

Washtenaw Intermediate School District PAC Parent Handbook



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WISD website: [Washtenaw ISD](https://www.washtenawisd.org/)
WISD PAC website: [Parent Advisory Committee](https://www.washtenawisd.org/pac/)

Washtenaw Intermediate School District Board of Education 2023-24

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Washtenaw Intermediate School District (WISD) Mission and Vision Statements

The mission of Washtenaw Intermediate School District is to promote the continuous improvement of achievement for every student while providing high-quality service to our customers through leadership, innovation, and collaboration.

WISD's vision is to be the leader in empowering, facilitating, and delivering a high-quality, boundary-spanning, educational system that educates all children through an equitable, inclusive, and holistic approach.

WISD Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) Mission Statement

The Washtenaw Intermediate School District (WISD) Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) consists of parents of students with special needs. We advise the WISD concerning the planning and implementation of special education programs and services. We work to ensure student success by strengthening the capacities of our local schools, families and communities through collaboration, use of best practices, technology, and a wide variety of strategies.

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Dear Parents,

This handbook explains some of the steps taken to plan and carry out instructional programs that help students learn. There are many other resources for parents including local support groups, advocacy organizations and websites. This handbook includes guidelines that will help you in the months ahead and explains some of the terms often used by school staff members to plan for and support your student's education.

Special education services are available to eligible students in the State of Michigan from birth through high school graduation or age 26, as appropriate. Understanding the special education system can help you work with your student's school and teachers to develop the program that is needed for your student to succeed.

This handbook has been developed by the **Washtenaw Intermediate School District (WISD) Parent Advisory Committee (PAC)** to give you an introduction to the special education process and to acquaint you with special education programs and services. Services are provided by WISD and/or **Local Educational Agencies (LEAs)** - including local school districts or public school academies/charter schools.

Our Committee is composed of parents from LEAs within the WISD service area whose children have special needs. Members are recommended by their LEA for appointment by the WISD School Board. Care is taken to assure that the PAC membership represents students with various disabilities and eligibility for special education services.

As PAC members, we are resource persons for other parents of children with special needs. We advise the WISD School Board on matters relating to special education programs and services, as described in the Michigan Administrative Rules for Special Education (MARSE). We also take an active role in the development of the WISD Special Education Plan, a document that describes the delivery of special education services within WISD and LEAs.

The PAC meets monthly, usually on the third Tuesday, September-May (there is no December meeting), at WISD located at 1819 S. Wagner Road, Ann Arbor, Michigan (between Scio Church and Liberty). Meetings are open to all parents and persons interested in special education. If you need assistance, have a question, or wish to express a concern, please call your PAC representative or special education administrator listed in Appendix J.

You may access our **PAC website**:

[Parent Advisory Committee - Resources - Special Education - Administrative Departments - Services - Washtenaw ISD](#)

This Handbook is also available electronically:

[Washtenaw Intermediate School District \(washtenawisd.org\)](http://washtenawisd.org)

When viewing or printing the PAC Handbook please note that the PAC Representatives & Special Education Administrators, and Washtenaw County Area Family Support Groups' information is updated annually- check the PDF links for the most current versions

WISD has additional resources available on its web site: **[Washtenaw ISD](#)**.

Your local school district has an Assistive Technology Team that may help you with an **assistive technology evaluation**. This evaluation may help your student at home, in school,

and in the community. Some examples of Assistive Technology include: pencil grips, computer mouse, sensory items, specialized computer screens, adaptive keyboards, computer software, and augmentative communication devices. You may access the WISD Assistive Tech website: [**Assistive Technology - Instruction & Assessment - Special Education - Administrative Departments - Services - Washtenaw ISD**](#)

Michigan Alliance for Families provides information, support and education to families of children and adults with disabilities from birth to age 26 who are in the educational system. The purpose of the project is to increase the involvement of families in their children's education and the educational system in general. This statewide initiative achieves this through an information, support, and resource center; regional sites that can more personally address families' needs; and leadership mentoring and support. Call **1-800-552-4821** or access the web site: [**Michigan Alliance for Families**](#)

Be sure to check out the Professional Development Workshops, *many are open to interested parents and can provide helpful information about a variety of topics*, through the WISD website:

[**http://reg.abcsignup.com/view/view_month.aspx?as=50&wp=380&aid=WISD**](http://reg.abcsignup.com/view/view_month.aspx?as=50&wp=380&aid=WISD)

The web site for the Michigan Department of Education (MDE):

[**Michigan Department of Education**](#)

The web site for the MDE, Office of Special Education:

[**Special Education \(michigan.gov\)**](#)

Check out "Family Matters" from MDE. These fact sheets (in Arabic and Spanish too) explain special education laws and practices:

[**Family Matters \(michigan.gov\)**](#)

The Michigan Administrative Rules for Special Education (MARSE) With Related IDEA Federal Regulations: [**Michigan Administrative Rules for Special Education \(MARSE\) With Related IDEA Federal Regulations**](#)

The provision of special education services is also regulated by Federal Law, known as the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). Information on Federal Regulations may be found at Building the Legacy- IDEA 2004:

[**Individuals with Disabilities Education Act \(IDEA\)**](#)

Becoming an informed parent can help you advocate for your child, work with your child's team, and help your child succeed. Please refer to the [**Family Matters Advocacy Fact Sheet**](#) to learn more on how to become an effective advocate for your child.

Respectfully,
Washtenaw ISD Parent Advisory Committee (PAC)

SPECIAL EDUCATION – WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW

The schools and residents within Washtenaw Intermediate School District (WISD) have a long-standing belief that all children are entitled to the full benefits of a public education. This belief is supported by State and Federal laws (e.g., the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, known as IDEA 2004). These laws recognize that every individual is unique and different, and that, while everyone can learn, the learning style and the rate at which each individual learns vary from one person to another.

Michigan Law, under Act 451 of the Public Acts of 1976, requires that special education supports be available to all eligible children, from birth to age 26, or until graduation. Persons residing within the Washtenaw Intermediate School District, who are qualified to receive special education supports, will be provided with appropriate programs and/or services by an LEA, the intermediate school district, and/or through an approved contract agreement. The types of supports provided for each student vary depending on individual need.

Just as people are different, disabilities are too. They vary from one person to another. A disability may be perceived as mild to severe. Every disability, however, has one thing in common: Whether physical, mental, emotional, sensory, or a developmental delay, these disabilities can impede learning. Special education is specially designed instruction to help students with special needs reach their maximum potential.

It is important to remember that all students are general education students, that there is one curriculum- the general education curriculum, and that the IEP (Individualized Education Program) identifies supports necessary for students with disabilities to achieve and make progress in the general education curriculum. Standards-based IEPs encourage teachers and parents to consider all students as general education students with access to and support in the general education curriculum. **General education teachers work with special education teachers throughout the IEP process and accommodate students to ensure access and engagement in the general education curriculum.**

All students receiving special education services in Michigan must have an Individualized Education Program (IEP) that details the appropriate education plan outlining modifications, accommodations, and support for student success.

Michigan legislation allows a parent or legal guardian to request a **Personal Curriculum** (see Glossary Appendix F) which is an option for all students. A Personal Curriculum is typically only granted to students who cannot otherwise meet the requirements of the **Michigan Merit Curriculum** (see Glossary Appendix F). Understanding this educational option will help in making informed decisions about your student's educational experience and path to earning a high school diploma. Please refer to the [Parent's Guide to Personal Curriculum](#) and the [Michigan Merit Curriculum Requirements](#) for more information.

Grade Level Content Expectations (GLCE), Extended Grade Level Content Expectations (EGLCE), High School Content Expectations (HSCE), and Extended High School Content Expectations (EHSCE), in Michigan are the State Standards which local School Districts use to develop their Curriculum. In 2004, the Michigan Department of Education embraced the challenge of creating Grade Level Content Expectations in response to the Federal *No Child Left Behind Act of 2001*. The act mandated the existence of a set of comprehensive state grade level assessments. Reflecting best practices and current research, the Grade Level Content

Michigan Special Education One Pager: Timeline for Initials

Activity	Timeline
Public Awareness School districts must inform the public about available special education programs and services and how to access those programs and services. This is part of the district's Child Find responsibility.	Annually; Ongoing
Referral A child suspected of having a disability is referred for special education programs and services by contacting school district personnel.	Anytime
Parental Consent to Evaluate A district must contact parents when a referral is received and request parental consent to evaluate a child suspected of having a disability.	Within 10 calendar days Counted from the date the district receives the referral.
Evaluation A Multidisciplinary Evaluation Team (MET) conducts the initial evaluation.	Within 30 school days* Counted from the date the district receives the Parental Consent to Evaluate to completion of the IEP (the time to complete the Evaluation is included in the 30 school days). *If the parent and the district agree, the timeline for initial activities may be extended beyond 30 school days.
Individualized Education Program (IEP) The IEP Team is convened to determine eligibility and develop the child's IEP. The IEP is completed when the district makes its offer of a Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) to the child's parent.	
Notice to Parent of Intent to Implement The completed IEP is given to the district superintendent/designee. The superintendent provides written notice to the parent about where and when the district intends to implement the IEP.	Within 7 calendar days Counted from the date the superintendent/designee receives the IEP.
Parental Consent for Provision of Programs and Services Parent consent is required before the district is allowed to provide special education programs and services that are in the IEP.	Within 10 calendar days Counted from the date the parent receives the Notice to Parent of Intent to Implement.
Implementation The district implements the child's IEP.	Within 15 school days Counted from the date of the Notice to Parent of Intent to Implement.

Initial evaluations and initial individualized education programs (commonly referred to as 'initials') are activities undertaken for a child who is not currently receiving special education services.

These special education policies are required under the *Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)* and the *Michigan Administrative Rules for Special Education (MARSE)*.

This document is produced by the Michigan Department of Education, Office of Special Education and Early Intervention Services. To learn more, visit www.michigan.gov/ose-eis and select Annual Performance Report/ State Performance Plan under the Special Education & Early Intervention Services tab. For an overview of the State Performance Plan Child Find Indicator 11, visit www.cenmi.org and select Special Education Facts under the Documents tab.



Michigan Department of Education,
Office of Special Education and Early
Intervention Services

The MDE Michigan Administrative Rules for Special Education (MARSE) define eligibility for special education services within thirteen (13) categories of disability. To view the full MARSE document: [Michigan Administrative Rules for Special Education \(MARSE\) With Related IDEA Federal Regulations](#) **Please note that the categories of disability listed below are not the same as a medical diagnosis.**

Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) Students with autism spectrum disorder have a lifelong developmental disability that adversely affects educational performance in academic, behavioral, and/or social ways. Students exhibit impairments in reciprocal social interactions; qualitative impairments in communication, and restricted range of interests/repetitive behavior. Unusual or inconsistent responses to sensory stimuli may also be present. **Rule 340.1715**

Cognitive Impairment (CI) Students with cognitive impairment learn at a slower rate than “typical” students. Learning and independence levels vary, and programs will range from teaching academic and vocational skills, teaching daily living and pre-vocational skills, to teaching basic self-help skills. These students’ progress will often be measured with alternate assessments. **Rule 340.1705**

Deaf-Blindness (DB) Students have concomitant hearing and visual impairment, the combination of which causes severe communication and other developmental and educational needs that require special supports. **Rule 340.1717**

Deaf or Hard of Hearing (DHH) Students with any degree of hearing loss that interferes with learning. These persons may have mild or moderate hearing loss or be totally deaf. **Rule 340.1707**

Early Childhood Developmental Delay (ECDD) Students eligible under this category are children up to seven (7) years of age whose development is significantly delayed in one or more areas, and who do not qualify under any other special education eligibility. **Rule 340.1711**

Emotional Impairment (EI) Students with emotional impairment demonstrate behavioral problems, related to withdrawal, depression, low self-esteem, anxiety, physical complaints, etc., over an extended period of time that negatively affect their ability to learn. **Rule 340.1706**

Other Health Impairment (OHI) Students with other health impairments have limited strength, vitality, or alertness which adversely affect the student’s ability to learn. This includes attention deficit disorder, and health problems such as asthma, epilepsy, and diabetes. **Rule 340.1709a**

Physical Impairment (PI) Students with physical impairment have physical challenges which affect their ability to learn and may require adapted and/or special materials or equipment. **Rule 340.1709**

Severe Multiple Impairment (SXI) Students with multiple impairments have more than one disability in intellectual, physical and/or functional abilities. They typically require intensive intervention and supports for activities of daily living. **Rule 340.1714**

Specific Learning Disability (SLD) Students with a specific learning disability have a disorder in one or more of the basic psychological processes involved in understanding or in using language, spoken or written, that may manifest itself in the imperfect ability to listen, think, speak, read, write, spell, or to do mathematical calculations, including conditions such as

perceptual disabilities, brain injury, minimal brain dysfunction, dyslexia, and developmental aphasia. **Rule 340.1713**

Speech and Language Impairment (SLI) Students who have difficulty with understanding or use of language may have speech or language impairment. This may interfere with learning and/or social adjustment in school and elsewhere. Typical symptoms may include poor listening skills, unclear speech, slow vocabulary development, immature grammar, difficulties with conversation, unusual loudness or quality of voice, or stuttering. **Rule 340.1710**

Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) Students with traumatic brain injury have an acquired injury to the brain that has been caused by external physical force. This results in total or partial functional disability or psychosocial impairment, or both, that adversely affects a student's educational performance. **Rule 340.1716**

Visual Impairment (VI) Students who have severe problems with vision, whether partially sighted or blind, which interferes with development and learning. Characteristics may include visual acuity of 20/70 or less in the better eye, after correction, or a peripheral field of vision restricted to not more than 20 degrees. **Rule 340.1708**

THE INITIAL EVALUATION PROCESS – MET

After your consent is received, the team conducts an initial evaluation. This team is called the **Multidisciplinary Evaluation Team (MET)**. *The parent is an essential member of the evaluation team who can provide valuable information about your child.* The school personnel involved in a MET for your student will vary, depending on the suspected area(s) of disability. Staff members who frequently participate may include: teacher, teacher consultant, school psychologist, school social worker, speech therapist, occupational therapist, physical therapist, school nurse, etc.

Based upon the individual needs of your student, one or more of these areas could be evaluated:

- Cognitive/Intellectual (knowledge or thinking)
- Academic (educational skills such as reading, math, spelling, etc.)
- Motor-Visual-Auditory (control, coordination and responses of all parts of the body, sensory)
- Social-Emotional (feelings and social adjustment)
- Speech and Language (understanding and using language skills)
- Adaptive Behavior (the ability to perform social roles and functional skills as expected in various areas of daily living)
- Development (child's pattern of growth)
- Health (physical conditions interfering with school performance)

The evaluation team will assess your student's strengths and needs. It also reviews and analyzes all available information about your student's suspected disability, including school records, aptitude and achievement tests, teacher recommendations, physical conditions, adaptive behavior, medical history and other considerations, as appropriate. The evaluation team *may* also review written information provided by the parent from any outside sources. *Your input is essential in the MET process.*

During this evaluation process, you, as the parent, have the right to:

- Have an initial evaluation completed within thirty (30) school days counted from the date the district receives parental consent to evaluate.
- Request a copy of any reports before the **Individualized Education Program Team (IEPT)** meeting so you may read them and prepare any questions or comments.
- Have more than one test or evaluation procedure used to determine eligibility and the appropriate educational support(s) for your student.
- Be assured testing does not discriminate on the basis of language or culture.
- Have any evaluations you may have obtained elsewhere be considered along with the school district's evaluation data.
- Be notified of each evaluation procedure, test, record, or report used in determining eligibility and the need for special education support(s).
- Request an Independent Educational Evaluation (IEE), which may be at district or your own expense, if you disagree with the school's evaluation ([Family Matters IEE information sheet](#)).
- Receive a copy of the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) Procedural Safeguards Notice. [Procedural Safeguards Notice \(michigan.gov\)](#)

REVIEW OF ELIGIBILITY

Once the initial evaluations are completed, the evaluation team develops a written MET report with an eligibility recommendation. An Individualized Education Program Team (IEPT) meeting is then scheduled. The IEPT (which includes parent input) reviews the MET report, as well as any other relevant information, and determines whether or not the student is eligible for special education services based on the IEPT recommendation.

DEVELOPING THE INDIVIDUALIZED EDUCATION PROGRAM (IEP)

As a parent, you must be invited to attend the IEPT meeting. The IEPT meeting shall be scheduled at a mutually agreeable time. If you can't physically attend, the LEA shall use other means, such as conference telephone calls or email, to help you participate. If you are not prepared for the meeting, you may request a postponement. **Remember, you, as the parent, are an essential member of the IEPT and have a right to be involved in any decision made about your child's educational program.** As a member of this team, you should be assured that no one person is acting alone to develop and decide on the school services for your student (*see Appendix A*).

If the IEPT determines that your student has a disability, and could benefit from special education services, the team will then develop an Individualized Education Program (IEP) for him/her. The IEP is a legal contract and identifies your student's individual needs and recommends appropriate support(s). It assures that your student's instruction meets his/her particular needs and the specific strengths and interests of the student must be considered.

Participants in an IEPT meeting shall, at a minimum, include:

- You, the parent(s). You may also invite your Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) representative, an advocate, lawyer, or other person of your choice, to come with you.
- Your student, who is encouraged to participate, especially when discussions occur about transition from school to adult roles.

