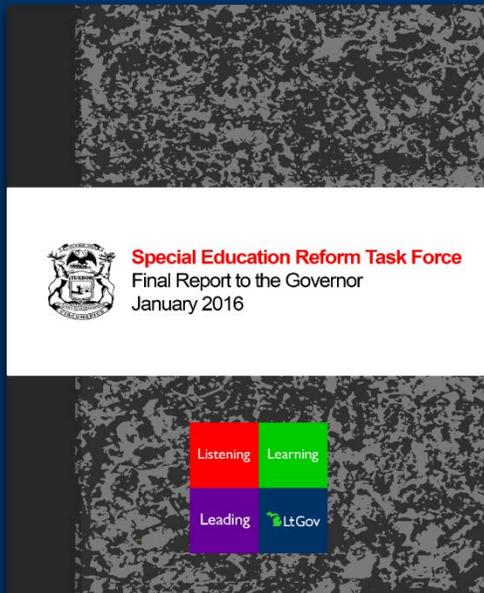


# Special Education Reform Task Force

LT. GOVERNOR BRIAN CALLEY  
CHAIR



# Special Education Reform Task Force

- Created by Gov. Snyder in October 2015
- Charged with recommending reforms and policy recommendations
- Help ensure all children have an opportunity to reach their full potential
- Address key findings of Special Education Listening Tour

# Special Education Reform Task Force

## Members from:

- Char-Em ISD
- Grand Rapids Education Association
- Ingham ISD
- MI Alliance for Special Education
- MI Protection & Advocacy Service
- MI House of Representatives
- MI Senate
- Office of Gov. Rick Snyder
- Special Education Advocacy & Development
- State Board of Education
- Walled Lake School District

# Special Education Listening Tour

- Summer through Fall 2015
- Traveled the state seeking input from parents and educators
- Found recurring themes throughout



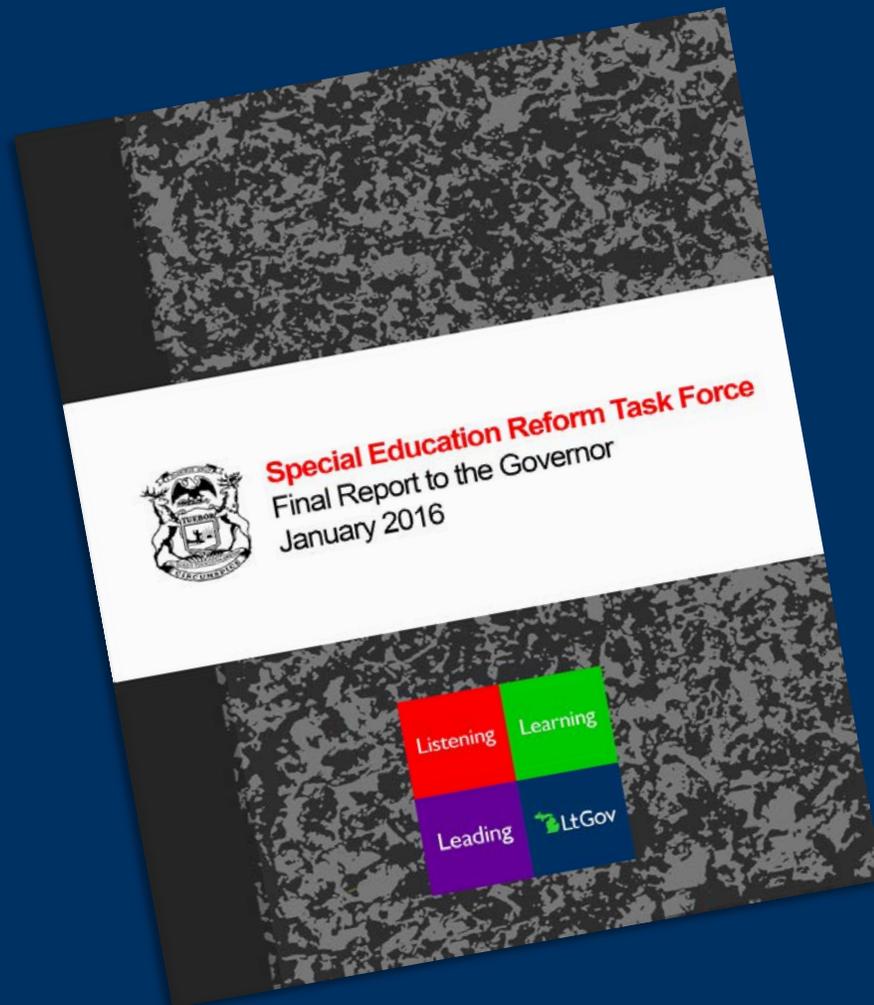
# Special Education Listening Tour

## Five key issue areas:

1. Develop a more inclusive and transparent rulemaking process
2. Increase access to, and improve the scope and quality of, services
3. End restraint and seclusion in schools
4. Create a better problem-solving process
5. Support parents with resources and options



# Special Education Reform Task Force



## Highlights

## **Develop a more inclusive and transparent rulemaking process**

- **Use standards of Administrative Procedures Act as the minimum**
- **Provide and promote opportunities for discussion on proposed rules**
- **Implement system for clear, unbiased rule revision analysis**
- **Increase number & duration of public hearings**

## **Increase access to, and improve the scope and quality of, services**

- **Create a strategic plan for implementation of Multi-Tiered System of Supports**
- **Develop initiatives for professional development of educators regarding MTSS and Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports**
- **Implement evidence-based behavioral initiatives**

## End restraint and seclusion in schools

- State Legislature should pass and Governor should sign legislation restricting use of restraint and seclusion to specified emergency situations
  - School personnel should be better trained
  - Use of Restraint and Seclusion should be reported to parents
  - Data on use of Restraint and Seclusion should be analyzed regularly

## **Create a better problem-solving process**

- **Convene annual roundtable of advocates, educators and administrators**
- **Create cadre of five specially trained mediators**
- **Encourage mediation and dissuade use of attorneys**
- **Analyze mediation data annually**
- **Continue surveying parents/guardians and school districts on use and outcome of mediation**

## **Create a better problem-solving process (cont.)**

- **Reinstate 10-day appeal for special education written complaints**
- **Promote state's written complaint process**
- **Seek outside consultation on existing processes**
- **Review allowable use of funds for attorney costs with school districts**
- **Provide guidance to school districts that a parent's team meeting request should be replied to within 10 days**

## Support parents with resources and options

- Ensure parents and guardians are fully informed of procedural safeguards and problem-solving options
- Promote Office of Special Education Help Desk
- Develop strategic plan for communication with families with a student with a disability
- Universities should review curriculum for teachers
- MDE should review current training opportunities for teachers

## **Support parents with resources and options (cont.)**

- **School districts should use common language with parents**
- **ISD parent advisory committee should promote activities**
- **Local districts and ISDs should include parents/guardians of students with disabilities in improvement planning process**

# Continuing the Work of the Task Force

- Governor's education workgroup
  - Monitor education system
  - Regularly review needs of parents/guardians and educators
  - Provide initiatives to Governor for improvement of system

# Special Thanks

- All Task Force members
- MDE Office of Special Education
- MI Integrated Behavior and Learning Support Initiative
- Staff in MDE, Governor's Office, state Legislature, and advocacy organizations