

UPDATES

Office of Special Education Michigan Department of Education February 2017

WHAT'S NEW?

Medicaid School Based Services (SBS) Program

- Meetings in 2016-17 of the ISD Medicaid Implementers are at Ingham ISD from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. with phone for audio and web access for viewing the agenda/meeting materials:
 - Wednesday, March 22, 2017
 - Tuesday, June 13, 2017 (if needed—it conflicts with the MAASE meeting)
- Annual Michigan Medicaid SBS Conference: August 17-18, 2017 in Troy at the Somerset Inn
- Annual Conference of the National Alliance for Medicaid in Education (NAME): October 15-18, 2017, The Westin Fort Lauderdale Hotel. More info here: www.MedicaidForEducation.org
- **Jane Reagan is retiring on February 24th**, so until her successor is hired, on an interim basis, here are some contacts:
 - For Medicaid **staff changes** in your ISD, please inform Toni Sturgis (Calhoun ISD) so she may **update the email list, general contact lists, and add them to dropbox**. Contact Toni: SturgisT@calhounISD.org Phone: 269-789-2426
 - After February 24th, contact Jan Weckstein, Assistant Director, Office of Special Education, Michigan Department of Education WecksteinJ@michigan.gov Phone: 517-241-4521 for:
 - Agenda items for the quarterly Implementer meetings
 - General Medicaid SBS questions
 - As always, for **specific Medicaid SBS questions** contact the Medicaid staff:
 - Policy: Kevin Bauer, BauerK2@michigan.gov Phone: 517-284-1197
 - Financial reports, Medicaid Annual Expense Report (MAER), Reimbursement: Amy Kanter, KanterA@michigan.gov Phone: 517-373-4522
 - Audits of Michigan ISDs: John Lambert, LambertJ4@michigan.gov Phone: 517-335-4792

Michigan Special Education Reference (MI-SER)

- The U.S. Department of Education recently released three guidance resources to support the transition to the ESSA. These documents provide clarification on the role of states, districts, and schools under the ESSA to ensure that all students receive a high-quality education and that they graduate high school prepared for success in college and career.
- The following documents are now found in Special Education Reference[™] sub-folders catalogued in the US Department of Education folder:

Early Childhood

- **Early On® Michigan Interagency Coordinating Council (MICC) Fiscal Ad Hoc Committee** – The Committee was charged with exploring all possible funding sources and potential partners for *Early On* and to develop a fiscal plan. After much work, the Committee presented a set of recommendations, which were accepted at the November 2016 MICC meeting to send to the Michigan Department of Education for consideration to improve the *Early On* system. In summary, the recommendations were:
 - Collaborate with the Office of Special Education and stakeholders to establish a workgroup to determine steps and criteria to create a single unified system to serve infants and toddlers eligible for *Early On* and Michigan Mandatory Special Education;
 - Support a study, jointly sponsored by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services and MDE, to identify mechanisms that will allow Michigan to maximize federal Medicaid reimbursement to support *Early On* in Intermediate School Districts;
 - Request an opinion of the Department of Insurance and Financial Services about whether *Early On* has the authority to bill private insurance; and
 - Work in partnership with Superintendent Whiston, the legislature, and the Governor to request a budget line item/State allocation in support of *Early On*.
 - A copy of the full report can be found at the MICC's website.
http://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,4615,7-140-6530_6809-249902--,00.html
- **Federal Part C of the IDEA/Early On 2017 Application** - The Michigan Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (aka *Early On*®) Federal Fiscal Year 2017 application will be posted next month for public participation. The period of public participation will tentatively extend from February 9, 2017 through April 10, 2017, with public comment accepted only February 27, 2017 through March 29, 2017. A blast email will be released to provide additional information.
- **Early Childhood Special Education / 619**
- Indicator B-6 Preschool Educational Environments
- If you are interested in the joining the preschool inclusion stakeholder workgroup, please email Lisa Wasacz at wasaczL@michigan.gov to express your interest.
- Indicator B-7 Preschool Child Outcomes
- If you are interested in hosting a training on preschool child outcomes and/or preschool child outcomes data, please contact Mark Kuipers at MKuipers@ccresa.org to express your interest.

