

**The Arc Michigan Education Committee
Meeting Minutes
November 9, 2023**

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

Present: Katherine Mills, Andrea Beachnau, Sue Lind, Kenya Harper, Maggie Kolk, Kelsey Biswanger, Darlene Heard-Thomas, Michelle Driscoll, and Emily Henderson.

Meeting minutes from September October 12th were approved and the Agenda for today's meeting reviewed.

Governmental Affairs/Legislative Update:

Emily Henderson, Governmental Affairs Consultant and Lobbyist for Arc Michigan with McCall Hamilton, joined us for this meeting to share a governmental affairs/legislative update.

The two democrats won their elections for Mayor so there will be two special elections for these seats that will take about 120 days. The seats will probably stay Democrat. 56 votes are needed to pass legislation and it currently is 54/54. House Democrats aren't really looking to do anything until these seats are filled.

Running through passing the last handful of bills. Committees are wrapping up and the legislature will adjourn November 14 for the rest of the year. We don't expect to see them back until March/April/May of next year for more regular sessions.

No significant updates to any education related legislation at this time.

Big priorities are family paid leave, energy and climate solutions, reproductive health, and Medicare drug prices.

Emily is continuing to follow these bills and will keep the committee updated on status:

- [Michigan Legislature - Senate Bill 0567 \(2023\)](#) and [2023-SIB-0568.pdf \(mi.gov\)](#)
Prescreening for dyslexia; Certain requirements for approval of teachers working with students with dyslexia
- [2023-HB-5063](#) and [2023-HB 5064](#)
Students to be treated with marijuana-infused products and CBD products during school
- [2023-HB-4081](#)
Guidance counselors to address support in schools and the decline in high school graduates going to college (not specifically mental health counselors)

SEAC Report Summary

Kelsey Biswanger presented the SEAC report for October. See attached SEAC meeting notes for more details on the topics listed. (SEE ATTACHMENT with November Meeting Minutes for the full SEAC Report)

- **Review what is in Dyslexia Bills, SB 567 and 568** (Dr. Sheryl Kennedy, MDE Legislative Liaison)

- Multiple components, with assessment and teacher preparation requirements
- The legislature adjourning next week, and the dyslexia bill package will not get a hearing until they return in the spring, 2024.
- **Due Process Case Review** (Nancy Rotarius, State Policy Coordinator, Office of Special Education)
 - Intended to assist in capturing key ideas for the discussion related to this particular Due Process Hearing case. SEAC is required to advise the state educational agency of unmet needs within the state regarding the education of children with disabilities (§300.167) and receive findings and decisions of due process hearings. (§300.513)
 - Reminder: The burden of proof is on the Petitioner to prove by a preponderance of evidence the proposed placement is reasonable and appropriate, and any compensatory services are necessary.
- **Teacher of the Year Update** (Candice Jackson, MTOY)
 - Traveled throughout Michigan, meeting with different schools, and shared findings about teacher shortages, Multi-Tiered Systems of Support, misplacement of students, Least Restrictive Environment, and Space (infrastructure, resources, budget)
- **OSE Update** (Teri Rink, Director, Office of Special Education)
 - OSEP Guidance Released
 - [Guidance on State General Supervision Responsibilities under Part B and C of the IDEA \(July 24, 2023\)](#)
 - [State General Supervision Responsibilities Under Parts B and C of the IDEA](#)
 - July Guidance Replaces
 - [FAQ Regarding Identification & Correction of Noncompliance and Reporting on Correction in the SPP/APR \(Sept. 3, 2008\):](#)
 - [OSEP Memo 09-02 Reporting on Correction of Noncompliance in the APR Required under Sections 616 & 643 of the IDEA \(Oct. 17, 2008\)](#)
 - [Q and A on Monitoring, Technical Assistance and Enforcement \(Revised Jan. 2009\)](#)
- **Monthly Technical Assistance Calls**
- **Least Restrictive Environment**
 - Priorities
 - Provisions
 - Requirements
 - Continuum of Alternative Placements
 - Placements
 - Additional Monitoring Considerations

Committee Work:

The committee finalized revisions to the draft **Universal Design for Learning, Pathway to Kindergarten, and Schoolwide Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports** Position Statements.

The draft Position Statements will be submitted to Sherri to approve and send to the Arc MI Board of Directors for review at their December meeting.

The committee discussed adding content from our committee to Arc MI social media platforms. Content could include links to the Education Committee page on the Arc MI website, Arc MI Position Statements developed, information about the legislative process, how families/allies can connect with their legislators, as well as the status of education related legislation.

Committee members are encouraged to follow The Arc MI on their social media platforms - [Facebook](#) [Instagram](#) [Twitter](#) [LinkedIn](#) [Youtube](#)

The next meeting is Thursday, January 11 from 10:00am-11:30am

Monthly Meeting Dates (2023-2024)

- Dec 7, 2023 (Meeting canceled)
- Jan 11, 2024 (Date change due to winter break)
- Feb 1, 2024
- Mar 7, 2024
- Apr 4, 2024
- May 2, 2024
- Jun 6, 2024
- Aug 1, 2024 (If needed)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81104962316?pwd=WFA3eVFoNC92U3JJSFZmcjVzdEd2Zz09>

Meeting ID: 811 0496 2316 / Passcode: 707193

The meeting adjourned at 11:30am

Respectfully Submitted,
Michelle Driscoll (for Debbie Whitford)