

## UPDATES

### Office of Special Education Michigan Department of Education August 2014

#### WHAT'S NEW?

##### **State Assessments**

- All summative assessments will be given in the Spring of 2015.
- General Assessments will be based on current Michigan standards and will be online.
  - Paper/Pencil versions are available for districts that are determined to be not technology ready and also available at the student level if an IEP team determines online testing inappropriate.
  - A Braille version will be available.
- MEAP Access (alternate assessment based on modified achievement standards) is no longer available.
- Decisions about the operational use of Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM) have been delayed for at least a year.
  - Alternate Assessments based on Alternate Achievement Standards (MI-Access) will remain and will be based on Extended Grade Level Content Expectations (EGLCEs), Extended Benchmarks (EBs) and Extended High School Content Expectations (EHSCEs) (per announcement that was released in July).
    - Social Studies will be added at the Functional Independence (FI) level only.
    - All FI Assessments will be online.
      - Paper/Pencil versions are available for districts that are determined to be not technology ready and also available at the student level if an IEP team determines online testing inappropriate.
      - Accommodated versions for FI will be offered as they have been in the past.
  - Michigan's alternate achievement standards are the EGLCEs, EBs and EHSCEs. Work is currently being done to shift to alternate standards that are better linked to current Michigan standards. Moving to Essential Elements (as developed by the DLM Consortium) is one possibility.

## Accountability

- *Early On*/Part C of IDEA received a *Meets Requirements* in its determination. Thank you all for the work that you do. This would not have been possible without you.

## Data Collection

- Regulation §300.646 of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) requires that each state that receives assistance under Part B of the IDEA provide for the collection and examination of data to determine if significant disproportionality based on race and ethnicity is occurring in the local education agencies of the state with respect to:
  - identification of children with disabilities (based on 2 years of data)
  - identification of children with disabilities in a particular impairment category (based on 2 years of data)
  - placement of children in particular education settings (based on 2 years of data)
  - incidence, duration, and type of disciplinary actions, including suspensions and expulsions (based on 1 year of data)
- Significant Disproportionality warning letters will be in the August 15<sup>th</sup> CIMS electronic Workbook.
  - Warning letters are for Identification and Educational Environments.
  - Discipline is based on a single year of data, therefore, no warning is possible.

## Monitoring

- CIMS workbook will open September 15. *Early On* asks that you please acknowledge the workbook and read monitoring messages.

## Low Incidence Outreach

- The Braille Authority of North America (BANA) announced that the United States will adopt the new Unified English Braille (UEB) Code in January 2016. The current braille code is not obsolete, however, there will be a slow transition to the new code over several years. Existing braille books will still be utilized, but newly transcribed books will implement the new UEB code. Michigan Department of Education-Low Incidence Outreach (MDE-LIO) will assist teachers of the visually impaired, paraprofessionals, students, their family members and braille transcribers across the State of Michigan by

offering regional workshops to teach the new code. MDE-LIO will announce these workshops soon.

## **Early Childhood**

- Early Childhood Special Education; ECSE (Part B of IDEA, Section 619) 2014-2015 estimated allocations are posted at [www.michigan.gov/ecse](http://www.michigan.gov/ecse)
- Early Childhood Special Education; ECSE (Part B of IDEA, Section 619) has posted two new online trainings for Indicator B-6 – Educational Environments Ages 3-5. First is on Supporting Inclusion: Embedded Instruction and the second is an updated training on Coding Preschool Educational Environments. Both of these online trainings may be found at <http://eotta.ccrea.org/Training.php?Cat=21>

## **Michigan Special Education Reference (MI-SER)**

The following documents have been placed on the MI-SER:

- United States Laws and Regulations>USDOE>Letter to Chief State School Officers and State Attorneys General>Incarcerated Youth (June 9, 2014)
- United States Laws and Regulations>USDOE>Letter to Chief State School Officers>English Learners with Disabilities (July 18, 2014)

