

The Arc Michigan Education Committee
Meeting Minutes
December 4, 2025

The meeting came to order at 10:01am.

Present: Andrea Beachnau, Darlene Heard-Thomas, Emily Henderson, Hayley Cason-Grobbel, Heba Takouz, Kenya Harper, Kelly Linton, Maggie Kolk, Margarita Rodriguez, Michelle Driscoll, Sue Lind

Review Agenda

Approval of Meeting Minutes: Meeting minutes from November were reviewed and approved.

Governmental Affairs/Legislative Update:

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

Legislators were on deer hunting break. The Senate is meeting to work on economic development legislation. The House is not meeting until next week. There are 6 scheduled days left this year. When they return for the new year, it will be the start of election season.

Supplemental appropriations bill is expected due to gaps of education items that slipped through the cracks in the budget. Will probably be done in January/February to back-fill special education funding.

Emily Henderson, Sherri Boyd, and Michelle Driscoll met with Autism Alliance of MI and Emily, Sherri, Michelle and Andrea Beachnau met with Michigan Behavioral Analysis Providers Association (MiBAP) to share the Education Committee's concerns about HB 5044. This bill will require schools to provide medically necessary treatment by licensed professionals in school. Many state education agencies/organizations are opposed to the bill.

Last month, Michelle shared concerns from the Education Committee with Sherri Boyd. Some of the main concerns from the Education Committee are (not an exhaustive list):

- Bill is too broad. Allows an array of private service providers and other services to be provided during the school day. May not leave time for educational services for students
- Taking students out of the classroom for other services; the provision of FAPE.
- There is already a law in place to provide services to students during the school day through the IEP process, if determined medically necessary by the IEP team. The current law and process should be used, rather than creating a new law.

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- Would support schools hiring BCBA's / Behavior Technicians to be hired by school districts vs. bringing in private providers to provide services during the school day.
- Proponents of the bill say it is budget neutral, but the fiscal analysis shows otherwise.

The Arc MI Education Committee has not taken an official stance on the bill but have been gathering information and sharing concerns behind the scenes. A working group of the Education Committee will meet on December 10 to draft a statement for Emily to share with legislators that expresses our concerns with the bill.

Legislative Analysis of HB 5044 <https://www.legislature.mi.gov/documents/2025-2026/billanalysis/House/pdf/2025-HLA-5044-6BXML7C9.pdf>

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*

There is no SEAC Report Summary for December.

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:

Shared Bridge article "[Michigan Fails its Students with Disabilities, first-ever report finds](#)" and [MI Special Education Finance Reform Blueprint \(Legislative Report\)](#)

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.

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Hayley shared a federal bill (no bill number yet) that was introduced to the House by John James. It is called the *Individuals with Disabilities Education and Legacy Act* or *IDEAL Act*. The bill "rescinds unobligated amounts available to the Department of Education for FY 2026 and transfer such amounts to States in accordance with section 611 of the IDEA." SEE ATTACHED BILL.

Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 11:00am

Upcoming Monthly Meeting Dates:

1/8/2026 (2nd 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