



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
LANSING

RICK SNYDER  
GOVERNOR

BRIAN J. WHISTON  
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

**MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** May 31, 2016  
**TO:** State Board of Education  
**FROM:** Brian J. Whiston   
**SUBJECT:** Presentation on the START's Intensive Training Program and Implementation of Peer to Peer Program

The Statewide Autism Resources and Training (START) Project is one of the Office of Special Education grant-funded initiatives, that works with schools, community partners, and families to support students with Autism Spectrum Disorder to become active, engaged members of their schools and local communities and successfully move into adulthood as independent individuals with many choices and opportunities.

The Hamilton Community Schools team, which includes a student with Autism Spectrum Disorder, has been presenting at various conferences and leadership days. This team has also presented to other school districts and their school boards. Their success is possible due of the administrative staff, parent and community involved in implementing this peer to peer support program.

The student will be in attendance with her general education friend and LINK (peer support program) to present her story as a positive example happening in education for students with and without disabilities.

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608 WEST ALLEGAN STREET • P.O. BOX 30008 • LANSING, MICHIGAN 48909  
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