



New ISD Directors of Special Education Welcome Toolkit

Michigan Department of Education

Office of Special Education

August 2023



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This compilation of online videos and resources includes information about and from the MDE OSE, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Grant Funded Initiatives, and additional offices or programs that work in partnership with the MDE OSE and/or the IDEA Grant Funded Initiatives.

- [Dr. Scott M. Koenigsknecht, Deputy Superintendent, P-20 System and Student Transitions Video](#)
- [The Path Forward Strategic Plan](#)

Inside the OSE

The OSE has several units to handle its general supervision responsibilities: Administration, Program Accountability, Program Finance, and Performance Reporting. The OSE is also responsible for the MDE Low Incidence Outreach program and the Michigan School for the Deaf. For general and contact information, see the [Directory and Overview](#).

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The Administration Unit provides leadership to and oversight of the office and ensures compliance with all federal and state statutory and regulatory requirements. The unit reports and responds to the State Board of Education, the State Superintendent, the Chief Deputy Superintendent, and the Deputy Superintendent.

- [Teri L. Rink, Ed.S., Director, Office of Special Education Overview Video](#)

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For more information contact [Roxanne Balfour, Director](#) (balfourr@michigan.gov).

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- [Acronym Glossary](#): This is a list of commonly used acronyms and what they stand for.
- [Michigan Administrative Rules for Special Education \(MARSE\)](#): The MARSE are the Michigan rules to follow when implementing special education laws.
- [Michigan Special Education Reference \(MI-SER\)](#): The MI-SER is a database of federal and state special education law and policy information and resources.
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- [Eligibility](#): Find information about determining a student’s eligibility for special education programs and services.
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IDEA Grant Funded Initiatives, Partners, and Other State of Michigan Offices

The [IDEA](#) requires state education agencies to have in place effective general supervision systems that provide information dissemination; training and technical assistance; personnel development for administrators, teachers, related service providers, parents, and others regarding research, evidence-based practices, and requirements of law. The IDEA authorizes use of funds for these provisions under Section 1411(e)(2)(C)(i) and (v).

- [IDEA Grant Funded Initiatives Overview \(Video\)](#)
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Alt+Shift

[Alt+Shift](#) collaborates with districts and buildings to create and sustain accessible educational environments that have a direct and positive impact on every student. With a focus on collaboration and impact, Alt+Shift offers professional learning, including training, technical assistance, and co-constructed implementation planning, that strives to shift adult mindsets and provide alternative options to improve outcomes for every student. Additional materials available from Alt+Shift include:

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- [Implementation Partnerships](#)
- [Implementation Process](#)
- [Online Learning Resources](#)

- [Stay Informed](#)
- [Technical Assistance Request](#)
- Other Recommended Sources
 - [Bookshare](#) allows people with dyslexia, blindness, cerebral palsy, and other reading barriers can customize their experience to suit their learning style and find virtually any book they need for school, work, or the joy of reading.
 - [MDE Low Incidence Outreach](#)

For more information contact [Jeff Diedrich](mailto:jeff.diedrich@gmail.com) (jeff.diedrich@gmail.com), Project Director.

Build Up Michigan

[Build Up Michigan](#) helps parents and their children, ages 3 through 5, get additional educational support as they begin and continue to learn the skills needed to enter kindergarten. Build Up Michigan partners with the MDE OSE to execute child find activities through targeted outreach efforts. Build Up Michigan supports Intermediate School Districts (ISDs) in Michigan in identifying young children for special education.

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 - [Early On® Michigan](#)

Build Up Michigan also offers no-cost, promotional products for outreach to children and young adults who may benefit from early intervention and/or special education services in Michigan. Go to the [Order Early On and Build Up Michigan Materials webpage](#). To place an order, subscribe to the EOT&TA website, which is free. To become

a subscriber, go to the [EOT&TA Subscriber Registration](#) webpage and complete the subscriber form.

For more information contact [Christy Callahan](#) (callahan_c@ccresa.org), Project Director.

