

**UPDATES**  
**Office of Special Education – IDEA Grant Funded Initiatives**  
**Michigan Department of Education**  
**June 2017**

**WHAT'S NEW?**

**Michigan Alliance for Families (MAF)**

- Parent Engagement Project (PEP):
  - During the 2015–2016 school year, MAF initiated a pilot project called the Parent Engagement Project (PEP). In addition to the other services, programs, and learning opportunities provided for parents and districts, the PEP focuses on identification of resources in a district and creating collaboration between schools, parent groups, and multiple organizations and agencies within the community. Ypsilanti and Saline were the first districts to participate in the initial PEP.

During the 2016–2017 school year, MAF expanded the PEP and added Mecosta-Osceola Intermediate School District (MOISD) and the Chippewa Hills School District. This is the first time an ISD has been a focused participant in the PEP.

Throughout the 2016–2017 school year, MAF collaborated with MOISD extensively, including:

- Multiple planning meetings with administrators from MOISD and County administrators.
- Meetings and presentations with MOISD and Chippewa Hills staff.
- Parent advisory committee meetings.
- Learning opportunities.
- Stakeholder meetings at Big Raids and Mecosta.

Collaboration and support of an ISD in the PEP is a new opportunity for MAF to reach more districts and parents and families. The programs and services MAF can provide can be tailored to the needs identified by the ISD and the districts.

- MAF and MOISD identified goals for the 2017–2018 school year, including:
  - Involvement with incarcerated youth facilities to make parents aware of programs and services available through MAF.
  - Facilitation by MAF to increase collaboration and involvement between MOISD, MAF, and the Office of Special Education (OSE) IDEA Grant Funded Initiatives.
  - Facilitation by MAF for greater collaboration and involvement between MAF, MOISD, and restorative justice programs.

- Intensive focus on free appropriate public education (FAPE) and least restrictive environment (LRE) issues, including learning opportunities for parents as well as for ISD and district staff members.
  - If your district or ISD is interested in collaborating with MAF in the Parent Engagement Project, email Kelly Orginski at [kelly@michiganallianceforfamilies.org](mailto:kelly@michiganallianceforfamilies.org).
- Güd Public Relations Update: We are very happy that our discussions, planning, and work with Güd has been fruitful in some exciting ways:
  - If you are traveling in the northeastern part of the Lower Peninsula, keep an eye open for MAF billboards along I-75 (between The Mighty Mac and Indian River).
  - CBS/FOX affiliate channels 9 and 10 are broadcasting announcements about MAF in 32 counties throughout Northern Michigan.
- Kudos to Kelly: MAF Lead Trainer Kelly Orginski recently did a 30-minute interview with John Pellegrini on *Special Parents Confidential*, a national parent-support podcast. Listen to [Kelly's Interview](https://bit.ly/2sj8WUE) (bit.ly/2sj8WUE). During the podcast, Kelly discussed:
  - MAF's history.
  - The importance of parent involvement.
  - The role of MAF's parent mentors.
  - How MAF helps parents understand the IEP.
  - The IEP team process and parent participation in their child's IEP.
  - MAF learning opportunities, webinars, training, and other resources.

### **Alt+Shift**

- The [Alt+Shift website](http://altshift.education) (altshift.education) is now live.
- *Foundations of Communication: Module 1* training has been developed and is available for sites interested and ready to work on communication for students who use Alternative and Augmentative Communication and have complex communication needs.
- Pragmatic Organization Dynamic Display (PODD) Implementation Sites have been established across the state and will begin to engage in training and implementation supports during the upcoming school year.
- Two new *Foundations of Math* usability study and implementation support sites have been added for the upcoming school year.
- Based on user feedback, *Enhancing Mathematics Instruction for Students With Learning Difficulties* is undergoing revisions and will be offered as a statewide training and facilitator certification in November.

