

The Arc Michigan Education Committee
Meeting Minutes
June 5, 2025

The meeting came to order at: 10:03am.

Present: Debbie Whitford, Michelle Driscoll, Darlene Heard-Thomas, Emily Henderson, Tina Miller, Sherry Kenworthy, Carl Hankins, Heba Takouz, Kim Faiman, Kenya Harper, Kesley Biswanger, Sue Lind, Deb Moffat, and Maggie Kolk.

Approval of Meeting Minutes: Minutes were sent via email for members to review. March and May Meeting Minutes were approved with no changes.

Governmental Affairs/Legislative Update:

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

Emily shared this link for the [Tracking Status Report](#) on Education bills. It is a live link and can be bookmarked to check current status on bills of interest to the Arc MI Education Committee. Education Committee members will receive bi-weekly updates on Education bills via email.

Federal budget discussions, MI House (rep) Senate (dem). Budget negotiations are kicking off next week. So far, the senate has been the only ones to propose toward the Oct. 1 date. The [Consensus Revenue Estimating Conference](#) was held May 16th and it looks like there may be more money available in the school aid budget. Negotiations will continue over the summer. MI House republicans not moving any bills by Senate democrats. Senate democrats are not taking up any republican sponsored bills, so things are moving slowly. The budget for school aid is due July 1st. Discussed talks on the banning of transgender students participating in male/female sports in schools. Discussion on the School Safety bill package (HB 4222-4229) having passed on one floor, waiting on the other.

[2025 Arc MI Policy Seminar](#) will be held on 6/6, 6/13, and 6/20 (you can still register using the link).

SEAC Report Summary:

Kesley Biswanger, Michigan Alliance for Families SEAC Alternate Representative

Office of Special Education (OSE) Update:

Individuals with Disabilities Education Act 2025 Public Reporting Data Available In MI School Data: [Special Education Summary](#)

Notice of Availability of Request for Proposal: Fiscal Agent for Michigan's Multi-Tiered System of Supports Technical Assistance Center: [Memorandum](#)

Permits Available Soon for the 2025-26 Academic Year!

- Beginning July 1, Michigan schools can apply for staffing flexibilities for educators. These staffing flexibilities include permits, Special Education Approvals, and Annual Career Authorizations (ACA). Permits and ACAs are applied for and issued to the employing school district. As a reminder, the Daily Substitute Permits are intended for intermittent assignments and are valid

for 90-consecutive calendar days if the individual remains in a single assignment. For more information on staffing flexibilities, please visit the Educator Staffing and Placement webpage.

- [Educator Staffing and Placement](#)

Michigan Department of Education (MDE) Update:

State Board of Education Approves New Standards

- Press release from May 14: Michigan Special Education Teachers Will Be Even Better Prepared to Help Students
- [Michigan Special Education Teachers Will Be Even Better Prepared to Help Students](#)

2026-27 Michigan Teacher of the Year Nomination Window Opens

- MDE will open the 2026-27 Michigan Teacher of the Year nomination window Wednesday, May 21, 2025. This annual program recognizes outstanding teachers in our state. Each year, 10 Regional Teachers of the Year are selected through a competitive application process, with one of the Regional Teachers of the Year named Michigan Teacher of the Year. Please make nominations using the online form, available until Wednesday, September 24, 2025
- [2026-27 MTOY Nomination | Michigan Department of Education](#)

Office of Special Education Programs Update:

- The Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) is dedicated to improving results for infants, toddlers, children and youth with disabilities ages birth through 21 by providing leadership and financial support to assist states and local districts. Information from the Office of Special Education has been sparse with all the changes occurring in Washington DC. To keep informed when there are announcements, it is recommended to check their homepage frequently

[Office of Special Education Programs \(OSEP\) | U.S. Department of Education](#)

Discussion:

Michelle sent requests to MDE OSE for the development of new Family Matters Fact Sheets. Responses from MDE OSE are in parentheses

- **Compensatory Education** (this issue is part of OCR-MDE lawsuit, so development and release of the fact sheet is uncertain. OSE agreed that it is needed; it is waiting for approval to move forward. There are 2 pieces of compensatory education- reactive (involving the state) that addresses compensatory education ordered through a state complaint or due process hearing and proactive (the school district or ISD determines the need for compensatory services because a student was not provided with FAPE). If approved, OSE will start with the reactive piece.
- **Response to Intervention (RTI)** (OSE will work on this)
- **Individualized Healthcare Plans (IHPs) and IEPs** (Drafts of 2 documents are being reviewed)
- **Dyslexia legislation** (being developed) (was requested by an ISD administrator)

Development of new Position Statements:

- [Arc Education Committee - Evaluation & Eligibility Working Document.docx](#)
 - Evaluation and Eligibility will be 2 separate documents. Begin with Evaluation
 - Continue to add your comments/ suggestions to this working document
 - **If you would like to be part of the group developing the DRAFT document, email Michelle**
- **Babies and Toddlers** (Child Find, Evaluation, Eligibility to be worked on next)

Upcoming Monthly Meeting Dates:

July and August meetings as needed.

2025-2026 Meetings (calendar invitations will be coming)

10:00-11:30am

September 4, 2025

October 2, 2025

November 6, 2025

December 4, 2025

January 8, 2026

February 5, 2026

NO MARCH MEETING (Staff Advocate Development Conference)

April 9, 2026

May 7, 2026

June 4, 2026

2025-2026 [NEW Zoom Link](#)

Same for all meetings

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87299435497?pwd=UDbm6eZCqDaD7lEVqOMXosaOibDoaU.1>

Meeting ID: 872 9943 5497

Passcode: 476032

Adjournment: 11:07am

Respectfully Submitted,
Michelle Driscoll for Debbie Whitford