

**The Arc Michigan Education Committee**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**March 6, 2025**

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

**Present:** Kelsey Biswanger, Michelle Driscoll, Katherine Mills, Darlene Heard-Thomas, Margarita Rodriguez-Curry, Hayley Cason Grobbel, Emily Henderson, Andrea Beachnau, Kenya Harper, Tina Miller, Sherry Kenworthy

**Approval of Meeting Minutes:** Minutes were sent via email for members to review. February Meeting Minutes were approved.

**Governmental Affairs/Legislative Update:**

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

*State Issues*

- *Slow start*
- *Still looking at budget negotiations*
- *House will not be releasing their recommendations until after April, which is about 1.5 months later than normal*
- *Budget must be sent by October 1 deadline or else go to Government shutdown*
- *Government is hesitant to move things until they get a clearer picture of the current administration and what they would like to accomplish in the first 100 days*
- *Big policy initiative that is consuming a lot of time*

*Federal Issues*

- *President expected to try and dismantle the Dept of Ed today*
- *Expect MI to file an injunction regarding President stopping dismantle of Dept of Ed*
- *Don't expect to see any major impacts quite yet*
- *Medicaid cut—should continue to see funding for a certain period due to trigger laws but still unclear on how this would impact the state of Michigan and how we would prepare*
- *Legislatively we have seen a number of education bills introduced, many around insuring around biological sex with restrooms and sports, some about Michigan's core curriculum requirements and the merit system to require phonics in class and make requirements around what is required (i.e., math, reading)*

## **SEAC Report Summary:**

*Kelsey Biswanger, Michigan Alliance for Families SEAC Alt Representative*

SPP INDICATOR 18 REVIEW - Jessica Brady, OSE Performance Reporting Unit Supervisor

- New Indicator, Indicator 18
  - Indicator 18 measures the effectiveness of a state's General Supervision System (GSS) under Part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)
  - Indicator 18 is designed to ensure that identified instances of noncompliance with IDEA are corrected within a stipulated time frame
  - Components:
    - Measurement
      - Percent = findings of findings corrected on time (b) / total number of findings (a) \*100
      - Number of findings of noncompliance issued in FFY 2022 (July 1 2022- June 30 2023)
      - Number of Findings of noncompliance verified as corrected no later than one year after written notification
    - Measurement Criteria
      - In FFY 2023, states must report correction of noncompliance related to
        - Indicators 4B, 9-13
        - Any additional written findings that the state issued related to that compliance indicator
          - State complaint and due process decisions issued in FFY 2022 where the findings are related to the compliance indicators
  - Data Sources
    - States must provide data sources that track noncompliance for all parts of the GSS. For each corrected finding, states need to provide specific details of what action(s) and evidence were taken to ensure verification of correction
    - FFY 2023 SPP/APR Reporting
      - Number of findings of noncompliance that were timely corrected: 299
      - Number of findings of noncompliance that were identified FFY 2022: 337
        - Numbers include monitoring, complaints and due process related to compliance indicators
      - FFY 2023 Target: 100%
      - Michigan FFY 2023: 88.72%
  - Correction Action/Sanctions

- States must provide information on corrective action/sanctions for areas of noncompliance not corrected within one year

OSE Report and Onsite Update - Teri Rink, Director, Office of Special Education (OSE)

- Federal Updates
  - The National Technical Assistance Center on Transition Collaborative (NTACT:C) was notified that the federal grant competition to continue the center was abolished. This is the first OSEP TA Center to be eliminated.
    - NTACT: C is funded with IDEA Part D
    - The grant would have funded the TA Center for an additional for five years had they won the award
    - The current grant funds will end by the end of the current fiscal year on 9/30/25
  - The new Part B and Part C grant application packages have been received by the states
    - The grant application package did not contain the total amount of the grant the state is applying for, which is not typical
  - States were to submit data to the EdFacts data collection system Feb 1. The system has been shut down.
    - EdFacts submission was able to be completed on Mar 4, one day ahead of the Mar 5 date anticipated. The data submitted is required by Congress as a condition of the federal grant
      - Trying to figure out the impact of the delay in submitting data
  - The National Association of State Directors of Special Education (NASDSE) will host a Fireside Chat this Thursday at 5pm
    - Topics include:
      - Statuses of OSEP vacancies
      - Information relative to the nomination of Linda McMahon
      - Status on the potential elimination of the US Dept of Education
        - Concern on the impact of authorization/support of IDEA and the possibility of funding being moved around
- State Updates
  - FAPE in the LRE Status
    - MDE OSE team spent Feb 18-21 in Sanilac ISD
    - The team visited all member districts of the ISD
    - Interviewed approximately 107 staff
    - Met with the PAC for input
    - The team is moving to Hillsdale ISD in March
    - FAPE in the LRE will be a topic for the 4/8 MI State Board of Education meeting, including four directors from ISDs in Cohort One
  - One Percent Status Update

- One percent justification form office hours well attended by ISDs and member districts
- Participation reminder as statewide assessment dates are approaching
- Finance Updates
  - Special Education teacher Tuition Reimbursement Grant
  - LEA Maintenance of Effort Compliance Tasks
  - 2025-26 IDEA Part B Flowthrough (ages 3-21) and Preschool (ages 3-5) applications
    - May 1, 2025, anticipated availability date in Anexsys (MDE Grant system)
    - July 1, 2025, submission due date
  - General Supervision System Grant (GSSG)
    - 2024-25 Final Reports
      - May 1, 2025, availability in Catamaran
      - June 1, 2025, due date
    - 2025-26 Application
      - July 1, 2025, anticipated availability date in NexSys and Catamaran

**Conversation on the Impact of Federal Funding:**

- PTI is federally mandated. Possible changes in funding and the impact
- Social Media clips on how to share your stories with MAF staff examples
- Smile File on the Advocate page

**Development of Talking Points:**

- Developing a document- **Information for MAF Staff, Advocates, and Families-** on the current state of affairs that shares talking points and action steps to share with families. Will send out to MAF staff and Advocates.

**Development of new Position Statements:**

No work on these at this meeting

- · Evaluations [Evaluation and Eligibility Working Document](#)
- · Babies and Toddlers (Child Find, Evaluation, Eligibility)

**The next meeting is Thursday, May 1st from 10:00am-11:30am**

**Upcoming Monthly Meeting Dates:**

**No April Meeting,** 5/1/2025 and 6/5/2025 (July and August meetings TBD)

**Join Zoom Meeting**

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

Meeting ID: 890 8280 7363 / Passcode 299054

**Adjournment:** 11:35am

Respectfully Submitted,  
Michelle Driscoll and Kelsey Biswanger