



Michigan Department of Education (MDE) Office of Special Education (OSE)

OSE Update

October 2024

What's New?

Alt+Shift

- Alt+Shift utilizes a phased approach to partnerships with intermediate school districts (ISDs) to strengthen their capacity to sustain implementation efforts at member districts and ISD programs. The approach yields improved outcomes for all learners. Visit the [Partnership Page](#) on our website to learn more about the phased approach.
- Two new "Quick Wins" have been added to our website: [Assistive Technology Fundamentals](#) and [Assistive Technology Skills Inventory](#).
- [3D printed assistive technology](#) - Select low-tech assistive technology can currently be 3D printed and shipped at no cost to Michigan public schools.
- On April 24, 2024, the Federal Register published the final rule updating regulations for Title II of the *Americans with Disabilities Act*, with specific requirement regarding web content and mobile applications. The [fact sheet](#) provides a summary of the rule.

Low Incidence Outreach (LIO)

- MDE-LIO will begin a transition to separate 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 or Low Vision (MDE-RBLV) and Michigan Department of Education Resource for Deaf or Hard of Hearing (MDE-RDHH).

Additionally, we are changing our use of "Blind or Visually Impaired" to "Blind or Low Vision." This reflects a shift away from outdated language toward more inclusive language, much like updating "hearing impaired" to "hard of hearing".

These changes will be gradual, with updates to our website, communications, and materials being made over the next year. Please stay tuned to the [MDE-](#)



[LIO email list](#) and [MDE-LIO website](#) for more communication about the change.

- The MDE-LIO website includes information about Language Equality and Acquisition for Deaf Kids (LEAD-K) PA 256 implementation in Michigan. LEAD-K calls for language acquisition resources for parents/guardians of children, ages 5 or younger, who are DHH. To read meeting updates and learn about committee members and partners, visit [About LEAD-K \(PA 256\)](#). Look for updates from our October 8 meeting in the coming weeks.
- This year, we will be working on providing quick tips through a series of videos for administrators supervising BLV or DHH programs and services. More information will be available soon on the [MDE-LIO website](#).
- Our website features job postings around Michigan that are relevant to the K-12 BLV and DHH fields. Job postings are shared from other organizations and are posted for informational purposes only. Visit the pages below:
 - [DHH Job Postings](#)
 - [BLV Job Postings](#)
- Follow [MDE-LIO's Facebook page](#) and [Camp Tuhsmeheeta's Instagram page](#).

Medicaid School Based Services (SBS) Program

Since 1993, Michigan Intermediate School Districts (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:

- December 10, 2024 1:00 p.m.-3 p.m. Ingham
- March 11, 2025 1:00 p.m.-3 p.m. Ingham
- June 10, 2025 1:00 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 conference. Upcoming fall 2024:

- Region 1 and 2 Medicaid Meeting October 21, 9 a.m.-12 p.m. MARESA
- Region 5 Medicaid Meeting October 24, 10 a.m.-12p.m. Muskegon



- 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

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. C.O.O.R. ISD
- Region 6 Medicaid Meeting October 8, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., KRESA

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) – 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

Thank you for your continued support and implementation of the Medicaid SSP. 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 the 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

[Fall School Based Behavioral Health Newsletter](#)

Resources

National Alliance for Medicaid in Education (NAME), Inc conference October 15-18 Denver: [NAME Conference Fall 2024](#)

[Become a NAME Member](#)

[Medicaid Coverage of School-Based Crisis Services: Analysis and Recommendations Based on a Review of Eleven States](#)

[Healthy Students, Promising Futures](#)

[School Medicaid and Sustaining School-Based Mental Health Services to Reduce Chronic Absenteeism](#)

[START: State Tools And Resources To Advance School Medicaid](#)

Michigan Alliance for Families (MAF)

- MAF staff support families through outreach, mentoring, and by providing a wealth of printed and electronic information and resources throughout the year.
- The MAF training team has grown to include a new part-time early childhood and youth training specialist. Kelsey Biswanger, one of the Oakland County regional parent mentors will move to her new role this fall.
- MAF recently hired two new regional parent mentors to cover openings in Northern Oakland and Northern Macomb counties as well as the central region of the state that covers Clinton, Eaton, Ingham, and Shiawassee counties. The mentors will begin working with families once they complete their four to six-week training period.