- Your student's teacher(s) or a teacher appropriate for your student's age and ability if s/he has not been previously enrolled by the LEA. At least one (1) of the IEPT participants should be a general education teacher or a person knowledgeable about the general education curriculum.
- A representative of the LEA, other than the student's teacher, who is qualified to provide, or supervise the provision of, special education services.
- A member of the MET (if this is the initial or a review of eligibility IEPT meeting) is required to present the written MET report and discuss your student's current level of educational performance.

The written IEP must include information about:

- Your student's present level of academic achievement and functional performance (PLAAFP).
- A student profile, which includes a description of the student's strengths and interests, parent concerns, progress on IEP goals and objectives, and academic/pre-academic achievement results on most recent State and/or district-wide assessments.
- Baseline data about your student from observations, district-wide assessments, tests, checklists, progress reports, report cards, and student or parent input.
- A statement of how the disability impacts the student's involvement/progress in the general education curriculum.
- A description of your student's educational needs.
- Annual Goals (AG) and Short-Term Instructional Objectives (STIO), and progress achieved towards previous goals.
- Methods to evaluate progress on instructional objectives.
- How much your student will be participating in general education activities (or, if your child is a preschooler, in age-appropriate activities), extracurricular activities, and school-related non-academic activities
- The Least Restrictive Environment (LRE) placement options which were considered, including why the options were accepted or rejected.
- The special education supports, supplementary aids and services, or/and program modifications to be provided for your student (*see pages 14-15*).
- Transition considerations for any student who will reach age 16 during the IEP.
- The frequency and duration of the supports to be provided.

You and the other members of the IEPT work together to develop your student's individualized program. If there are differences of opinion among the team members, it may not necessarily be a sign of trouble. Differences of opinion typically reflect that participants are sincerely concerned about your student. It is important to continue working toward a consensus agreement.

Additional considerations:

Your school district cannot conduct an *initial evaluation* of your child to determine whether your child is eligible under Part B of the IDEA to receive special education and related services without first providing you with prior written notice of the proposed action and without obtaining **parental consent**. The State of Michigan has developed a process and a form, **Notice of Initial Provision of Services and Programs**, for this purpose. Parents provide *initial* consent by signing the Initial Notice form, not the IEP.

Once the district receives a signed consent form for evaluation of special education services, the evaluation must be completed within 30 days. Please see the Michigan Special Education One Pager: Timeline for Initials included in this handbook on page 6.

All participants in the IEPT meeting are required to sign-in. A parent is not required to sign the **Notice of Initial Provision of Services and Programs** at the conclusion of the meeting. You may ask to take a copy of the IEP with you to review before signing the *Notice of Initial Provision of Services and Programs*. After receiving this notice from the school district, parents have up to 10 calendar days to sign and return this Notice form. The parent signature provides written consent to begin special education programs and/or services. If a parent does not provide written consent or refusal within 10 calendar days of receipt of Notice, it is recommended that the district (after making additional attempts to contact the parent) inform the parent in writing of the district's decision to **close the IEP process without implementation**.

The IEP is a legal contract between the parent(s) and the school district. According to IDEA, once the parent has given consent for special education programs/services at the first "Initial" IEP Team meeting, parental consent is no longer required to implement an IEP. The *Individuals with Disabilities Education Act* (IDEA) mandates that the district provide written notice to the parent when the district proposes to initiate or change the educational placement of the student or the provision of a Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) to the student; or when they refuse to initiate or change the educational placement of the student or the provision of a FAPE to the student.

The parent, upon receipt of notification from the school district representative, has the right, at any time, to appeal the decision and file a due process complaint. If the parent does not appeal, then the school district representative shall initiate the Individualized Education Program (IEP) as soon as possible, but not later than 15 school days after the parent has been notified. An initiation date may be later than 15 school days if clearly specified in the IEP; however, a projected initiation date can not be used to deny or delay programs or services because they are not available and cannot be used for purposes of administrative convenience.

You have a right to have a copy of the completed IEP.

You have a right to receive a copy of the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) Procedural Safeguards Notice at least once a year.

[Procedural Safeguards Notice \(michigan.gov\)](http://michigan.gov)

If your student is found to be eligible for special education services, you have the right to:

- Review and revise the IEP for your student at least once every year, and more often if you request it.
- A comprehensive evaluation, at least every three years, to re-evaluate special education eligibility (see *Redetermination of Eligibility page 17*).
- A vocational evaluation before your student receives vocational education or by age sixteen (16).
- Receive progress reports at least as often as other students in your LEA, as well as updated Goals and Objectives sheets from your student's IEP.

- Include a statement in your student's IEP to assemble the student's educational team for discussion *as needed*, instead of when the IEP is *scheduled* to be reviewed/updated.
- Make a request, in writing, to review your student's educational records.

If you or the Local Educational Agency does not agree with the IEP, either party has the right to:

- Request adjournment and reconvene at a later time to review.
- Request additional evaluations.
- Request a new IEP team meeting in order to bring different participants to the table.
- Request an IEP Facilitator (see pages 12-13).
- Request mediation.
- File a due process complaint with the MDE (*view Procedural Safeguards at [Procedural Safeguards Notice \(michigan.gov\)](#)*)

Remember, any participant in the individualized education program team's deliberations who disagrees, in whole or in part, with the team's determination (as documented in the IEP) may indicate the reasons on the team's individualized education program report or may submit a written statement to be attached to the report.

If your student is found to be ineligible to receive Special Education and or related services, you have the right to:

- Receive the *Notice for Provision of Services and Programs* document and a copy of the evaluation report.
- Under the IDEA, parents must also be given information about what they can do if they disagree with the eligibility decision. IDEA gives parents the right to request mediation or file a due process hearing to resolve a dispute about the child's identification, evaluation, or education placement.
- Obtain an Independent Educational Evaluation (IEE) [Family Matters IEE Fact Sheet](#)
- Protection afforded by other laws. For instance, it is not uncommon for a child to have a 504 Plan (Appendix C) at school to address disability-related educational needs instead of an IEP
- Seek interventions, with the help of teachers and support staff, for the child to use in the classroom that will ensure continued success
- Request that the child be continuously monitored for developmental changes. As the child grows, she/he may become eligible for services. Ongoing assessment will give more information regarding developmental changes.

IF YOU HAVE A PROBLEM

Communication is the key to any successful program. It is essential that you become a part of your student's team. Regular conversations with your student's teacher and team of school personnel can keep things running smoothly. If a problem does develop; for example, the IEP is not being implemented as written, try to work on it as soon as possible. Listen to what the other members of the team have to say and communicate your point of view calmly and clearly. Refer to Family Matters Fact Sheets on [Problem Solving](#) and [Dispute Resolution](#) for more information.

- Your first step should begin with scheduling a meeting with your student's teacher(s) and therapist(s). Talk to them first, identify the problem(s), discuss options and look for a

solution. If services and supports are not being provided as described in the IEP, you may request the services be provided, and discuss ways to make up the services.

- The school or district teacher consultant, social worker, psychologist and/or other team members would be the next set of people to get involved in trying to reach a solution.
- The school administrator or principal can facilitate solutions if the previous two steps have not resolved the situation.
- If the principal cannot resolve a problem to your satisfaction, you may contact the agency's special education director, superintendent or school board member(s).
- If the problem is still unresolved, you may contact the WISD compliance officer and/or the WISD special education director for help.
- If the problem is still unresolved, you may request facilitation and/or mediation. The Special Education Mediation Services (SEMS) (see page 13) is a good resource to contact with questions regarding facilitation and mediation options.
- If all of these steps have been tried, and your problems or concerns have not been addressed or resolved, you may file a complaint with the Michigan Department of Education or call 517-373-2979 or toll free 888-320-8384 [About OSE \(michigan.gov\)](#)

Remember, you may request a new IEPT meeting at any time.

Coming to a satisfactory solution by compromising and/or negotiating with your student's school team may be the most effective method of problem solving.

FACILITATION/MEDIATION

If there is a dispute between you and the LEA, you may want to consider facilitation or mediated agreement before filing a due process complaint. The purpose of a facilitated IEP or mediation is to bring two parties together to try to settle differences so that a hearing is not necessary.

Facilitation refers to the use of specialized skills to run a meeting in a fair, inclusive and organized fashion. It can be used in any IEPT or IFSP (Individualized Family Service Plan for children under age 3) meeting, or in a resolution session. It can help participants avoid disputes or resolve them before they escalate. Facilitation can increase the chances of achieving an IEP or IFSP agreeable to all parties.

Mediation is voluntary, free, and results in a legally binding agreement. You and the educational agency select a mediator and set ground rules. Both parties must agree to the mediated solution. When mediation is successful, both parties have an increased commitment to the individualized agreement that is reached ([Family Matters Mediation Fact Sheet](#)).

- You and the LEA must agree on the mediator. The state maintains a list of qualified mediators who are knowledgeable in special education laws and regulations.
- The mediator cannot impose a decision. The mediator's role is to assist you and the educational agency in arriving at a mutually agreed upon resolution.
- If you and the educational agency develop a resolution, you must receive a written copy.
- All mediation discussions are confidential and cannot be used in any subsequent due process or court proceeding.
- Mediation may help you to have a stronger role in the decision-making process.
- Mediation can help you find workable solutions and specify how they are to be implemented.

The **Special Education Mediation Services (SEMS)** makes facilitation and mediation services available at no cost for individuals from birth to age 26 through a network of service centers that serves all 83 Michigan counties. To obtain services, simply call (833)543-7178 to be directed to the center for your county. For further information you also can contact the SEMS administrative office at (517)334-0034 or visit the SEMS website: www.mikids1st.org

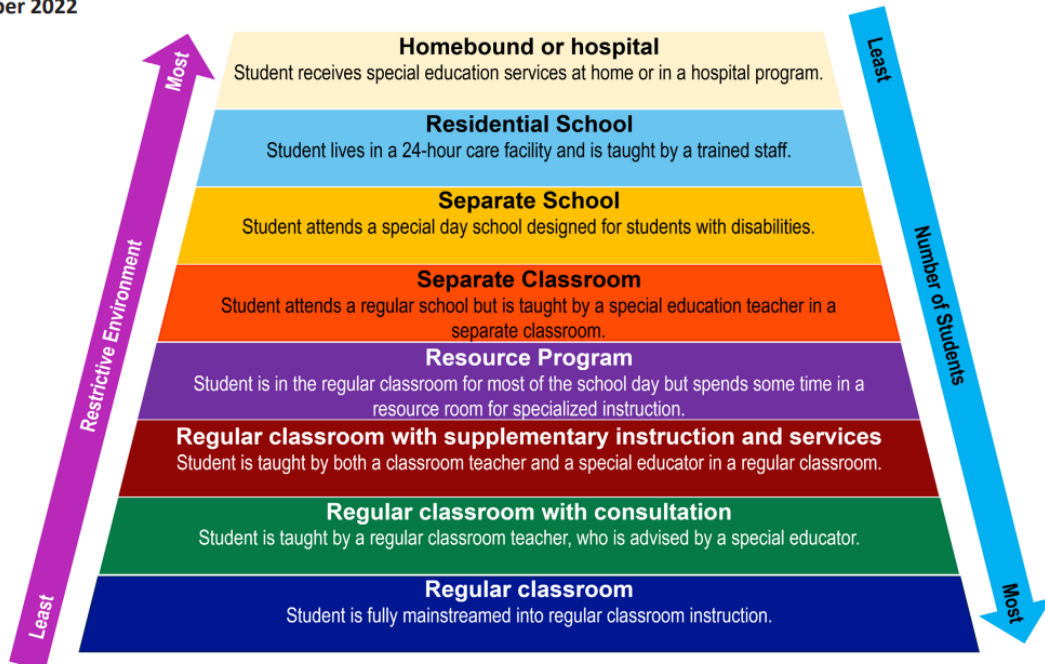
If mediation is not successful, you may file a due process complaint.

Special Education Due Process Complaint Procedures can be viewed at: [Special Education Due Process Complaint Procedures \(michigan.gov\)](http://Special Education Due Process Complaint Procedures (michigan.gov))

SPECIAL EDUCATION SUPPORTS

- A continuum of special education supports is identified in the Washtenaw Intermediate School District (WISD) Plan for students with disabilities, ages 0-26. You can view the Washtenaw Superintendents' Association – policy guidelines for delivering personalized services to students with specialized needs at [Special Education - Administrative Departments - Services - Washtenaw ISD](#)
- The type and amount of support provided to each student is decided on an individualized basis by the IEPT.
- To the maximum extent possible, the student must be included in general education classes and activities. A student should only be removed from the general education environment when all possible supports and services have been attempted and the student still needs more specialized services to be successful.

Michigan Department of Education Office of Special Education
October 2022



- The **Least Restrictive Environment (LRE)** is based upon individual need and the extent that a particular individual will be involved with his/her peers in general education classes and activities. LRE spans placements from full inclusion, where the student is involved with peers in general education settings for most or all of the school day, to “self-contained” classrooms with little or no peer contact in general education settings. LRE is potentially different for each student.
- Some school buildings and/or LEAs provide special education services as part of a unified system where students are supported to the greatest extent in general education classrooms. Some ways to provide special education support in general education classrooms might include team teaching, cooperative teaching, or other forms of classroom-based support. Other LEAs and school buildings provide special education supports outside general education classrooms, or a combination of the above.

Supports for children, birth through age 5:

Home/non-classroom pre-primary staff and preschool teachers support eligible children from birth to age 5. Children under age 3 are served through “**Early On**” (infant and toddler program), which includes development of an **Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP)**, similar to an IEP. The IFSP emphasizes high levels of parent involvement and coordination among agencies that work with young children with special needs and their families. Supports are typically provided in homes. Preschool children ages 3 to 5 are supported in their homes, in age-appropriate early childhood settings, or in the Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE) classrooms.

Supports for students, K-12, in LRE, from maximum to minimum inclusion with peers without disabilities:

- Teacher consultants may support eligible students who spend all or most of their time in a general education classroom; they also consult with the general education teachers of these students.
- Special education resource program and categorical classroom teachers may provide specialized instruction for students for any time period up to the full school day. Classrooms are generally located within an LEA school building.
- Center-based special education classroom teachers provide instruction to students with more extensive educational disabilities; the classrooms may be in an LEA school building or a separate special education facility.

Accommodations/Adaptations/Modifications

Some students require accommodations, adaptations and/or modifications to help them benefit from instruction. Examples of these may include:

Assistive Technology devices
 Augmentative communication device(s)
 Manipulatives/Hands-on tasks
 Written/picture daily schedule outline
 Study guides
 Partial participation
 Peer supports
 Extended testing time
 Photocopied notes
 Individually designed prompts
 Pre-teaching

Positive Behavior Support Plan (PBS)
 Behavior Intervention Plan (BIP)
 Adjusted/arranged seating
 Oral (vs. written) responses
 Calculator/tape recorder/MP3 player use
 Daily schedule (written, pictured)
 Word processing (vs. handwriting)
 Reducing distraction
 Repetition
(See Appendix B for additional information)

Adaptive Physical Education

The need for Adaptive Physical Education should be considered in the Present Level of Academic Achievement and Functional Performance (PLAAFP) section of the IEP. If it is determined that the student requires a specially designed physical education program, it should be identified in the Special Education Programs/Services section of the IEP.

Related Services

Eligible students may also receive related services as specified in the IEP. Examples of these are:

Occupational therapy
Physical therapy
Audiological services
Orientation and Mobility
School Social Worker
Rehabilitation Counseling
Nursing Services

Psychological Services
Homebound and hospitalized
Speech and Language
Teacher Consultant
Early Childhood Services
Services in Juvenile Detention
Interpreting Services

Special education classroom programs

Some of the special education classroom programs currently supporting students with staffing and management by LEAs and/or WISD include:

Speech/Language Impaired (SLI)
Mild, Moderate, and Severe Cognitively Impaired (CI)
Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE)
Emotional Impairment (EI)
Hearing Impairment (HI)

Learning Disability (LD)
Physical Impairment (PI)
Resource Rooms (R/R)
Severe Multiple Impairment (SXI)

These programs are staffed per state requirements by disability category and are cross-categorical in nature. This means that students with a variety of special education eligibilities may be placed in similar programs to meet their unique needs.

SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES

Age of Majority

Age of majority (age 18) means that a student is a legal adult and can make the decisions at his/her IEPT meeting, as well as in other areas of his/her life. At age 18, the rights of the parent transfer to the student unless power of attorney, partial guardianship, or guardianship is obtained. Some advocacy groups advise that there are less restrictive ways to help young adults with disabilities than guardianship. Age of majority should be an ongoing educational topic for the student well before the student becomes age 18. Guardianship issues (independence, decision-making skills, and partial guardianships as appropriate) can be addressed early in the student's secondary education career in the IEP under Transition Services (courses of study, adult living, and daily living skills). If rights will be transferred to the young adult, encourage the school to assist in training the student in the IEP process and if possible, in chairing the IEPT meeting before the age of majority. This will be easier if the

student has been an active member of the IEPT, has had training in self-advocacy and self-determination and has had a Person Centered Plan (PCP). The student will help determine participants in the IEPT meetings, which may or may not include his/her parent(s) and/or an advocate. The student should check his/her eligibility for Supplemental Security Income, register to vote, and males will need to register for the draft.