## **HOT TOPICS**

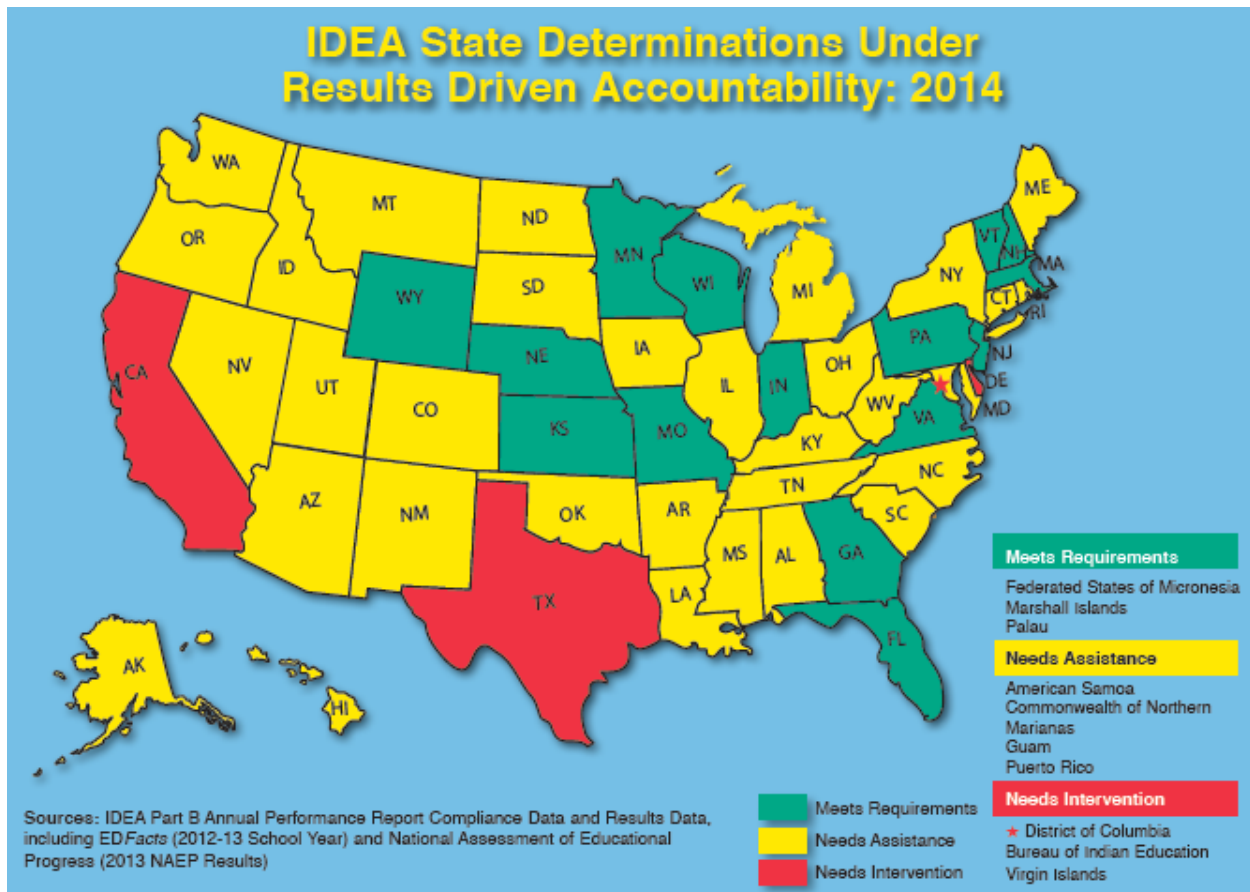
Visual Impairment and Deaf and Hard of Hearing (VI and DHH) Consortia for Teacher Preparation:

- The Michigan Department of Education has partnered with several out-of-state institutions of higher education that have teacher preparation programs, as well as with schools and agencies for the blind and Michigan institutions of higher education, to deliver an online endorsement program that will permit certified teachers to obtain an additional endorsement on their Michigan teaching certificate in either deaf/hard of hearing or visual impairment.
- To date the VI Consortium has nine actively enrolled students and the DHH Consortium has six students.
- The Consortia welcomes new students who have a bachelor's degree, a valid or pending Michigan teaching certificate. Partial tuition reimbursement is available to students who are certified teachers in Michigan and eligible for the program.

