

**The Arc Michigan Education Committee**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**October 12, 2023**

The meeting came to order at 10:05am via Zoom.

**Present:** Michelle Driscoll, Katherine Mills, Maggie Kolk, Kelsey Biswanger, Darlene Heard-Thomas, Tina Miller, and Emily Henderson.

**Meeting minutes from September 7 were approved and the Agenda for today's meeting reviewed.**

**Governmental Affairs/Legislative update:**

Emily Henderson, Governmental Affairs Consultant and Lobbyist for Arc Michigan with McCall Hamilton, joined us for this meeting to share a governmental affairs/legislative update.

Emily gave a recap of what this fall will look like. The legislature could adjourn before Halloween so the presidential primary can be held in February. Waiting for outcomes of November elections for 2 house democrats running for mayoral seats to see what legislature will look like.

Big priorities are family paid leave, energy and climate solutions, reproductive health, and Medicare drug prices.

Emily is continuing to follow these bills and will keep the committee updated on status:

- [Michigan Legislature - Senate Bill 0567 \(2023\)](#) and [2023-SIB-0568.pdf \(mi.gov\)](#)  
Prescreening for dyslexia; Certain requirements for approval of teachers working with students with dyslexia
- [2023-HB-5063](#) and [2023-HB 5064](#)  
Students to be treated with marijuana-infused products and CBD products during school
- [2023-HB-4081](#)  
Guidance counselors to address support in schools and the decline in high school graduates going to college (not specifically mental health counselors)

**SEAC Report**

Kelsey Biswanger presented the SEAC report for October. See attached SEAC meeting notes for more details on the topics listed.

- **Presentation on OPTIMISE** (Kathy Fortino)
  - Taskforce working on strategies to effectively attract, prepare, and retain qualified and diverse workforce pipeline in Michigan.
- **Discussion of State Performance Plan (SPP) Targets for Indicator 4-Suspensions and Expulsions**
  - Overview of SPP Indicators B-4A (Rates of Suspension and Expulsion) and B-4B (Rates of Suspension and Expulsion by Race/Ethnicity) (See attachment)
  - How to track removals

- **OSE Updates** (Jessica Brady, OSE Performance Reporting Unit)
- **MARSE 2023 Rule Revisions to R 340.1721b, R 340.1723, and R 340 1733**
  - Overview of proposed rule changes that OSE is working on
  - To align with the IDEA requirements the determination of eligibility and the provision of FAPE for students who are parentally placed in private schools.
  - To align with the IDEA requirements for an Independent Educational Evaluation (IEE) and addresses requirements for districts regarding IEEs.
  - Addressing age span for special education programs operated in elementary buildings to not exceed at any one time, a 6-year age span or the age span of students who are non-disabled in the building, whichever is less. Challenging for districts who choose to operate young 5's, preschool programs, or other early childhood programs within the elementary building.
- **SEAC and Person-First Language vs. Identity-First Language**
  - Depends on the community or person being discussed. Language used should be selected based on person's expressed preference.

**Committee work:**

We continued reviewing and revising **Universal Design for Learning, Pathway to Kindergarten**, and **Schoolwide Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports** Position Statements.

Please review the **final** edits to the Position Statements and **provide any comments to Michelle before 11/8**. We would like to finalize our drafts to send to Sherri at the next meeting.

**The next meeting is Thursday, November 9, from 10:00am-11:30am**  
**Monthly Meeting Dates (2023-2024)**

<del>Oct. 12, 2023</del>	<del>(changed from Oct. 5 due to SEAC)</del>
Nov 9, 2023	(Date change due to SDC)
Dec 7, 2023	
Jan 11, 2024	(Date change due to winter break)
Feb 1, 2024	
Mar 7, 2024	
Apr 4, 2024	
May 2, 2024	
Jun 6, 2024	
Aug 1, 2024	(If needed)

**Join Zoom Meeting**

Meeting ID: 811 0496 2316 / Passcode: 707193

The meeting adjourned at 11:50am.

Respectfully Submitted,  
 Michelle Driscoll (for Debbie Whitford)