



Michigan Department of Education, Office of Special Education (OSE)

OSE Update

December 2017

What's New?

Alt+Shift

- Welcome **Megan Zell**, new Assistive Technology contractor, who will provide technical assistance and digital content related to assistive technology.
- Welcome **Carolyn O'Hearn**, new Pragmatic Organization Dynamic Display (PODD) contractor, who will provide coaching, technical assistance, and implementation support to sites that received the two-day Introductory PODD Training this summer.
- The first Foundations of Math: Teaching Students with Significant Disabilities state-level, five-day training course has ended. Enhancements to the course, based on participant feedback, are underway. This includes additional video examples, recommendations for assistive technology and augmentative and alternative communication (AAC), assessment protocols, and instructional routines.
- A revised participant course and facilitator certification process for Enhancing Mathematics Instruction for Students with Learning Difficulties is underway. Content has been expanded to grades 4 through Algebra 1. Discussion topics now include connections to the Standards for Mathematical Practice, course assignments provide additional opportunities for reflection and application, and an emphasis on implementation and follow-up supports has been added to the facilitator certification process.
- Emergent Literacy instructor training began this fall. The Emergent Literacy training, developed by Drs. Karen Erickson and David Koppenhaver, will be a two-day course. Two regional trainers are currently going through instructor certification.
- Accessible Materials Made Right training will be offered as a three-day (non-consecutive) train-the-trainer course this winter. Based on feedback from participants, the course will allow for additional time to practice skills and plan for how to provide the training to local and regional teams.

Michigan Alliance for Families (MAF)

- MAF continues to work with GUD Marketing on changes to our website and developing an advertising/public relations campaign. Our regional parent



mentors report an increase in the number of calls they are receiving in the areas with billboard advertisements and television broadcasts.

- MAF is happy to introduce three new Regional Parent Mentors:
 - **Joyce Dearhamer:** Lapeer and St. Clair counties.
 - **Tiffany Guthrie:** Clare, Gladwin, Gratiot, Isabella, Mecosta, Midland and Osceola counties.
 - **Genevieve Hecht:** Huron, Sanilac, and Tuscola counties.
- MAF held a three-day staff development conference in October. Once again, we were fortunate to have the support and collaboration of the OSE.
 - Teri Chapman presented on what is new and important at MDE OSE, including information about seclusion and restraint, least restrictive environment (LRE), and state complaints. She also allowed time for questions and answers.
 - Nancy Rotarius gave an informative presentation about the new third grade reading law and provided insight as to how it applies to students with disabilities.
 - Other presentations and discussions focused on: data and a statistical look at the volume, interaction, and issues that regional parent mentors have with parents and others in the community; Discipline - the New Rules; MSEMP's new intake process; Research Strategies; New Rubrics for the Role of Parent Mentors; and the importance of self-care amongst staff and how to encourage parents to develop self-care strategies.

Michigan Special Education Mediation Program (MSEMP)

- The MSEMP has a new phone number and mediation intake process as of December 1, 2017. The new number is 833-KIDS1ST or 833-543-7178. School personnel and parents interested in mediation or facilitation services will be connected to **Laura Zangara**, the new intake coordinator, at the MSEMP's Lansing office.
 - Ms. Zangara will provide information about the dispute resolution options available in special education and conduct an intake for all mediation and individualized education program (IEP) facilitation requests.
 - Ms. Zangara has 20 years of experience as a special education attorney with Chicago Public Schools. She is also a trained mediator. Ms. Zangara has worked extensively with educators and parents to



encourage problem solving before hearings and investigations become necessary.

- Calls received by the MSEMP's mediation centers through the program's previous phone number will be referred to Ms. Zangara. The centers will continue to provide mediation, facilitation, and training services.
- The MSEMP also has a new office number: 517-334-0034. Please call this number for information about the program itself.

