

UPDATES

Office of Special Education – IDEA Grant Funded Initiatives Michigan Department of Education October 2016

WHAT'S NEW?

Michigan Alliance for Families (MAF)

- *Positive Behavior Support (PBS) Conference with MIBLSI*: On September 23, MAF collaborated with Michigan's Integrated Behavior and Learning Support Initiative (MIBLSI) to present a one-day PBS conference, "Individualizing Positive Behavior Support for Student Success." Meme Hieneman was the conference presenter at Kent Intermediate School District (ISD), which served as the live host site. Dr. Hieneman is a Ph.D. Board Certified Behavior Analyst and a nationally recognized expert in the field of PBS. She has more than 30 years in the field and has worked with families, school districts, and state education agencies. She emphasizes viewing behavior from a quality of life perspective rather than singling out specific behaviors.
- The PBS conference was co-facilitated by MAF and ISD facilitators. Close to 250 participants (parents and professionals) attended the conference, either in person at Kent ISD or via satellite throughout the state, including Inkster, Ithaca, Manistee, and Escanaba.
- ISDs collaborated with MAF by volunteering to host a site and designating representatives to co-facilitate with MAF facilitators at the sites in Kent ISD, Wayne Regional Educational Service Agency (RESA), Gratiot-Isabella Regional Educational Service District (RESA), Manistee ISD, and Delta-Schoolcraft ISD. Other ISDs wanted to host satellite sites, but the conference was at capacity with regard to equipment and technology.
- Conference attendees participated in hands-on activities, attended large and small group discussions, and received valuable take-home information and new ideas. Conference topics included:
 - Exploring the process of PBS as it relates to behavior and quality of life; understanding why a child is engaging in problem behavior, implementing interventions, preventing problems, replacing behavior, and managing consequence
 - Looking at the components of a functional behavior assessment (FBA)
 - Linking the behavior support plan to the FBA
 - Implementing assessments and interventions
- Attendee evaluations were all very positive!

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

- Michigan Alliance for Families and MIBLSI just collaborated on a statewide event for families and school personnel in providing positive behavior support (see above).

Alt+Shift

- In June, Rethink Possibilities: Alt+Shift Summer Institute played host to general education and special education teachers with informative TED-style talks followed by short sessions around various educational topics that highlighted positive educational practices around the state. In addition, one- and two-day institute format sessions were held to deepen thinking around particular topics.
- In August, Calhoun ISD hosted the Calhoun Inclusive Learning Conference. Alt+Shift presented a full-day Pragmatic Organization Dynamic Display (PODD) Overview to speech and language pathologists from the ISD.
- Also in August, (Mi)² co-presented two half-day *Foundations of Math* leadership trainings with Matt Hoskins from the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction's Exceptional Children's Division. The leadership trainings were held at the two ISDs where usability testing will be happening this year.

Michigan Special Education Mediation Program (MSEMP)

- The MSEMP posted an 81.6 percent mediation agreement rate in Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2015. The use of facilitated individualized education program (IEP) team meetings nearly doubled in FFY 2015 over the previous year. The data indicate that the use of facilitators and mediators continue to help educators and parents communicate, find common ground, and resolve issues quickly.
- In FFY 2015, the MSEMP's restorative practices project helped students with disabilities who engaged in school misconduct avoid 1,286 out-of-school suspension days. The project examines whether restorative practices can help reduce class time lost to violations of school misconduct codes. The project includes schools in the Lansing, East Detroit, and Godfrey-Lee school districts. Additional districts may join this fall.
- The MSEMP has expanded its Lansing office space, which now includes a training room with a capacity of 25–28 for training mediators, facilitators, and program staff to better serve the special education community. The program's website is undergoing a redesign with assistance from the Center for Educational Networking (CEN).

Statewide Autism Resources and Training (START)

- START's 2016–2017 Early Childhood, K–12, and Building Your Future (BYF) intensive training series are underway in four locations across the state. The host sites for these trainings are:
 - Early Childhood: Jackson ISD / Jackson Area Career Center, Jackson

- K–12: Gratiot-Isabella ISD / Winding Brook Conference Center, Shepherd
- K–12: Marquette-Alger RESA / Northern Michigan University, Marquette
- BYF: Kent ISD / Thousand Oaks Golf Club, Grand Rapids

Following up on last year’s K–12 Intensive Training series, Year 2 modules will be hosted by Jackson ISD (on-site) and Ottawa Area ISD (DoubleTree Conference Center, Holland).

