

UPDATES

Office of Special Education – IDEA Grant Funded Initiatives Michigan Department of Education February 2017

WHAT'S NEW?

Michigan Alliance for Families (MAF)

Community Outreach: Spotlight on Flint

- On January 20, a regional parent mentor and statewide trainer for MAF were interviewed by a regional affiliate of ABC in Flint. During the 15 minute interview, they provided information about what MAF does; how we conduct our work; and services, learning opportunities, and resources MAF offers. The interview will be televised in the near future.
- In 2016, MAF applied for and received a small grant to provide for an additional mentor (lead liaison) to work specifically in the Flint area. The add-on grant was awarded to address additional needs of parents and families in Flint as a result of the water crisis. The lead liaison's responsibilities are targeted for enhancement of outreach and networking in the community (the television interview in the previous bullet was a result of her contacts). She works closely and coordinates her activities with the Genesee area parent mentor and MAF trainers.

Staff Training and Professional Development

- Staff Development Conference (SDC): One of MAF's goals is continuous improvement and increasing the number of learning opportunities for parents, community organizations, and school staff. Twice a year, MAF staff members meet for a two- or three-day training and professional development conference. At the March 2017 SDC, regional parent mentors will participate in activities to enhance their knowledge and skills. Some of the speakers, workshops, and activities demonstrate the ongoing collaboration MAF has with the OSE, IDEA Grant Funded Initiatives (GFIs), and other organizations. Speakers include:
 - Janice Fialka, a nationally recognized lecturer, author, and advocate on issues related to disability, parent-professional partnerships, inclusion, raising a child with disabilities, and post-secondary education
 - OSE Director Teri Chapman, Assistant Director Jan Weckstein, and other MDE staff, providing updates on matters of critical importance
 - Epilepsy Foundation Educational Specialist Cindy Leino-Handford
 - MIBLSI Director Steve Goodman
 - Partners meeting: Advocates and representatives from other IDEA GFIs

GüD Marketing

- MAF has been working with GüD Marketing to launch a campaign in the Northern Lower Peninsula, an area MAF identified as needing more outreach. MAF recently approved a public

service announcement for radio that will soon hit the airways throughout the Northern Lower Peninsula.

Website Accessibility

- An Office of Civil Rights (OCR) complaint was filed against MAF in spring 2016 regarding website accessibility. Prior to the complaint, MAF had self-identified issues and had begun correcting issues and improving access to the website. MAF responded to the OCR complaint and submitted a proposed resolution agreement. In December, MAF submitted a policy and procedures plan for OCR approval. Currently, the MAF website is in compliance with the standards required by OCR. We are now awaiting further comment and direction by OCR.

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

- Seventy-seven school climate training sessions have taken place since November 2016.
- Twenty-nine training sessions have taken place since November 2016 on the topic of addressing disproportionality and discipline practices.

Alt+Shift

The project:

- Created a new monthly e-newsletter, including project updates; partner highlights; educator stories; Lending Library information; augmentative and alternative communication and assistive technology resources; funding tips; and information and resources for regional contacts throughout the state. [Subscribe to the Alt+Shift newsletter](http://eepurl.com/cufFxD) (eepurl.com/cufFxD).
- Conducted a Pragmatic Organization Dynamic Display (PODD) Implementation study at one intermediate school district (ISD) to study the effects of coaching support on implementing this communication system. Monthly visits included videotaping portions of the day to observe for specific practices, review the observations, and conduct monthly team meetings to share information with the larger team.
- Is developing *Foundations of Math: Teaching Students With Significant Disabilities* training in partnership with the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction. The training will be previewed this summer, and the first state level training will be offered in the fall. This training, which is philosophically and pedagogically identical to *Foundations of Math*, presents research, video examples, instructional practices, and assessment unique to teaching students with significant disabilities.
- Piloted a training on making online materials Section 508 compliant at two sites. The project is developing online resources to reinforce and assist in expanding knowledge and practice, and is also developing face-to-face workshops.

