



Michigan Department of Education Office of Special Education (OSE)

OSE Update

February 2025

What's New?

Alt+Shift

- Alt+Shift contractor Joel Selby recently provided an [ADA digital accessibility federal rule update](#) and a comparison of [WCAG 2.1 Level AA standards versus previous standards in WCAG 2.0](#) for the Michigan School Public Relations Association.
- "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](#).

Data Collection

- The Part B FFY 2023 State Performance Plan/Annual Performance Report (SPP/APR) has been submitted as of February 1, 2025.
- The federal regulations implementing the *Individuals with Disabilities Education Act* (IDEA) at §300.602(b)(1)(i)(A) require public reporting on the performance of each local education agency in Michigan on the targets established in the SPP/APR. For a two-week period beginning approximately May 7, 2025, Intermediate School Districts (ISDs) and member districts will be able to preview ISD and member district level data.
- By June 1, 2025, the ISD and member district level data will be publicly available at: [MI School Data portal](#).

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:

- March 11, 2025, 1 p.m.-3 p.m. Ingham



- June 10, 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.

Completed:

- Region 3 Medicaid Meeting October 3, 12 p.m.-3 p.m., Traverse City/Northwest
- Region 4 Medicaid Meeting October 7, 9 a.m.-12 p.m. Crawford, Oscoda, Ogemaw, Roscommon (C.O.O.R.) ISD
- Region 6 Medicaid Meeting October 8, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Kalamazoo RESA
- Region 1 and 2 Medicaid Meeting October 21, 9 a.m.-12 p.m. Marquette-Alger RESA
- Region 5 Medicaid Meeting October 24, 10 a.m.-12 p.m. Muskegon Area ISD
- Region 7 Medicaid Meeting October 30, 9 a.m.-12 p.m. Virtual
- Region 8 Medicaid Meeting November 14, 10 a.m.-12 p.m. Lapeer ISD
- Region 9 Medicaid Meeting December 6, 12 p.m.-3 p.m. Livingston
- Region 10 Medicaid Meeting December 16, 12 p.m.-3 p.m. Monroe

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 (RESA) – 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

Save the Date 2025 MI SSP Conference May 6-7 at the Kensington Hotel, Ann Arbor, MI.

SSP 2024 Medicaid Conference agenda and slides: [2024 Michigan School Services Program Conference - May 8-9](#). Please view the main session [videos for the 2024 Medicaid SSP Conference](#).

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 the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (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

[Fall School Based Behavioral Health Newsletter](#)

Resources

- National Alliance for Medicaid in Education (NAME), Inc
- [Become a NAME Member](#)
- The Family Center for Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs (Family Center) and Children's Special Health Care Services (CSHCS) are pleased to announce a grant opportunity for the 2025-26 fiscal year (10/1/2025 – 9/30/2026). Each school district and/or school can apply for up to \$5,000 to implement peer-to-peer programs to reduce bullying for students with special health care needs.
The deadline to have the application emailed is **Friday, March 14, 2025**.
The [fillable grant application packet](#). For more information, please do not hesitate to email cschcsfc@michigan.gov or call 800-359-3722.
- [State Policy Actions: 10 Steps to Maximize Medicaid for School Health Services](#).
- ["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 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 application window runs from February 3-March 8.
- 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](#). Planning for 2025 is underway. MAF will continue its hybrid training model with three in-person sessions in Novi, one in-person session in Lansing, and two online sessions. Applications will be accepted throughout February. Participants will be selected and notified in March. For more information, check out the [LIPA flyer](#).
- MAF continues to work with the 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)

- Webinar recordings are available from the Michigan Department of Education for [Public Acts \(PA\) 146 and 147 of 2024](#) as well as [Literacy Grant Funding Sections 35M and 35N](#).
- Partnership District Professional Learning Request information is going out to Partnership Districts.
 - Application period: February 3-28, 2025
 - More information: [Partnership District Support](#)
- Planning is underway for four new sites for our State Personnel Development Grant:
 - New sites for 2025-2026 include Bellevue, Mildred C. Wells Academy, Pennfield, and Carrollton.
 - Continuing sites include Benton Harbor, Merrill, Francis Reh, and Saginaw Prep Academy.

