, 2025** (6:00 p.m.-7:30 p.m.) – Centennial Middle School, South Lyon, MI
- [The Power of Connection: Peers](#)
 - **May 6, 2025** (12:00 p.m.-1:30 p.m.) – Virtual
- [Collaboration on Transition](#)
 - **May 7, 2025** (4:30 p.m.-6:00 p.m.) – Virtual
- [Collaborative Communication in Special Education](#)
 - **May 12, 2025** (11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.) – Virtual
- [Supporting Student Mental Health](#)
 - **May 13, 2025** (9:30 a.m.-11:00 a.m.) – Virtual
- [Preschool with an IEP](#)
 - **May 14, 2025** (12:00 p.m.-1:00p.m.) - Virtual
- [Growing Up with Self-Determination](#)
 - **May 14, 2025** (4:30 p.m.-6:00 p.m.) – Virtual
- [Parent Advisory Committees: Choosing Topics](#)
 - **May 15, 2025** (4:30 p.m.-5:30 p.m.) – Virtual
- [IEP: A Closer Look](#)
 - **May 19, 2025** (2:00 p.m.-3:30 p.m.) – Virtual
- [Moving On from Early On](#)
 - **May 21, 2025** (4:30 p.m.-5:30 p.m.) – Virtual
- [Disability Is Not a Bad Word](#)



- **May 28, 2025** (4:30 p.m.-5:30 p.m.) – Virtual
- [IEP: A Closer Look](#)
 - **June 26, 2025** (9:30 a.m.-11:00 a.m.) - Virtual

Michigan's MTSS Technical Assistance Center (MiMTSS TAC)

Looking for professional opportunities? Check out the [MiMTSS TA professional learning calendar of events](#). Do you want to know about new technical assistance center events so you can register? Request to be added to the TA Center listserv to receive email notifications regarding upcoming events by signing up through the [listserv signup page](#).

- [Social, Emotional, Behavioral Health \(SEBH\) Symposium](#)
 - **June 17, 2025** – Virtual
- 20th Annual MiMTSS Conference (Save the Date)
 - **November 12-13, 2025** – Lansing Center, Lansing, MI
 - [Call for Proposals](#) now open

Special Education Mediation Services (SEMS)

SEMS customizes training for schools and family serving agencies. Reach out if you are interested in what we have to offer by calling 517-334-0034 or visit the [SEMS website](#).

SEMS collaborates with the Michigan Alliance for Families on numerous training events. See the [MAF upcoming training section](#) for more information.

- [Collaborative Communication in Special Education](#)
 - **May 12, 2025** (11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.) – Virtual

Statewide Autism Resources and Training (START) Project

Visit the [START Trainings webpage](#) for the 2024-2025 training and training series schedule.

- [Education-Based Evaluations](#)
 - **April 17, 2025** (9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m.) – Virtual
 - Registration deadline: April 17, 2025
- [FAPE in the LRE](#)
 - **April 23, 2025** (9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.) – Virtual
 - Registration deadline: April 23, 2025
- [Early Childhood - Early Identification and Eligibility Determination for Young Children with Autism](#)
 - **May 2, 2025** (9:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m.) – Virtual



- Registration deadline: May 2, 2025
- START's partner Regional Collaborative Networks (RCNs) will host local trainings throughout the year using START content delivered by trainers from local districts. These [RCN-sponsored trainings](#) are open to attendees from outside the host district.