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

- The Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) funded State Personnel Develop Grant (SPDG) was recently awarded to continue personnel development in an integrated reading and behavior multi-tier system of supports (funding period 2017–2022).
- MIBLSI is developing collaborative partnerships with the National Center on Intensive Intervention, the National Center on Improving Literacy, and the Positive Behavioral Interventions & Supports (PBIS) Technical Assistance Center.
- Four intermediate school districts (Berrien, Genesee, Macomb, and Ottawa) have been selected for intensive technical assistance in developing local PBIS implementation capacity with funding through the *School Aid Act* (Sec. 54b).
- Applications are open (**due December 15, 2017**) for local educational agency (LEA) intensive technical assistance in [developing local PBIS implementation capacity](https://miblsi.org/application#promoting-positive-school-climate-ppsc-for-leas) (<https://miblsi.org/application#promoting-positive-school-climate-ppsc-for-leas>).
- Applications are projected to be released February 5, 2018 (due March 2, 2018) for LEA intensive technical assistance in [developing local reading and behavior implementation capacity in an integrated MTSS](https://miblsi.org/application#miblsi-program-for-leas) (<https://miblsi.org/application#miblsi-program-for-leas>).

Monitoring

- The monitoring team completed 54 onsite visits this fall. Reports of findings will be released in Catamaran in January. There were a remarkably high percentage of districts with no findings.
- Another monitoring cycle will take place in the spring of 2018 which will cover B-4 (rate of suspension and expulsion) data from the 2016-2017 school year.



Statewide Autism and Resources Training (START)

- START's 2017-2018 Early Childhood, K-12 and Building Your Future intensive training series are continuing in five locations across the state.
 - The host sites for these trainings are: Oakland Schools (Early Childhood), Muskegon Area ISD (Early Childhood), Van Buren ISD (K12), Macomb ISD (K-12), and Traverse Bay Area ISD/Crawford, Oscoda, Ogemaw, and Roscommon (COOR) ISD.
 - Additionally, following up on last year's K12 Intensive Training (IT) series, K12 IT year 2 modules are being hosted by Gratiot-Isabella Regional Educational Service District (RESA) and Marquette-Alger Regional Educational Service Agency (RESA).
- START welcomed Dr. Erik Carter, Professor of Special Education at Vanderbilt University, as the keynote presenter at the 2017 Fall RCN Leadership Day on November 13, 2017. Dr. Carter's work was also featured in the November issue of the [START newsletter, START Connecting](https://t.e2ma.net/message/hwtgw/pa2yxi) (<https://t.e2ma.net/message/hwtgw/pa2yxi>).
- To view the latest START resources and updates, visit the What's Happening at START section on [START's homepage](https://www.gvsu.edu/autismcenter/) (<https://www.gvsu.edu/autismcenter/>).

Low Incidence Outreach (LIO)

- The Michigan Department of Education – Low Incidence Outreach (MDE-LIO) has created a guidance document to assist administrators in evaluating educators working with students who are blind/visually impaired (BVI) or Deaf or Hard of Hearing (DHH). *The Administrator's Crosswalk to Evaluating Low Incidence Service Providers* is divided into six areas of evaluation which are inclusive of all areas in the four state-approved tools. Applicable professional standards are listed under each area along with educator observables which provide specific knowledge and skill expectations. These educator observables are neither exclusive, nor exhaustive, but are offered as guidance for evaluators and educators. The crosswalk document is available on the [MDE-LIO website](#).



Publications

- The Michigan Department of Education, Office of Special Education will be holding public hearings in February 2018 at various locations in the State regarding the proposed changes to the procedures and methodology for calculating Significant Disproportionality.



