

**The Arc Michigan Education Committee
Meeting Minutes**

January 9, 2025

The meeting came to order at 10:01am.

Present: Kelsey Biswanger, Michelle Driscoll, Katherine Mills, Darlene Heard-Thomas, Debbie Whitford, Carl Hankins, Emily Henderson, Amanda Theilen, Lesley Moffat, Andrea Beachnau, Kenya Harper, Tina Miller, Sue L

Approval of Meeting Minutes: December meeting minutes were sent via email for members to review. Approval of December minutes were unanimous.

Governmental Affairs/Legislative Update:

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

Officially started new session 103rd legislature. There is a republican majority in the House and democrat majority in the Senate. Representative Matt Hall (Kalamazoo) is Speaker of the House. There are no committee assignments or schedules yet.

House democrats failed at the end of 2024. There was a record breaking low number of session days held. Emily shared an explanation of the December session and struggles with party differences.

One of the bills that passed is [2024 HB5549](#) and is being sent to the Governor to be signed. This bill requires schools to create behavioral threat assessment teams. Notable changes to this bill, which occurred in the last days of the session, are:

- *P.2, subsection (c): the following was added: A law enforcement official who is not a school resource officer must be from the local law enforcement agency that has jurisdiction over the school.*
- *2. P. 2-3, subsection (3) and (4) is all new language creating guidelines around training material*

Discussion on concerns of the Department of Education possibility being terminated under President-elect Trump and shifting authority back to Department of Health and Human Services. Not expecting anything to happen in the next 6 months.

Carl Hankins (Arc Detroit) shared that his sources in Washington D.C. state that it's not a priority for President-elect Trump to make any changes to US Department of Education.

Should see the first bills introduced shortly. Emily will keep us informed on bills of interest.

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SEAC Report Summary:

Kelsey Biswanger, Michigan Alliance for Families SEAC Alt Representative

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE - Olivia Ponte, MDE Legislative Liaison

- [Item O - MEMO - State and Fed Update Jan 25](#)
- Bills going to the Governor's desk:
 - HB 5450 Safe Homes, Safe Schools (MacDonell)
 - HB 5451 Safe Homes, Safe Schools (Brixie)
 - HB 5231 – HB 5234 Charter School Signage (Multiple Sponsors)
 - HB 5269 Charter School Payroll Transparency (Koleszar)
 - HB 4854 Tribal Regalia (Scott)
 - HB 5649 Computer Science (Glanville)

OSE REPORT - Teri Rink, Director, Office of Special Education (OSE)

- LRE Monitoring - Cohort One
 - No new ISDs since last SEAC meeting, will resume soon
- From the US Department of Education
 - "Three Ways Trump Can Weaken the Education Department Without Eliminating It"
 - <https://sites.ed.gov/idea/idea-files/using-functional-behavioral-assessments-to-create-supportive-learning-environments/>
- Education Secretary
 - Trump names Linda McMahon as his pick for Education secretary:
 - <https://sites.ed.gov/idea/idea-files/using-functional-behavioral-assessments-to-create-supportive-learning-environments/>
 - Glenna Gallo current Assistant Secretary OSERS and Valerie Williams OSEP Director will leave at the end of their terms
- New OSERS/OSEP Guidance
 - Using FBAs to Create Supportive Learning Environments
 - FBA is an evidence-based method used to determine the causes or influences behind a student's behavior
 - Aligns with activities under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA) and IDEA
 - FBAs have traditionally been used to support students with disabilities. However, their use has evolved to include students with and without services from an IEP
 - <https://sites.ed.gov/idea/idea-files/using-functional-behavioral-assessments-to-create-supportive-learning-environments/>

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Development of new Position Statements

[The Arc MI Position Statement on Child Find DRAFT.docx](#)

(Sherri Boyd approved the statement and will be sharing it with the board for board approval). Thank you to all who provided input into this document. Your work on this is much appreciated! Once the position statement is approved by the Arc MI Board, it will be added to the website and translated into Spanish and Arabic. Current [Arc MI Position Statements](#)

Evaluation and Eligibility: Document started on Google drive and members contributed thoughts and notes on how to begin creating a position statement on evaluation/eligibility. Committee members can access the [Evaluation and Eligibility Working Document](#) and continue to add notes and comments. We will continue to work on this at the February meeting.

No Additional Business

The next meeting is **Thursday, February 6 from 10:00am-11:30am**

Upcoming Monthly Meeting Dates:

2/6/2025
3/6/2025
NO APRIL MEETING
5/1/2025
6/5/2025
AUGUST 2025 TBD

Join Zoom Meeting

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

Meeting ID: 890 8280 7363

Passcode: 299054

Adjournment: 11:00am

Respectfully Submitted,
Michelle Driscoll for Debbie Whitford and Kelsey Biswanger