

## UPDATES

### Office of Special Education – Mandated Activities Project Michigan Department of Education October 2014

#### **WHAT'S NEW?**

##### **Center for Educational Networking (CEN)**

- *FOCUS on Results* offers two new articles each month. Look for the following articles and sign up to receive email updates at [www.focus.cenmi.org](http://www.focus.cenmi.org). You can also receive updates by becoming a *Facebook* fan of The Center for Educational Networking (CEN). Here are the newest and upcoming articles:
  - *Holt Special Education Director Wayne Abbott Receives MAASE Award*
  - *New Documents Posted to the Michigan Special Education Reference in Summer 2014*

##### **Michigan Alliance for Families**

- Michigan Alliance for Families has mentors available statewide to answer questions for parents and professionals! 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 piloting Math Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS) in Dewitt Public Schools.
- Three MiBLSi staff were recently hired and housed at Alpena-Montmorency-Alcona ESD, Copper Country ISD, and Kent ISD.

##### **Accessible Learning Environments (ALE)**

- As of October 1, Michigan's Integrated Technology Supports (MITS) and Michigan's Integrated Mathematics Initiative (Mi)<sup>2</sup> have merged under the working title of Accessible Learning Environments (ALE). Jeff Diedrich is the Project Director. Jim Stachowiak, who was hired in May as the Coordinator of MITS and MI<sup>2</sup>, is the Coordinator of the Project. Laura Taylor is the project's Assistive Technology Implementation Specialist. Kate Fanelli is the program's Math Accessibility Specialist. Cheryl Barry is the project's Administrative Assistant and the project will soon be hiring a new Lending Library Coordinator/Production Assistant.
- ALE is presenting several presentations at AssisTechKnow, including *Consideration of AT: What is That?*, *Pure Michigan—Resources for Michigan Educators*, and *I Have Something to Say: Giving Students with Complex Communication Needs a Voice* on October 9 and 10 at Kent ISD, Grand Rapids. There will also be an exhibitor booth at the conference.

- ALE is planning cooperative presentations on *Content of the IEP* and *Considering AT in the IEP* with Michigan Alliance for Families throughout the state. Presentations will take place at various locations throughout the state until May of 2015.
- ALE conducted a presentation for a public school system on August 19 on Accessible Educational Environments. This presentation introduced universal supports and universal design for learning (UDL) as beginning strategies to meet the needs of a wide range of learners. It will be followed up with presentations on targeted and intensive supports in November and March.
- Site visits will be scheduled for follow-up support for districts that have recently been trained in Pragmatic Organization Dynamic Display (PODD) including the regions hosting trainings this school year. The purpose is to ensure that practices are implemented with fidelity to ensure students have accessible communication strategies in place.
- ALE is providing professional development sessions for special education teachers with an ISD on October 16 and 21 on consideration of assistive technology and helpful assistive technology in Browser-Based and iPad settings.
- Foundations of Math with Dr. Chris Cain – held two 2-day previews (Howell and Marquette) for the 5-day course developed at the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction to prevent and address math disabilities. It is a pedagogical content focused training for mixed audiences of K-12 educators, administrators, consultants and parents. Feedback is overwhelming positive and we are in the planning process to offer the 5-day course.
- Enhancing Mathematics Instruction for Students with Learning Difficulties – we have 12 scheduled course implementations for the 2014-2015 school year at 10 sites around the state.
- ALE is collaborating with Detroit Area of Teachers of Mathematics to do one-day training in southeast Michigan with a focus on assisting general education teachers who teach students with special needs.
- ALE is offering a 3-part webinar series on accessible math instruction as part of the collaborative webinar series headed by Ohio Center for Autism and Low Incidence (OCALI).

### **Michigan Special Education Mediation Program (MSEMP)**

- The MSEMP is scheduled to conduct workshops on collaborative communication and conflict resolution in special education for parents in Sanilac, Detroit, Cadillac, Muskegon, and Van Buren in October and November.
- The program also is scheduled to conduct presentations for the Michigan Association of School Social Workers, Michigan Association of School Boards, and the Michigan Association of Community Mental Health Boards on November 6, 8, and 19 respectively.