Assistive Technology (AT) Consideration

Every IEP Team is required to consider a special education student's need for Assistive Technology. Consideration is a brief process and one that can take place within every IEP meeting, and should not be confused with an evaluation. In order to consider the need for assistive technology, at least one person on the IEP Team must have some knowledge about assistive technology. Here are possible decisions an IEP team can make: (1) AT is not needed. The student is making adequate progress through task modification, skill remediation or other interventions specified on the IEP. Nothing new is needed for the student. (2) AT is needed and is successfully being used, as determined most often through an *Assistive Technology Decision Making Process (ATDMP)*. In this case, it is appropriate to list particular AT services and devices in the IEP, being careful to include enough detail of features and device categories needed. You may choose not to specify the brand name, as this may limit options. (3) AT may be needed, but the IEP team is unsure what service or device would meet the student's needs. The team may decide that new AT should be tried and additional data be collected to determine what an appropriate service or product might be. The *Assistive Technology Decision Making Process (ATDMP)* is initiated. The process is based on best practices and "Quality Indicators for Assessment of Assistive Technology Needs". The ATDMP occurs outside the IEP meeting, may take place any time during the school year, and is an on-going process. An assistive technology consultant or related service provider (e.g. speech pathologist, occupational therapist, teacher consultant, etc.) will usually put together an assessment team to begin the process, and lead the assessment. This team should include members who have the collective knowledge and skills needed to determine possible AT solutions that address the needs and abilities of the student, educational goals, and related activities. The family and student, whenever possible, should be active members of this team. The team begins by describing the student's abilities and needs, determining the task(s) the student needs to accomplish, reviewing what has already been tried, and generating possible AT solutions. An implementation plan is then developed with specifics of what AT will be tried, who will help with implementation, what data will be collected, and when the team will next meet to follow-up on the plan. Decisions on acquiring AT or trying other solutions are made based on the data collected during the trial process. Assistive Technology decision-making is ongoing. AT needs are reassessed any time changes in the student, the environments and/or the tasks result in the student's needs not being met with current devices and/or services. ATDMP forms and other information about assistive technology may be accessed on the Washtenaw Intermediate School District's website at: [Assistive Technology - Instruction & Assessment - Special Education - Administrative Departments - Services - Washtenaw ISD](#). Contact your local district Assistive Technology Coordinator or Special Education Director for more information.

Developing Visions and Goals

Planning systems can and should be used for students of any age. Some systems are more suited to planning for school, while others involve many or all aspects of a student's life. Some planning systems are Circle of Friends, COACH (Choosing Options and Accommodations for Children), Curriculum Matrix, MAPS (Making Action Plans), PATH (Planning Alternative Tomorrows with Hope), and Person Centered Plan (PCP). Facilitators and assistance with using these methods can be found at organizations such as WISD, Washtenaw Association for

Community Advocacy (ACA), Community Support and Treatment Services (CSTS) of Washtenaw County, Community Mental Health (CMH), and/or The Arc Michigan.

Extended School Year (ESY)

The need for ESY services must be considered for each student eligible for special education and should be discussed at every IEP meeting. Though the need for such services must be considered, ESY service provision is the exception, not the rule. A student may be found eligible for ESY services by an LEA or Public School Academy (PSA) due to 1) a serious potential for regression of skills beyond a reasonable period of recoupment, 2) the nature of the severity of the disability, or 3) be at a critical stage or area of learning. ESY services are considered only on an individual-need basis, to be determined by the IEPT. Determination of need for ESY services is based upon the IEPT review of the student's progress toward goals, documentation/observation of regression and recoupment during school break periods, and/or professional opinion. If the level of regression (loss of skills) and the length of recoupment (time it takes to re-learn lost skills) exceeds that of the general student population, then ESY services may be needed. Reasonable amount of time for recoupment is considered to be about 7 to 9 weeks. For more information regarding ESY, please visit [Guidance for Extended School Year Services in Michigan](#) and [Family Matter ESY Fact Sheet](#).

Graduation

In Michigan, a student with a disability, who is eligible for special education services, can receive services from the LEA until age 26, *unless* the student fulfills the graduation requirements of the LEA. There is a difference between accepting a Certificate of Attendance from the LEA and acceptance of a Diploma. The difference is that if graduation requirements are fulfilled and a Diploma is accepted, the student is no longer eligible for services from the LEA or WISD. A student can participate in graduation ceremonies and/or senior activities, regardless of whether s/he accepts a Certificate of Attendance or a Diploma. For more information on graduation, see Appendix C.

Redetermination of Eligibility

Every student eligible for special education services must have his/her eligibility reviewed at least every three (3) years. This allows the IEPT to decide what data/tests are needed to organize a comprehensive review of each student's eligibility, progress and needs for special education services. A discussion of assessment options for a student's review of eligibility should occur before the three-year evaluation review is due. Documentation of this discussion of a child's continuation of his/her eligibility is recorded on a Review of Existing Evaluation Data (REED) form. As a parent, you may request a comprehensive evaluation to re-evaluate special education eligibility.

Student's Post-Secondary Goals

It is important that the IEP be driven by the student's relevant preferences and goals for his/her post-secondary school activities. If the student does not attend and participate in the IEPT meeting, it is required to at least indicate the steps taken to ensure that the student's preferences were considered. The following questions are a starting point for a discussion with the student about future dreams and goals:

1. As an adult, where do you want to live?
2. As an adult, what kind of work do you want to do?
3. As an adult, what hobbies and activities do you want to have?
4. After high school, what additional education and training do you want?

Transition Planning to Adult Life

Transition (as defined by the IEP) refers to a coordinated set of activities designed to help a student with a disability prepare for adult roles and responsibilities. IDEA 2004 requires that transition planning occur no later than age 16, when the IEPT must address a student's pre-vocational/vocational needs. Information gathering and ongoing, less formal planning regarding student goals and future plans should begin before age 16, however (see "Transitions" section above). For students aged 16 or older, the IEPT must consider the need for transition services and this is documented on the transition page of the IEP, which must include a statement of transition service needs of the student, and focuses on the student's course of study (such as participation in advanced placement courses or a vocational program). The student's Educational Development Plan (EDP) should also include this course of study plan. The IEPT may determine what instruction and educational experiences will assist the student to prepare for transition from secondary education to post-secondary life. At age 16 (or younger if appropriate), referral(s) should be made for needed transition services, such as Michigan Department of Career Development/Rehabilitation Services. The LEA must invite the student and a representative of any agency that is likely to be responsible for providing or paying for transition services. If an invited agency does not attend, the school district shall take other steps to ensure that agency's participation in transition planning. Transition plans should address all aspects of a student's life including high school and post-secondary education, vocational training, daily living skills, housing, recreation, community involvement and employment. See the [Family Matters Transition Planning Fact Sheet](#) for more information

Transitions of varying degrees will occur often during a student's time in school. There are transitions from an Individualized Family Service Program (IFSP), when a child reaches age three (3), to an Individualized Education Program (IEP) when a student enters a preschool or school program. There are transitions from grade to grade, from building to building, and from level to level. At any time of transition, it is helpful for the student and his/her family to prepare by talking with and meeting new staff, exploring the facility, looking at transportation and any other new experiences that the student may encounter. For instance, if lockers are new to the student, try one out to determine if a key lock is needed instead of a combination. Consider having the next IEPT meeting at the new school, and also consider including transition details in your student's IEP. Invite the staff from both grades and/or schools. Arrange for your student to experience a day at the school before s/he actually attends. Go to the new school often so your student is familiar with the facility. Advance preparation will greatly help facilitate the transition.

Appendix A

HELPFUL HINTS: MAKING THE MOST OF THE IEP PROCESS

Before the IEPT Meeting:

- Obtain as much information as you can before the IEPT meeting. Talk with your student's teacher and the people who evaluated your student. Read their reports in advance, review the last IEP, and read your student's records.
- If possible, meet with your student's teacher(s) and observe your student in his/her current program.
- Call the special education office for the location of specific programs under consideration for your student. Visit any proposed programs before the IEPT meeting is held.
- If your student has received services from another agency, collect as much information as you can and share it with the school. This could include any activities your student participates in outside of school. Read over and bring a copy of any private evaluations or assessments your child has had in the last year or two.
- If possible, both parents should plan to attend the IEPT meeting. You may also want to bring someone else with you (child-care provider, family member, advocate, professional, etc.) especially if you would like someone to help support you or take notes for you.
- Familiarize yourself with terminology used in IEPT meetings. Review the Special Education Acronyms (Appendix E) and Glossary (Appendix F) in this handbook. **If you do not understand a term used, ask to have it explained.**
- Review the goals from the previous year's IEP. Have goals been met? Are the goals chosen last year still important, or have other needs become more important?
- Write down your questions and concerns to take to the meeting. You may need a reminder of some of the issues as the meeting progresses.
- Make a list of suggestions that you might like to see written into your student's IEP.
- Think of some of the skills that your student will need to learn in the coming year or that you would like to see addressed by the IEPT.
- If you believe that your student is ready to attend his/her IEP, make sure that s/he is invited! Discuss the IEP process with your student. Help him/her to think about the skills that s/he would like to work on during the coming school year.
- Consider taking a tape recorder. This may be especially helpful if both parents, or another concerned adult, cannot attend the meeting. Be aware that some IEPT participants may be uncomfortable about being taped, however, and some may have negative feelings about it. You will need to tell the participants at the meeting that you are recording the meeting.
- Ask what ancillary services are available and appropriate for your child; e.g., Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy, etc. If appropriate, ask for an Assistive Technology assessment to determine what assistive technology services or devices may help your student learn.
- **If you need help, you can call your Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) representative** (see Appendix J).

During the IEPT Meeting:

- **Know that you can participate fully in the meeting, sharing your opinions and ideas about the educational needs and programs for your student. You know your child best. You spend more time with your child than anyone else at the meeting and you are an expert on your child.**

- In determining the educational placement of your child, each public agency must ensure that the placement decision (1) is made by a group of persons, including the parents, and other persons knowledgeable about your child, the meaning of the evaluation data, and the placement options; and (2) Is made in conformity with the Least Restrictive Environment (LRE) provisions. **Services and placement should not be determined prior to the IEP team meeting.**
- Share your student's strengths and interests.
- Ask for an explanation of any terms that are new to you.
- Be sure you understand the contents of the IEP. Ask about the advantages and disadvantages of various programs or classes proposed. Ask for the reasoning behind a suggestion if you don't understand it.
- List the supplementary aids/services/supports your student needs on the IEP (a possible list of accommodations may be found in Appendix B). Make sure the list is written down and clear to everyone on the IEPT. This can also include the need for regular (weekly, monthly, quarterly) team meetings to discuss your student's progress. Make sure that the team discusses whether your student needs Extended School Year (ESY) services, and document this on the IEP. Remember, the IEP is a legal contract between you and the LEA.
- The IEPT needs to discuss whether or not your student will participate in standardized assessments like MEAP (Michigan Educational Assessment Program) tests or whether an alternate assessment (such as MI-Access) may be a better choice. If any accommodations are needed during standardized testing (extra time, quiet location, questions read to the student) this must be included in the IEP. Also include the need for accommodations for routine testing at this time.
- If needed, make sure that a Functional Behavioral Assessment (FBA), Positive Behavior Support Plan (PBS), and Behavior Intervention Plan (BIP) are considered, and, if developed, are made a part of your child's IEP. *See Appendix F for a definition of these terms.*
- Ask what can be done at home to help reach educational goals.
- If your student attends the IEPT meeting, make sure that s/he has time to provide input, and discuss the following year's goals. You may decide that your student should attend part of the meeting, and continue with writing goals after s/he has been given an opportunity to participate.
- If your student is 16 years old (or younger if appropriate), make sure that a transition page is included in the IEP. Make sure that transition needs and services are discussed at the IEPT meeting (*see "Transition Planning to Adult Life" on page 17*).
- If the members of the IEPT cannot come to agreement, you may ask to adjourn the meeting until more information/options have been explored.
- If this is your first IEP meeting, remember to ask for a copy of the IEP including the *Notice for Initial Provision of Services and Programs*. If this is an annual IEP meeting, remember to ask for a copy of the IEP and a copy of the *Notice for Provision of Services and Programs*. *See Appendix F for a definition of these terms.* Refer to [Guidance for Written Notice](#) for more information.
- Assistive Technology can be very helpful for some students, and must be considered. If it is determined that your student needs Assistive Technology, it could be made a part of the IEP supplementary aides and services or appear in another section of the IEP. Either way, assistive technology should be written in the IEP.

After the IEPT Meeting:

- Keep the IEP and all other pertinent special education records together and place them in a safe location.
- Keep some of your student's homework and extracurricular activity accomplishments as an example to help you remember what has been accomplished through the year.
- You are an important part of your student's educational team. Visit the school. Get to know your student's team of teachers, paraeducators/paraprofessionals, therapists, principal, etc.
- Keep positive communication channels open between school and home. Share unexpected information that may affect your child's behavior (late night, illness at home, conflicts, changes, etc.).
- Keep in mind the goals of the IEP and a list of whether these are being addressed. The school is required to give you a report of progress on IEP goals at least as often as every marking period, or more frequently if specified on the IEP. Remind them if they are not prompt in providing this to you.
- Know that you can ask for another IEPT meeting at any time during the school year (if the program for your student isn't working, too many conflicts seem to occur, the IEP isn't being followed, etc.).
- Remember, IEPs do not have a parent signature so they go into effect 15 school days after the end of the IEP meeting.
- The parent, upon receipt of notification from the superintendent, has the right, at any time, to appeal the decision. If the parent does not appeal, then the superintendent shall initiate the Individualized Education Program (IEP) as soon as possible, but not later than 15 school days after the parent has been notified. An initiation date may be later than 15 school days if **clearly specified in the IEP**; however, a projected initiation date **can not be used to deny or delay programs or services because they are not available and cannot be used for purposes of administrative convenience.**
- If you do not agree with the IEP, you can request another meeting, mediation, or file for due process. Please see the Disagreement section below for details.

***Disagreement:**

If you disagree with the IEP, you have several options for consideration. These may include: requesting an additional evaluation or assessment, requesting a new IEP team meeting to bring different participants to the table, requesting an IEP facilitator, and/or requesting mediation. If you still disagree but are willing to go forward, you can submit a written statement to be attached to the IEP. If you feel strongly enough about the disagreement and want to challenge the IEP, you must file a due process complaint with the State.

If you decide to file a due process complaint, you must notify the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) in writing of your intent to initiate a hearing, and provide a copy to the LEA. Complaint forms can be obtained through the MDE website: [Special Education \(michigan.gov\)](https://www.michigan.gov/special-education) Within 15 calendar days of receiving notice of a due process complaint and prior to the due process hearing, the LEA must convene a meeting with the student's parents and relevant members of the IEPT. You may still accept a mediated agreement, or agree to changes proposed by the LEA and stop the due process hearing if you and the LEA are able to come to an agreement. Also, keep in mind that if you request a due process hearing, the previous IEP remains in effect until agreement can be reached (view Procedural Safeguards at: [Procedural Safeguards Notice \(michigan.gov\)](https://www.michigan.gov/special-education))

Appendix B

Possible IEP Accommodations/Modifications/Addendum Support Checklist to be included in an IEP

*This is not an exhaustive list of accommodations. IEPs include individualized accommodations per student needs. *

Supplementary aids and services necessary to enable student to participate successfully in the general curriculum.

Pacing

- Extend time requirements
- Adjust deadlines
- Vary activity often
- Omit assignments requiring timed copying
- Adjust amount of work required to meet requirements
- Provide home set of text/materials for preview/review/use
- Other: _____

Environment

- Preferential seating near: ___ teacher ___ door ___ + peer models
- Plan seating strategically:
____ Bus ____ Classroom
____ Lunchroom ____ Auditorium
- Alter physical room arrangement for safe visibility, accessibility and movement
- Assistance with restroom use for safe accessibility
- Define areas concretely
- Reduce/minimize distractions:
___ Visual ___ Auditory ___ Spatial ___ Movement
- Give additional time to transition from class to class
- Teach positive rules for use of space
- Stand near student when giving instructions
- Other: _____

Assignments

- Give directions in small distinct steps (written/picture/verbal)
- Provide print copy for oral directions
- Reduce difficulty level/shorten assignments
- Use teacher's notes
- Reduce paper and pencil tasks
- Read or tape record directions to student
- Give extra cues or prompts
- Allow student to record/type assignment or notes
- Adapt worksheets, packets/use textbooks-on-tape
- Provide alternate assignment/strategy when demands of class conflict with student capabilities
- Limit penalizing for errors (e.g., spelling errors, sloppy papers, penmanship) that reflect student's disability
- Provide samples of what an "A" assignment looks like

Materials

- Arrangement of material on page
- Note-taking assistance/scribe
- Use supplementary materials i.e. dictionary
- Taped text and/or other class materials
- Typed copy of teacher material/paper copy of lecture notes
- Highlighted texts/study guides w/marker or highlighter tape
- Large print
- Special Equipment:
____ Electronic typewriter ____ Calculator
____ Video recorder ____ Tape recorder/MP3 Player
____ Computer ____ Voice recognition software
____ Augmentative communication device
____ Telephone adaptations
- Other: _____

Self Management/Follow Through

- Follow visual daily schedule
- Use calendars
- Check often for understanding/review
- Request parent reinforcement
- Have student repeat directions
- Teach study skills
- Use study sheets to organize material
- Design/write/use long-term assignment timelines
- Review and practice in real situations
- Plan for generalization
- Teach skill in several settings/environments
- Other: _____

Motivation and Reinforcement

- Verbal and/or nonverbal positive behavior management
- Concrete reinforcement
- Positive reinforcement
- Tap strengths/interests often
- Planned motivating sequences of activities
- Reinforce initiation/offer choices
- Other: _____

Presentation of Subject Matter

- Teach to student's learning style:
__Visual __Auditory __Multi __Tactile
__Experiential __Model
- Use individual/small group instruction
- Utilize specialized curriculum
- Tape lectures/discussion for replay
- Provide notes
- Apply academic skills to practical situations
- Present demonstrations (model)
- Utilize manipulatives/use high-impact, game-like materials
- Highlight critical information
- Pre-teach vocabulary
- Make/use vocabulary files
- Reduce language level or reading level of assignment
- Use total communication/interpreter
- Use facilitated communication
- Share activities
- Use visual sequences
- Other: _____

Testing Adaptations

- Oral responses
- Taped
- Read test to student
- Extended time frame or untimed testing
- Multiple choice
Shortened questions/shortened answers
- Modified format
- Application in real setting
- Preview of test language
- Administered by resource person
- Permit student to type or use word processor
- Allow student to take test in alternate (quiet) setting
- Other: _____

Social Interaction Supports

- Peer advocacy
- Peer tutoring
- Teach social communication skills:
____ Greetings ____ Sharing
____ Partial participation
____ Negotiation ____ Conversational turn taking
- Focus on social process rather than activity/end product
- Structured shared experiences in school/extracurricular
- Cooperative learning groups
- Use of multiple/rotating peers/study buddy
- Teach friendship skills/sharing/negotiations
- Structured activities to create opportunities for social interaction
- Other: _____

Home/School Communication

- Team meeting
- Daily journal
- Other: _____

Appendix C RELATED INFORMATION

EVERY STUDENT SUCCEEDS ACT (ESSA)

The Federal law was signed by President Obama on December 10, 2015, and represents good news for our nation's schools. This bipartisan measure reauthorizes the 50-year-old Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), the nation's national education law and longstanding commitment to equal opportunity for all students. <https://www.ed.gov/essa> ESSA includes provisions that will help to ensure success for students and schools. Below are just a few. The law:

- Advances equity by upholding critical protections for America's disadvantaged and high-need students.
- Requires—for the first time—that all students in America be taught to high academic standards that will prepare them to succeed in college and careers.
- Ensures that vital information is provided to educators, families, students, and communities through annual statewide assessments that measure students' progress toward those high standards.
- Helps to support and grow local innovations—including evidence-based and place-based interventions developed by local leaders and educators—consistent with our Investing in Innovation and Promise Neighborhoods
- Sustains and expands this administration's historic investments in increasing access to high-quality preschool.
- Maintains an expectation that there will be accountability and action to effect positive change in our lowest-performing schools, where groups of students are not making progress, and where graduation rates are low over extended periods of time.

