

UPDATES

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

WHAT'S NEW?

Center for Educational Networking (CEN)

- CEN is supporting the OSE and grant funded initiatives with training, consultation, and document development support to ensure that federal requirements for accessibility are met by September 30, 2018.
- CEN recently developed MIBLSI's new website and continues to support website governance activities.
- CEN is currently supporting MDE, Low Incidence Outreach with development of a web-based registration process for the Educational Interpreter Performance Assessment (EIPA) to provide real-time information on available assessment dates, times, and locations, making the process more convenient for users.
- CEN is supporting the MDE's Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) Communication and Outreach Action Team with tools, strategies, and services to engage key stakeholders and ensure shared understanding about Michigan's efforts to improve student outcomes.

Michigan Alliance for Families (MAF)

- Staff Training and Development:
 - One of MAF's goals is continuous improvement and an increased number of learning opportunities for parents, community organizations, and school staff. At MAF's October Staff Development Conference, regional parent mentors participated in training and development activities to enhance their content knowledge and skills so they can facilitate live presentations of several MAF webinars that are currently on the website.
- Collaboration with the Office of Special Education:
 - As part of an ongoing collaboration between MAF and the OSE, Teri Chapman, Jan Weckstein, Rashell Bowerman, Janet Timbs, and others joined MAF for our staff development conference in October. The OSE staff members provided a review and update of the changes to OSE policies and procedures that are especially relevant to the work MAF does with parents, such as state complaints, due process hearings, personal curriculum, and transition.

This valuable information will assist MAF in further development of webinars, workshops, and one-on-one work our parent mentors and advocates do with parents.

- GÜD Marketing Efforts:
 - MAF has been working with GÜD Marketing to launch a campaign in Northern Lower Michigan, an area MAF identified as needing more outreach. A few of the things GÜD will soon put into action include newscasters providing information about MAF during 15 second “spots” on televised news programs, advertisements on Pandora, and MAF billboards.

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

- Last year, MIBLSI conducted 624 training sessions. During the first three months of this year, MIBLSI has already conducted 255 training sessions.
- MIBLSI just held its 13th annual state conference. Materials from the sessions can be downloaded from the [MIBLSI website](http://miblsi.org) (miblsi.org).
- MIBLSI will release applications in November for participation in developing local capacity and implementation of positive behavioral interventions and supports (PBIS) at the intermediate school district (ISD) and local educational agency (LEA) level. More information can be found on the [MIBLSI website](http://miblsi.org) (miblsi.org).

Alt+Shift

- The 2017 Alt+Shift Summer Institute call for proposals is now open. More information and the application can be found on the [Alt+Shift Summer Institute Call for Proposals page](http://www.surveygizmo.com/s3/3135892/2017-Call-for-Presenters) (http://www.surveygizmo.com/s3/3135892/2017-Call-for-Presenters).
- In October through December, *Foundations of Math* training, including instructor training for the first cohort of instructors-in-training, is being offered in St. Johns.
- In October, the second annual *Making Mathematics Meaningful Through Collaboration* conference was held at Washtenaw Community College. *Making Mathematics Meaningful* is a one-day conference offered in collaboration with the Michigan Council for Exceptional Children and Michigan Council of Teachers of Mathematics.
- In October, a two-day introductory Pragmatic Organization Dynamic Display (PODD) training and follow up implementation supports were offered.
- In October, original researcher and developer Dr. Peter Liljedahl presented *Building Thinking Classrooms*. The one-day workshop was followed by three coaching sessions with local coaches. *Building Thinking Classrooms* was held in collaboration with the Detroit Area Council of Teachers of Mathematics.

- In October, Alt+Shift staff presented three featured half-day offerings at AssisTechKnow at Kent ISD.
- In November, Alt+Shift piloted an Accessible Documents Training at one ISD and will do a second training in December.
- In November, Alt+Shift participated in the #Talking AAC Conference, a three-day conference on Augmentative/Alternative Communication (AAC). The conference was offered in collaboration with Eaton Regional Educational Service Agency (RESA) and was held at the Kellogg Center. A follow-up day for attendees is scheduled for March 2017.

Michigan Special Education Mediation Program (MSEMP)

- In November, the MSEMP attended two national conferences related to restorative practices in schools:
 - The National School Discipline Conference focused on strengthening restorative practices by providing techniques to help teachers move students toward responsibility.
 - The Learning and the Brain conference delved into how students develop and maintain a moral sense of behavior. It also explored how brain activity might serve as a behavioral predictor. This information will be incorporated into the MSEMP's presentations on restorative practices and its cultural considerations workshop.

Statewide Autism Resources and Training (START)

- START's 2016-2017 Early Childhood, K-12, and Building Your Future (BYF) intensive training series are continuing in four locations across the state. For more information go to [START event page](http://gvsu.edu/autismcenter/start-events-49.htm) (gvsu.edu/autismcenter/start-events-49.htm). 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).

- START will host a statewide Educational Supports and Strategies for Students with ASD training on February 9-10, 2017, in Grand Rapids. Registration will open December 10, 2016. Additional information is available on the [START event page](http://gvsu.edu/autismcenter/start-events-49.htm) (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. The theme of this year's conference is Integrated Supports Through the Lifespan. Registration opened December 1, 2016. Additional information is available on the [START Conference page](http://gvsu.edu/autismcenter/start-conference-167.htm) (gvsu.edu/autismcenter/start-conference-167.htm).
- View recent and archived issues of the [START newsletter](http://gvsu.edu/autismcenter/start-connecting-newsletter-213.htm) (gvsu.edu/autismcenter/start-connecting-newsletter-213.htm).

UPCOMING LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

Michigan Alliance for Families (MAF)

- Learning opportunities currently scheduled through January 2017 are listed below. Visit the [MAF events page](http://michiganallianceforfamilies.org/upcoming-events) (michiganallianceforfamilies.org/upcoming-events) for more information about the following events:
 - December 15: Positive Behavior Supports, Romulus Public Library, Romulus, 5:30–8 p.m.
 - January 9: Positive Behavior Supports, The Center for Autism, Adrian, 6–8:30 p.m.
 - January 18: Positive Behavior Supports, Otsego Public Library, Otsego, 10 a.m.–12 p.m.
 - January 18: Managing ADHD through Behavioral and Technology Strategies, Plymouth District Library, Plymouth, 6–8 p.m.
 - January 19: Skills for Effective Parent Advocacy, Macomb ISD, Clinton, 6–8 p.m.
 - January 24: Overview of Discipline for Students with Disabilities, Northville District Library, Northville, 5–8 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)

- Upcoming MIBLSI professional development events will focus on reading instruction:
 - January 1: Heggerty – Phonemic Awareness program, Dewitt Banquet and Conference Center, Dewitt.
 - January 23: Teacher-Directed PALS, Dewitt Banquet and Conference Center, Dewitt.

- February 2: Heggerty – Phonemic Awareness program, Kent ISD, Grand Rapids.
- February 7: REWARDS Intermediate, Dewitt Banquet and Conference Center, Dewitt.
- February 9: REWARDS Intermediate, Kent ISD, Grand Rapids.
- February 16: Teacher Directed PALS, Kent ISD, Grand Rapids.
- For more information go to: [MIBLSI website](http://miblsi.org) (miblsi.org).

Alt+Shift

- Alt+Shift will participate in the Upper Peninsula Special Education Conference in Marquette February 23–24, 2017.