Michigan Alliance for Families

The [Michigan Alliance for Families](#) (MAF) provides statewide information, support, and educational learning opportunities for families who have children and young adults (birth to 26 years of age) who receive (or may be eligible to receive) special education services. MAF provides services to all families, with an emphasis on assisting families/students from underserved populations. The Michigan Alliance for Families is also Michigan's federally funded [Parent Training and Information Center](#).

Each Michigan Alliance staff member is a parent or family member of an individual with disabilities who has first-hand experience with the aspects of the special education system. Every staff member is trained in listening, communicating, and problem-solving.

Families and educators can connect directly to a regional Parent Mentor. Parent Mentors can assist in navigating the educational system and are knowledgeable about state and local resources. Parent Mentors support existing and emerging parent leaders involved with groups such as Local Interagency Coordinating Councils (LICCs), Parent Advisory Committees (PACs), the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC), and the Michigan Interagency Coordinating Council (MICC).

- [Michigan Alliance for Families \(Video\)](#)
- Michigan Alliance for Families Brochures
 - [MAF Brochure \(English\)](#)
 - [MAF Brochure \(Spanish\)](#)
 - [MAF Brochure \(Arabic\)](#)
 - [Regional Parent Mentor Information](#)
- Other Recommended Sources
 - [Michigan Family Engagement Framework](#)

- [Parent Training and Information Center](#)

For more information contact [Kanika Littleton](#) (kanika@michiganallianceforfamilies.org), Project Director.

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[Family Matters](#) fact sheets explain special education laws and practices. The documents are easy to read and give links to more in-depth resources. Family Matters fact sheets are intended to enhance public understanding of Michigan’s special education system and are not a substitute for official laws and regulations. Family Matters is an outreach effort from the MDE OSE.

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- [Get MDE OSE Updates on Family Matters](#)

For more information contact [Stacie Rulison](#) (stacie.rulison@gmail.com), MDE Consultant.

Michigan’s Multi-Tiered System of Supports Technical Assistance Center*

**Previously Michigan’s Integrated Behavior and Learning Support Initiative (MIBLSI)*

[Michigan’s Multi-Tiered System of Supports \(MiMTSS\) Technical Assistance Center](#)

works on behalf of MDE to partner with ISDs and local member school districts throughout the state of Michigan to help implement and sustain a multi-tiered system

of supports (MTSS) with proven practices that improve behavioral and academic outcomes for students.

The MiMTSS Technical Assistance Center focuses on providing high quality instruction and interventions matched to student need.

- [MiMTSS Technical Assistance Center \(Video\)](#)
- [Evidence Based Practices](#)
- [Data Informed Action](#)
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For more information contact [Kimberly St. Martin](mailto:kstmartin@mimtss.org) (kstmartin@mimtss.org), Project Director.

Special Education Mediation Services*

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[Special Education Mediation Services \(SEMS\)](#) provides mediation, facilitation, and training services for working through disagreements so that children with disabilities promptly receive the services they need to develop and succeed in school. These services often help to avoid disputes or help resolve them early.

Good communication between parents and the school district is critical in working together to meet the educational needs of students. Facilitators and mediators support collaborative conversations to help build a foundation for student achievement. The value of mediation is recognized by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and the MDE OSE.

Facilitation and mediation services are available free of charge.

- [SEMS \(Video\)](#)
- SEMS digital view brochures:
 - [SEMS Brochure - Arabic](#)

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- [SEMS Brochure - Spanish](#)

For more information, call 833-KIDS-1ST (833-543-7178) or [Request Services Online](#).

Statewide Autism Resources and Training Project

The [Statewide Autism Resources and Training \(START\)](#) Project provides evidence-based training, technical assistance, and coaching support, and resources to school-based teams in Michigan that support students with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). START is a statewide collaborative effort to make systems-level changes to improve the educational programming and quality of life for students with ASD.

The START Project mission is to work with schools, community partners, and families to support students with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) to become active, engaged members of their schools and local communities, and successfully move into adulthood as independent individuals with many choices and opportunities.

- [START \(Video\)](#)
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For more information contact [Amy Matthews](#) (matthewa@gvsu.edu), Project Director.



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