- 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](#).
- The Leaders in Policy Advocacy Series (LIPA) has wrapped up. 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](#). Seventeen participants graduated from the course.
- MAF continues to collaborate with Disability Network Southwest Michigan (DNSWM) for the DD Council's Family Empowerment Initiative through the end of 2024. This initiative works with local and statewide disability organizations to educate family members of children (birth-12) to raise expectations families have for their children with developmental disabilities to live self-determined lives. Training will continue to be announced on our website's upcoming events page. For more information on these opportunities, please visit [DNSWM's website, Paving the Way to Self Determination](#).
- 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 [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. The list includes a variety of new learning opportunities, including:
 - [Intro to Augmentative & Alternative Communication & Resources](#) (presented by our partners at MDRC)
 - [Supporting Augmentative & Alternative Communication \(AAC\) at Home](#) (presented by our partners at Alt+Shift)
 - [Discipline Protections for Students with Disabilities](#) (presented by MAF)



- [How to Prepare for and Participate in Mediation or Facilitation](#) (presented by our partners at SEMS)
- [The Power of Connection: Peers](#) (presented by MAF)
- [Math for All: Supporting Your Child with Disabilities in Math](#) (presented by our partners at Alt+Shift)
- [Growing Up with Self-Determination](#) (presented by MAF)

Michigan's MTSS Technical Assistance Center (MiMTSS TAC)

- MiMTSS TA Center, in partnership with the Michigan Department of Education, has shifted terminology from social, emotional, behavioral (SEB) to social, emotional, behavioral health (SEBH). [Transition of SEB to SEBH](#) is a one-page document describing the language shift.
- Passing of Senate Bills 567 & 568 (Literacy bills)
 - MiMTSS TA Center will provide professional learning opportunities to support the requirements of the legislation.
- Two SEB professional learning specialists were recently hired. One with a PK-elementary classroom strategies focus and the other with an elementary-middle school classroom strategies focus.

Special Education Mediation Services (SEMS)

- As a result of continued increases in referrals, SEMS trained 14 new mediators and facilitators over the summer.

Statewide Autism Resources and Training (START) Project

- [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.
- The 24th Annual START Conference will be held on April 28, 2025 at the Lansing Center in Lansing. More details, including conference presenter information, will be available on the [START website](#) later this fall. Registration will open in January 2025.
- START is excited to introduce new and updated Peer to Peer resources.
 - The [Peer to Peer Elementary Curriculum](#) is an organized package of resources that Peer to Peer teams can use at the Elementary level to structure their Peer to Peer implementation. Flexibility is also built into the curriculum given the unique needs of each Peer to Peer program.



- Both the [Elementary](#) and [Secondary](#) Peer to Peer Playbooks have been updated and revised. The Playbook is designed to assist school teams in creating or enhancing elementary Peer to Peer programs by providing comprehensive guidance, essential resources, and ready-to-use materials for developing high-quality programs.
- [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 3,500 subscribers. Anyone wishing to receive the updates can sign up on the [START website](#).

Upcoming Learning Opportunities

Alt+Shift

- Outputs to Outcomes in the Least Restrictive Environment (Save the Date)
 - **June 19-20, 2025**, North Central Michigan College in Petoskey, MI
 - Complete the [Summer Event Registration Notification Form](#) to be notified when more details are available and registration is open.
- [Foundations of Math](#) (Save the Date)
 - **January 9-10, 2025 and February 12-13, 2025 (4 day event)**, Clinton County RESA in St. Johns, MI
 - Complete the [Foundations of Math Registration Notification Form](#) to be notified when registration is open.
- Supporting Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) at Home (in partnership with Michigan Alliance for Families)
 - Two offerings: **October 28, 2025 (9:30 a.m.–10:30 a.m.) or April 22, 2025 (12:00 p.m.–1:00 p.m.)**, webinar

