

The Arc Michigan Education Committee
Meeting Minutes
November 3, 2021

Meeting came to order at 3:30pm via Zoom.

Present: Maggie Kolk, Michelle Driscoll, Kenya Harper, Deb Moffat, Debbie Whitford, Darlene Heard-Thomas, Sue Lind

SEAC Report (Kenya Harper)-

SEAC meeting Purpose & Intended Outcomes

- **Function 2** - Comment Publicly on Proposed Rules
- **Function 5** - Development of Policies Related to Coordination of Services for Students with IEPs (SSIP)
- **Function 6** - Review Due Process Hearing Findings

Teri Rink Director - Office of Special Education (OSE)

- Teri went over the difference between ADVISING vs. ADVOCATING and the importance for SEAC members to hear ALL voices not the loudest.
- SEAC wants to present members views and reasoning and then encourage others to challenge and explore it. All perspectives have equal value.

The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) Office of Special Education (OSE) has designed the **Differentiated Framework of Supports** to improve educational results and functional outcomes for students with (IEPs) and compliance with those requirements most closely related to improved results and outcomes.

1. **Universal Supports** • Guidance documents • Procedures • Podcasts • Videos • Presentations • Webinars • Guidebooks • Newsletters • Online training modules available • Available through the Catamaran Technical Assistance website • Home - Catamaran Training Site
2. **Directed Supports** • Quadrant Data Use Team • General Supervision Self-Assessment • Email sent directly to the ISD with technical assistance resources
3. **Targeted Supports** • General Supervision Self-Assessment • Email sent directly to the ISD with technical assistance resources
4. **Intensive Supports** • Email sent directly to the ISD with technical assistance resources • Facilitated General Supervision Self-Assessment
5. **Program Finance Updates** • The new MDE NexSys grants and cash management system has significant unresolved programming issues preventing many ISDs from submitting IDEA grant applications and the OSE from making funds available for any applications submitted.

The new “Due Process Public Agency Sheet: What public agencies Must, May, May Not “ (Document attached)

A Public Agency MUST:

File a complaint to request an expedited due process hearing when the public agency unilaterally removes a student to an interim alternate education setting (IAES), without regard to whether the student's behavior was determined to be a manifestation of the student's disability, and when the public agency believes that maintaining the student's current placement is substantially likely to result in injury to the student or to others.

A Public Agency MAY:

File a complaint to request a due process hearing to override a parent's refusal to consent or failure to respond to requests for consent for an initial evaluation or reevaluation for a child enrolled in a public school, including a public school academy.

A Public Agency MAY NOT:

File a complaint to request a due process hearing to override a parent's refusal or failure to provide consent for the initial provision of special education and related services.

Due Process Hearings

Data Report Special Education Advisory Committee

July 1, 2021, through October 15th, 2021

Due Process Complaints filed: 14

- Standard: 13
- Expedited: 1
- Dismissed (not adjudicated): 4
- Withdrawn: 1
- Final Decisions and Order: 0
- Pending: 9

Due Process Hearings:

Data Report Carry Over Special Education Advisory Committee 24. July 1, 2021, through October 15, 2021

Due Process Complaints Carried Over: 11

- Standard: 10
- Expedited: 1
- Dismissed: 6
- Withdrawn: 0
- Final Decisions and Order: 1
- Pending: 3

Dr. Sheryl Kennedy, the MDE Legislative Liaison went over the Legislative Bill process. Her power point on **A Citizen's Guide to State Government** is to provide the public with some of the specific information that is necessary to influence public policy. This guide contains an overview of state government, contact information for state departments and state and federal lawmakers, information about how the lawmaking process works in Michigan, and guidance about how to ensure your message reaches policymakers in the most constructive way. <https://www.legislature.mi.gov/Publications/CitizensGuide.pdf>

Sheryl also mentioned that she does not anticipate SB 664 to amend the State School Aid Act moving forward. Districts have local control and can decide about providing virtual instruction or not. Sheryl stated that schools can count students if they are receiving instruction virtually (synchronous within certain parameters) and with parent's permission. Asynchronous-student not counted, but school is not penalized. Students can also be counted if quarantined by health department order. Parents can share their concerns/comments with the local school board.

Transition to Adulthood Position Statement

The remainder of the meeting focused on finalizing the Transition to Adulthood Position Statement. Maggie emailed the final draft of the document to committee members, requesting any final changes submitted to Maggie by **Friday, November 5.**

The final document will be submitted to Sherri to present to The Arc Michigan Board of Directors for feedback and approval at the next Board meeting.

The next meeting will be held on January 5th from 3:30-5pm via Zoom.

NOTE: There will be no December Education Committee meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 4:30pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Michelle Driscoll