FAMILY EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS AND PRIVACY ACT (FERPA)

Student education records are official and confidential documents protected by one of the nation's strongest privacy protection laws, the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). FERPA, also known as the Buckley Amendment, defines education records as all records that schools or education agencies maintain about students. **FERPA gives parents (as well as students in postsecondary schools) the right to review and confirm the accuracy of education records.** This and other United States "privacy" laws ensure that information about citizens collected by schools and government agencies can be released only for specific and legally defined purposes. FERPA applies to public schools and state or local education agencies that receive Federal education funds, and it protects both paper and computerized records. **FERPA defines an Education Record to include a range of information about a student that is maintained in schools in any recorded way, such as handwriting, print, computer media, video or audio tape, film, microfilm, and microfiche.** If, upon review, parents find an education record is inaccurate or misleading, they may request changes or corrections, and schools and education agencies must respond promptly to these requests. Requests should be made in writing. While parents have a right to review records, schools are not required by Federal law to provide copies of information, unless providing copies would be the only way of giving parents access. Schools may charge a reasonable fee for obtaining records, and they may not destroy records if a request for access is pending. The Forum Guide To The Privacy of Student Information: A Resource For Schools, published by The National Center for Educational Statistics can be viewed at: <http://nces.ed.gov/pubs2006/2006805.pdf>.

GRADUATION

Public Act 451 of 1976 places the responsibility on every LEA to provide for each eligible resident child with a disability (who is not a high school graduate and is not more than 25 years of age as of September 1 of the school year of enrollment) special education supports designed to develop his/her maximum potential.

All LEAs approved to graduate students with disabilities have submitted a plan to the ISD indicating how they will meet the graduation requirements by providing physical education, pre-vocational, personal adjustment and vocational experience to these students. The LEAs identify all program alternatives for students by listing general and special education courses, and individualized components.

LEAs also indicate when the students will receive specific instruction. The plan includes the requirements that must be met by each student, including the minimum level of performance that a student must achieve to receive a diploma. A copy of each agency's approved plan is on file at the ISD. This is often accomplished through a Personalized Curriculum (PC), a documented process that may modify certain requirements of the Michigan Merit Curriculum. A PC must work in coordination with any other plans a student has in place, such as the Educational Development Plan (EDP) and the Individualized Education Program (IEP). For more information: [Personal Curriculum \(michigan.gov\)](http://michigan.gov)

Under IDEA 2004 a student who is exiting school due to receiving a high school diploma, exceeding the age of eligibility, or meeting all IEP goals, must have a "Summary of Performance" document completed. The purpose of this report is to assist the student in meeting his/her post-secondary goals and to assist school personnel in acquiring student follow-up information. On April 20, 2006 a comprehensive set of state high school graduation requirements known as **The Michigan Merit Curriculum** became law. The Michigan Merit Curriculum requires students obtain a minimum of 16 credits for graduation, which could be met using alternative instructional delivery methods such as alternative course work, humanities course sequences, career and technology courses, industrial technology or vocational education courses, or through a combination of these programs. You can view the Michigan Merit Curriculum High School Graduation Requirements FAQ sheet at: [Michigan Merit Curriculum/Graduation Requirements](#)

IDEA AND MICHIGAN LAW

The "Individuals with Disabilities Education Act," or IDEA, is one of the laws affecting a student's participation in special education. IDEA is the Federal Law (Public Law 105-17) that sets national standards for educating students with disabilities. IDEA is administered under the United States Department of Education through regulations. IDEA is reauthorized every 5 years by the United States Congress, and was last reauthorized in 2004. IDEA continues to work to "improve educational results for children with disabilities" from age 3 to age 21.

IDEA requires LEAs to provide Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) for students with disabilities in the Least Restrictive Environment (LRE). IDEA addresses appropriate evaluations, eligibility for special education, and a student's Individualized Education Program (IEP) as well as many other special education related areas. It strengthens the role of families in their student's education and ensures such student's access to and involvement in the general curriculum to the maximum extent possible. Services, aids and supports are provided in the

regular classroom, whenever appropriate. (Note: This parent handbook was written to help families understand the special education process and the IEP.)

Michigan has its own law for educating students with disabilities. This is Public Act 451, which is Michigan's Mandatory Special Education Act. This is part of a larger Michigan law called the Michigan School Code of 1976 and is administered through Michigan Administrative Rules for Special Education (MARSE). Michigan's law provides educational services to students with disabilities from birth to age 26 (note that this is a higher standard than is required by IDEA [age 21] and Michigan LEAs must meet the higher standard). Schools in Michigan must provide an education designed to develop the maximum potential of every student eligible with a disability. Michigan schools must also comply with the federal laws such as IDEA.

Copies of these laws, regulations, and rules are available at libraries, intermediate school districts or LEAs, through state or federal offices of special education, through state or federal legislators, or on the Internet. Please go to MDE Special Education Laws and Policies, at: [Special Education \(michigan.gov\)](http://Special Education (michigan.gov)). Please note that both federal and state laws undergo periodic review and reauthorization. Please see the Resources for Parents (Appendix G), or WISD PAC Resources and Information (Appendix H), in this handbook for contact information and Michigan Office of Special Education/Early Intervention Services website. Appendix J of this handbook lists the names of your LEA special education administrators and PAC representatives.

MEDICAID SCHOOL SERVICES PROGRAM

School based Medicaid is a cooperative effort between the federal and state government, WISD and LEAs to seek Medicaid reimbursement for certain special education related services. Reimbursement only applies to situations where students meet Medicaid eligibility criteria. WISD is the approved provider and coordinates these activities. The money generated is added to the educational fund that supports programs and services at WISD and in the LEAs.

School districts are required to request written permission from parents/guardians to bill Medicaid for reimbursement of school based services provided by special education providers at school. You have the right to refuse consent to bill Medicaid and you have the right to revoke this consent to bill Medicaid. If you do not provide consent, the district will still provide the services, but the district will not receive any Medicaid reimbursement for these services. Your consent does NOT affect a family's Medicaid insurance benefits or other insurance plans (e.g., Blue Cross/Blue Shield, HAP, MiChild, etc.) and there is NO cost to the family, now or in the future. Please see Appendix D for more information. You can also view the WISD Medicaid School Services web site page: [Information for Parents - Medicaid - Special Education - Administrative Departments - Services - Washtenaw ISD](#)

OFFICE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS (OCR) AND THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA)

The Office for Civil Rights, a component of the U.S. Department of Education, enforces Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, (Section 504) a civil rights statute which prohibits discrimination against individuals with disabilities. OCR also enforces Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (Title II), which extends this prohibition against discrimination to the full range of state and local government services, programs, and activities (including public schools) regardless of whether they receive any Federal financial assistance. The standards adopted by the ADA were designed not to restrict the rights or remedies

available under Section 504. The Title II regulations applicable to free appropriate public education issues do not provide greater protection than applicable Section 504 regulations (see Section 504 below).

PERSONAL CURRICULUM

The Michigan Merit law allows a parent or legal guardian of a student to request certain modifications (under specific conditions) to the state high school graduation requirements to ensure all students are effectively engaged in school. Personal Curriculum is a general education, not a special education, initiative. Michigan Department of Education has provided updates, a guide to Frequently Asked Questions Personal Curriculum, and Parent Guides to provide a description of the Personal Curriculum (PC) process. Understanding this educational option will help in making informed decisions about your student's educational experience and path to earning a high school diploma [Personal Curriculum \(michigan.gov\)](https://www.michigan.gov/education). The parent or legal guardian of a student with an Individualized Education Program (IEP) may request a personal curriculum (PC) to modify the requirements of the Michigan Merit Curriculum (MMC) not otherwise allowed, providing the PC: incorporates as much of the subject area content expectation as practicable for the student within the context of the MMC requirements, aligns with the student's Educational Development Plan (EDP) and is consistent with the IEP, and modifications directly address the effect the student's disability has on his or her ability to access and/or demonstrate progress in the content. Additionally, the PC may modify components of the content expectations within each credit requirement, may modify the credit requirements, and should reflect student strengths and outline how those strengths will be enhanced and utilized. **Districts must offer the PC option and respond to PC requests but are not required to approve all PC requests.** The school has the discretion to deny a request for a PC. There are many options available to support students in accessing the MMC and achieving postsecondary goals that should be considered before requesting a PC. A *Parent's Guide to Personal Curriculum: Focus on Students with an Individualized Education Program* can be viewed [here](#).

POSITIVE BEHAVIOR INTERVENTIONS AND SUPPORTS (PBIS)

The Michigan State Board of Education created a Positive Behavior Support Policy in order to ensure that the educational community provides a system that will support students' efforts to manage their own behavior and assure academic achievement. An effective behavior support system is a proactive, positive, skill-building approach for the teaching and learning of successful student behavior. Positive behavior support systems ensure effective strategies that promote pro-social behavior and respectful learning environments. A positive behavior support system is a data-based effort that concentrates on adjusting the system that supports the student. Such a system is implemented by collaborative, school-based teams using person-centered planning. School-wide expectations for behavior are clearly stated, widely promoted, and frequently referenced. Both individual and school-wide learning and behavior problems are assessed comprehensively. Functional assessment of learning and behavior challenges is linked to an intervention that focuses on skill building. The effectiveness of the selected intervention is evaluated and reviewed, leading to data-based revisions. Positive interventions that support adaptive and pro-social behavior and build on the strengths of the student lead to an improved learning environment. Students are offered a continuum of methods that help them learn and maintain appropriate behavior and discourage violation of codes of student conduct. You can view the Michigan Department of Education Office of Special Education Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) at School Family Matters Fact Sheet at [Family Matters Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports \(PBIS\) at School Fact Sheet \(michigan.gov\)](#)

An individualized behavior plan may be created if necessary, depending on the student's needs. This is developed by performing a Functional Behavior Assessment (FBA) in order to observe the student and collect data around various behavioral issues. Once the data is collected and analyzed by one or more members of the IEPT, then a Behavior Intervention Plan (BIP) can be developed. The BIP is usually mentioned in the IEP if it is needed, but the actual plan may be dynamic and change frequently based on the data and measuring the outcomes of the interventions designed to help improve the targeted behaviors, so usually the detail of the plan is not written into the IEP. All members of the team and the staff that come into contact with the student should understand the BIP and how they are to implement it when necessary with the student. Positive reinforcement and finding acceptable replacement behaviors are important components of the BIP. The plan should be monitored to ensure the effects are as planned and that desirable outcomes are being achieved.

REVOCACTION OF PARENTAL CONSENT

If you inform the school district in writing that you revoke (take back) your consent for your school district to provide special education and related services to your child, your school district may not continue to provide special education and related services to your child; must provide you with timely prior written notice, consistent with IDEA regulations, of their proposal to discontinue special education and related services based on receipt of your written *revocation of consent*; may not use due process procedures in order to obtain agreement or a ruling that the services may be provided to your child; is not in violation of the requirement to make FAPE available to your child for its failure to provide further special education and related services to your child; is not required to have an IEP meeting or develop an IEP for your child for the further provision of special education and related services; and is not required to amend your child's education records to remove any reference to your child's receipt of special education and related services because of the revocation of consent. **Before deciding to revoke your parental consent, please talk with your Special Education Director.**

SECTION 504

Section 504 of the Vocational Rehabilitation Act of 1973 is a civil rights law that prohibits discrimination against persons with disabilities in any program that receives federal financial assistance. Because schools in Michigan receive money from the federal government, they must comply with Section 504. In many respects, Section 504 is similar to the special education laws discussed in this handbook. However, Section 504 provides some important additional rights that may affect your child.

All students eligible for special education are automatically protected under Section 504. In addition, some children who do not qualify for special education may still qualify for Section 504 accommodations. Children with the following conditions (as well as many others) may qualify for 504 accommodations: Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS), Attention Deficit Disorder/Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADD/ADHD), allergies, asthma, diabetes, hemophilia, a broken leg, fetal alcohol syndrome, chemical dependency, and obesity. Many of these health conditions are now included under Other Health Impairment (OHI) for special education services. You may want to speak to your special education director and/or ask for a referral for special education services, to decide which is best for your child.

Section 504 and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) require that an LEA make "reasonable accommodations" for the special needs of a child with a disability or health condition. This means the school must, within reason, make all the services, programs, and

activities accessible to students without disabilities also accessible to students with disabilities including extracurricular activities such as band and science club, to name a few. For example, a child using a wheelchair might need accommodations that allow him/her barrier-free access to school restrooms, or to the playground at recess. You can play a central role in asking for specific accommodations to make sure your child's needs are met. Section 504 and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) are anti-discrimination laws and do not provide any type of funding.

Even if the LEA finds that your child is ineligible for special education services, s/he may still be eligible for accommodations under Section 504. Each LEA is required to designate a 504 Coordinator for the district. For more information regarding 504 requirements, contact your local special education director listed in Appendix J. Please be aware that your special education director may refer you to another person in your district who is responsible for Section 504 questions (e.g. Human Resource Director).

SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION

Each LEA has its own suspension and expulsion policies. However, if your child has either a known or suspected disability, federal and state laws provide him/her with certain protections when it comes to suspension or expulsion. Updated Guidance on Disciplinary Requirements from Michigan Office of Special Education can be viewed [here](#).

A short term suspension of an IEP student is one that is no more than 10 school days. Schools aren't required to provide any educational services during this 10-day time period. However, a school may grant a request from parents to continue educational services so that the student won't fall too far behind. A student's IEP should list any problems that s/he will have in following the school's discipline code. The IEP should also address the accommodations needed by the school to meet these exceptions to the code. **Parents should request a Functional Behavioral Assessment (FBA) and a Behavioral Intervention Plan (BIP) to address problem behavior**, or behavior that interferes with a student's ability to participate in a Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE). Please see appendix F for a definition of these terms. The IDEA regulations attempt to prevent the discipline of a student for conduct related to his/her disability (i.e. angry behavior from a child frustrated with communication problems, disruptions caused by autism, obscene language from a student suffering from Tourette Syndrome).

If the LEA *suspends* your child for more than ten (10) school days over a single school year, the district must call a meeting to determine whether your child's repeated misconduct is related to his/her disability. This is called a **Manifestation Determination Review (MDR)** (see Glossary, Appendix F). If the team determines that your child's behavior is related to his/her disability, the team must conduct a Functional Behavioral Assessment (FBA) and implement or review a Behavioral Intervention Plan (BIP)/Positive Behavior Support Plan (PBSP). The team may then decide to revise the student's IEP to address the student's behavior concerns. If the team determines that your child's behavior is not related to his/her disability, the LEA may want to continue the suspension. However, you may dissent, ask for mediation, or initiate a request for a due process hearing if you disagree with the team's recommendations. If the duration of the suspension is more than ten (10) days, the LEA is required to provide services to the student as outlined by Procedural Safeguards (*view the document at: [Procedural Safeguards Notice \(michigan.gov\)](#)*).

