

UPDATES

Office of Special Education – IDEA Grant Funded Initiatives Michigan Department of Education April 2015

WHAT'S NEW?

Michigan Alliance for Families

- Michigan Alliance for Families is excited to announce that they have hired Harvalee Saunto as their new Policy Coordinator.

Accessible Learning Environments (ALE)

- ALE participated in two collaborative trainings with Michigan Alliance for Families for parents/providers in Gaylord and Detroit addressing the contents of the individualized education program (IEP) and Consideration of the Educational Environment.
- ALE presented on Consideration of Assistive Technology in the IEP for LEAP (Lead, Empower, Assist Parents) at Kent ISD.
- ALE gave three presentations at the Upper Peninsula Special Education Conference in Marquette in February:
 - Introductory Pragmatic Organization Dynamic Display (PODD) Training
 - Technology Based Strategies to Support Struggling Math Learners
 - Powerful Assistive Technology for Free: Maximizing the Built-in Components of Chrome and iPads in the Classroom
- ALE gave three presentations at the Michigan Council for Exceptional Children conference in Grand Rapids in March:
 - Providing Aided Language Input with PODD
 - Maximizing Everyday Technology to Meet the Needs of Students with Disabilities
 - Strengthening Mathematics Instruction and Understanding for Students with Disabilities
- ALE hosted *Foundations of Math, Days 1 and 2*, in Lansing and Marquette with a total of 120 participants.
- ALE began collaboration with North Carolina Department of Public Instruction Exceptional Children's Division to scale *Foundations of Math* statewide and support successful implementation of new practices.
- ALE is increasing collaborative efforts with the Office of Education Improvement & Innovation (OEII) regarding the *Foundations of Math* training as well as the Summer Institute. Other opportunities for collaboration are being explored.
- ALE presented *Technology Based Strategies to Support Struggling Math Learners: Expressions and Equations* at the Math in Action Conference in Allendale.
- ALE concluded the 2014/2015 course implementations of *Enhancing Mathematics Instruction for Students with Learning Difficulties* with approximately 265 participants at 14 sites.
- ALE participated on a panel discussing M-STEP accommodations at two M-STEP Readiness workshops at the Ingham and Gratiot-Isabella ISDs.
- ALE presented *Universal Design for Learning* to this year's Reaching and Teaching Struggling Learners cohort at their March meeting.

Michigan Transition Outcomes Project (MI-TOP)

- MI-TOP hosted the Michigan Transition Services Association (MTSA) pre-conference workshop on March 18 featuring Sarah Vazquez, an advocate, author, and motivational speaker. Sarah spent the previous afternoon of March 17 at Bentley High School in Burton, where she gave a presentation to the student body and hosted a small group discussion with student leaders, including special education students. After Sarah presented her keynote and workshop at the pre-conference, seven Bentley High School students participated in a panel discussion in front of 400 educators and community partners.
- On June 16-17, MI-TOP will host the *Strengthening Interagency Collaboration and Systems Alignment Institute*, a collaborative effort between MI-TOP, Michigan Rehabilitation Services, Bureau of Services for Blind Persons, and Career and Technical Education. The institute will be held at the Crowne Plaza in Lansing. It aims to improve interagency transition supports across special education, career and technical education, and vocational rehabilitation. David Hoff, program director for the Institute for Community Inclusion, School for Global Inclusion, and Social Development at the University of Massachusetts, will present on the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA). Jennifer Segal, an associate at Brustein & Manasevit in Washington, D.C., will present on interagency intersections across federal requirements. For more information visit <http://mi-top.cenmi.org>.

Statewide Autism Resources and Training (START)

- On April 27, START will host its 14th annual conference at Crowne Plaza Lansing West. Dr. Mark Durand will give the keynote, *An Optimistic Approach to Helping Students with Challenging Behaviors*.

UPCOMING LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

Accessible Learning Environments (ALE)

Visit mits.cenmi.org/events for information and registration for learning opportunities below.

- Introductory PODD Training, Fremont, April 16 and 17.
- Introductory PODD Training, Macomb ISD, April 30 and May 1.
- Michigan Augmentative Alternative Communication Conference in conjunction with Eaton ISD, May 14 and 15.
- MAASE Lunchtime Presentation, Lansing, June 10.
- Learning Environments for ALL Summer Institute, Hagerty Conference Center, Traverse City, June 15 – 18.
- *Foundations of Math*, Novi and Traverse City, August – October.
- Making Mathematics Meaningful through Collaboration Conference, Macomb ISD, September 28.

Michigan Alliance for Families

- Visit the Michigan Alliance for Families event page for upcoming learning opportunities around the state: michiganallianceforfamilies.org/upcoming-events.

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

- School-Wide Information System (SWIS) facilitator training April 21 and 23. Anita Archer will present two workshops (*Successfully Teaching Reading Foundation Skills and Writing Foundations*) April 22 and 23. Visit miblsi.cenmi.org for more information.

Statewide Autism Resources and Training (START)

Visit www.gvsu.edu/autismcenter for information regarding opportunities below.

- Annual conference, Crowne Plaza Lansing West, April 27.
- START's Regional Collaborative Networks (RCN) Leadership Day is April 28. The training will be held at Crowne Plaza Lansing West.