

The Arc Michigan Education Committee
Meeting Minutes
Oct. 3, 2024

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

Present: Debbie Whitford, Margarita Rodriguez-Curry, Lynn Kovalik, Maggie Kolk, Kenya Harper, Kelsey Biswanger, Emily Henderson, Tina Miller

Approval of Meeting Minutes: September meeting minutes were sent via email for members to review. September meeting minutes were approved with no changes.

Governmental Affairs/Legislative Update:

Emily Henderson, Governmental Affairs Consultant and Lobbyist for Arc Michigan with McCall Hamilton.

Expecting legislative schedule to be more clear post-election on November 5

House and Senate were both in on September 25 to move bills to the other chamber and Gov's desk. Notable items include:

- [Senate Bills 567 and 568](#), legislation to require prescreening for dyslexia in public schools. The bills now head to the desk of Governor Gretchen Whitmer.
- [House Bill 5503](#), a supplemental appropriations bills to provide a per-pupil mental health and school safety grant and the creation of a school safety tip line.
- [House Bill 5803](#), a bill to make changes to the Michigan Public School Employee Retirement System (MPSERS) that would eliminate a requirement that members, who became a member before September 2012, contribute 3% of their compensation towards the retiree health care benefits, as well as requiring the contribution rate applied to payroll not exceed 15.21%.

Other items discussed:

- Dyslexia Screening Bills Clear Final Hurdle
- \$9.6M Special Education Fund Agreement Reached In Flint Water Cases, Litigation Closed
- Detroit News article on the lack of FAPE provided during COVID resulting in discussions

Expected to stay quiet until after November 5th

Democrats put together a supplemental appropriations bill that puts money toward school safety and mental health

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In past budget cycle there were changes made to the public retiree system, senate passed a bill to make permanent

Settlement reached for Special Education Fund out in Flint to allow Genesee County ISD to put money in their Special Education pool for student who now have a disability following the Flint Water Crisis

[special education fund distribution plan fully executed.pdf \(aclumich.org\)](#)

SEAC Report Summary:

Kelsey Biswanger, Michigan Alliance for Families SEAC Alternate Representative

Legislative Update from Dr. Sheryl Kennedy, MDE Legislative Liaison

Overview of MDE School Aid Budget and how the budget calls under Michigan's Top 10 Strategic Education Plan

SEAC'S 2024/25 Priorities

- 1) SEAC will provide ongoing feedback and input about the MDE OSE cohort model for FAPE in the LRE Capacity Building activities as part of monitoring ISDs on a six-year cycle.
- 2) Further the knowledge and broaden the understanding of SEAC members regarding virtual schools and virtual programming for fully supporting students in their least restrictive environment (LRE) in a virtual setting.
- 3) Remaining aligned with the ESSA 1% CAP requirements, SEAC members will concentrate on the development of recommendations regarding the Michigan Department of Education State Plan to increase the participation of students with disabilities in statewide assessments and ensure only those students with the most significant disabilities are participating in the alternate state assessment.

MDE's Developing Rubric for Assigning Students to Alternate Standards (Priority 3)

Provide input to MDE on the DRAFT decision-making rubric for IEP Teams determining which students should take the alternate assessment (MI-Access)

*Note this rubric was created by multiple different MDE departments since it is an MDE initiative and Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) and not specific to Special Education

Michigan Administrative Rules for Special Education (MARSE) With Related IDEA Federal Regulations

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Revisions to the Michigan Administrative Rules for Special Education became effective on June 27, 2024. The document Michigan Administrative Rules for Special Education (MARSE) With Related Federal Regulations has been updated to reflect the changes to the following rules:

- R 340.1721b: Makes the process for determining eligibility for special education for parentally placed students in nonpublic schools is consistent with 34 CFR §§300.130 to 300.147.
- R 340.1723c: Removes the requirement for a parent's request for an Independent Education Evaluation to be in writing consistent with 34 CFR §300.502.
- R 340.1733: Modifies language to require the age span for students who are assigned special education programs, except for severe cognitive impairment and serve multiple impairments operate in an elementary building so age span does not exceed the age span of students who are nondisabled in the building.

[Michigan Administrative Rules for Special Education \(MARSE\) With Related IDEA Federal Regulations](#)

Office of Special Education Reminder: Provision of Special Education Services for Transfer Students

There may be students transferring in and out of your districts. We would like to remind districts of the responsibilities under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and the Michigan Administrative Rules for Special Education (MARSE) address how districts must handle the Provision of Special Education Services for Transfer Students (michigan.gov) for students who are currently eligible for special education programs and services and have transferred to a new district with a completed individualized education program (IEP).

[Provision of Special Education Services for Transfer Students \(\[michigan.gov\]\(http://michigan.gov\)\)](#)

Becoming a Special Education Teacher in Michigan

Updated guidance on becoming a special education teacher in MI. The changes reflect the interim teaching certificate and OSEP memo and address the questions from the field related to workforce development initiatives.

