

UPDATES

Office of Special Education – Mandated Activities Project Michigan Department of Education June 2014

WHAT'S NEW?

Center for Educational Networking (CEN)

- Look for NEW **FOCUS on Results** articles at www.focus.cenmi.org . Subscribe to receive updates about new articles through the summer! Also consider staying informed by visiting CEN on Facebook and don't forget to click LIKE to see updates in your newsfeed.
 - *Homeless Students With Disabilities Face Educational Challenges*
May 2014 – Students experiencing homelessness face a number of challenges when it comes to continuing and maintaining their education. Learn about federal mandates that provide protections and services for children with disabilities who are homeless, ensuring that their complex needs are met.
 - *New Individualized Education Program Model Form Features Revised Assessment Section*
May 2014 – The updated form is now available on the Michigan Department of Education, Office of Special Education (MDE, OSE) website.

Michigan Alliance for Families

- Michigan Alliance for Families has statewide mentoring available for parents! Check out the link to find the mentor in your area: <http://www.michiganallianceforfamilies.org/maf-offices/>

Michigan's Integrated Behavior and Learning Support Initiative (MiBLSi)

- MiBLSi is working with the National Technical Assistance Center on Positive Behavioral Interventions & Supports in utilizing data to address disproportionality in race and discipline.
- MiBLSi is working on sponsoring training in Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills (DIBELS) and AIMSweb measurement systems this summer (more information will be coming as plans are finalized).

Michigan's Integrated Mathematics Initiative (Mi²)

Professional Development

- Recruited and accepted 30 facilitators (15 co-facilitator teams) for an *Enhancing Mathematics Instruction for Students with Learning Difficulties* facilitator institute in Traverse City, June 16-19.
- *Math for All*, a five-day course for math and special education teachers at the elementary school level. Save the date announcements went out to our network for an institute to be held in Lansing, November 10-14, 2014.

- (Mi)² was invited to a two-day preview *Foundations of Math* at Oakland schools and is exploring ways to bring the five-day teacher course to Michigan as a precursor to offering facilitator training in the state.

(Mi)² Network

- Established a **teacher listserv** for teachers who have been through the *Enhancing Mathematics* course where teachers can seek assistance from and provide assistance to each other. The listserv will continue to expand as more teachers go through more courses offered through (Mi)².
- Feedback on our monthly e-newsletter, **(Mi)² Update**, indicate that people are reading it and find announcements about professional learning opportunities around the state to be most useful.
- **Connected to people** involved with Science Technology Engineering Mathematics (STEM) initiatives, Science and Math Misconceptions Management (SAM3), Intel Math, and Algebra Assessment and Instruction: Management System (AAIMS) and explored ways to connect these groups to teachers around the state.

Michigan's Integrated Technology Support (MITS)

- *Food for Thought Accessible Learning Environments* is under development.

Michigan Special Education Mediation Program (MSEMP)

- The MSEMP will conduct a presentation at the MAASE Summer Institute titled "Collaborative Problem Solving: How to Avoid Disputes and Delays to Move Students Forward." The 90-minute presentation will focus on the OSE's dispute resolution system and how mediation and facilitated IEP meetings can lead to positive student results.
- The MSEMP has launched a restorative justice pilot project in three counties. The project is designed to reduce suspensions and expulsions among students with disabilities who engage in school misconduct. Participating schools report that the project averted 439 out-of-school suspension days from October 1, 2013 through March 31, 2014. The project is expected to run through September 30, 2015.
- The MSEMP met with new planner monitors on June 9 to provide an overview of the dispute resolution system and training in basic collaborative communication and conflict resolution techniques. In July, the MSEMP is scheduled to introduce the MSEMP to pre-service students at the U-M Flint.
- A video highlighting the MSEMP's workshops on collaboration in the IEP process and other topics is now available on the program's website, www.msemp.cenmi.org.

Michigan Transition Outcomes Projects & Reaching and Teaching Struggling Learners (MI-TOP & RTSL)

- During April and May, Michigan Transition Outcomes Projects co-hosted the Michigan Transition Leaders Institute with Michigan Rehabilitation Services and the Bureau of Services for Blind Persons. Content was provided by two national experts in transition. Each intermediate school district (ISD) team completed an annual improvement plan for the 2014-15 school year grounded in evidence-based practices for transition. Areas of improvement included dropout prevention, student engagement, student development, interagency collaboration, and family involvement.

- In addition, both projects attended the four-day National Capacity Building Institute, hosted by the National Transition Technical Assistance Center (NSTTAC), the National Dropout Prevention Center for Students with Disabilities (NDPC-SD), the National Post School Outcomes Center (NPSO), and the IDEA Partnership. Michael Yudin, Assistant Secretary for Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS) along with other federal staff presented updates and forecasting; the centers provided content sessions to increase successful outcomes for students with disabilities, and the teams created state level improvement plans. The **MI-TOP** core planning team created an annual plan to build ISD capacity to increase family engagement in the transition planning process. The **RTSL** planning team built on their current plan for a five-year statewide scale up for dropout prevention, improved graduation rates and positive school climate at the secondary level.

Statewide Autism Resources and Training (START)

- **Focus on Results Article:** LINK Peer-to-Peer Program Cultivates Relationships, Positive Culture at Saginaw High School
<http://focus.cenmi.org/focus-on-results/articles/link-peer-to-peer-program-cultivates-relationships-positive-culture-at-saginaw-high-school/>

UPCOMING LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

Michigan Alliance for Families

- Check out Michigan Alliance for Families' Transition webinars and other topics. You can find out more information at:
<http://www.michiganallianceforfamilies.org/webinar/#archive>

Michigan's Integrated Technology Support (MITS)

- *MITS Summer Institute – June 16-20, 2014*
 - From Emergent to Beginning Literacy for Students with Significant Disabilities with David Koppenhaver - FULL with 12 on wait list
 - Five-Day Advanced PODD Workshop with Gayle Porter and Linda Burkhart – 41 registered (9 available slots)
- *Introductory PODD training – June 23-24* with Gayle Porter, Laura Taylor and Melanie Tervo – FULL with 16 on wait list
- *Dryden Elementary School – August 26* Day 3 of 3½ day training on Accessible Educational Environments. Focus of day 3 is consideration of assistive technology in the IEP – from Consideration to Implementation.
- *Iosco RESA – August 27* ½ day professional development on consideration of assistive technology in the IEP.

- ***Reaching and Teaching Struggling Learners (RTSL)*** will disseminate applications for Cohort Group 1 during the month of June to principals and other administrators. Teams from high schools along with their feeder middle school interested in dropout prevention and secondary school improvement are invited to apply for intensive assistance, support, and resources. Applications must be submitted by September 15, 2014.