

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

The meeting came to order at 10:00am.

**Present:**

Debbie Whitford

Michelle Driscoll

Sue Lind

Emily Henderson

Margarita Rodriguez

Andrea Beachnau

Heba Takouz

Kenya Harper

Sherry Kenworthy

Hayley Grobbel

**Review Agenda**

**Approval of Meeting Minutes:** Meeting minutes from October reviewed and approved.

**Governmental Affairs/Legislative Update:**

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

One more full week of session then gone from November 18 to December 2. After that, there are only 9 session days left this year. Expecting rest of year to be quiet. Supplemental funding discussions will begin next year. Some funding items cut in school budget. Consolidates funding streams for 32p (Great Start Collaboratives, Family Coalitions, and home visiting) Book Supp to contain some of the funds for education that were cut. Expecting some things that were cut to be put back into supplemental funding. Emily will keep Michelle up to date on that.

HB 5044 would require the board of a school district, ISD, or PSA to develop and adopt a policy to allow students to receive medically necessary treatment in the school setting if that child had a prescription and order from a private health care specialist. Michelle, on behalf of The Arc MI Education Committee, submitted the list of concerns and questions from committee members to Sherri Boyd.

Several education organizations, including the Michigan Association of Administrators of Special Education, Michigan Elementary and Middle School Principals Association, and the Michigan Education Association have come out in opposition. The bills are still in the Education Committee and have not yet received a vote.

The Arc is addressing concerns with the stakeholders, leading the effort as we share similar concerns that the aforementioned education groups have with the bill.

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Legislative Analysis of HB 5044 <https://www.legislature.mi.gov/documents/2025-2026/billanalysis/House/pdf/2025-HLA-5044-6BXSL7C9.pdf>

Noted articles in Bridge about low rates of kids attending school. Getting kids actively engaged in school. Discussion on fiscal repercussions on implementing the bill in schools.

SB 492-reported out of committee. Requires schools to confirm a student's enrollment at a new school before releasing their records, when a student has been transferred. This is to ensure a student transferring from one school to another is not disenrolled until the records are accepted at the new school. Currently waiting for vote on senate floor.

Bill Tracking Status Report (updates will come to committee members weekly):  
<https://www.gongwer.com/tracking/statusreport.cfm?uid=2D235500-4334-460B-B3B5-5BD95E2164E8&group=24156&session=2101>

### **SEAC Report Summary**

Heba Takouz, *Michigan Alliance for Families SEAC Alt Representative*

Family Matters Fact Sheets - Stacie Rulison: overview development process, new QR code on MDE website, list of new fact sheets review \ in process

- Individual Health Care Plans-Overview (in review)
- Individual Health Care Plans and the IEP (in review)
- Early Childhood Inclusion and LRE (in process)
- GED and High School Completion (in process)
- Manifestation Determination Review (in process)
- State Assessments (in process)
- Transition Self-Advocacy (in review)
- Transition Timeline (in process)
- Self-Advocacy & Self-Determination (in process)

Priority # 3- knowledge unmet needs for students

- Members suggestions
- Outside speakers and knowledgeable experts to fill in the gaps in learning

Seeking a new organization to join committee –shared new organization rubric

Guest speaker: Juvenile Justice and Child Caring Institutions - Beth Cooke & Dr. Sheryl Diamond

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- The Juvenile Justice Landscape (Michigan Task Force on Juvenile Justice Reform, Justice for Kids and Communities Legislative Package)
- The MI Reform Means for Special Education (Establishing Networks and Systems, Building Relationships ISDs \ courts and Private COF\public schools)
- Public School Obligation for FAPE to eligible students with disabilities publicly placed in facilities (secure \nonsecure facilities, public\private facilities)

**Development of New Position Statements:**

FINAL DRAFT of **The Arc Michigan Position Statement on Evaluation and Eligibility for Special Education Services** (3-26 years old) was sent to Sherri Boyd. It will be shared with Arc MI Board at the December meeting for approval.

**Additional Business:**

Continued discussion of [HB 5044](#) (Requires policy for the receipt of medically necessary treatment by pupils).

**Adjourn:** The meeting was adjourned at 10:48am

**Upcoming Monthly Meeting Dates:**

12/4/2025

1/8/2026 (2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday due to winter break)

2/5/2026

**NO MARCH MEETING** (Staff and Advocate Development Conference)

4/9/2026

5/7/2026

6/4/2026

SUMMER 2026 TBD

**Join Zoom Meeting**

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

Meeting ID: 890 8280 7363

Passcode: 299054

Respectfully Submitted,

Michelle Driscoll for Debbie Whitford