Low Incidence Outreach (LIO)

- For more information on the events listed below and other events offered by MDE-LIO, sign up for the [MDE-LIO email list](#) or visit [MDE-LIO Events](#).
- For families: Registration is now open for Michigan's first ever Abacus Bee competition for students who are Blind or Low Vision (BLV)! On November 16, competitors will demonstrate their math abilities using an abacus, math manipulatives, or mental math. We will have fun activities and learning opportunities for everyone, so parents and siblings are invited to join in the fun. Registration ends October 23.
- For BLV school personnel and families: We will offer several free drop-in webinar series on the following topics:
 - Cortical visual impairment
 - Independent living skills



- Access technology
 - Family connections (parent pop-up events)
- On November 22, MDE-LIO and Wayne Regional Educational Service Agency (RESA) are collaborating to offer a workshop for Deaf or Hard of Hearing (DHH) school personnel, as well as an open-house-style event for families. Registration ends November 6 for both.
 - *Building Skills for Tomorrow*: This one-day workshop will focus on building skills for success through natural learning opportunities and explicit instruction. Join us to explore effective methods for enhancing learner outcomes across all ages. Be ready to engage and learn collaboratively as we share insights and best practices.
 - *Family Mission: Puzzle Challenge*: This will be a fun-filled evening for families raising children who are DHH to connect and interact. Local organizations will be available for families to learn about local resources, and dinner will be provided. Don't miss this unique experience for families.
- Camp Tuhsmeheeta has a few upcoming fall events:
 - *Sassafras Science and Nature Center Grand Opening Celebration*: On **October 24**, we will have a gathering and ribbon-cutting ceremony for our brand-new nature center. This building will house many nature exhibits and opportunities for hands-on learning for campers who are BLV and/or DHH.
 - *Camp T Little Explorers: Leafy Adventures*: This school year, we are continuing to offer a playgroup for parents/caregivers and children, ages 0-5, who are BLV and/or DHH. On November 9, we will enjoy music, movement, story time, and other fun educational activities related to the book *There Was an Old Lady Who Swallowed Some Leaves*.

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](#).

- [Transition: Beyond IDEA](#)
 - **October 17, 2024** (6:30 p.m.-8:00 p.m. – Virtual)
- [Intro to Augmentative & Alternative Communication \(AAC\) & Resources](#)
 - **October 21, 2024** (9:30 a.m.-10:30 a.m.)
- [Collaborative Communication in Special Education](#)
 - **October 23, 2024** (5:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m.) – Virtual
- [Discipline Protections for Students with Disabilities](#)



- **October 24, 2024** (12:00 p.m.-1:30 p.m.) – Virtual
- [Supporting AAC at Home](#)
 - **October 28, 2024** (9:30 a.m.-10:30 a.m.) – Virtual
- [How to Prepare for and Participate in Mediation or Facilitation](#)
 - **October 30, 2024** (5:00 p.m.-6:30 p.m.) – Virtual
- [Building Parent Leadership in Early Childhood](#)
 - **November 1, 8, 15, 22, 2024** (9:30 a.m.-10:30 a.m.) – Virtual
- [Special Education State Complaints](#)
 - **November 5, 2024** (12:00 p.m.-1:30 p.m.) – Virtual
- [Collaborating on Transition](#)
 - **November 6, 2024** (9:30 a.m.-11:00 a.m.) – Virtual
- [FAPE in the LRE](#)
 - **November 7, 2024** (9:30 a.m.-11:00 a.m.) – Virtual
- [The Power of Connection: Peers](#)
 - **November 7, 2024** (6:30 p.m.-8:00 p.m.) – Virtual
- [IEP: A Closer Look](#)
 - **November 8, 2024** (12:00 p.m.-1:30 p.m.) – Virtual
- [Due Process Complaint and Hearing](#)
 - **November 12, 2024** (12:00 p.m.-1:30 p.m.) – Virtual
- [Employment Expectations](#)
 - **November 13, 2024** (9:30 a.m.-11:00 a.m.) – Virtual
- [Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports \(PBIS\)](#)
 - **November 14, 2024** (12:00 p.m.-1:30 p.m.) – Virtual
- [Rethinking Discipline](#)
 - **November 19, 2024** (12:00 p.m.-1:30 p.m.) – Virtual
- [Section 504 at School: What Parents Need to Know](#)
 - **December 4, 2024** (12:00 p.m.-1:00 p.m.) – Virtual
- [Math for All: Supporting Your Child with Disabilities in Math](#)
 - **December 5, 2024** (9:30 a.m.-10:30 a.m.) – Virtual
- [Behavior is Communication](#)
 - Two-part webinar
 - **December 6, 2024** (1:00 p.m.-2:30 p.m.) – Virtual
 - **December 13, 2024** (1:00 p.m.-2:30 p.m.) – Virtual
- [Disability is Not a Bad Word](#)
 - **December 11, 2024** (12:00 p.m.-1:00 p.m.) – Virtual
- [Tools for Supported Decision-Making](#)
 - **December 11, 2024** (4:30 p.m.-6:00 p.m.) – Virtual
- [Collaborative Communication in Special Education](#)
 - **December 12, 2024** (9:30 a.m.-10:30 a.m.) – Virtual