- View recent and archived issues of the [START newsletter www.qvsu.edu/autismcenter/start-connecting-newsletter-213.htm](http://www.qvsu.edu/autismcenter/start-connecting-newsletter-213.htm)

UPCOMING LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

Alt+Shift

- October Opportunities: Visit <http://mits.cenmi.org> for more information about the following events.
 - Communication and PODD training are beginning in two ISDs, followed by plans for implementation and follow-up coaching support for the remainder of the school year, various dates.
 - AssisTechKnow Conference, Alt+Shift presentation: *Foundations of Communication: Making Communication a Priority for Every Child and Teaching Mathematics to Students with Disabilities in the General Education Classroom (Grades 6–12)*, October 20.
 - Making Mathematics Meaningful through Collaboration Conference, (Mi)2 presentation: *Foundations of Math for Students with Significant Disabilities*; Alt+Shift and (Mi)2 presentation: *Alternative Expressive and Receptive Communication in Math Class*, October 3.
 - *Foundations of Math*, October 13 and 14, November 9, December 12 and 13.
 - *Enhancing Mathematics Instruction for Students with Learning Difficulties*, various dates October through December at two ISDs.
- November Opportunities:
 - Michigan Early Childhood Collaborative Conference, Alt+Shift presentation: *Thinking Outside the Box: Using Aided Language to Support Language Development for All Preschoolers*, November 29–December 1.
 - #TalkingAAC 2016: Alt+Shift, in partnership with Eaton RESA, is hosting the third Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) conference. The conference is expanding this year to include a pre-conference workshop day and two conference days. The event will highlight effective communication practices around the state and around the nation, and will feature in-person and virtual presentations.

Michigan Alliance for Families (MAF)

- Visit the [MAF events page www.michiganallianceforfamilies.org/upcoming-events](http://www.michiganallianceforfamilies.org/upcoming-events) for more information about the following events:
 - October 13: Evaluation and Eligibility, Wixom Public Library, Wixom, 1–3 p.m.
 - October 17: Skills for Effective Parent Advocacy, Lapeer County Education Technology Center, Attica, 7 p.m.
 - October 18: Conflict Management in Special Ed, Ferndale Public Library, Ferndale, 10:30 a.m.–3 p.m.
 - October 18: Skills for Effective Parent Advocacy, Ottawa ISD, Holland, 6:30–9 p.m.
 - October 19: Understanding IEPs, Plymouth District Library, Plymouth, 5–8 p.m.
 - October 28: Understanding the IEP Process, Traverse Bay Area Career-Tech Center, Traverse City, 9–11 a.m.
 - November 10: Understanding IEPs, Wayne County Community College Downriver Campus, Taylor, 9:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.
 - More learning opportunities and events are being developed and scheduled. They will be added to the calendar in the near future, so make sure to check the MAF events page regularly.

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

- Visit the [MIBLSI website www.miblisi.org](http://www.miblisi.org) for more information on the upcoming events listed below:
 - October 13: REWARDS Intermediate Training Session, Kent ISD, Grant Rapids
 - October 20: REWARDS Intermediate Training Session, Banquet and Conference Center, DeWitt
 - October 20: Early Warning System (EWS) Coordinator Training, Banquet and Conference Center, DeWitt
 - November 15–16: MIBLSI State Conference, Radisson Hotel, Lansing
 - November 29: Phonics for Reading Training, Banquet and Conference Center, DeWitt
 - November 30: Phonics for Reading Training, Kent ISD, Grand Rapids

Michigan Special Education Mediation Program (MSEMP)

- The MSEMP will join with Michigan Alliance for Families for upcoming special education conflict resolution trainings in Flint, Hillsdale, Manistee, Wexford/Missaukee, Traverse Bay Area ISD, and Detroit.

- The MSEMP's Cultural Considerations Workshop will be presented in the Bridgeport-Spaulling school district this fall. For more information: <https://msemp.cenmi.org>

Statewide Autism Resources and Training (START)

- START will host a statewide Peer to Peer Support training on October 13–14, 2016, in Okemos. Additional information and registration for this training are available on the [START events page www.gvsu.edu/autismcenter/start-events-49.htm](http://www.gvsu.edu/autismcenter/start-events-49.htm)
- The 16th annual START Conference will take place on May 1, 2017, at the Kellogg Conference and Event Center in East Lansing. Registration will open in December.