- Visit the website at [www.mictp.org](http://www.mictp.org) for more information and please spread the word about this opportunity to teachers who would love to teach students who are blind, deaf-blind, deaf, or hard of hearing.

### State Determination

- OSEP annually issues a determination status to each state
- Michigan has been notified that we are a “Needs Assistance” state
- We have a lot of company:



- Two parts to the Determinations: Compliance & Results
- Michigan met the requirements for compliance
- Results was a new component used in determinations
  - Reading and mathematics
  - Two items based on Michigan assessment results

- Participation in 4<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade Regular Statewide Assessments
- Proficiency Gap in 4<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade on Regular Statewide Assessments
- Four items based on Michigan's performance on the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP)
  - Percent excluded from the 4<sup>th</sup> grade NAEP
  - Percent 4<sup>th</sup> graders scoring basic or above on the NAEP
  - Percent excluded from the 8<sup>th</sup> grade NAEP
  - Percent 8<sup>th</sup> graders scoring basic or above on the NAEP.
- Graduation will be added next year to the Determinations process.

### **OSEP Proposal for FFY 2013 to FFY 2018**

- Combine the SPP/APR into one document.
- Eliminate another 2 indicators: Indicators 15: Compliance Findings and Indicator 20: Timely and accurate data
- New Indicator: State Systemic Improvement Plan
- Online submission via GRADS360.

### **New resource for OSEP documentation and related information**

- GRADS360 <https://osep.grads360.org/#program>
- Currently under construction
- Planned to be the repository for **all** OSEP documentation

### **Indicator 17: State Systemic Improvement Plan**

- Major MDE & OSE undertaking
- Long-Range Plan
- Comprehensive review & analysis of what currently exists
- Identify a student outcome that will be improved as a result of the plan.
- SSIP phase 1 plan to be developed and written by mid-January 2015.

### **UPCOMING LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES**

- The Michigan Department of Education-Low Incidence Outreach is sponsoring summer camp programming for children and youth with visual impairments. Camp Tuhsmebeta, located near Greenville, Michigan, is a rustic, outdoor camp setting offering hiking, canoeing, rock-climbing, archery, and much

more. Participants will not forget the wonderful time they have at Camp T meeting new friends, singing songs by the campfire, discovering new skills and creating memories lasting a lifetime. Parents and teachers, please consider registering your student for one of our sessions this summer. The cost of registration is \$5.00. Scholarships are available through MDE-LIO. Transportation may be provided based on needs.

- **CAMPER REGISTRATION**

If you are interested in registering your child/student, please go to <http://mde-lio.cenmi.org/News/tabid/392/articleType/ArticleView/articleId/689/Camp-Tuhsmeheeta-Summer-Camps.aspx> and reserve a spot today! Space is limited. Scholarships are available by contacting MDE-LIO at 888-760-2206 or visiting LIO's [scholarship page](http://mde-lio.cenmi.org/Services/VisualImpairmentServices/Scholarships.aspx) at <http://mde-lio.cenmi.org/Services/VisualImpairmentServices/Scholarships.aspx>

