

## UPDATES

**Office of Special Education  
Michigan Department of Education  
June 2017**

### WHAT'S NEW?

#### **Publications**

- Public Reporting of district-level data for FFY 2015 is now available at the MI School Data portal [www.mischooldata.org](http://www.mischooldata.org).

#### **Medicaid School Based Services (SBS) Program**

- The annual Michigan Medicaid SBS Conference is scheduled for August 24-25, 2017 in Troy at the Somerset Inn. For more information, contact Kevin Bauer at [BauerK2@michigan.gov](mailto:BauerK2@michigan.gov)
- Annual Conference of the National Alliance for Medicaid in Education (NAME) is scheduled for October 15-18, 2017, in Fort Lauderdale, Florida at The Westin Fort Lauderdale Hotel. For more information go to: [www.MedicaidForEducation.org](http://www.MedicaidForEducation.org)
- Jane Reagan retired. 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 information: [SturgisT@calhounISD.org](mailto:SturgisT@calhounISD.org) Phone: 269-789-2426

#### **Michigan Special Education Reference (MI-SER)**

The following documents and Dear Colleague Letters can be found on the MI-SER.

- US Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP)>Significant Disproportionality Questions and Answers - March 2017
- Michigan Special Education Reference>Selected Judicial Decisions>US Supreme Court>Endrew F. v Douglas County School District – March 22, 2017
- United States Department of Education>Office for Civil Rights>Dear Colleague Letter> Students with disabilities in Charter Schools – December 28, 2016
- US Office of Special Education>Dear Colleague Letters>Dear Colleague Letter Fact Sheet: Restraint and Seclusion of Students with Disabilities – December 2016
- US Office of Special Education>Dear Colleague Letters>Dear Colleague Letter> Restraint and Seclusion of Students with Disabilities – December 28, 2016
- United States Department of Education>Office for Civil Rights>Dear Colleague Letter> Parent and Educator Resource Guide to Section 504 – December 2016
- United States Department of Education>Office for Civil Rights>Dear Colleague Letter> Preventing Racial Discrimination in Special Education – December 12, 2016

The Office of Special Education requested the following OSEP letters be posted on the MI-SER. The letters can be found under OSEP Dear Colleague Letters.

Office of Special Education  
Michigan Department of Education

- Letter to Williams – 1994
- Letter to Zirkel – 2008
- Letter to Hayden – 1994
- Letter to Hamilton - 1996

## Early Childhood

### *Early On*<sup>®</sup>

- 2017 *Early On* Applications for Local Funding  
The applications for local *Early On* funding are due to the Michigan Department of Education by July 1, 2017. The MEGS+ 2017 Application for *Early On* is available with the revised estimated allocations received from the federal Office of Special Education Programs May 12. If you have questions please contact your *Early On* Consultant.
- MAASE/MICC Initiative  
The MICC Fiscal Ad Hoc Committee and the MAASE Early Childhood Community of Practice are collaborating to explore the viability of a single unified system that serves a single cohort of infants and toddlers eligible for both *Early On* early intervention services and Michigan Mandatory Special Education. The first committee meeting was held in May where survey data was reviewed to ascertain the field's perspective on the concept.
- Early Childhood Personnel Center (ECPC)  
On May 22, a representative from the ECPC at the University of Connecticut worked with a Michigan team to develop a plan to coordinate early childhood personnel development initiatives in the state. The state team consisted of representatives from Higher Education, Head Start, Child Care, Office of Personnel Preparation Services, Great Start Readiness Program, Clinton County RESA Office of Innovative Projects, Part C and Part B, Section 619 of IDEA.
- Are you interested in more information on **Birth to Five Child Outcomes** or **Preschool Inclusion**? Trainings are being scheduled now for the next school year for these two topics. If you are interested in arranging training for your district or interested in hosting a training open to other districts, please contact Mark Kuipers [mkupiers@ccresa.org](mailto:mkupiers@ccresa.org), Jean Wassenaar [wassenaar\\_j@ccresa.org](mailto:wassenaar_j@ccresa.org), or Lisa Wasacz [wasaczL@michigan.gov](mailto:wasaczL@michigan.gov).
- Are you interested in **preschool inclusion**? Did you know there is a state-wide stakeholders group on Preschool Inclusion? If you are interested in learning more and becoming a member, please contact Mark Kuipers at [mkupiers@ccresa.org](mailto:mkupiers@ccresa.org) or Lisa Wasacz at [wasaczL@michigan.gov](mailto:wasaczL@michigan.gov) to express your interest.

## HOT TOPICS

- Warning letters for 2018 Significant Disproportionality will be sent mid-June to districts who have at least one year with a risk ratio greater than 3.0 for over-identification or educational environments. A copy of that letter will also be included in the district's Fall workbook.
- Transition – Please be aware The Office of Special Education (OSE) will close the transition coordinator discussion list serv on July 1, 2017. This list is part of a legacy distribution system that is being discontinued. The OSE will continue to send you updates and information through our existing Gov Delivery distribution list.

## UPCOMING LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

- June 20, 2017 [BrailleNote Touch Basics Workshop](#) Lansing, MI - Join Peter Tucic and Jim Sullivan of HumanWare for an introductory review of the BrailleNote Touch and its educational benefits for elementary, middle, and high school students.
- June 20, 2017 to June 21, 2017 [Outdoor Education Workshop: Confidence](#) Greenville, MI - Middle school students in grades 6th-8th are encouraged to sign up and attend this 2 day/1 night workshop at Camp Tuhsmeheeta. Middle school students are developmentally ready to discover and test their physical, social-emotional and mental capabilities. The program will include one-touch self-defense training, outdoor recreation activities and team-building challenges which are all focused on building self-determination.
- June 21, 2017 [BrailleNote Touch Educational Connectivity Workshop](#) Lansing, MI - Join Peter Tucic and Jim Sullivan of HumanWare for an intermediate review of the BrailleNote Touch and its benefits for elementary, middle, and high school students. This workshop will begin with web browsing and a comprehensive review of KeyWeb. We will then review the use of KeyMail to send and receive messages and attachments for submitting and receiving homework assignments.
- June 26, 2017 to June 27, 2017 [Educational Interpreter Performance Assessment \(EIPA\) Skill Development Workshop](#) Traverse City, MI - During the workshop, the 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.
- August 1, 2017 [The Visual Communication Sign Language \(VCSL\) Checklist Workshop](#) Flint, MI - The VCSL Checklist is a standardized comprehensive tool used to assess and monitor a child's language development and use of American Sign Language (ASL). Dr. Laurene Simms, a co-author of the VCSL, will conduct the training.
- August 2, 2017 to November 29, 2017 [Regional On-Demand Beginner Braille - Lapeer](#) Lapeer, MI - This course is designed for beginners who have little or no knowledge of Braille. Participants will: learn the alphabet, punctuation and contractions; recognize typeform styles such as bold and italics; and be introduced to the Nemeth Code for mathematics.
- August 15, 2017 to August 18, 2017 [High School Outdoor Education Workshop - Backpacking](#) Greenville, MI - Camp Tuhsmeheeta is pleased to offer an Outdoor Education Workshop for high school teens who are Blind/Visually Impaired (BVI) and in grades 9-12. This backpacking workshop is designed to teach basic backcountry travel and ethics. Students will learn through hands-on lessons about equipment, cooking and nutrition, maps and compasses, self-care in the woods and safety considerations.