A Manifestation Determination Review meeting must also be held before the district may proceed with *expulsion* procedures. The district must call a meeting to determine whether your

child's behavior is related to his/her disability. If there is a relationship to the student's disability, the LEA and the IEPT may still consider a change in your child's educational placement or services. Whether or not the behavior was a manifestation of the child's disability, school personnel may remove a student to an interim alternative educational setting for up to 45 school days if the student has a weapon, uses or sells illegal drugs or controlled substances, or inflicts serious bodily harm upon another person while on school premises or at a school function.

If the IEPT determines that your child's behavior is unrelated to his/her disability, the LEA may choose to continue implementing student code of conduct policies. However, if a district is considering suspension, expulsion, or a change in placement or services, you as a parent and a member of the team always have the same set of rights. If you disagree with the district or the rest of the team, you can sign the Manifestation Determination Review in disagreement, request mediation, or initiate a request for a due process hearing. In addition, even if the LEA expels a child with a disability, the agency still has a responsibility to provide a Free and Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) for your child. For more information on suspension and expulsion, contact your special education director listed in Appendix J or one of the advocacy agencies listed in Appendix G or H, or go to the Michigan Alliance for Families' website at: <http://www.michiganallianceforfamilies.org/>.

Appendix D MEDICAID OVERVIEW

Michigan's **School Services Program (SSP)** has its legal basis in the 1988 amendment to the ***Social Security Act*** [42USC 1396 b(c)]. This Act allows for partial reimbursement to schools for health services. These services are provided to Medicaid eligible students with disabilities who qualify under the federal ***Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)***. Nationally, more than 42 million children rely on Medicaid for health care and all 50 states participate in the School Services Program. In Michigan, over 2 million children rely on Medicaid for health care. **All 56 Michigan Intermediate School Districts participate in the School Services Program.** Washtenaw Intermediate School District and its local school districts have participated in the program since 1994.

WHAT THE SCHOOL SERVICES PROGRAM PROVIDES

In Michigan, the Medicaid School Services Program provides partial reimbursement for services such as:

- Assistive Technology
- Audiology
- Behavioral Health, Counseling, Psychological and Social Work
- Crisis Intervention
- Developmental Testing and Evaluations
- Nursing
- Occupational Therapy
- Orientation and Mobility
- Personal Care
- Physical Therapy
- Specialized Transportation
- Speech and Language
- Targeted Case Management

Medicaid School Services **does not affect a family's Medicaid insurance benefits or the family's private health insurance benefits.** There is **NO COST** to the family now or in the future. No private insurance companies will be billed for reimbursement of school based health services.

Medicaid reimbursement from the **School Services Program** helps school districts because it offsets some of the costs of health care that schools provide to children and students.

Billing the State's Medicaid Program is voluntary and requires that a parent or guardian provide written consent to release information from their child's education records in order to bill Medicaid. This consent may be revoked in writing at any time by the parent or guardian.

CONFIDENTIALITY

Only authorized school personnel will be advised of your child's Medicaid eligibility or personal information.

NEW REGULATIONS

In early 2013, the regulations regarding Medicaid parent consent for school based services changed. Prior to accessing a child's public benefits or insurance for the first time, the school agency must provide notice of the program and its requirements and ask for written consent from parents/guardians to use student data to access Medicaid reimbursement. Annually thereafter, school districts must provide parents/guardians written notification of their rights and responsibilities under the program, including that they have the right to update or revoke consent at any time.

If you have questions regarding this information, please contact your District special education director.

Medicaid Parent Notification and Consent to Treat and Bill

STUDENT NAME (first and last)*

DATE OF BIRTH*

STUDENT'S ATTENDING DISTRICT*

Washtenaw ISD **Attending Districts: (Ann Arbor, Chelsea, Dexter, Lincoln, Manchester, Milan, Saline, Whitmore Lake, Ypsilanti)**

If your child requires medical or social-emotional services listed below and has a Plan of Care, IEP (Individualized Education Program), IFSP (Individualized Family Service Plan), 504 Plan, health care plan, or needs crisis support services and is eligible for Medicaid at any time during the school year, we request your permission to treat/intervene with your child and bill the state Medicaid program to receive funding to help support the services your child received.

Supported services include: Speech/Language Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, Social Work Services, Psychological Services, Nursing Services, Orientation and Mobility, Assistive Technology Services, Case Management, Personal Care, Evaluations and Transportation.

Billing the State Medicaid program for your child's School-Based Services does NOT affect your family's Medicaid insurance benefits and is at NO cost to your family now or in the future.

We are simply asking your permission to provide medical and/or social-emotional intervention and claim funds reserved by the state to help schools provide the services listed on your child’s plan.

Billing the State’s Medicaid program requires that we disclose information from your child’s education records to the state, which could include school, date of birth, gender, disability, date of service, type of service. If your student receives Special Education Services, you will receive Annual Notification Regarding Parental Consent in the Parent Information Handbook.

You have the right to refuse to consent to bill the state Medicaid system, and you have the right to revoke this consent at any time. If you check “no” below, the district will still provide the services, but the district will not receive funding from the state Medicaid system for these services.

CONSENT: I understand and agree that the ISD and its local school districts may:*

Yes, provide treatment as needed for medically necessary services.

Please choose one of the following options:*

Yes, bill the State of Michigan insurance program for reimbursement of School-Based Services provided to my child and disclose personally identifiable information from my child’s education records (including school, date of birth, gender, disability, date of service, type of service) to Michigan Medicaid and its billing agencies for Medicaid reimbursement of services provided on or after my signature date. I understand I may revoke this consent in writing at any time.

No, I do not give permission for the ISD and its local school districts to bill the state of Medicaid system for reimbursement of School-Based Services provided to my child.

Parent or Guardian Signature* _____

Date Signed* _____

Medicaid Annual Notification Regarding Parental Consent

Background:

Since 1993, the State of Michigan has participated in a Federal program called Medicaid School Service Program. The Michigan School Services Program is under the direction of the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services.

The Direct Service Claiming portion of the program assists school districts by providing partial reimbursement for medically related services listed on a student’s Individualized Educational Program (IEP) or Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP). Although this partial reimbursement is available only for students who are Medicaid eligible, services are provided to **all** students with disabilities regardless of their Medicaid eligibility status.

In 2013, the regulations regarding Medicaid parental consent for the School Services Program changed. Prior to accessing a child’s public benefits or insurance for the first time, and annually thereafter, school districts must provide parents/guardians written notification. So what does all this mean?

Is there a cost to you?

NO. Services are provided to students while they are at school at **NO cost** to the parent/guardian.

Will School Services Medicaid claiming impact your family’s Medicaid benefits?

The School Services program does NOT impact a family’s Medicaid services, funds, or limits. Michigan operates the School Services program differently than the family’s Medicaid program. The School Services program does not affect your family’s Medicaid benefits in any way.

What type of services does the School Services program cover?

Assistive Technology	Nursing	Specialized Transportation
Audiology	Occupational Therapy	Speech and Language
Behavioral Health and Counseling	Orientation and Mobility	Targeted Case Management
Crisis Intervention	Personal Care	
Developmental Testing and Evaluations	Physical Therapy	

What type of information about your child will be shared?

In order to submit claims for School Services reimbursement, the following types of records may be required: first name, last name, middle name, address, date of birth, student ID, Medicaid ID, disability, service dates and the types of services delivered.

Who will see this information?

Information about your child’s School Services may be shared with the Michigan Medicaid agency and its affiliates for the purpose of verifying Medicaid eligibility and submitting claims.

What if you change your mind?

You have the right to withdraw consent to disclose your child’s personally identifiable information to the Michigan Medicaid agency and its affiliates at any time.

Will your consent or refusal affect your child’s services?

NO. Regardless of whether you have Medicaid coverage or not (and whether you provide consent or not) the schooldistrict will still provide services to your child pursuant to their plan of care (IEP, IFSP, 504 plan, individualized health plan, etc.)

What if you have questions?

Please call your school district’s Special Education department with questions or concerns, or to obtain a copy of the parental consent form.

Appendix E Special Education Acronyms

AAC	Augmentative Alternative Communication
ABA	Applied Behavioral Analysis
ADA	Americans with Disabilities Act
ADD	Attention Deficit Disorder
ADHD	Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder
AG	Annual Goals
AIDS	Autoimmune Deficiency Syndrome
APE	Adapted Physical Education
ASD	Autism Spectrum Disorder
ASL	American Sign Language
AT	Assistive Technology
AYP	Adequate Yearly Progress
BIP	Behavioral Intervention Plan
BP	Blood Pressure
CBI	Community Based Instruction
CF	Cystic Fibrosis
CI	Cognitive Impairment
CIL	Center for Independent Living
CMH	Community Mental Health, MDCH
CP	Cerebral Palsy
CSTS	Community Support & Treatment Services
DB	Deaf-Blindness
DCH	Department of Community Health (state)
DD	Developmental Disability/Delay
DME	Durable Medical Equipment
ECSE	Early Childhood Special Education
EGLCE	Extended Grade Level Content Expectations
EI	Emotional Impairment

ELPA	English Language Proficiency Assessment
ESL	English as a Second Language
ESY	Extended School Year
FAPE	Free & Appropriate Public Education
FAS	Fetal Alcohol Syndrome
FBA	Functional Behavioral Assessment
FERPA	Family Educational Rights & Privacy Act
FOIA	Freedom of Information Act
FTE GLCE	Full-Time Equivalent Grade Level Content Expectations
HI	Hearing Impairment
HQT	Highly Qualified Teacher
ICT	Instructional Consultation Team
IDEA	Individuals with Disabilities Education Act
IEE	Independent Education Evaluation
IEP	Individualized Education Program
IEPT	Individualized Education Program Team
IFSP	Individualized Family Service Plan
ISD	Intermediate School District
ITP	Individualized Transition Program
LD	Learning Disability
LEA	Local Educational Agency
LICC	Local Interagency Coordinating Council (Early On)
LRE	Least Restrictive Environment
MAPS	McGill Action Planning System/Making Action Plans
MARSE	Michigan Administrative Rules for Special Education
MD	Muscular Dystrophy
MDE	Michigan Department of Education
M-STEP	Michigan Student Test of Educational Progress
MET	Multidisciplinary Evaluation Team
MMC	Michigan Merit Curriculum

MME	Michigan Merit Exam
MRS	Michigan Rehabilitation Services
NCLB	No Child Left Behind
OCR	Office for Civil Rights
ODD	Oppositional Defiant Disorder
OHI	Other Health Impairment
O+M	Orientation & Mobility
OSE/EIS	Office of Special Education/Early Intervention Services
OT	Occupational Therapist
PAC	Parent Advisory Committee
PBS	Positive Behavioral Support
PC	Personal Curriculum
PCP	Person Centered Plan
PECS	Picture Exchange Communication System
PI	Physical Impairment
PLAAFP	Present Level of Academic Achievement & Functional Performance
PT	Physical Therapist
REED	Review of Existing Evaluation Data
RR	Resource Room
RtI	Response to Intervention
SAS	Supplementary Aids & Services
SB	Spina Bifida
SEAC	Special Education Advisory Committee (State of MI)
Section 504	Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act
SES	Supplemental Educational Services
SLD	Specific Learning Disability
SLI	Speech & Language Impairment
SLP	Speech & Language Pathologist
SSDI	Social Security Disability Income
SSI	Supplemental Security Income

SSW	School Social Worker
STIO	Short-Term Instructional Objective
SXI	Severe Multiple Impairment
TBI	Traumatic Brain Injury
TC	Teacher Consultant
TS	Tourette Syndrome
TTY	Teletypewriter
UD	Universal Design
VI	Visual Impairment
Voc Ed	Vocational Education
WISD	Washtenaw Intermediate School District

Appendix F GLOSSARY

This is a partial listing of some terms you may encounter during your child's education.

Accommodations: Services or supports used to enable a student to fully access the subject matter and instruction in the general education curriculum. An accommodation does not alter the content or expectations; instead it is an adjustment to instructional methods. Accommodations should be specified in a student's IEP. Examples include, but are not limited to, books on tape, content enhancements, allowing a student who has trouble writing to give his/her answers orally, and allowing additional time to complete homework and tests.

Adapted Physical Education (APE): A diversified program of developmental activities, games, sports, and rhythms suited to the interests, capabilities and needs of children with disabilities who may not successfully engage in a regular physical education program.

Adaptations: Involves an adjustment to the instructional content or performance expectations of students with disabilities from what is expected or taught to students in the general education curriculum. Adaptations are usually included as part of a student's IEP. Adaptations can include, but are not limited to, decreasing the number of exercises the student is expected to complete, assignment of different reading materials, or use of a calculator instead of working out problems by hand.

Adaptive Behavior: The student's ability to perform the social roles appropriate for a person of his/her age and gender in a manner that meets the expectations of home, culture, school, neighborhood, and other relevant groups in which he/she participates.

Administrative Law Judge (ALJ): An official who presides at an administrative hearing to resolve a dispute between a government agency and someone affected by a decision of that agency.

Advocate/Advocacy Organizations: An individual or agency with special knowledge or training concerning the issues of students with disabilities that can help families understand their rights, or professional with special knowledge or training concerning the issues of students with disabilities, who accompanies/represents parents and students at IEPT meetings, due process hearings and other non-judicial proceedings seeking enforcement of the educational rights of that student.

Alternate Assessment: Federal law IDEA requires that the progress of *all* students be measured by statewide assessments; not all students, however, can take standardized tests, like the MEAP. The MI-Access assessment for each student with an IEP is based on student performance and the level of independence the student will most likely achieve upon leaving school. The IEPT will decide upon the appropriate state assessment for each student.

American Sign Language (ASL): A complete, complex language that employs signs made with the hands and other movements, including facial expressions and postures of the body. It is one of several communication options available to deaf people.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA): The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 is a law that recognizes and protects the civil right of people with disabilities.

Annual Goals (AG): A set of general statements, which represent expected achievement over a year's time for persons with disabilities enrolled in special education programs and services.

Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA): The application of behavioral psychology principles to teaching behavior and learning, based on observation and data collection. Skills or behaviors are analyzed, broken down to the student's level, and then are systematically taught using prompts and positive reinforcement. Goals are then revised based on data. ABA is individualized for each student.

Assessment: Specific tools used to gather information. This includes formal and informal tests; student records; work products; and observations of the student in the classroom, other school environments, and the community. This information is used to evaluate the student's needs. The goal of **statewide assessment** is to provide all students with an opportunity to demonstrate what they know and have learned. Because the students of today come from a variety of backgrounds and have diverse instructional needs, the State has developed different types of assessments to measure student learning. It's important for parents to question the use of alternate assessments to understand the consequences (access to general education, graduation track vs certificate of completion). For more information go to: [Student Assessment \(michigan.gov\)](http://StudentAssessment(michigan.gov))

Assistive Technology (AT) Devices and Services: Items that increase, maintain, or improve functional capabilities of students with disabilities, or services that help staff use these items.

Assistive Technology Decision Making Process (ATDMP): When the IEP team decides that new assistive technology (AT) may help a student access the curriculum and help meet

their goals, but are unsure of what that AT may be, an *Assistive Technology Decision Making Process (ATDMP)* should be initiated. The process is based on best practices and “Quality Indicators for Assessment of Assistive Technology Needs”. The ATDMP occurs outside the IEP meeting, may take place any time during the school year, and is an on-going process. An assistive technology consultant or related service provider (e.g. speech pathologist, occupational therapist, teacher consultant, etc.) will usually put together an assessment team to begin the process, and lead the assessment. This team should include members who have the collective knowledge and skills needed to determine possible AT solutions that address the needs and abilities of the student, educational goals, and related activities. The family and student, whenever possible, should be active members of this team. The team begins by describing the student’s abilities and needs, determining the task(s) the student needs to accomplish, reviewing what has already been tried, and generating possible AT solutions. An implementation plan is then developed with specifics of what AT will be tried, who will help with implementation, what data will be collected, and when the team will next meet to follow-up on the plan. Decisions on acquiring AT or trying other solutions are made based on the data collected during the trial process. Assistive Technology decision-making is ongoing. AT needs are reassessed any time changes in the student, the environments and/or the tasks result in the student’s needs not being met with current devices and/or services. ATDMP forms and other information about assistive technology may be accessed on the Washtenaw Intermediate School District’s website at: [Assistive Technology - Instruction & Assessment - Special Education - Administrative Departments - Services - Washtenaw ISD](#). Contact your local district Assistive Technology Coordinator or Special Education Director for more information.

Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (AD/HD) or Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD): One of the most commonly diagnosed behavioral disorders of childhood. The core symptoms of AD/HD are developmentally inappropriate levels of inattention, hyperactivity, and impulsivity. There are three subtypes of AD/HD: Predominantly Inattentive Type, Predominately Hyperactive-Impulsive Type, and Combined Type (inattention, hyperactivity, impulsivity).

Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD): See *Eligibility For Special Education Services* page 9.

Autoimmune Deficiency Syndrome/Acquire-Immuno Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS): a condition where the immune system in a human beings body attacks its own cells and tissues, mistaking them to be a threat to the body.

Behavioral Intervention Plan (BIP): A plan developed by the IEPT to address situations when behavior problems interfere with learning. In order for a BIP to be considered part of an IEP (a) it must be explicitly written in the IEP. The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) recommends that BIPs be written in the Supplementary Aids and Services or Special Factors section of the IEP, and include the time, frequency, condition, and location for the implementation of the BIP. It should be dated and attached to the IEP (b) the district must convene an IEP or develop an amendment to change the BIP.

Blood Pressure (BP): Blood pressure is a measurement of the force applied to the walls of the arteries as the heart pumps blood through the body.

Center for Independent Living (CIL): A nonprofit organization dedicated to the success of children, youth, and adults with disabilities at home, at school, at work and in the community.