- Professional Development Opportunities at Camp T - MDE-LIO is offering two great opportunities to meet other teachers and specialists in the Visual Impairment (VI) field while learning how expanded core curriculum can be embedded within a camp setting. Earn credits while having fun in the outdoors at Camp Tuhsmeheeta! Training will include topics difficult to teach in a traditional school setting such as laundry, cooking skills, recreation/leisure and home repair. (ACVREP and SCECH approval pending)
- **MDE-LIO Sponsored Professional Development Opportunities and Services for DHH Professionals:**  
Upcoming EIPA testing dates:  
August 22, 2014 (Friday), LIO, Lansing  
August 26, 2014 (Tuesday), Kent ISD, Grand Rapids  
August 27, 2014 (Wednesday), Traverse Bay ISD  
September 4, 2014 (Thursday), Kent ISD, Grand Rapids  
September 15, 2014 (Monday), Kent ISD, Grand Rapids  
September 17, 2014 (Wednesday), LIO, Lansing  
September 26, 2014 (Friday), LIO Lansing  
September 29, 2014 (Monday), Oakland ISD
- **Annual Conference for Professionals Supporting Students Who Are Deaf or Hard of Hearing** - October 2-3, 2014, Winding Brook Conference Center, Shepherd, Michigan - Electronic Registration coming September 2014.
- **Sign Language Proficiency Interview (SLPI)/American Sign Language Proficiency Interview (ASLPI)** - The MDE-LIO offers the SLPI to students who are deaf/hard of hearing and the staff who work directly with

these students at no cost. As of April 1, 2014, MDE-LIO is now offering the ASLPI in place of the SLPI for adults who work with students who are deaf/hard of hearing in K-12 or post-secondary educational programs as well as for students who are deaf/hard of hearing over age 16 who would like a college reportable score. For all other students who are deaf/hard of hearing enrolled in district or ISD level educational programming, the SLPI (modified) will still be administered.

- Please see <http://mde-lio.cenmi.org> for more details or to sign up for any of these opportunities.
- Early Childhood Special Education; ECSE (Part B of IDEA, Section 619) has face-to-face trainings for Child Outcomes 0-5 Training: *Early On* and Preschool Special Education. Additional information and registration may be found at <http://eotta.ccesa.org/Training.php?Cat=2&ID=43>
- If you need to complete the online training on Preschool Childhood Outcomes, the training is available at <http://eotta.ccesa.org/Training.php?cat=21>

## UPDATES

### Office of Special Education – Mandated Activities Project Michigan Department of Education August 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 liking the Center for Educational Networking (CEN) on Facebook.

Here are the newest and upcoming articles:

- **New Documents Posted to MI-SER:** Two new OSEP policy letters were posted to the MI-SER in March. This is part of an ongoing series that highlights new documents and promotes the MI-SER.
- **Camp Tuhsmeheeta Offers Outdoor Education Opportunities for All Students:** MDE-LIO has ramped up summer programming for Visual Impairment and Deaf and Hard of Hearing students at Camp Tuhsmeheeta in Greenville. In addition to these programs, the camp is also now open to any educational group in Michigan.
- **Michigan Transition Projects (MTP) Hosts New Institute for Transition Coordinators:** In early May, MTP hosted its first Transition Leadership Planning Institute, a two-day event that brought together all of Michigan's ISD transition coordinators. The event guided attendees through the process of creating an annual plan to improve transition education and services within their ISD.
- **Wayne Abbott Receives 2014 MAASE Award of Distinction:** Abbott, Holt Public Schools' Special Education Director, received the award in June. This article will be a profile piece on Abbott's work in the district.

Past articles still available at [www.focus.cenmi.org](http://www.focus.cenmi.org):

- **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.

- **Early Data is 'Promising' for Michigan Restorative Practice Pilot Project**

June 2014 – Three dispute resolution centers in Michigan are participating in a pilot project that aims to reduce suspension and expulsion rates for Michigan students with disabilities.

### **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)**

- A Math multi-tier system of support (MTSS) pilot project will take place with DeWitt Public Schools during the 2014-2015 school year.
- More than 30 online modules on the topic of integrated academic and behavior supports are available through Learnport ([www.learnport.org](http://www.learnport.org)).
- MiBLSi will be holding a Coaching conference December 11 and 12. Dr. Rob Horner (Director of National PBIS Center) will be the keynote speaker.