### **Michigan Transition Outcomes Project (MI-TOP)**

- MI-TOP completed analysis and presented findings from district community conversations with staff, families, and community partners. The 19 community conversations

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represented 504 local school districts. Findings emphasized the consensus among participants that transition planning needs to start earlier, it needs increased family involvement, and that interagency cash transfer agreements (ICTAs) and strong relationships are critical to providing the resources and services needed for successful student outcomes.

### **Reaching and Teaching Struggling Learners (RTSL)**

- RTSL is in process of receiving the first round of applications for Cohort 1 schools. There will be an announcement of participating schools in the coming months and begin training the regional coaching teams to support early 2015 implementation.
- This summer, Leisa Gallagher, RTSL Coordinator, was a panelist in a three part series hosted by WestEd entitled Creating Communities of Practice for Turnaround: Navigating SEA Landscapes. Webinars and resources are archived at <http://centeronschoolturnaround.org/cop-convening-series-1/>.

### **UPCOMING LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES**

#### ***Michigan Alliance for Families***

- Check out Michigan Alliance upcoming webinars about Early On Services and Personal Curriculum:  
<http://www.michiganallianceforfamilies.org/webinar/>

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

- MiBLSi will hold a School-wide Positive Behavioral Interventions & Support conference for coaches on December 10 and 11 at the Lansing Crown Plaza. See [www.miblsi.cenmi.org](http://www.miblsi.cenmi.org) for more information.

#### ***Accessible Learning Environments (ALE)***

- "Consideration of AT, What's That?", AssisTechKnow, October 9.
- "Pure Michigan – Resources for Michigan Educators", AssisTechKnow, October 9.
- "I Have Something to Say: Giving Students with Complex Communication Needs a Voice", AssisTechKnow, October 10.
- "Browser Based Assistive Technology" webinar, October 28
- "Increasing Accessibility to Mathematics for ALL Students" webinar, November 5
- "Technology Based Supports for Struggling Math Learners", Detroit Area Council of Teachers of Mathematics Annual Conference, November 8.
- "What's New for Accessibility in iOS 8" webinar, November 11
- "Universal Supports for Students in Mathematics: Number and Operation K-12," webinar, November 12
- "Helping Students Read and Write Mathematics," webinar, November 19
- "Accessibility in a Bring Your Own Device Environment," webinar, December 8

- “Teaching Mathematics to Students with Special Needs in the General Education Classroom,” southeast Michigan location to be determined, January 24, 2015.
- For more information and to register for any of the above learning opportunities go to [www.mits.cenmi.org](http://www.mits.cenmi.org)

### ***Statewide Autism Resources and Training (START)***

- November 3, 2014 - START Fall Leadership Day at the Grand Rapids Crowne Plaza.  
Themes to be covered:
  - Peer-to-Peer Support
  - Training and Coaching
  - Secondary Transition
- Statewide training modules open to all educators and parents.
  - Peer-to-Peer Support – October 9 & 10, 2014
  - Asperger’s Syndrome – October 27 & 28, 2014
  - Centralized Evaluation Team (CET) – November 20, 2015
  - Centralized Evaluation Team (CET) – March 23, 2015

To register, go to the START website [www.gvsu.edu/autismcenter](http://www.gvsu.edu/autismcenter) and select START Events.

- **Save the date: START Conference - April 27, 2015**

ANNOUNCING: Mark Durand Ph.D. Keynote Speaker for the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual START Conference on April 27, 2015. Watch EVENTS on the START website for registration in January. Durand is currently a professor/researcher at USF-St. Petersburg and is an advisory board member for the Autism Society of America. Durand is co-editor of the [\*Journal of Positive Behavior Interventions\*](#) and author of 100 research publications and 10 books, including abnormal psychology textbooks used at more than 1,000 universities worldwide. Major themes of his research are the assessment and treatment of severe behavior problems for children and adults with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and other severe disabilities, parent training and the development of treatments for child sleep problems. His most recent book is the award-winning *Optimistic Parenting: Hope and Help for You and Your Challenging Child*, a guide for parents and caregivers of children with ASD.