

UPDATES

Office of Special Education – Mandated Activities Project Michigan Department of Education February 2014

WHAT's NEW?

Center for Educational Networking (CEN)

FOCUS on Results Articles to be Released This Month:

- *Sue Pearson: Hartland Schools' Special Education 'Barrier Breaker.'* In June 2013, Sue Pearson received MAASE's Award of Distinction for her work as Director of Special Education at Hartland Consolidated Schools. This is a look at innovative programs she's initiated in the district that have helped lower the percentage of students who need special education services.

Coming Next Month:

- *Michigan's Integrated Behavior and Learning Support Initiative Partners With National Program* - MiBLSi is now an official partner with the OSEP Technical Assistance Center on Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS). Director Steve Goodman was also asked to be part of the national PBIS work.
- *Office of Special Education Helpline: What to Know Before You Call* - 1-888-320-8384 -This article provides an outline of the information you will receive and tips to help you prepare your information before you call.

Social Media News:

- Join the 217 people who follow CEN on Facebook. If you are a Facebook user, visit the CEN Fanpage and click LIKE.
- Join the 251 people who follow CEN on Pinterest.

Michigan Alliance for Families

Parents are encouraged to contact the Michigan Alliance for Families at 1-800-552-4821 or info@michiganallianceforfamilies.org if they:

- have questions about their child's IEP;
- need information about their child's disability; or
- want to talk to another parent.

For training events, please visit our website for the latest listing:
www.michiganallianceforfamilies.org/upcoming-events

Michigan's Integrated Behavior and Learning Support Initiative (MiBLSi)

- There are 26 professional development modules developed by MiBLSi regarding academic and behavior MTSS located on Michigan LearnPort (www.mi.learnport.org)

Michigan's Integrated Mathematics Initiative (Mi)²

- (Mi)² is working with the authors of a multi-day professional learning course for grades K-2 and 3-5 to introduce the work in Michigan and provide facilitator training during the 2014-2015 school year. (Mi)² continues to make monthly contacts with the network of trained facilitators, providing support as needed; and sending out the (Mi)² Update, a monthly e-newsletter containing math instruction resources and events around the state. The new (Mi)² website went live in December. The website connects math educators to resources and professional learning opportunities. Kate Fanelli has joined Laura Taylor for Accessible Educational Environments trainings for MITS, providing information about accessible mathematics instructional strategies and tools. The newsletters are available at: <http://mi2.cenmi.org/content/newsletters>

Michigan's Integrated Technology Supports (MITS)

- MITS Provides tiered levels of support to districts, including intensive support with a particular district as we conduct usability testing for future professional learning and technical assistance to districts. MITS also provides targeted support to districts and families, particularly in the area of assistive technology. MITS is utilizing Google Hangouts and other online options to provide ongoing technical assistance.
- Collaborative Professional Development with Michigan Alliance for Families will take place on February 20. The topic includes Assistive Technology (AT) in the IEP – what assessment should look like and how parents can be better advocates in the process of requesting AT for their child.
- MITS is working with Assessment and Accountability regarding the Smarter Balanced Assessment and has produced a single-page overview of supports (see attached). MITS is also involved with revisions to the Technology Readiness Infrastructure Modules to include more robust consideration regarding students with disabilities and learner variability overall.

Michigan Special Education Mediation Program (MSEMP)

- The MSEMP, with support from the OSE, has launched a restorative justice pilot project in Macomb, Kent, and Ingham counties. The MSEMP centers serving those counties are offering restorative circles and conferences to select local schools as an alternative to suspension and expulsion in disciplining students with disabilities. Preliminary data indicate that these techniques have reduced both in-school and out-of-school suspension days. The two-year project is operating at the middle and high school levels.

- The MSEMP will conduct two presentations at the Michigan Council for Exceptional Children (MCEC) Annual Meeting on March 6. One session will provide an overview and comparison of the dispute resolution options under the IDEA, MARSE, and OSE procedures, including mediation. The second session will focus on restorative justice in discipline for students with disabilities.
- The MSEMP will also present at the Michigan Transition Services Association (MTSA) conference on March 14 regarding collaboration and transition planning. Presentations on the MSEMP itself have been scheduled for March and April in Menominee, Eaton, and Macomb. The MSEMP's workshop series on collaboration in the IEP process is being conducted in Oakland during February and March. The MSEMP is developing a short video overview of its workshops for its website, www.msemp.cenmi.org.

Michigan Transition Projects (MTP)

- In January, we hosted a Regional Online Workshop for Intermediate School District (ISD) Transition Coordinators that combined efforts from the MI-TOP and RTSL initiatives. Dr. Mindee O'Cummings and Amy Szymanski, from the American Institutes for Research, presented on the Early Warning Signs for Dropout Prevention. Teams worked with their local data to help identify students at-risk for dropout and making programmatic decisions.
- Also in January, we started the pilot for the BackStory Student Engagement mobile app with Ottawa ISD and will expand to other ISDs in February.
- After five years of successful state-led ISD transition-focused community conversations, our team has created materials to assist and build capacity for ISD-led community conversations. During the month of February, the MI-TOP team will be assisting six ISDs in conducting community conversations focused on family involvement in the transition planning process.