### **Michigan's Integrated Mathematics Initiative (Mi)<sup>2</sup>**

- Concluded the 2013-2014 academic year with 11 course implementations (approximately 275 teachers) for *Enhancing Mathematics Instruction for Students with Learning Difficulties*.
- Held a facilitator institute for *Enhancing Mathematics Instruction for Students with Learning Difficulties*, with 32 new facilitators, in Traverse City, Michigan in June. (Mi)<sup>2</sup> now has 98 facilitators trained to implement this course.
- Presented on increasing accessibility to mathematics for the Michigan's Integrated Behavior and Learning Support Initiative (MiBLSi) Mathematics Community of Practice webinar series, the Michigan Association of Administrators of Special Education (MAASE) summer meeting, and Michigan Council of Teachers of Mathematics (MCTM) Annual Conference and Institutes.
- In addition to addressing individual needs around course implementation for *Enhancing Mathematics Instruction for Students with Learning Difficulties*, (Mi)<sup>2</sup> offered assistance through training and/or consultation for Dearborn Public Schools, Southfield Public Schools, Lansing Public Schools, and Delta Math.
- Met with leaders of other initiatives to introduce each other's projects and discuss potential collaborations: Scot Acre, president of Detroit Area Council

of Teachers of Mathematics (DACTM); Pam Buffington, senior project director, Education Development Center (EDC).

- Held a half-day preview for *Math for All*, a professional development course for elementary school general and special education teachers, at MCTM, that focuses on increasing accessibility to mathematics for all students. (Mi)<sup>2</sup> continues to work with the developers/facilitators for the course regarding a facilitator institute in Michigan, based on need and interest.
- Held our annual Facilitator Reunion at Hope College in Holland, Michigan in conjunction with the MCTM Annual Conference. This event provides an opportunity for our facilitators to get a first look at new resources available in the state, get ideas and support for implementation, and learn how to sustain, expand, and get the desired outcomes from the course.

### **Michigan's Integrated Technology Support (MITS)**

- Increased attention to assisting districts/regions to **design accessible educational environments** via delivery of information **through a three part Professional Development over time**. Part 1 focuses on universal design for learning (UDL)/accessible instructional materials (AIM) and universal supports. Part 2 focuses on Targeted supports. Part 3 focuses on Intensive Supports including assistive technology in the individualized education program (IEP). Districts committed to all parts of the module will also continue to have face-to-face and virtual support in the subsequent year (totaling a two year commitment). All parts include "consideration" of the diversity of the learners within the educational environment and meeting those needs with low/no cost strategies/tools. This has been initiated at Dryden Elementary and in the Southfield Public School District.
- Increased focus on **family-school partnership** with schools and advocacy training. The focus for both of those groups is to break down the barriers of "demands" on both sides and move toward a collaborative partnership to effectively meet the needs of students.
- Hosted the 2014 MITS Summer Institute that included a five-day session on the PODD (Pragmatic Organization Dynamic Display) communication system that was presented by Gayle Porter and Linda Burkhart and attended by 50 participants from across the United States and Michigan. There was also a three-day session on emergent literacy presented by David Kopenhaver and attended by 30 participants. Both sessions were filled to capacity and had waiting lists.
- Hosted a two-day Introduction to PODD that was presented by Gayle Porter, Laura Taylor, and Melanie Tervo, which was attended by 50 participants from across the U.S. and Michigan. This event was also at capacity.

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

- The MSEMP will conduct its Conflict Resolution in Special Education workshop for Eaton Regional Education Service Agency (RESA) on August 19 and 20.

This two-day workshop provides skills in collaborative communication and dispute resolution so educators and parents can resolve disagreements on their own. The MSEMP will also conduct its Essential Skills for IEP Meetings workshop, which is designed to help IEP team participants make meetings more collaborative and productive.