There are more than 600 centers for independent living around the country and throughout the world improving the ways people with disabilities live their lives.

Cerebral Palsy (CP): A condition, sometimes thought of as a group of disorders that can involve brain and nervous system functions such as movement, learning, hearing, seeing, and thinking. There are several different types of CP including spastic, dyskinetic, ataxic, hypotonic, and mixed.

Certificate of Completion: A certificate awarded to a student at the completion of a secondary special education program signifying the achievement of IEP goals.

Cognitive Impairment (CI): See *Eligibility For Special Education Services* page 9.

Community Based Instruction (CBI): A program designed for students that need intensive instruction in functional and daily living skills. The goal of the program is to provide hands on learning activities at all age levels to help students acquire the skills needed for daily living.

Community Support and Treatment Services (CSTS): An agency contracted by the Washtenaw Community Health Organization (WCHO) to provide specialty services to the severely and persistently mentally ill as well as adults with developmental disabilities, and children with severe emotional disturbances or developmental disabilities.

Compensatory Services: Services provided to the student to compensate for a lapse in services. A child with a disability may be able to obtain compensatory services if he/she went without an appropriate program for some period of time. This could be because the child's IEP was not fully carried out by the school district.

Complaint: A specific written and signed allegation by an agency, private individual, or organization that there is an unresolved violation, misinterpretation or misapplication of the law, the State or Intermediate School District (ISD) Plans, an Individualized Education Program (IEP), court decision, or decision of a hearing officer.

Comprehensive Evaluation: A series of assessments and observations, formal and informal, conducted for the purpose of determining eligibility for special education and related services and for determining the current level of educational performance.

Consent: An agreement in writing to carry out an activity after being fully informed in one's native language of all information relevant to the activity.

Criterion-Referenced Test: A measurement of achievement of specific criteria or skills in terms of absolute levels of mastery. The focus is on performance of an individual measured against a standard or criterion rather than against the performance of others who take the same test.

Curriculum: The courses offered by an educational institution or a set of courses constituting an area of specialization.

Curriculum framework/pathway: A set of guidelines that serve as the standards for what students are expected to learn and at what level. The frameworks are specific enough to describe the types of skills and abilities students should learn in a given course and at the

approximate grade level, yet are broad enough to give educators discretion in how those standards are met.

Cystic Fibrosis (CF): An inherited disease that causes thick, sticky mucus to build up in the lungs and digestive tract. It is one of the most common chronic lung diseases in children and young adults.

Deaf-Blindness (DB): See *Eligibility For Special Education Services* page 9.

Departmentalize: A secondary-level delivery system in which two (2) or more special education teachers group special education students by instructional content areas.

Developmental Disability/Delay (DD): Child development refers to the process in which children go through changes in skill development during predictable time periods, called developmental milestones. Developmental delay occurs when children have not reached these milestones by the expected time period. For example, if the normal range for learning to walk is between 9 and 15 months, and a 20-month-old child has still not begun walking, this would be considered a developmental delay.

Differentiated Instruction: When a teacher proactively plans varied approaches to what students need to learn, how they will learn it, and/or how they can express what they have learned in order to increase the likelihood that each student will learn as much as he or she can as efficiently as possible.

Disability, Person With: A person determined by an Individualized Education Program Team (IEPT), or a hearing officer to have a characteristic or set of characteristics as defined in the descriptions of the disability (Autism Spectrum Disorder, Cognitive Impairment, Deaf-Blindness, Early Childhood Developmental Delay, Emotional Impairment, Hearing Impairment, Specific Learning Disability, Physical Impairment, Other Health Impairment, Severe Multiple Impairment, Speech and Language Impairment, Traumatic Brain Injury, and Visual Impairment) and who, because of the disability, needs special education supports.

Dual Enrollment: An array of programs that allow high school students to enroll in courses where they can simultaneously earn both high school and college credit.

Durable Medical Equipment (DME): A term used to describe any medical equipment used in the home to aid in a better quality of living.

Early Childhood Developmental Delay (ECDD): See *Eligibility For Special Education Services* page 9.

Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE): Michigan Early Childhood Special Education services include special instruction and related services provided to young children, ages three through five, who qualify under IDEA, Part B, Section 619. Through its Intermediate School Districts (ISDs), Michigan's ECSE program ensures the provision of a Free and Appropriate Education (FAPE) to all eligible children at no cost to their families.

Education Project for Homeless Youth: A project of the Washtenaw Intermediate School District that works to ensure students in homeless and temporary living situations enroll, regularly attend, and succeed in school.

Education Records: Confidential written information about a student with a disability; record is stored in a central location and accessible to parents. Another education record is the CA-60, which follows the student from kindergarten through graduation. It contains grades, test scores, attendance records, schools attended, health information, etc. Each student has a CA-60.

Educational Development Plan (EDP): A tool that students use beginning in middle school to explore careers and the educational requirements for achieving a career goal.

Emotional Impairment (EI): See *Eligibility For Special Education Services* page 9.

English as a Second Language (ESL): Refers to the use or study of English by speakers with a different native language.

English Language Proficiency Assessment (ELPA): Administered once each school year to all students enrolled in grades K-12 who are eligible for limited English proficiency (LEP) services. The ELPA was developed primarily to improve the manner in which English language learners (ELL) are assessed. The term English language learner (ELL) was adopted by the state to refer to students who are either learning English or participating in a bilingual program.

Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA): The Federal law was signed by President Obama on December 10, 2015, and represents good news for our nation's schools. This bipartisan measure reauthorizes the 50-year-old Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), the nation's national education law and longstanding commitment to equal opportunity for all students. [Every Student Succeeds Act \(ESSA\) | U.S. Department of Education](#) ESSA includes provisions that will help to ensure success for students and schools.

Extended School Year (ESY): Special education programming that extends beyond the regular school year. Eligibility and services are determined by the IEPT.

Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA): A federal law protecting the privacy of student education records and parents' access rights to those records.

Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (FAS): Refers to growth, mental, and physical problems that may occur in a baby when a mother drinks alcohol during pregnancy.

Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE): The requirement in federal law that each student with a disability must receive a publicly-funded education that is individually designed to meet that student's unique needs.

Freedom of Information Act (FOIA): A federal law that allows for full or partial disclosure of previously unreleased information and documents controlled by the United States Government.

Full-Time Equivalent (FTE): A way to measure a student's involvement in a classroom at an educational institution. A FTE of 1.0 means that the student is equivalent to a full-time student in the classroom; while an FTE of 0.5 signals that the student is only half-time.

Functional Behavioral Assessment (FBA): An assessment of the factors that affect a student's behavior, typically including a review of the environment and the student's needs. An FBA involves collecting data about behavior, which can be analyzed to determine the function the behavior serves, and analyzed to determine any antecedent situations which may have impacted the behavior.

Grade Level Content Expectations (GLCE), Extended Grade Level Content Expectations (EGLCE), High School Content Expectations (HSCE) Extended High School Content Expectations (EHSCE): A set of comprehensive state grade level which provide clear and measurable terms of what all students should know and be able to do in the specific grade level. The High School Content Expectations (HSCE) provide a common understanding of what all high school students should know and be able to do at the completion of each credit/course. The Extended Grade Level Content Expectations (EGLCE) have taken the GLCE's and HSCE's and reduced them in depth, breath, and complexity for those students that make up the Participation and Supported Independence populations. More information can be viewed at: [Academic Standards \(michigan.gov\)](http://AcademicStandards.michigan.gov)

Hearing Impairment (HI): See *Eligibility For Special Education Services* page 9.

Inclusion: The placement of a student with a disability in a general education classroom with his/her age-appropriate peers, with the supports necessary for him/her to benefit from his/her educational experiences. A program is designed to meet his/her individual needs.

Independent Educational Evaluation (IEE): An evaluation conducted by a qualified examiner(s) who is not employed by the public agency responsible for education of the student. A contracted agent for the purpose of conducting an independent evaluation is not considered an employee of the LEA.

Individualized Education Program (IEP): A specially-designed instruction program developed by the IEPT, that describes as specified as possible the student's eligibility, the student's present level of performance, annual goals and short-term objectives, specific educational and related services, supplementary aids and services, amount of time spent in general education, the least restrictive environment, the reasons why the IEP is accepted or rejected, transition services, and the dates and frequency of services. The IEP shall be reviewed annually or more often as needed.

Individualized Education Program (IEP) Amendment: The purpose of the IEP Amendment is to make changes to the IEP that is in effect during the year. It may be used to add, modify, or delete instructional goals or objectives; modify the amount of time in the current program; or add, modify, or delete related services, supplementary aids or services, assessments, or transportation. **An IEP Amendment does not replace the requirement to hold an annual IEP meeting.** The parent of the student with a disability and the district may agree not to convene an IEP team meeting for the purpose of making changes, and instead may develop a written document to amend or modify the current IEP. When substantial or comprehensive changes need to be made to a student's IEP, it is recommended that an IEP team meeting be convened to develop a new IEP.

Individualized Education Program Team (IEPT): Persons appointed and invited (including parents) by the superintendent or designee to review a student's eligibility for special education and, if eligible and in need of special education services, to develop an IEP. The IEPT also

addresses decisions related to additional evaluations or re-evaluations, as well as student discipline.

Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP): A plan of service developed by the IEPT for a student with a disability between the ages of 0 and 3 years; emphasizes interagency collaboration.

Individualized Transition Program/Plan (ITP): The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) requires public schools to develop transition service plans for older students who need to prepare for community living after leaving high school. Transition services are a set of coordinated activities that assist students with disabilities as they move from school into self-determined, post-graduation activities. IDEA requires that schools provide transition services to students with disabilities beginning at age 14.

Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA): The federal law that sets national standards for educating students with disabilities. State laws must meet or can exceed the standards of IDEA.

Instructional Consultation: A proactive model of service delivery that provides academic and behavioral support to all students who are struggling in the general education classroom. The focus is on what students can do and what instructional conditions educators need to create for students to have academic success.

Instructional Consultation Team (ICT): Instructional Consultation Teams represent a comprehensive support team model that uses a trained team of school-based professionals. The team supports classroom teachers in applying best practices in instructional delivery and assessment. The primary goal of an Instructional Consultation Team is to create and maintain student success within the general education environment by improving instructional support practices through teaching, coaching and mentoring. The Instructional Consultation Team process involves intensive, systematic, on-going professional development. Collaborative and reflective communication skills, efficient data-driven problem solving (including instructional and functional behavioral assessment) and team functioning are essential components of ICT.

Intermediate School District (ISD): In Michigan, a government agency usually organized at the county or multi-county level that assists a local school district in providing programs and services to students.

Learning Disability (LD): A general term that describes specific kinds of learning problems. A LD can cause a person to have trouble learning and using certain skills, such as, reading, writing, listening, speaking, reasoning and doing math.

Least Restrictive Environment (LRE): The requirement that each student with a disability be educated and involved as much as possible with non-disabled peers in general education classes and activities. LRE spans placements from fully "self-contained" classrooms with little or no non-disabled peer contact to "full inclusion" wherein the student is involved with non-disabled peers for most or all of the school day. LRE is potentially different for each student.

Local Educational Agency (LEA): The public board of education or other public authority legally constituted within a state for either administrative control or direction of, or to perform a

service function for, public elementary or secondary schools in a city, county, township, school district, or other political subdivision of a state.

Local Interagency Coordinating Council (LICC): A local planning and advisory body for the *Early On* system, established through the 64 local service areas in Michigan. The LICC is made up of family members who have children with special needs and of representatives from Education, Community Health, Family Independence Agency, and other organizations that provide services to infants and toddlers with disabilities and their families.

Manifestation Determination Review (MDR): As part of the MDR process, if behavior violations are found to be a manifestation of a student's disability, a functional behavior analysis and behavioral intervention services and modifications designed to address the behavior violation so that it does not recur must be initiated as appropriate. Districts must document their process for determining whether a Behavior Intervention Plan (BIP) or other behavioral intervention services or modifications are appropriate or not. The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) recommends using the Functional Behavior Assessment (FBA) process as documentation of meeting this requirement (refer to Appendix C under Suspension and Expulsion)

McGill Action Planning Systems (MAPS): A process that provides a common vision and road map for all team members, which enables them to be supportive and effective in furthering the integration of a student with a disability into general education settings and community life.

Mediation: A process in which an impartial facilitator tries to help parents and the LEA resolve disagreements.

Michigan Administrative Rules for Special Education (MARSE): Defines disability types, specify procedures for identification of students and involvement of parents and others, establish the nature and scope of services to be provided, and the qualifications of those who work with students. The rules that govern special education in Michigan are under the authority of the Michigan Department of Education, Office of Special Education and Early Intervention Services (MDE, OSE-EIS). The policy unit of the MDE, OSE-EIS is responsible for writing and revising the administrative rules so that they align with IDEA.

Michigan's Alternate Assessment Program (MI-Access): MI-Access is Michigan's alternate assessment system, designed for students with cognitive impairments whose IEP (Individualized Educational Program) Team has determined that M-STEP assessments, even with accommodations, are not appropriate. MI-Access is further divided into Functional Independence, Supported Independence and Participation [MI-Access \(michigan.gov\)](http://michigan.gov).

Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH): One of 18 principal departments of state government. The department is responsible for health policy and management of the state's publicly-funded health service systems.

Michigan Department of Education (MDE): A state agency that oversees public school districts in the state of Michigan.

Michigan Merit Curriculum (MMC): Defines a common set of required credits for graduation and provides educators with a common understanding of what student's should

know and be able to do for credit. It is designed to provide students the learning opportunity, knowledge and skills they need to succeed in college or the workplace.

Michigan Merit Exam (MME): The Michigan Merit Examination (MME) assesses students in grade 11 and eligible students in grade 12 based on Michigan high school standards. MME is composed of three parts: A free college entrance exam score that can be used to apply to college; A free WorkKeys assessment that connects work skills training, and testing to improve students' education and job opportunities; and Michigan assessments that measure what students know that parents, educators and employers say is important in core subject areas.

Michigan Rehabilitation Services (MRS): Helps Michigan residents with disabilities achieve employment and self-sufficiency. MRS is part of a network of vocational rehabilitation programs across the U.S. and authorized by the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

Michigan Student Test of Educational Progress (M-STEP): M-STEP replaces the 44-year-old MEAP test, which was not online and measured the previous state standards. The Spring 2015 assessment will include Michigan-created content, as well as content developed by the multi-state Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium. Educators from Michigan public schools helped develop and write test content that will appear on M-STEP [M-STEP Summative \(michigan.gov\)](http://michigan.gov).

Modifications: Involves an adjustment to the instructional content or performance expectations of students with disabilities from what is expected or taught to students in the general education curriculum. Usually a modification means *a change in what is being taught to or expected from the student*. Making an assignment easier so the student is not doing the same level of work as other students is an example of a modification.

Monitoring and Compliance: The monitoring of special education is a system designed by the federal government to ensure that special education programs and services are being delivered according to the requirements of IDEA 97. WISD monitors its local districts and public school academies on a yearly basis. Monitoring involves a number of steps including the review of student files, performing administrative and form reviews, and conducting random parent surveys.

Multidisciplinary Evaluation Team (MET): Two (2) or more professionals from separate disciplines [e.g., psychologist(s), teacher(s), social worker(s), speech/language therapist(s)] and the parent(s), who share responsibility for conducting a comprehensive evaluation of a student suspected of having a disability or re-evaluating a person with a disability.

Muscular Dystrophy (MD): A group of inherited disorders that involve muscle weakness and loss of muscle tissue, which get worse over time.

Music Therapy: A method used by music therapists to teach students through musical games or playing instruments how to interact with others and develop communication skills.

Normal Course of Study: A regular education curriculum leading to a high school diploma, or the special education curriculum approved in the Intermediate School District Plan leading to a high school diploma. The special education curriculum shall include physical education, personal adjustment, and prevocational and vocational training.

Notice for Initial Provision of Services and Programs/Notice for Provision of Services and Programs: IDEA mandates that the school district provide written notice to the parent when the district proposes to initiate or change the educational placement of the student or the provision of a Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) to the student; or when they refuse to initiate or change the educational placement of the student or the provision of a FAPE to the student. There are two Notice forms- *Notice for Initial Provision of Services and Programs* and *Notice for Provision of Services and Programs*. *Notice for Initial Provision of Services and Programs* is used to conclude the process for IEP team meetings resulting from an **initial evaluation**. *Notice for Provision of Services and Programs* is used to conclude the process for all other IEP team or related meetings (i.e. reevaluation, annual/review or amendment). **Parent signature (consent) is only required on the Notice Form for Initial provision of programs and services.**

Occupational Therapist (OT): A professional who evaluates and determines purposeful activities to facilitate improvement of a student's physical, fine-motor, sensory-motor, and self-care functioning. Often the OT is involved in an Assistive Technology (AT) Evaluation.

Office for Civil Rights (OCR): Helps to protect you from discrimination in certain health care and social service programs. OCR teaches health and social service workers about civil rights, health information privacy, and patient safety confidentiality laws that they must follow. OCR educates communities about civil rights and health information privacy rights. OCR investigates civil rights, health information privacy and patient safety and confidentiality complaints to find out if there is discrimination or violation of the law and takes action to correct problems.

Office of Special Education/Early Intervention Services (OSE/EIS): Oversees the administrative funding of education and early intervention programs and services for young children and students with disabilities.

Oppositional Defiant Disorder (ODD): An ongoing pattern of uncooperative, defiant, and hostile behavior toward authority figures that seriously interferes with the child's day to day functioning.

