

UPDATES

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

WHAT'S NEW?

Accessible Learning Environments (ALE)

Any questions regarding this information please contact Jim Stachowiak at Jim.stachowiak@mitsweb.org

- ALE recently hired Aimee Cain as its Lending Library/Production Assistant.
- Trainings and Presentations that have taken place –
 - “Assistive Technology Tools for Transitioning” for students and teachers at the Macomb Intermediate School District (ISD) Transition Fair.
 - “Beyond Bookshare – Accessible Instructional Materials and Accessible Classroom Materials” to an ISD.
 - Three Pragmatic Organization Dynamic Display (PODD) trainings to constituent districts, including educators, paraeducators, parents, and support staff.
 - Provided virtual targeted support to speech and language providers as well as intensive in-person support in Region 1.
 - Provided PODD overview information to constituents in Region 1, including employees in several school districts and parents and their providers.
 - “Teaching Students with Special Needs in the General Education Classroom,” a full-day math professional learning opportunity in collaboration with the Detroit Council of Teachers of Mathematics.
- Planning has begun for the “MCTM/MCEC: Making Mathematics Meaningful through Collaboration” joint conference presented by the Michigan Council of Teachers of Mathematics and Michigan Council for Exceptional Children. The conference will be held September 28 at Macomb ISD.
- Two webinars: “Accessibility in a Bring Your Own Device Environment” and “What’s Next? After Assistive Technology Consideration” were conducted.

Center for Educational Networking (CEN)

- As of January 2015, CEN is no longer publishing *FOCUS on Results* articles.
 - The CEN project will continue to support the communication efforts of the Michigan Department of Education, Office of Special Education and its IDEA Grant Funded Initiatives. Please visit www.michigan.gov/ose-eis for OSE news and information.
 - Archived issues of the publication will remain available on this site through the calendar year.

Michigan Alliance for Families

- Michigan Alliance for Families has several upcoming learning opportunities in 2015. Check out the link to see the full list of events: www.michiganallianceforfamilies.org/upcoming-events

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

- Applications for ISD participation are due February 20. Applications are now available on the MiBLSi website: www.miblsi.cenmi.org

Michigan Special Education Mediation Program (MSEMP)

- In 2015, the MSEMP will conduct workshops on collaboration techniques for IEP meetings in four locations:
 - Detroit
 - Ludington
 - Dearborn
 - Grand Rapids
- The program will also give a presentation on its mediation, facilitation, and training services to the Developmental Disability Council.
- At the Michigan Council for Exceptional Children Annual Conference on March 5, the MSEMP will give a presentation titled "Keeping Kids in Class through Restorative Justice."
- For more information please visit www.msemp.cenmi.org

Michigan Transition Outcomes Project (MI-TOP)

- MI-TOP collaborated with the Michigan Transition Services Association (MTSA) to host a full-day online workshop on January 28. Laurie VanderPloeg, Kent ISD Special Education Director, presented information on how data-based decision making can help identify programming and courses of study for students with disabilities, along with personal curriculum options.
- MI-TOP will conduct Transition Focused Family Community Conversations in three ISDs this February.

UPCOMING LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

Accessible Learning Environments (ALE)

- Introductory PODD Trainings, Upper Peninsula Special Education Conference, Marquette, February 26-27.
- "Technology Based Strategies to Support Struggling Math Learners: Expressions and Equations," Upper Peninsula Special Education Conference, Marquette, February 27.
- "Providing Free Assistive Technology Supports for Students: Built-in Tools on the iPad and Chrome Web Browser," Upper Peninsula Special Education Conference, Marquette, February 27.

- “Strengthening Mathematics Instruction and Understanding for Students with Disabilities,” Michigan Council for Exceptional Children Conference, Grand Rapids, March 6.
- “Maximizing Everyday Technology to Meet the Needs of Students with Disabilities,” Michigan Council for Exceptional Children Conference, Grand Rapids, March 6.
- “Consideration of Assistive Technology in the IEP” collaborative training with Michigan Alliance for Families, Gaylord, March 17.
- MAASE lunchtime presentation, Lansing, April 16.
- Accessible Learning Environments Summer Institute, Traverse City, June 15-19.
- MCTM/MCEC: Making Mathematics Meaningful through Collaboration Conference, Clinton Township, September 28.
- *Foundations of Math* five-day course:
 - Lansing, March 16 and 17, May 11, 26 and 27
 - Marquette, March 19 and 20, May 13, 28 and 29
 - Traverse City, August 10 and 11, September 21, and October 19 and 20
 - Location TBD, August 13 and 14, September 23, and October 22 and 23
- For more information please visit www.mits.cenmi.org

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

- The MiBLSi State Conference is scheduled for March 17-18 (more information is available on www.miblsi.cenmi.org).

Michigan Transition Outcomes Project (MI-TOP)

- MI-TOP is hosting the Michigan Transition Services Association (MTSA) pre-conference workshop on March 18. Sarah Vazquez, a national motivational speaker, advocate, and author, will lead the workshop. The MTSA conference is March 18–20. Look for conference and registration information at www.michigantsa.com/#!2015-conference/c24qs.
- MI-TOP is collaborating with vocational rehabilitation, Michigan Rehabilitation Services (MRS), and the Bureau of Services for Blind Persons (BSBP) for the Spring Transition Leadership Institute. The institute will be held June 16 and 17 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Lansing.