Early Childhood

Early On®

- The Michigan Department Education is pleased to announce two Part C of IDEA competitive grant opportunities for projects to begin October 1, 2018. These funds are geared toward improving the developmental outcomes of infants and toddlers who have disabilities and their family's capacity to enhance their growth and development. Various stakeholders are eligible to apply including school districts, human service agencies, professional organizations, advocacy organizations, private profit and nonprofit organizations, or institutions of higher learning. Please see the links to the application instructions for each listed below for additional information.
- **Support to the *Early On* Field (STEOF)**
[STEOF Application Instructions](#)  and [STEOF Application Forms](#) (Word format)
[STEOF Technical Assistance Webinar Registration](#) (required)
[STEOF Notice of Intent to Apply Google Form](#)
- STEOF questions may be directed to Laura Goldthwait at goldthwaitl@michigan.gov or 517-373-6565.
- **Qualitative Compliance Information Project (QCIP)**
[QCIP Application Instructions](#)  and [QCIP Application Forms](#) (Word format)
[QCIP Technical Assistance Webinar Registration](#) (required)
[QCIP Notice of Intent to Apply Google Form](#)
- QCIP questions may be directed to Kelly Hurshe at hurshek@michigan.gov or 517-241-8309.
- A technical assistance webinar for both request for proposals will be held Thursday, Dec 7, 2017 9:30 AM - 11:00 AM EST.
- Please report any technical issues with the above links to Cheryl Najm at najmc@michigan.gov or 517-335-1580

Hot Topics

- MSDS Spring 2018 collection will have Seclusion and Restraint as a new component with three characteristics: Date Occurred, Number of times secluded, and Number of times restrained (See attached for new schema). It is not listed in the 2017-18 MSDS Collection Details Manual online (http://www.michigan.gov/cepi/0,4546,7-113-986_50502_72306_72307-408899--,00.html).
- OSE is conducting a website usability study to evaluate proposed changes to its website. Please consider participating in the study before it closes on **December 15, 2017**. [OSE website usability study](#).



Upcoming Learning Opportunities

Alt+Shift

- Teaching Mathematics to Students with Significant Disabilities and Complex Communication Needs
 - **January 23, 2018** - SLIP Winter Conference, Lansing, MI
- How to Get Started with AAC Tomorrow
 - **January 23, 2018** - SLIP Winter Conference, Lansing, MI
- Accessible Materials Made Right
 - **January 11, February 2, and February 15** (three-day training) - Berrien RESA, Berrien Springs, MI
- Comprehensive Literacy Instruction for Students with Significant Disabilities and Complex Communication Needs
 - **March 6-8, 2018** (three-day training) - Detroit Metro Airport Marriott, Romulus, MI

Michigan Alliance for Families (MAF)

- More learning opportunities and events are being developed, so please visit our [event calendar](http://www.michiganallianceforfamilies.org/upcoming-events/) (<http://www.michiganallianceforfamilies.org/upcoming-events/>).
- MAF welcomes the opportunity to collaborate with agencies, organizations, and districts and ISDs to provide workshops, training, information, and resources relevant to the needs of parents of students with disabilities. If you have ideas or suggestions for collaborative learning opportunities, please contact Harvalee Saunto at 517-492-5028.
- Transition: Planning for High School and Beyond with Sandee Koski
 - **December 6, 2017** (1-3:30 pm) – Macomb ISD, Clinton Township, MI
- Supporting the Educational Needs of Children & Youth with Mental Health Challenges and Those Who Have Experienced Trauma with Terri Henrizi
 - **December 7, 2017** (6-8 pm) – Westland Library, Westland, MI
- Positive Behavior Supports & Discipline with Sandee Koski & Cheryl Levine
 - **December 9, 2017** (10 am – 3:30 pm) – Hampton Inn, Birch Run, MI
- IEPs and Advocacy with Sandee Koski, Kanika Littleton, and Jill Mazur Skornicka
 - **February 3, 2018** (9 am – 3 pm) – Oakland Schools, Waterford, MI



Michigan Special Education Mediation Program (MSEMP)

- The MSEMP's Cultural Considerations Workshop helps educators understand the cultural elements of disciplinary decision making. The interactive workshop, which has been well received in several districts, looks at how responses to race, ethnicity, and gender might affect disciplinary choices. It provides an opportunity for districts to examine their discipline data and consider alternative approaches if needed.
 - For more information, contact the MSEMP at 517-334-0034.

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

Please visit the [MIBLSI website](https://miblsi.org/events) (<https://miblsi.org/events>) for more information regarding upcoming professional development events.