Statewide Autism Resources and Training (START)

START Trainings for 2014

- February 24, 2014 - Trainer Preparation – Crowne Plaza Lansing West
- February 27 & 28, 2014 - Peer to Peer Support – Crowne Plaza Lansing West
- April 28, 2014 – Start Conference – Keynote Peter F. Gerhardt, Ph.D. , Evidence-based Education & Interventions for Adolescents & Adults with Autism – Crowne Plaza Lansing West
- April 29, 2014 – RCN Spring Leadership Day – Crowne Plaza Lansing West
- May 22, 2014 – CET – St. Clair Co. RESA

Complete details and registration information for the above events can be found on the START web site under START EVENTS at www.gvsu.edu/autismcenter.

HOT TOPICS

- The MiBLSi application for participation (ISD partnership) is now available on the MiBLSi website (miblsi.cenmi.org). Completed applications are due **TODAY**, February 5, 2014 by 5:00 p.m.

UPCOMING LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

Michigan's Integrated Behavior and Learning Support Initiative (MiBLSi)

- The MiBLSi State Implementers' Conference will be held March 11-12, 2014.
- The MiBLSi MTSS Math Webinar series continues with sessions scheduled for February 26, and May 13, 2014. More information is available on the website (<http://miblsi.cenmi.org/EmergentWork/MathMTSS.aspx>)

Michigan Transition Projects (MTP)

- **March 5, 2014** – CEC Preconference Workshop on Transition
Presenters: MTP, National Secondary Transition Technical Assistance Center (NSTTAC) and Adam Danapillis (<http://www.michigancec.org>)
- **March 12, 2014** – Michigan Transition Services Association (MTSA) Preconference Workshop Sponsored by Michigan Transition Projects
Presenter: LeDerick Horne
- **March 13-14, 2014** – MTSA Conference – multiple presentations
Keynote: Teri Johnson, OSE
MTSA Conference Registration link: [/www.michigantsa.com](http://www.michigantsa.com)
- **April 30, May 1-2, 2014** – MTP Spring Transition Leaders Institute
Presenters: Alison Lowenthal, Idaho Department of Education
Jon Paul Burden, WELD RE4 School District, Windsor, Colorado
Teri Johnson, OSE

Michigan's Integrated Technology Supports (MITS)

- Leaders in Policy February 7, 2014 – presentation on Designing Educational Environments – Eagle Crest Marriott, Ypsilanti
- Webinar: February 20, 2014 – Presume Competence – Using PODD to develop autonomous communication for students with complex communication needs.
- LEAP – Lead Empower Assist Parents – March 1, 2014 Session at Kent ISD – topic to be determined.
- POHI/SXI Conference March 3, 2014 – Session on PODD - Pragmatic Organization Dynamic Display and how this tool can benefit students with severe and profound disabilities communicate autonomously.

Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC) Usability, Accessibility, and Accommodations Guidelines

Who Benefits From These Guidelines?	Who Decides What to Select and Administer?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accessibility for ALL students • English Language Learners (ELL) • Students with Individualized Education Programs (IEP) • ELLs with Disabilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decision making teams • School-level personnel - IEP teams • General/Special Education teachers • Related Service Personnel

What Else Do the Assessments Include?

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summative Assessments • Optional Interim Assessments for local use • Formative tools/processes to inform instructional use
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Validity is Dependent on Every Student Having Appropriate Supports

Universal Tools: All Students	Designated Supports: When Indicated by adult or team	Accommodations: Documented Need (IEP, 504)
Embedded (Digitally Delivered): Breaks, calculators, notepad, English dictionary, glossary, highlighter, math tools, spell check, writing tools, zoom	Embedded (Digitally Delivered): Color contrast, masking, text-to-speech, translated test directions, translations, turn off any universal tools	Embedded (Digitally Delivered): American Sign Language (ASL), Braille, Closed Captioning, Text-to-Speech
Non-Embedded (Outside Computer, locally available): Breaks, English dictionary, scratch paper, and thesaurus	Non-Embedded (Outside Computer, locally available): Bilingual dictionary, color contrast, color overlays, magnification, read aloud, scribe, separate setting translations	Non-Embedded (Outside Computer, locally available): Abacus, alternate response options (adapted keyboards, mouse, touch screen, etc.), calculator, multiplication table, print on demand, read aloud, scribe, speech-to-text

Member states may elect **not to make available** to its students any universal tool, designated support, or accommodation that is included in the guidelines when it is in conflict with a member state's law, regulation, or policy.