[How Can I Become a Special Education Teacher in Michigan?](#)

Guidance for the Development of Intermediate School District Plan for the Delivery of Special Education Programs and Services in Catamaran

Updated guidance on the Development of an Intermediate School District Plan for the Delivery of Special Education Programs and Services in Catamaran. The changes

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reflect Revised R 340.1758 Assurance Statement, Updated Diagnostic and Related Services Section and Updated Programs and Services Section.

[Guidance for the Development of Intermediate School District Plan for the Delivery of Special Education Programs and Services in Catamaran \(michigan.gov\)](#)

OSE New or Updated Documents on the MDE OSE Spotlight web page: FAPE in the LRE Monitoring Process

States must have a reasonably designed general supervision system where each local education agency (LEA) intermediate school district (ISD) is monitored at least once within a six-year cycle. To be able to effectively monitor all 56 ISDs and four State agencies, which are subrecipients of the IDEA federal flow-through grant, MDE OSE will monitor ISDs and state agencies in cohorts of 10 participants each year. The first cohort will be initiated in the fall of 2024.

[LRE Monitoring Process \(michigan.gov\)](#)

[FAPE in the LRE Capacity Building Process for Cohort One: Fall 2024 \(michigan.gov\)](#)

[Least Restrictive Environment \(LRE\) Interview Form \(michigan.gov\)](#)

[Free Appropriate Public Education \(FAPE\) in the Least Restrictive Environment \(LRE\) Capacity Building \(michigan.gov\)](#)

[Student Record Review \(SRR\): Least Restrict Environment \(LRE\) \(michigan.gov\)](#)

General Supervision Accountability System

This document describes the general supervision system, consisting of eight separate but interrelated components developed by Michigan to meet its obligation under federal law.

[General Supervision Accountability System \(michigan.gov\)](#)

Area of Concern

This document focuses on the Michigan Department of Education Office of Special Education (MDE OSE) general supervision system policies, procedures, and practices to address areas of concern in a timely manner.

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[Area of Concern \(michigan.gov\)](https://michigan.gov)

Supporting Learners and Learning

Across MDE and OSE, staff are supporting learners and learning with high expectations and flexible supports through the provision of a Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) in the Least Restrictive Environment (LRE).

[Office of Special Education \(michigan.gov\)](https://michigan.gov)

Family Matters Resources and Information

The Michigan Department of Education Office of Special Education requests your help sharing Family Matters resources that provide parents and families with information about Michigan's special education system.

[Family Matters Resources and Information \(michigan.gov\)](https://michigan.gov)

New School Social Worker Credentials

MDE is pleased to announce updates to the School Social Worker Certification Code, effective June 27, 2024. MDE is transitioning from the School Social Worker Approval system to a new system of multi-level, renewable School Social Worker Certificates. These certificates are issued directly to New School Social Worker Credentials!

MDE is pleased to announce updates to the School Social Worker Certification Code, effective June 27, 2024. MDE is transitioning from the School Social Worker Approval system to a new system of multi-level, renewable School Social Worker Certificates. These certificates are issued directly to educators, and school social workers are responsible for applying for certification through the Michigan Online Educator Certification System (MOECS). During the 2024-25 academic year, MDE is waiving the

application fee for individuals to transition to the new certificates. While districts may continue to apply for School Social Work Approvals during this transition year, no approvals will be issued after the 2024-25 academic year. School Social Worker Waivers to allow districts to employ individuals who are completing school social worker preparation program are no longer available. Districts may instead apply for a School Social Worker Permit through MOECS. During the 2024-25 academic year, MDE is waiving the application fee for individuals to transition to the new certificates. While districts may continue to apply for School Social Work Approvals during this transition year, no approvals will be issued after the 2024-25 academic year. School Social Worker Waivers to allow districts to employ individuals who are completing the school social worker preparation program are no longer available. Districts may instead apply for a School Social Worker Permit through MOECS.

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[School Social Worker Credentials \(michigan.gov\)](#)
[Michigan Online Educator Certification System](#)
[School Social Worker Permit \(michigan.gov\)](#)
[Social Worker Certification Code](#)

Development of new Position Statements:

Child Find - Kenya pulled up the document and shared a screen for everyone to review what we had so far. Discussion on language, additions, deletions, and edits.

- Working document with notes [2024 Arc MI Child Find Position Statement](#)
- **DRAFT** [The Arc Michigan Position Statement on Child Find](#)

Once Child Find Position Statement is complete, we will begin working on Position Statement about Special Education Evaluations

No Additional Business

The next meeting is **Thursday, November 7** from **10:00am-11:30am**

Upcoming Monthly Meeting Dates:

November 7, 2024
December 5, 2024
January 9, 2025
February 6, 2025
March 6, 2025
NO APRIL MEETING
5/1/2025
6/5/2025
AUGUST MEETING TBD

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89082807363?pwd=LZTrSO1lhabmGKEs1isEKxndCxx8Fa.1>

Meeting ID: 890 8280 7363
Passcode: 299054

Adjournment: 11:17am

Respectfully Submitted,
Michelle Driscoll (for Debbie Whitford and Kelsey Biswanger)