Special Education Mediation Services (SEMS)

- From November 1-December 31, SEMS provided the following services:
 - Mediations – 18
 - Agreements – 13 (including 1 due process and 2 state complaints)
 - Facilitations - 77

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](#)

Upcoming Learning Opportunities

Alt+Shift

- Alt+Shift sessions at the [Michigan Council for Exceptional Children Annual Conference](#) – Amway Grand Plaza Hotel, Grand Rapids, MI
 - Transforming Math for All: Shifting Math Practice and Developing Conceptual Understanding with All Learners (Carlos Sosa)
 - **February 27, 2025** (8:15 a.m.-9:15 a.m.)
 - Access for All: Assistive Technology within Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (Carolyn Parker and Sara Pericolosi)
 - **February 28, 2025** (8:15 a.m.-9:15 a.m.)
 - Bridging the Gap: Improving Math Outcomes for Students with Disabilities (Rachel Tabron)
 - **February 28, 2025** (9:30 a.m.-10:30 a.m.)
 - Despite Best Intentions... Unraveling a Mess (Jeff Diedrich and Kate Fanelli)
 - **February 28, 2025** (1:00 p.m.-3:15 p.m.)
 - Inclusive Technology: A Catalyst for Change (Carolyn Parker and Sara Pericolosi)
 - **February 28, 2025** (2:15 p.m.-3:15 p.m.)
- Math for All: Supporting Your Child with Disabilities in Math (in partnership with Michigan Alliance for Families)
 - **March 5, 2025** (12:00 p.m.-1:00 p.m.) – Virtual
 - [Register through Michigan Alliance for Families](#)
- Inclusive Technology: A Catalyst for Change
 - Session at [Michigan Computer Users in Learning \(MACUL\) Conference](#)
 - **March 21, 2025**
- Bridging the Gap: Improving Math Outcomes for All Students
 - Session at [Michigan Council of Teachers of Mathematics Saturday Morning Math Sessions](#)
 - **March 22, 2025** (9:00 a.m.-10:00 a.m.) – Webinar
- Assistive Technology: More than Checking a Box (in partnership with Michigan Alliance for Families)
 - **April 8, 2025** (12:00 p.m.-1:00 p.m.) – Virtual
 - [Register through Michigan Alliance for Families](#)
- [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
- Registration deadline: June 6, 2025

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](#).

- [Tools for Supported Decision-Making](#)
 - **February 12, 2025** (12:00 p.m.-1:30 p.m.) – Virtual
- [IEP: A Closer Look](#)
 - **February 13, 2025** (4:00 p.m.-5:30 p.m.) – Virtual
- [Discipline Protections for Students with Disabilities](#)
 - **February 19, 2025** (9:30 a.m.-11:00 a.m.) – Virtual
- [Preschool with an IEP](#)
 - **February 20, 2025** (9:30 a.m.-10:30 a.m.) – Virtual
- [Special Education State Complaints](#)
 - **February 26, 2025** (4:30 p.m.-6:00 p.m.) – Virtual
- [Crafting Your Parent Input Statement](#)
 - **March 3, 2025** (12:00 p.m.-1:00 p.m.) – Virtual
- [Math for All: Supporting Your Child with Disabilities in Math](#)
 - **March 5, 2025** (12:00 p.m.-1:00 p.m.) – Virtual
- [Due Process Complaint and Hearing](#)
 - **March 5, 2025** (4:30 p.m.-6:00 p.m.) – Virtual
- [IEP: A Closer Look](#)
 - **March 6, 2025** (9:30 a.m.-11:00 a.m.) – Virtual
- [Growing Up with Self-Determination](#)
 - **March 12, 2025** (6:30 p.m.-8:00 p.m.) – Virtual
- [Transition: What You Need to Know](#)
 - **April 7, 2025** (9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.) – Virtual
- [Assistive Technology: More Than Checking a Box](#)
 - **April 8, 2025** (12:00 p.m.-1:00 p.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](#).



- MDE Diversity in Literature Symposium (Save the date)
 - **March 6, 2025** – Lansing, MI
- Social, Emotional, Behavioral Health (SEBH) Symposium (Save the date)
 - **June 17, 2025** – Virtual

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.

- SEMS sessions at the [Michigan Council for Exceptional Children Annual Conference](#) – Amway Grand Plaza Hotel, Grand Rapids, MI
 - How to Develop and Maintain Trust in School-Family Partnerships-Even with the Most Challenging Personalities
 - **February 26, 2025** (1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.)
 - Whose Journey Is it Anyway? One Student-Difference Perspectives
 - **February 27, 2025** (2:15 p.m.-3:15 p.m.)
- SEMS session at [The ARC Community Advocates Inclusion Conference](#) – Delta Hotel & Conference Center, Kalamazoo, MI
 - How to Develop and Maintain Trust 2.0
 - **March 14, 2025**
- [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.

- [Behavior Escalation and Scripts - Spring Series - Day 1 - \(Series is co-sponsored by START and the MiMTSS Technical Assistance Center\)](#)
 - **March 11, 2025 and March 18, 2025** (1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m.) – Virtual
 - Registration deadline: March 6, 2025
- [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.

Employment Opportunities

Michigan Alliance for Families

- MAF has an opening for a regional parent mentor to cover an opening in Northwestern Wayne County. For more information, please see our [hiring page](#).