Orientation and Mobility (O+M): Support to increase the accessibility of the educational environment for a student with a disability.

Other Health Impairment (OHI): See *Eligibility For Special Education Services* page 9.

Paraprofessional (Parapro) or Paraeducator: A trained assistant who is directed by the classroom teacher and/or teacher consultant, to help provide accommodations for students with disabilities. This may include helping the teacher make adaptations to the curriculum, assisting students with assignments, working with students in relation to the class as a whole, and helping other students understand the student's disability.

Parent: The mother, father, surrogate, or legally designated guardian of the person with a disability. Parent also means the actual student with a disability when s/he reaches the age of 18 years, if a legal guardian has not been appointed by appropriate court proceedings.

Parent Advisory Committee (PAC): A committee made up of parents of students with disabilities from each LEA within the Intermediate School District (ISD) appointed by the ISD Board of Education. The PAC is responsible for participating in the development of the ISD Plan

and advising the ISD Board of Education on matters relating to special education. A list of local PAC representatives is located in Appendix J of this handbook.

Person Centered Plan (PCP): The process of helping a person with a disability develop a life plan based on his/her interests, strengths and needs. Participants in the preparation of PCPs may include school, parent and student IEPT members, and members of the local community mental health organization, for Washtenaw County: WCHO, and others whom the team would like to invite.

Personal Curriculum (PC), also referred to as "Personalized Curriculum": The Michigan Merit law allows a parent or legal guardian of a student to request certain modifications (under specific conditions) to the state high school graduation requirements to ensure all students are effectively engaged in school. Personal Curriculum is a general education, not a special education, initiative. Michigan Department of Education has provided updates, a guide to Frequently Asked Questions Personal Curriculum, and Parent Guides to provide a description of the Personal Curriculum (PC) process. Understanding this educational option will help in making informed decisions about your student's educational experience and path to earning a high school diploma [Personal Curriculum \(michigan.gov\)](http://michigan.gov).

Physical Impairment (PI): See *Eligibility For Special Education Services* page 9.

Physical Therapist (PT): A professional who assesses and treats a student to improve his/her level of functioning, mainly in the area of mobility and walking skills.

Picture Exchange Communication System (PECS): A system of picture symbol cards which are used as a communication tool when verbal language is not present. PECS may enhance the development of verbal language.

Positive Behavior Support (PBS): A broad-based set of proactive approaches used within a comprehensive school-wide system. This school/community system supports students in learning responsible behavior and achieving academic success. The goal is not merely to "eliminate" the behavior, but to understand the behavior's purpose and then teach the student a positive behavior to achieve the same function.

Present Level of Academic Achievement and Functional Performance (PLAAFP): The student's present level of functioning and how the disability affects his/her involvement and progress in the general education curriculum (or participation in appropriate activities for preschool students).

Prior Written Notice: Your school district must give you written notice (provide you certain information in writing) whenever it: (1) Proposes to initiate or to change the identification, evaluation, or educational placement of your child, or the provision of a free appropriate public education (FAPE) to your child; or (2) Refuses to initiate or to change the identification, evaluation, or educational placement of your child, or the provision of FAPE to your child.

Procedural Safeguards Available to Parents of Students with Disabilities (also known as "Rights" or "Due Process"): Regulations designed to protect students with disabilities and their parents [Procedural Safeguards Notice \(michigan.gov\)](http://michigan.gov).

Psychological Evaluation: The portion of a student's overall special education evaluation that tests general aptitudes and abilities, hand-eye coordination, social skills, emotional development and thinking skills.

Public Expense: Provision of service(s) by the LEA at no cost to the parent(s). Under special circumstances, the LEA may pay for an outside evaluation, program, or service(s), which may include transportation and/or room and board.

Public School Academy (PSA): A public school governed by a board of education, created by a formal agreement/charter between a person or group of people and an approved educational agency or State, that is exempt from some state education regulations and local school district rules in exchange for agreeing to meet certain accountability requirements.

Random Moment Time Study (RMTS): The process the State of Michigan uses to help determine the cost of reimbursement for providing medically related special education services to students through the School-Based Services Medicaid Program.

Related Services: Services specially designed to meet the unique needs of persons with disabilities until age 26. These services include the following: audiological, medical, psychiatric, psychological, speech and language, or educational evaluation; occupational, physical, recreational, music, art, or other therapy; accommodations and modifications; supplementary aids and services; assistive technology devices and services; mobility and orientation services; transportation; school psychological; school social work; and instruction provided by special education teachers designed to assist regular education students who are homebound, hospitalized, placed in juvenile detention facilities, or preprimary age children.

Resource Program/Resource Room: A classroom program designed for students who require instructional support (language arts, mathematics, science and social studies) in a special education setting.

Response to Intervention (RtI): Response to Intervention (RtI) is a scientific, research-based approach that identifies students not achieving at benchmark and provides a collaborative problem solving framework to address their learning needs as well as the needs of all students. The RtI process is a multi-step approach to providing services and interventions to students who struggle with learning at increasing levels of intensity. The progress a student makes at each stage of intervention is closely monitored. Results of this monitoring are used to make decisions about the need for further research-based instruction and/or intervention. RtI should be applied to decisions in general, remedial and special education, creating a well-integrated system of instruction/intervention guided by student outcome data. For more information regarding RtI, please consult the following websites:
www.rtinetwork.org/learn/what/whatsrti

Review of Existing Evaluation Data (REED): Refers to the process whereby the IEP team reviews existing evaluation data to make various decisions about a student [Special Education Reevaluation Process \(michigan.gov\)](http://www.michigan.gov/special-education)

School Social Worker (SSW): provides individual and group counseling, consultation, and advisement services to students and their family members and school staff regarding the students' social, emotional, and behavioral status impacting learning, development, mental health, and school success.

Seclusion and Restraint: Defined as the restricting of freedom of movement and the involuntary confinement of a person in a room where egress is blocked. The Michigan Department of Education in 2006 adopted state standards for the emergency use of seclusion and restraint of students. The new state standards stress that seclusion and restraint are recognized as last resort measures, to be used only in emergency situations. The standards outline requirements for training of school staff, both the general awareness training for the broader educational community and comprehensive training for key identified personnel. To view the MDE standards on seclusion and restraint visit: [Policy for the Emergency Use of Seclusion and Restraint \(michigan.gov\)](http://michigan.gov) and [Family Matters Seclusion and Restraint Fact Sheet \(michigan.gov\)](http://michigan.gov)

Section 504: Refers to Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, which protects the civil rights of persons with disabilities. It also applies to the provision of services for children whose disability is not severe enough to warrant eligibility for special education services, but could benefit from supportive services and classroom modifications. See Appendix C.

Self-Contained Classroom: A separate classroom, located within a general education school, used by students with disabilities, which may have either the same categorical/educational impairment grouping or may be cross-categorical.

Severe Multiple Impairment (SMI): See *Eligibility For Special Education Services* page 9.

Short-Term Instructional Objectives (STIO): Objectives written in measurable terms that relate to the annual goals and represent expected achievement over several weeks or months but not more than one (1) year. A report on the progress towards these objectives must be provided to parents at least as often as every marking period.

Social Security Disability Income (SSDI): A federally run benefits program that provides aid to people who are unable to achieve gainful employment due to a permanent disabling condition.

Special Education: Specially designed instruction, at no cost to the parents, to meet the unique educational needs of each student with a disability who is eligible for services; designed to help each student reach his/her maximum potential. All of the following may be included in the definition of special education: special education classroom instruction; instruction in physical education; instructional services such as preprimary, teacher consultant, speech and language, homebound and hospitalized, and juvenile detention facilities; ancillary and other related services such as speech, occupational, physical, recreational, music, art or other therapy, mobility and orientation, school psychological and school social work services; supplementary aids and services, accommodations and modifications.

Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC): A committee appointed by the State Board of Education to advise that Board on matters relating to the delivery of special education.

Specific Learning Disability (SLD): See *Eligibility For Special Education Services* page 9.

Speech and Language Impairment (SLI): See *Eligibility For Special Education Services* page 9.

Speech and Language Pathologist (SLP): A professional trained to evaluate and provide therapy for speech and language disorders.

Spina bifida (SB): A birth defect in which the backbone and spinal canal do not close before birth. Myelomeningocele is the most common type of Spina bifida.

State Office of Administrative Hearings and Rules (SOAHR): A Central agency charged with the duty of reviewing proposed rules, coordinating the processing of rules, and working with other agencies to streamline the rulemaking process and improve public access. SOAHR publishes the state's three administrative rule periodicals: the Michigan Register, the Michigan Administrative Code and the Annual Administrative Code Supplement.

Statewide Autism Resources and Training (START): The Statewide Autism Resources and Training (START) project is committed to creating a sustainable structure of support for students with Autism Spectrum Disorders within each region of Michigan by provide training and technical assistance to educators and families that support students on the autism spectrum. The START project has been in place for 10 years through the funding and support of the Michigan Department of Education, Office of Special Education and Early Intervention Services. The rapid increase in the number of students with ASD entering public schools in Michigan has created a critical need for more in-depth training for educators in the use of evidence based practices. Additionally, the START Project has served a key role in meeting this need through innovative activities such as Regional Collaborative Networks, training and coaching models, and resource material development [START Project - Grand Valley State University \(gvsu.edu\)](http://START Project - Grand Valley State University (gvsu.edu)).

Supplemental Educational Services (SES): Under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), certain students in schools that have been identified as not making Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) and considered identified for Improvement, Corrective Action, or Restructuring are eligible for Supplemental Educational Services (SES). Supplemental Educational Services include tutoring, small group or computer instruction in reading or math provided before or after school, on weekends, or during the summer.

Supplemental Security Income (SSI): Supplemental Security Income benefits (SSI) are paid to individuals who are low level income and disabled whether or not the individual has worked in the past. SSI child's disability benefits are paid to children who are under the age of 18, are disabled, and the parents or guardian are lower level income. SSI is a federally funded program.

Supplementary Aids and Services (SAS): Developed to enable a student to make progress in the general education curriculum and advance appropriately toward his or her goals.

Teacher Consultant (TC): A certified special education teacher, who provides instructional support to students with disabilities, provides consultation to and/or team teaches with the general education classroom teacher and consults with parents.

Team Meetings: This term may reference official IEP "team meetings," but is also known for more informal team meetings for the school, parents, and/or student and others invited by any team member to brainstorm and collaborate throughout the year.

Teletypewriter (TTY): A special device that lets people who are deaf, hard of hearing, or speech impaired use the telephone to communicate, by allowing them to type messages instead of talking and listening.

Tienet (Technology & Innovation in Education): The software package Washtenaw County School Districts are using to manage and monitor a child's entire special education process. This software helps the child's team make sure the plan in place is in compliance with state and federal regulations. Teachers use TIENET to create an electronic record of the IEP. Some teachers type into TIENET during the meeting to save time. The software has automatic reminders that appear to make sure that important steps and decisions are not overlooked. TIENET provides assistance and leadership to educators and schools regarding current education issues. The state can monitor compliance with special education law by looking at TIENET data.

Tourette Syndrome (TS): A neurological disorder characterized by repetitive, stereotyped, involuntary movements and vocalizations called tics.

Transition: As defined by law, a set of decisions an IEPT makes to prepare students with disabilities for life after school; emphasizing interagency collaboration. Transition is a commonly used term that refers to a change of building, level, grade, classroom, or activity at any age.

Transition Services: A coordinated set of activities for a student, designed within an outcome-oriented process that promotes movement from school to post-school activities. These activities may include post-secondary education, vocational training, integrated employment (including supported employment), access to adult services, independent living, and community participation.

Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI): See *Eligibility For Special Education Services* page 9.

Unified Systems: A philosophy, and a set of strategies used by an LEA which brings together a variety of resources to meet the educational needs of all children.

Universal Design (UD): Environments and curricula are designed, right from the start, to be flexible and usable by students of widely varying abilities [Universal Design for Learning – Michigan Alliance for Families](#).

Visual Impairment (VI): See *Eligibility For Special Education Services* page 9.

Visual Schedules and Supports: Tools that enable a student to keep track of daily activities and also helps develop an understanding of time frames and environmental sequences. Examples include individual daily schedules, calendars, lists, and graphic organizers.

Vocational Education (Voc Ed) or vocational education and training (VET): prepares trainees for jobs that are based on manual or practical activities, traditionally non-academic, and related to a specific trade, occupation or vocation.

Waiver: An authorization from the State Board of Education that allows a district and/or ISD to implement a particular strategy or innovative approach to meet the needs of students with disabilities.

Washtenaw Intermediate School District (WISD): A regional educational service agency located in Ann Arbor, Michigan. The WISD operates cooperative programs and delivers services that focus on teaching and learning for students in Ann Arbor, Chelsea, Dexter, Lincoln, Manchester, Milan, Saline, Whitmore Lake, Ypsilanti Community Schools, and Washtenaw County Public School Academies.

Appendix G RESOURCES FOR PARENTS

The WISD PAC provides this list of resources for your use but does not endorse any organization or website.

Washtenaw County Area Family Support

Meetings and resources provide opportunities for support, problem solving, and parent/professional interaction, as well as information on conferences, workshops and topics of interest to attendees. Some groups are chapters of a state and/or national organization. Parents and/or professionals might wish to consider starting new groups to meet the needs of individuals with disabilities, families, and the community. The following are some of the support groups, meeting dates and times, and contact people in the Washtenaw County area. If your group would like to be added to this list, or if you are currently listed and have an update, please contact Family Support at the Washtenaw Intermediate School District at (734) 994-8100, x 1514 or email: familysupport@washtenawisd.org

Attention Deficit Disorder

Children and Adults with Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (CHADD) is a national non-profit organization providing education, advocacy and support for individuals with AD/HD. For a local CHADD group in your community visit their web site www.chadd.org or call (301) 306-7070

Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder- Ann Arbor

This group is an Ann Arbor Area support group for parents of children and teens with ADD/ADHD and adults with ADD/ADHD. Their mission is to provide local resources, education, and support to their members. For more information please email Kim Garver at kagarver@gmail.com or www.meetup.com/AnnArbor-ADHD-ADD-Support/

Autism Collaborative Center-EMU

This group is a therapeutic learning environment designed from the ground up with your child's success in mind. Our staff is comprised of interdisciplinary professionals with specialized education and training in autism. We provide our clients with a wide variety of therapeutic and behavioral services all under one roof. For more information: <https://acc.emich.edu/> (734) 487-2890 or email autismcenter@emich.edu

Autism Connections-Judson Center

This group offers a comprehensive approach designed to embrace the individual needs of those with a diagnosis of autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and their families from age two through early adulthood. We provide evidenced based, applied behavioral analysis services (ABA) to the individual, as well as counseling services, parent trainings, sibshops and events/workshops for family members. For more information in Washtenaw County call (734) 794-2930 or email the Center autism@judsoncenter.org web site <https://www.judsoncenter.org/autism/>

Disability Network

This organization works with people of diverse abilities and disabilities to help you solve problems and achieve your goals. We also work throughout the community to expand awareness about people with disabilities and promote full inclusion. For more information: (734) 971-0277 www.dnwml.org/

Down Syndrome Support Team (DSST)

The DSST is a group that provides support and resources to individuals with Down Syndrome and their families. They work with our community to build an accepting environment where every individual can contribute and reach their fullest potential. They are located in SE Michigan and offer play groups, outings, Parent's & Mom's nights out, and provides activities and classes such as dance, karate, swim lessons and more for children and adults with Down syndrome. Our main goal is to connect families with a community and resources, increase awareness and acceptance of Down syndrome in our local communities, and to help individuals with Down syndrome to reach their full potential. For more information: www.downsyndromesupportteam.com or (313) 608-7374 or email eluther@downsyndromesupportteam.com

Family Center for Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs (Family Center)

The Family Center offers emotional support, information, and connections to community-based resources to families of children and youth with special health care needs. This includes all children who have or are at an increased risk for: physical, developmental, behavioral, or emotional conditions. Children do not need to be enrolled in CSHCS to receive services from the Family Center. The Family Center also provides parental perspectives and input on health care matters while focusing on families' access to coordinated systems of care. The Family Center works from a family-centered care approach and promotes family/professional partnerships at all levels of care. This ensures that families participate in the decision-making process and are satisfied with the services they receive. For more information:

Call the DIrect Line at (517) 241-7630 or Family Phone Line at (800) 359-3722 or email cshcsfc@michigan.gov <https://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/assistance-programs/cshcs/the-family-center-for-children-and-youth-with-special-health-care-needs-family-center>

Friends of the Developmentally Disabled

The Friends of the Developmentally Disabled provides information and support to families and other interested parties. Topics include services for adults with disabilities and their families, respite care, guardianship, benefits, and other local, state, and federal issues. For more information contact Jill Barker at (734) 996-5561 or email jillrbarker@sbcglobal.net or The DD News Blog <https://theddnewsblog.blogspot.com/>

Grandparents As Parents (GAP)

The GAP program provides grandparents, and other relatives caring for children, with information about self-care, childcare, and the assurance that families with generational gaps are not alone. Adults who are caregivers of children under the age of 18 and who live in Washtenaw County are eligible. For more information: (734) 712-7774 or <https://washtenawcaregiver.org/grandparents-as-parents/>

Intentional Communities of Washtenaw (ICW)

ICW is a group of parents, families and friends who want to improve the quality of life for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities by supporting community living and enhanced social opportunities. Based on a model of "community interdependence," ICW promotes development of individual strengths and gifts while respecting personal needs and preferences. For more information: info@intentcom.com or www.intentcom.org