- Phonics for Reading Level 1
 - **February 2, 2018** – Banquet and Conference Center of DeWitt, DeWitt, MI
- Phonics for Reading Level 1
 - **February 7, 2018** – Kent ISD, Grand Rapids, MI
- Student Risk Screening Scale (SRSS) Coordinator Training
 - **February 8, 2018** – Lansing, MI
- REWARDS Secondary
 - **February 9, 2018** – Copper Country ISD, Hancock, MI
- Grade Level Problem Solving for Behavior
 - **February 12, 2018** – Genesee ISD, Flint, MI
- Phonics for Reading Level 2
 - **February 13, 2018** – Clinton County RESA, St. Johns, MI
- Phonics for Reading Level 2
 - **February 15, 2018** – Kent ISD, Grand Rapids, MI
- Phonics for Reading Level 3
 - **February 20, 2018** – Montcalm ISD, Stanton, MI
- Grade Level Problem Solving for Behavior
 - **February 22, 2018** – Ottawa Area ISD, Holland, MI
- Phonics for Reading Level 3



- **February 22, 2018** – Clinton County RESA, St. Johns, MI
- REWARDS Intermediate
 - **March 13, 2018** – Ionia County ISD, Ionia, MI
- REWARDS Intermediate
 - **March 15, 2018** – Banquet and Conference Center of DeWitt, DeWitt, MI
- DIBELS Next Mentor Workshop
 - **March 22, 2018** – Lansing, MI
- DIBELS Deep PA & WRD
 - **March 28, 2018** – Lansing, MI
- **14th Annual MIBLSI State Conference**
 - **April 12-13, 2018** – Crowne Plaza, Lansing, MI
- School-Wide Information System (SWIS) Facilitator Training
 - **April 17-19, 2018** – Lansing, MI
- Behavior Interventions for Classrooms
 - **April 20 and 23, 2018** – KRESA & COP ESD
- Check-in/Check-out CICO School-Wide Information System (SWIS) Facilitator Training
 - **May 23, 2018** – Webinar
- Early Warning System (EWS) Coordinator Training
 - **May 30, 2018** – Lansing, MI

Statewide Autism and Resources Training (START)

- Statewide Peer to Peer Training
 - **February 6-7, 2018** – Macomb ISD, Clinton Township, MI
 - Seating is very limited. You can register and find more information on the [START Peer to Peer page](#).
- 17th Annual START Conference featuring Paula Kluth
 - **April 30, 2018** – Kellogg Hotel & Conference Center, East Lansing, MI
 - More information and registration will be available on the START website in winter 2017-2018.



Low Incidence Outreach (LIO)

- February 10, 2018

[EIPA Video Conference: Roman Numeral II: Unpacking Sign-to-Voice Essentials](#)

Online Event

This training will review the elements important to Roman Numeral II of the EIPA: sign-to-voice. Participants will focus on matching the signer's register and affect. We will view a variety of child signers and focus on word choices that reflect the register of the child. Participants will learn how to avoid extraneous verbiage that distracts from the message, as well as how to develop a more fluent representation of the signer's ASL/PSE into spoken English.

- February 24, 2018

[Michigan Regional Braille Challenge 2018](#)

Flint, Michigan

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. Any student with a visual impairment who reads braille is eligible to participate in the preliminary Challenge contest event.

- March 15-16, 2018

[Teaching Excel 2010 Using JAWS - Flint](#)

Flint, Michigan

This course is designed for individuals who will be teaching a student with a visual impairment how to use Microsoft Excel 2010 using JAWS. Participants should be experienced with the basics of Microsoft Excel and using JAWS with Microsoft products.

- March 2018

Orientation and Mobility (O&M) Workshop, (Location and Date To Be Determined)

This workshop, presented by Marjorie Wood, is designed for O&M Specialists, Teachers of the Visually Impaired, Early On Specialists and university students. More details coming soon to [Michigan Department of Education – Low Incidence Outreach’s website.](#)