Statewide Autism Resources and Training (START)

- START is hosting a statewide Educational Supports and Strategies for Students with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) Training February 9–10 at the Grand Rapids Crowne Plaza Hotel. [Register for the Educational Supports and Strategies Statewide Training](http://bit.ly/2kjt2tM) (bit.ly/2kjt2tM). For more information, visit the [START website](http://gvsu.edu/autismcenter) (gvsu.edu/autismcenter).

- The 16th annual START Conference will take place on May 1 at the Kellogg Conference and Event Center in East Lansing. The theme of this year's conference is Integrated Supports Through the Lifespan, highlighted by presenters Ilene Schwartz, Jessica Minahan, and Randy Lewis. [Register for the 2017 START Conference](http://bit.ly/2jqhV3R) (bit.ly/2jqhV3R). Additional information is available on the [START Conference web page](http://gvsu.edu/autismcenter/start-conference-167.htm) (gvsu.edu/autismcenter/start-conference-167.htm).
- 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, visit the [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, K–12 Intensive Training Year 2 modules will also be hosted by Jackson ISD (on-site) and Ottawa Area ISD (DoubleTree Conference Center in Holland).
- 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

Alt+Shift

Visit <http://mits.cenmi.org> for more information on the following events.

- Upper Peninsula Special Education Conference: Three breakout sessions, February 23 and 24, Marquette.
- Michigan Council for Exceptional Children Annual Conference: Three breakout sessions, March 1–3, Grand Rapids.
- Michigan Alliance for Families workshop: *Consideration of Student Needs*, April 12, Clare.
- Michigan Association for the Education of Young Children Annual Conference, April 20–22, Grand Rapids.
- Alt+Shift Summer Institute: *Rethink Possibilities*, June 20–22, Traverse City.
- Michigan Council of Teachers of Mathematics Annual Conference, July 25–27, Traverse City.
- *Foundations of Math*, August 7–8, October 16, November 8–9, St. Johns.
- *Foundations of Math: Teaching Students With Significant Disabilities*, August 9–10, October 17–18, November 10, St. Johns.

Michigan Alliance for Families (MAF)

Visit the [MAF events page](http://michiganallianceforfamilies.org/upcoming-events) (michiganallianceforfamilies.org/upcoming-events) for more information on the following events:

- February 10: *Behavior is Communication*, Cummings Community School, Flint, 1–3 p.m.
- February 15: *Epilepsy and Seizure Disorders: Advocating for Your Child at School and in the Community*, Washtenaw ISD, Ann Arbor, 9 a.m.–12 p.m.
- February 22: *How to Speak "Special Education-ese": Productive Communication for IEP Meetings*, Croswell Library, Croswell, 12–2:30 p.m.
- March 1: *Building Collaborative Communications Skills Together*, Kratz Educational Center, Jackson, 12–3 p.m.
- March 8: *Transition Planning for High School and Beyond*, Walled Lake Consolidated Schools Education Services Center, Walled Lake, 9:30 a.m.–1 p.m.
- March 9: *Alternatives to Guardianship*, Monroe County ISD, Monroe, 6–8 p.m.
- April 10: *Skills for Effective Parent Advocacy*, First Baptist Church of Middleville, Middleville, 5:30–7:30 p.m.

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

Visit the [MIBLSI website](http://miblsi.org) (miblsi.org) for more information on the upcoming events listed below:

- *REWARDS Intermediate*. This is an event for classroom teachers (grades 4-6), reading interventionists, and Title I teachers.
 - Dates: February 7 – March 14
 - Locations: Kent ISD, Copper Country ISD, and Banquet & Conference Center of DeWitt
- *Student Risk Screening Scale Coordinator Training*. Schools are asked to conduct universal screening using the Student Risk Screening Scale (SRSS) after taking the MIBLSI and Promoting Positive School Climate (PPSC) Tier 2 Behavior Supports Training.
 - Date: February 9
 - Locations: Clinton County RESA, Copper Country ISD
- *REWARDS Secondary*. This is an event for secondary classroom teachers, secondary reading specialists, interventionists, and Title I teachers.
 - Dates: March 2 – March 9
 - Locations: Kent ISD and Banquet & Conference Center of DeWitt