### **Statewide Autism Resources and Training (START)**

- During the 2016–2017 academic year, more than 900 teachers, parents, social workers, and administrators attended START Early Childhood, K–12, and Building Your Future (BYF) Intensive Trainings, while another 627 people attended statewide trainings on self-management, education-based evaluations, educational supports and strategies, and peer-to-peer supports.
- START’s 16th annual conference was held May 1 at the Kellogg Conference and Event Center in East Lansing. The theme of this year’s conference was Integrated Supports Through the Lifespan. The 532 people in attendance heard keynote presentations from Ilene Schwartz, Jessica Minahan, and Randy Lewis. The speakers touched on topics including employment, inclusion, and supporting those with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) in school, at work, and in the community.
- The START Passport, a tool to assist families and school personnel in ensuring that typical grade-appropriate opportunities and experiences are provided for students with ASD, is now available in both Spanish and Arabic. It is also available in a non-ASD specific form for use with any student with an IEP. To find out more information about the Passport, visit the [START website](http://gvsu.edu/autismcenter) (gvsu.edu/autismcenter).
- 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)**

- MAF is in the process of planning new learning opportunities, webinars, and other events for the 2017–2018 school year! Make sure to regularly check the [MAF events page](http://michiganallianceforfamilies.org/upcoming-events) (michiganallianceforfamilies.org/upcoming-events).

### **Alt+Shift**

- [Foundations of Math five-day course](http://bit.ly/2nz1bb4) (bit.ly/2nz1bb4):
  - Dates: August 7 and 8, October 16, November 8 and 9
  - Location: Clinton County Regional Educational Service Agency (RESA)
- [Foundations of Math: Teaching Students With Significant Disabilities five-day course](http://bit.ly/2mSG3PW) (bit.ly/2mSG3PW):
  - Dates: August 9 and 10, October 17 and 18, November 10
  - Location: Clinton County RESA
- [Enhancing Mathematics Instruction for Students With Learning Difficulties](http://bit.ly/2rc2Jv9) (bit.ly/2rc2Jv9):
  - Dates: November 14 and 15, December 4 (December 5 for facilitator certification)
  - Location: Okemos Conference Center
- *Accessible Materials Made Right*, Marquette:
  - Dates: September 20 and 21
  - Location: Marquette Alger RESA

- [Accessible Materials Made Right Information Guide](http://info.altshift.education/AMMRInformationGuide)  
(info.altshift.education/AMMRInformationGuide)
- [Registration for Marquette](http://info.altshift.education/AMMR_MarquetteRegistration) (info.altshift.education/AMMR\_MarquetteRegistration)
- *Accessible Materials Made Right, Lincoln Park:*
  - Dates: October 12 and 13
  - Location: Mixter School
  - [Lincoln Park Registration](http://info.altshift.education/AMMR_LincolnParkRegistration) (info.altshift.education/AMMR\_LincolnParkRegistration)
- *Accessible Materials Made Right, Ann Arbor:*
  - Dates: October 19 and 20
  - Location: Washtenaw ISD
  - [Ann Arbor Registration](http://info.altshift.education/AMMR_AnnArborRegistration) (info.altshift.education/AMMR\_AnnArborRegistration)
- *Accessible Materials Made Right, Alpena:*
  - Dates: November 2 and 3
  - Location: Alpena Montmorency Alcona Educational Service District
  - [Alpena Registration](http://info.altshift.education/AMMR_AlpenaRegistration) (info.altshift.education/AMMR\_AlpenaRegistration)

### **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:

- *School-Wide Information System (SWIS) Facilitator Certification Training:*
  - Dates and location: August 15 – August 17, Cheboygan-Otsego-Presque Isle Educational Service District
- *Student Risk Screening Scale (SRSS) Coordinator Training:*
  - Date and locations: August 31, Crowne Plaza Lansing West and Eastern Upper Peninsula ISD
- *SWIS Facilitator Certification Training:*
  - Dates and location: September 12 – September 14, SpringHill Suites by Marriott, Lansing
- *I-SWIS Facilitator Certification Training for Individual Student Support:*
  - Dates and location: September 20 – September 21, Clinton County RESA

### **Statewide Autism Resources and Training (START)**

- START will host a statewide [Self-Management Training](http://bit.ly/2oC26XI) (bit.ly/2oC26XI) on June 21 at the Crowne Plaza Lansing West Hotel. For more information on this training and other upcoming START events, visit the [START website](http://gvsu.edu/autismcenter) (gvsu.edu/autismcenter).