HOT TOPICS

- The Transition Winter Workshop was held in Traverse City on January 24-25, with discussion around the alignment of the transition planning process. The meeting was well attended by the ISD transition service providers. Our next meeting is being planned for April or May of 2017.

UPCOMING LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

- The Low Incidence Outreach has many learning opportunities. Click on the title for more information.
- February 17, 2017 to February 19, 2017, Greenville, Michigan [Family Nature Club: Great Backyard Bird Count](#) - MDE-LIO and Camp Tuhsmeheeta are excited to introduce the new Family Nature Club, which encourages families to get outside together and play. At our first event, the Great Backyard Bird Count, participants will learn about ornithology, bird migration, and bird data collection. In addition to birding activities, we will have guided programs focused on snowshoeing, hiking, and building a campfire.
- February 24, 2017 to February 25, 2017, Waterford, Michigan [Educational Interpreter Performance Assessment Skill Development Workshop](#) - During the workshop, our team of presenters will provide specific skill instruction, and participants will have a chance to engage in small group and partner practice. Presenters will also provide individual feedback designed to help educational interpreters improve skills assessed on the EIPA.
- February 25, 2017, Flint, Michigan [2017 Michigan Regional Braille Challenge](#) - The Braille Challenge® is an academic competition unlike any other. This two-stage contest is designed to motivate students who are blind to emphasize their study of Braille while rewarding their success with fun-filled, but challenging, local and national events.
- March 16, 2017, Lansing, Michigan [BrailleNote Touch Introduction - Spring](#) - The BrailleNote Touch is an intuitive, efficient, and modern device that Braille-reading students can use to complete classroom assignments. This workshop will provide an introduction to the BrailleNote Touch. Participants will engage in hands-on activities, discussion, and demonstration.
- March 17, 2017, Lansing, Michigan [BrailleNote Touch Intermediate - Spring](#) - This workshop will provide an introduction to the Key Mail, Key Web, and Victor Reader

apps. It will also explore Google Docs and Google Drive. Participants will engage in hands-on activities, discussion and demonstration.

- March 25, 2017 to March 26, 2017, Grand Rapids [Educational Interpreter Performance Assessment Skill Development Workshop](#) - During the workshop, our team of presenters will provide specific skill instruction, and participants will have a chance to engage in small group and partner practice. Presenters will also provide individual feedback designed to help educational interpreters improve skills assessed on the EIPA.
- April 1, 2017, Online Event [EIPA Video Conference: Professional Development Planning: Deliberate Practice is Necessary to Improve EIPA Scores](#) - Participants will learn how to analyze the feedback from their EIPA report, and how to systematically make decisions about which skills need to be addressed before moving on to tackle more complex skill sets.
- April 6-7, 2017, Lansing, Michigan [Excel 2010 Using JAWS – Part 1](#) - Participants will learn the basics of using Excel 2010 with JAWS and will receive instructional strategies for teaching students who are blind/visually impaired how to use Excel 2010 with JAWS.
- April 21, 2017 to April 22, 2017, Lansing, Michigan [Educational Interpreter Performance Assessment Skill Development Workshop - Lansing](#) - During the workshop, our team of presenters will provide specific skill instruction, and participants will have a chance to engage in small group and partner practice. Presenters will also provide individual feedback designed to help educational interpreters improve skills assessed on the EIPA.
- June 26, 2017 to June 27, 2017, Traverse City, Michigan [Educational Interpreter Performance Assessment Skill Development Workshop – Traverse City](#) - During the workshop, our team of presenters will provide specific skill instruction, and participants will have a chance to engage in small group and partner practice. Presenters will also provide individual feedback designed to help educational interpreters improve skills assessed on the EIPA.