- In July, the MSEMP provided an overview of the OSE dispute resolution system to precertification students at the University of Michigan-Flint. The session explained the formal and informal options available in the system and the advantages

### **Michigan Transition Projects (MI-TOP & RTSL)**

- Applications to participate in **Reaching and Teaching Struggling Learners (RTSL)** went out in June. Schools that are selected will receive intensive support and resources from our state and regional teams to build capacity for graduation and prevent dropout. Applications are due back by September 15. If you would like more information, please contact Leisa Gallagher at [lgallagher@cenmi.org](mailto:lgallagher@cenmi.org).
- During June and July, Michigan Transition Projects supported ISD transition coordinators and other district staff to finalize annual improvement plans and apply for the transition coordination grant. Areas identified for improvement included evidence-based practices for dropout prevention, student engagement, student development, interagency collaboration, and family involvement.

### **HOT TOPICS**

#### **Build Up Michigan**

- *Build Up Michigan* is our approach to outreach and information for parents and the public about the availability of special education services for young children who are not yet connected to the school system. Consultation with marketers and parent focus groups informed the development of the Build Up from the beginning and feedback from educators refined our strategies.
- Our campaign began recently with a “soft launch,” including the website (BuildUpMi.org), Facebook, Twitter, and print advertisements in select parent publications throughout the state. In August, we’ll enhance campaign efforts through targeted mobile advertisement, public television sponsorships, and additional print advertisements in newspapers and local publications. Brochures and posters will be available to districts and the public at no cost.
- This work is supported by Clinton County RESA’s Office of Innovative Projects through a contract with the Michigan Department of Education Office of Special Education to support statewide activities related to IDEA’s Child Find mandate. It is our responsibility to develop and implement a campaign to

assist districts in meeting their child find responsibilities and to inform parents about the availability of special education services for preschool aged children in Michigan.

- We're Online!
  - Website: [www.buildupmi.org](http://www.buildupmi.org)
  - Facebook: [www.facebook.com/BuildUpMich](http://www.facebook.com/BuildUpMich)
  - Twitter: <https://twitter.com/BuildUpMichigan>
- Any questions or concerns can be directed to Victoria Meeder, Marketing/Public Awareness Supervisor, at [meeder\\_v@ccresa.org](mailto:meeder_v@ccresa.org) or 517-668-0185.

## **UPCOMING LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES**

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

- Check out Michigan Alliance upcoming learning opportunities: <http://www.michiganallianceforfamilies.org/upcoming-events/>

### ***Michigan's Integrated Mathematics Initiative***

- September 18-19–*Foundations of Math* two-day preview (lower peninsula)
- October 8–MAASE Spotlight presentation
- November 2-3–*Foundations of Math* two-day preview (upper peninsula)
- November 8–workshop presentation for Detroit Council of Teachers of Mathematics Annual Conference

### ***Michigan's Integrated Technology Support***

- August 18–Day 1 of Accessible Educational Environments Module (Southfield Public Schools). Focus on universal supports.
- August 26–Day 3 of Accessible Educational Environments Module (Dryden Elementary). Focus on consideration of assistive technology in the IEP – Intensive supports.
- August 27–IOSCO RESA – presentation for special education staff to include: MITS purpose, levels of supports for meeting students' needs, barriers/enablers in the learning environment, the importance of consideration of the learning environment including assistive technology in the IEP.
- October 9-10–AssisTechKnow Conference – Presentations on PODD and Assistive Technology Consideration in the IEP.

***Michigan Transition Projects (MI-TOP & RTSL)***

- **Reaching and Teaching Struggling Learners (RTSL)** disseminated applications for Cohort Group 1 in June to ISD transition coordinators, principals, and other administrators. Teams from high schools—along with their feeder middle school interested in receiving intensive assistance, support, and resources to build capacity for dropout prevention and school improvement—are invited to apply for first round funding. Applications must be submitted by September 15, 2014.