Learning Disability Association of Michigan

If you are a parent or teacher of a child with a learning disability – or have learning disabilities yourself – you are not alone. The good news is that the Learning Disabilities Association of Michigan is here to help! Since 1969, LDA of Michigan has been an affiliate of LDA of America and provided support to people with learning disabilities, their parents, teachers and other professionals with cutting edge information on learning disabilities, practical solutions, and a comprehensive network of resources. These services make LDA, and LDA of MI, the leading resources for information on learning disabilities. For more information: <https://ldaofmichigan.org/> or (616) 284-1650 or ldaofmichigan@gmail.com

Michigan Coalition for Fetal Alcohol Resources, Education, and Support (MCFARES)

The Coalition strengthens served communities' ability to eliminate prenatal alcohol exposure and provide support to persons and families impacted by fetal alcohol spectrum disorders (FASD) by delivering exemplary professional education, public awareness, and support. For more information: <https://www.mcfares.org/> info@mcfares.org (586) 329-6722

Michigan Hands and Voices

Michigan Hands and Voices supports families of children who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing (DHH) regardless of language or communication mode. For more information: www.mihandsandvoices.org or call (248) 845-8762

Parent Advisory Committee for Special Education-Ann Arbor (AAPAC)

The AAPAC is a group of parents and guardians whose focus is on supporting children in Ann Arbor Public Schools who have IEPs or 504 Plans. Their Mission: To positively impact the education of all students with an emphasis on those with special needs in the Ann Arbor School District by representing students and parents and guardians of students needing or receiving special education services, advocating improvements, acting as a resource for our constituents, staff, and administration, creating opportunities for education, reporting regularly, facilitating communication, clarifying process, and creating an actual link between our constituents and the administrators responsible for all aspects of special education in the Ann Arbor district. For more information: <https://a2pac.wordpress.com/>

Parent Advisory Committee (PAC)-Washtenaw Intermediate School District (WISD)

The WISD PAC's Mission: The Washtenaw Intermediate School District (WISD) Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) consists of parents of students with special needs. We advise the WISD concerning the planning and implementation of special education programs and services. We work to ensure student success by strengthening the capacities of our local schools, families and communities through collaboration, use of best practices, technology, and a wide variety of strategies. Their Vision: The Washtenaw Intermediate School District (WISD) Parent Advisory Committee (PAC), in partnership with families, the WISD, local public school agencies, and

communities, will facilitate the education of all students to ensure that they maximize their potential and become contributing members of society, living, working, and participating in their communities. The PAC meets monthly, usually on the third Tuesday, September-May (no meeting in December) at the WISD High Point School, Room 144 from 6:30pm to 8:30pm. Meetings are open to all parents and persons interested in special education. Please visit the [Family Matters PAC Information Sheet](#) to learn more about PAC. For further information: <https://www.washtenawisd.org/our-services/administrative-departments/special-education/resources/parent-advisory-committee-pac/> There is also a Google listserv that provides information and resources for families and staff that you can join <http://groups.google.com/group/wcsei>

WashtenawLifespan

WashtenawLifespan holds monthly meetings in Saline and an active email list for anyone in Washtenaw County who is interested in learning about day programs, resources, and support for people with disabilities over the age of 26, those who have aged out of public school services. To join the email list visit: <https://groups.io/g/WashtenawLifespan>

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

Bridges4kids

This is a non-profit parent organization providing an internet-based system of information and referral for parents and professionals seeking help for children from birth through transition to adult life. For more information: www.bridges4kids.org

Michigan Alliance for Families

This organization is our state's federally funded Parent Training and Information Center. They are a Michigan Department of Education IDEA Grant Funded Initiative. The efforts of Michigan Alliance for Families align with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) to help improve results for children with disabilities. They help facilitate parent involvement as a means of improving educational services and outcomes for students with disabilities. Michigan Alliance for Families can assist you in knowing your rights, effectively communicating your child's needs, and advising how to help them develop and learn. They provide information, support, and education for families who have children (birth through 26 years of age) who receive (or may be eligible to receive) special education services. They also provide learning opportunities including workshops, and live and on-demand webinars. For more information: www.michiganallianceforfamilies.org or call (800) 552-4821

Michigan Mental Health Networker-Washtenaw County

Here you will find resources for Washtenaw County including Self Help and Support Groups, Child & Adolescent Services, and Mental Health Treatment Services. For more information: www.mhweb.org/

Special Education Mediation Services (SEMS)

SEMS helps students by fostering cooperation and effective teamwork among those who plan their education. The overall goal is to help students, parents and educators make decisions that improve education outcomes. For more information: (833) 543-7178 or info@MiKids1st.org or <https://www.mikids1st.org>

Student Advocacy Center of Michigan

Students have a right to learn — no matter what. The Student Advocacy Center of Michigan helps students in grades K-12 stand up for their rights when they are suspended, expelled, denied special education support, or faced with racism or some other barrier at school. By working together, we can make sure students get the support they need to succeed. For more information: (734) 482-0489 or helpline@studentadvocacycenter.org or www.studentadvocacycenter.org

Washtenaw Association for Community Advocacy

Our mission is to empower people with intellectual and developmental disabilities to participate fully in community life. This means we work to ensure that people with disabilities and their families have choices, opportunities, and the supports they need to be fully included in community life through advocacy and education. For more information: (734) 662-1256 or info@washtenawaca.org or www.washtenawaca.org

Washtenaw County Community Mental Health

Washtenaw County Community Mental Health is one of several community-based mental healthcare organizations in Michigan. We have locations in Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti. For more information: Call (734) 544-3050 or <https://www.washtenaw.org/839/Community-Mental-Health>

Washtenaw County, MI Resources for Persons with Disabilities

<https://www.washtenaw.org/1622/Persons-with-Disabilities>

Wrightslaw

Parents, advocates, educators, and attorneys come to Wrightslaw for accurate, up-to-date information about special education law and advocacy for children with disabilities. For more information: www.wrightslaw.com Check out their many resources on MI Yellow Pages for Kids www.yellowpagesforkids.com/help/mi.htm

Appendix H WISD PAC Resource and Information

Adapted from MI Alliance for Families www.michiganallianceforfamilies.org

The Arc Michigan

Advocacy and support for individuals with developmental disabilities. www.arcmi.org
800-292-7851 • 517-487-5426

Association for Children’s Mental Health

Resources for children and youth with mental, emotional, or behavioral disorders and their families. www.acmh-mi.org 888-226-4543

Autism Society of Michigan

Empowers individuals with autism and their families by offering educational resources and materials. www.autism-mi.org 800-223-6722

Brain Injury Association

Improving quality of life for all individuals impacted by brain injury. www.biami.org 800-444-6443

Center for Parent Information and Resources

A central resource of information and products for Parent Training Information Centers. www.parentcenterhub.org/

Children’s Special Health Care Services

Enabling individuals with special health care needs to have improved health outcomes and an enhanced quality of life. Including the Family Support Network (FCCYSHCN) - Emotional support and health information for families who have children with special needs. <https://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/assistance-programs/cshcs> 800-359-3722

DB Central

Offers training to promote best practices for children and young adults who are Deaf-Blind. <https://www.cmich.edu/academics/colleges/liberal-arts-social-sciences/centers-institutes/deafblind-central>
888-758-0508 • VP 989-546-4626

Developmental Disabilities Institute

Provides statewide programs designed to enhance the lives of persons with disabilities. <http://ddi.wayne.edu/>
888-978-4334 • V/TTY 313-577-2654

Disability Network/Michigan

Represents the collective voice of Michigan’s 15 Centers for Independent Living (CILs). www.dnmichigan.org 517-339-0539

Disability Rights Michigan (formerly MPAS)

DRM advocates and lawyers advise individuals with disabilities of their rights and responsibilities and advocate for their human, civil and legal rights within the state of Michigan. <https://www.drnich.org> 800-288-5923

Epilepsy Foundation of Michigan

Resources to empower independence and inspiring productive lives for all people with epilepsy. www.epilepsymichigan.org 800-377-6226

Learning Disabilities Association

Advancing the quality of life for individuals with learning disabilities through advocacy, education, and training. www.ldaofmichigan.org 517-319-0270

Michigan Department of Health and Human Services

Protect, preserve, and promote the health and safety of the people of Michigan. www.michigan.gov/mdhhs
517-373-3740 • TDD 800-649-3777

Michigan Developmental Disabilities Council

Supporting people with developmental disabilities to achieve their full potential. <https://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/keep-mi-healthy/mentalhealth/developmentaldisability>
517-335-3158 • TDD 517-335-3171

Michigan Disability Rights Coalition

A disability justice movement working to transform communities. <https://mymdrc.org/>
800-760-4600 • TTY 517-333-2477

Michigan Hands and Voices

Supporting families of children who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing. www.mihandsandvoices.org 248-845-8762

Center for Parent Information and Resources: Military-Education Directory for Children with Special Needs

A resource for military families.

<http://www.parentcenterhub.org/repository/ed-directory-children-special-needs>

Student Advocacy Center of Michigan

Provides education advocacy and support, education mentoring, dropout prevention and family support with a focus on economically disadvantaged youth, youth in foster care or a homeless situation, students with mental illness, youth impacted by school discipline and zero tolerance, and youth facing barriers to enrolling in or attending school.

<https://www.studentadvocacycenter.org/> 734-482-0489

UCP – Michigan

Connecting people with disabilities to the opportunities and resources needed to live productive and independent lives.

www.ucpmichigan.org

800-828-2714 • V/TTY 517-203-1200

U.S. Dept. of Education, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitation Services

<https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/osers/index.html> 800-872-5327

Work Incentives Planning & Assistance

Providing information to people with disabilities about how earnings affect their Social Security and other benefits.

<https://arcmi.org/miwipa/>

866-949-3687 • TTY 866-833-2967

Michigan Department of Education IDEA Grant Funded Initiatives

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. www.altshift.education

Catamaran

The system used to track activities and data related to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and the Michigan Administrative Rules for Special Education (MARSE) for the Michigan Department of Education Offices of Special Education and Early Childhood Development and Family Education.

<https://training.catamaran.partners/>

Michigan Alliance for Families

This is our state's federally funded Parent Training and Information Center. They work in partnership with many agencies and organizations to support families who have children from birth through 26 years of age who receive, or may be eligible to receive, special education services.

www.michiganallianceforfamilies.org

Michigan's Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MiMTSS) (formerly MiBLSI)

Works on behalf of the Michigan Department of Education to provide a continuum of technical assistance to ISDs, districts, and schools in a MTSS framework.

<https://mimtsstac.org/>

Special Education Mediation Services (SEMS)

Provides mediation, facilitation, and training services for working through disputes between school districts and parents of children with special needs. Helps students by fostering cooperation and effective teamwork among those who plan their education. The overall goal is to help students, parents and educators make decisions that improve education outcomes. <https://www.mikids1st.org>

Statewide Autism Resources and Training (START)

Promotes and facilitates systems level change implemented by school staff and administrators willing to commit to using evidence-based practices in the areas of educational programming for students with autism spectrum disorder, professional development, parent-professional collaboration, and service coordination. www.gvsu.edu/autismcenter

Michigan Department of Education and Supported Initiatives**Early On® Michigan**

Offers early intervention for infants and toddlers (birth to age three) with developmental delays. 800-327-5966 * TTY 517-668-2505
www.1800earlyon.org

Early On® Training and Technical Assistance (EOT&TA)

Provides support, information, and training related to Early On® Michigan service delivery. 866-334-5437 * 517-668-0185
<http://eotta.ccesa.org>

Great Start for Kids

Ensures that all children birth to age eight have access to high-quality early learning and development programs. 517-371-9000
<https://www.michigan.gov/mde/Services/early-learners-and-care>

Michigan Department of Education (MDE)

833-633-5788 www.michigan.gov/mde

MDE, Office of Great Start

517-373-8483

<https://www.michigan.gov/mde/Services/early-learners-and-care>

MDE, Office of Special Education (OSE)

MDE's special education help line. 888-320-8384 or mdeose@michigan.gov
<https://www.michigan.gov/mde/Services/special-education>

MDE, Low Incidence Outreach (MDE-LIO)

Technical assistance and resources that improve the quality of education for students with a visual impairment or who are deaf/hard of hearing, including students with multiple impairments. 888-760-2206 * 517-373-2887
<https://mdelio.org/>

Michigan Interagency Coordinating Council (MICC)

The MICC is charged with advising and assisting MDE in the development and implementation of a statewide, comprehensive, coordinated, multidisciplinary, interagency system that provides early intervention services for infants and toddlers with disabilities and their families. 517-373-8483 www.michigan.gov/micc

Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC)

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) mandated state advisory panel to the State Board of Education and the Michigan Department of Education. www.michigan.gov/mde/services/special-education/seac

State Board of Education

The Board members lead the way in improving public education through recommendations and actions that have resulted in key legislative changes. 517-373-3902
<https://www.michigan.gov/mde/About/State-Board>

Superintendent, WISD: Naomi Norman (734) 994-8100 x1300
 Deputy Superintendent, WISD: Cherie Vannatter (734) 994-8100 x1543
 Special Education Director, WISD: Deborah Hester-Washington (734) 994-8100 x1456

SEE APPENDIX J FOR ADDITIONAL ADMINISTRATORS & PAC REPRESENTATIVES

The street address, phone number and website address for WISD is:
 1819 S. Wagner Rd. (P.O. Box 1406), Ann Arbor, MI 48106-1406
 (734) 994-8100 <http://www.washtenawisd.org>

**APPENDIX J
 WASHTENAW INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL DISTRICT'S SPECIAL EDUCATION
 PARENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND ADMINISTRATORS 2023-24**

For the most current Administrators' list and additional information:
<https://www.washtenawisd.org/our-services/administrative-departments/special-education/contacts/>

LOCAL EDUCATION SCHOOL/AGENCY DISTRICT	SPECIAL EDUCATION DIRECTORS/SUPERVISORS	PARENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVES
Ann Arbor Public Schools a2schools.org	Marianne Fidishin, Executive Director-SISS Mary Wiese, Asst. Director Sarah Pope, Asst. Director Audra Holdorf, Asst. Director Janine Harper, Asst. Director 994-2318 (all of the above) Jo Ann Telfer, Principal-Preschool & Family Center: 994-2303	Amy Wilkins 883-2232 awilkins@gmail.com -Vacant-
Chelsea School District chelsea.k12.mi.us	Lisa Nickel, Director 433-2200, x6083	Christina Hollis 304-707-4467 schollis03@gmail.com -Vacant-
Dexter Community Schools dexterschools.org	Anne Nakon, Director 424-4100, x6052	Traci Husse 604-6999 huss0807@gmail.com Katie Stepaniak 347-5669 ktstepaniak@gmail.com
Lincoln Consolidated Schools www.lincolnk12.org	Robert Williams, Director 484-7000, x7870	Donald Poole 717-7975 dnaenterprise14@gmail.com -Vacant-
Manchester Community Schools manchesterschools.us	Rachel Tierney, Director 428-7442 x1145	Jessica Lawson 517-442-7167 jessica.lawson21886@gmail.com -Vacant-
Milan Area Schools milanareaschools.org	Lon Smith, Director 439-5018	Andrea Bennink 904-4652 andreabenninkpacrep@gmail.com -Vacant-

Public School Academies www.michigan.gov/mde/0,1607,7-140-6530_30334_40088---,00.html	Charter Public Schools (michigan.gov)	Holly Smith (S. Arbor Academy) 323-4183 19.hsmith@nhaschools.com -2 Vacancies-
Saline Area Schools www.salineschools.com	Kevin Musson, Director 401-4006	Daisie Scharman daisie.scharmen@gmail.com Ann Babcock 751-7717 babcockams@gmail.com
Whitmore Lake Public Schools www.wlps.net	Melissa Heuker, Director 449-4715, x4013	Gail Chapman 417-6822 mommachappy.qc@gmail.com -Vacant-
Ypsilanti Community Schools www.ycschools.us	E. Ruth Jordan, Special Education Director 221-1953	Ericka Courtney 255-7195 erickacourtney@hotmail.com -Vacant-
Washtenaw Intermediate School District www.washtenawisd.org	Cherie Vannatter , Deputy Superintendent: x1543 Deborah Hester-Washington , Special Education Director, Compliance Monitor, LRE TCs & Psychologists: x1456 Jennifer Parrelly , High Point Program: x1610 Rebekah Ralls , Young Adult Out-Center & Dexter HS classrooms: x1545 Melissa Paschall , Ancillary staff (Nurses & SSWs), TCVI, Local Based MS & Elementary Classrooms, & *ASD Program (name to be determined) Supervisor: x1665 Lyn Arons , Young Adult Project, DHH Program/TCs, Ancillary Staff (SLPs, OTs & PTs): x1562 Chandra Dumas , Red Oak Young Adult Supervisor: x3212 Edward Manuszak , Ex. Dir.-Early Childhood Programs: x1275 Erika Huizenga , Preschool Supervisor-Head Start & Great Start Readiness Program: x1269 Alicia Kruk , Early On & Family Services: x1272 Michelle Pogliano , Early Intervention: x3086 994-8100 (all of the above) Jenna Blair/Darnesha Pickens , CIY program & Washtenaw County Jail service providers: 973-4392 Julie Voelker , Progress Park, EI Continuum classrooms: Manchester HS & Riverside: 994-3340, x4703	Jeanne Brakhage, Parent Liaison 994-8100, x1514 jbrakhag@washtenawisd.org

Area codes are 734 unless otherwise specified – updated 9/23