

The Arc Michigan Education Committee
Meeting Minutes
June 2, 2021

Meeting came to order at 3:30pm via Zoom.

Present: Maggie Kolk, Michelle Driscoll, Kenya Harper, Chesley Giertz, Sue Lind, Darlene Heard-Thomas.

SEAC Report and Notes-Kenya/Andrea B:

- Scott K talked about the alternative **Paths to Graduation** information that he presented to the State Board in Dec. 2020.
 - Focus on Early Childhood Inclusion mentioned
 - Scott K's idea is similar to Indiana with adding a General Diploma option (18 credits but different blend towards strengths of student to age 25)
 - Postsecondary Readiness Requirement
 - Work Readiness Requirement
- **New Special Education Program Flexibility-**
 - The MDE announced there will be new flexibility given to address teacher shortages in specific special education programs.
 - Through the application of a waiver, districts can seek flexibility for the following programs for students with:
 - Cognitive Impairment
 - Emotional Impairment Specific Learning Disabilities
 - Speech & Language Impairment
 - Physical and Other Health Impairment
 - Severe Multiple Impairment
 - Approved waivers allow currently endorsed special education teachers whose endorsement may not match the program where a vacancy exists, to be used when appropriately endorsed teachers cannot be hired for these specific programs.
 - Waivers for programs for students with Autism Spectrum Disorder are available under a separate waiver application process the department announced over a year ago.
 - This flexibility is available as a one-year renewable waiver.
 - For additional details pertaining to this new flexibility, please use the following link:
http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/SE_Cert_Opps_Pandemic_723405_7.pdf

- **American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act/IDEA Funds-Kelly Carter**
 - ARP/IDEA Part B Amounts
 - Grants to States (flowthrough) \$81,751,615
 - Preschool \$ 6,372,624
- Revised Allocations including ARP funds to be sent to states in next few days.
- ARP/IDEA funds will go out under a separate Grant Award Notification (GAN)
- ARP/IDEA funds same Period of Availability as regular FFY 2021 funds (ending 9/30/2023)
- **Due Process Hearings Reports** – Rebecca McIntyre: July 1, 2020-April 15, 2021
 - Due Process Complaints filed: 17
 - Expedited: 3
 - Dismissed/Withdrawn: 17
 - Final Decision and Order: 1
 - Pending: 10
- MDE-OSE Information Line (April 2021):
 - 159 contacts
 - School personnel have called the hotline the most, followed by parents/guardians.
 - “Other Reason” is the top reason for the contact, followed by Child Find (3-6 years), Testing, Complaint Information, and IEP’s.

Committee Business:

Read by Grade 3 (RBG3) and dyslexia bills:

We briefly discussed dyslexia bills 380, 381, 382 and 383 and RBG3 bills 265 and 268.

Christin Nohner, Senior Government Affairs Consultant with RWC Advocacy (Arc MI lobbyist), will be attending a **Special Education Committee Meeting on Monday, June 21 from 10:30-11:30** to give us a general overview and status update about the Read by Grade 3 and dyslexia proposed legislation. **Please submit questions for Christin to Michelle by June 11.** Please let Michelle know if you will be attending the meeting.

Zoom Link to join this meeting ONLY-

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84241878533?pwd=YmpsUmlqbC81eFAxQm9DdmNIL0dmUT09>

Meeting ID: 842 4187 8533

Password: 867533

(an email was sent out to committee members with the above information related to the June 21 meeting on 6/3)

The meeting adjourned at 5:00pm