- [Moving On from Early On®](#)
 - **December 16, 2024** (9:30 a.m.-10:30 a.m.) – Virtual
- [IEP: A Closer Look](#)
 - **December 17, 2024** (9:30 a.m.-10:30 a.m.) – Virtual
- [Growing Up with Self-Determination](#)
 - **December 18, 2024** (4:30 p.m.-6:00 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](#). 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](#).

- [19th Annual MTSS Conference: Transforming Student Success Through MTSS](#)
 - **November 12-13, 2024** – Lansing, MI
 - Registration closes October 28, 2024.
- Dyslexia Summit (Save the Date)
 - **January 31, 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.

- [MDE Special Populations Conference](#)
 - **October 16, 2024** (12:45 p.m.-1:45 p.m.) – Kellogg Hotel & Conference Center, East Lansing, MI
 - Whose Journey Is It Anyway? One Student – Different Perspectives
- [Michigan Home Based Family Services Association 36th Annual Conference](#)
 - **October 24, 2024** (9:00 a.m.-10:30 a.m.) – Bavarian Inn Lodge, Frankenmuth, MI
 - Navigating Special Education
- [Michigan Association of School Psychologists Fall Conference](#)
 - **October 29, 2024** (2:30 p.m.-3:30 p.m.) – Four Points Sheraton, Novi, MI
 - Whose Journey Is It Anyway? One Student – Different Perspectives



- [2024 Early On Conference](#)
 - **November 13, 2024** (3:45 p.m.-5:00 p.m.) – Grand Traverse Resort, Acme, MI
 - Whose Journey Is It Anyway? One Student – Different Perspectives

Statewide Autism Resources and Training (START) Project

- Visit the [START Trainings webpage](#) for the 2024-2025 training and training series schedule.
- [Early Childhood - Providing Behavior Support in the Early Childhood Classroom](#)
 - **November 1, 2024** (9:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m.) – Virtual
 - Registration deadline: October 31, 2024
- [Early Childhood - Providing Behavior Support in the Early Childhood Classroom](#)
 - **November 1, 2024** (9:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m.) – Virtual
 - Registration deadline: October 31, 2024
- [FAPE in the LRE](#)
 - **November 5, 2024** (9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.) – Virtual
 - Registration deadline: November 4, 2024
- [Inclusive Instructional Strategies for Academic Engagement Series](#)
 - **November 21, 2024, December 5, 2024, and December 12, 2024** (1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m.) – Virtual
 - Registration deadline: November 20, 2024
- [Early Childhood - Preschool Life Skills \(PLS\) for All](#)
 - **December 6, 2024** (9:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m.) – Virtual
 - Registration deadline: December 5, 2024
- 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.