

# Resources

## **Michigan ASD Resources:**

**The Arc Michigan** promotes and protects the human rights of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The website includes a state map that readers can utilize to identify specific county chapters. The Arc staff contact lists are easily accessible and the website lists Board Members, as well as, committee and meeting dates. Current projects, position statements and joint links for Arc of Michigan include: Partners Advancing Self Determination, Michigan Alliance for Families, Pooled Amenities Trust, Work Incentives Planning and Assistance, Michigan Family Voices, Direct Care Worker Crisis and Public Benefits (i.e. Rethinking Guardianship). ARC of Michigan also provides an extensive Resource Center (i.e. 2020 SSA guidance, 2020 Tax guidance), in addition to current and archived newsletters.

**Autism Alliance of Michigan** promotes efforts to raise expectations and expand opportunities for people touched by autism across the lifespan. Their advocacy efforts focus on the needs of families across the state to access quality services through education, clinical care and community inclusion. Autism Alliance of Michigan offers numerous resources on their website, a newsletter, an insurance subcommittee, a voluntary autism registry and a neighborhood directory for autism-friendly businesses, therapists, medical providers and more. The MiNavigator program allows any Michigan resident or family living with autism to speak directly with an autism professional for consultation, case management, and/or connection to supports and services, including free GPS tracking devices for children and adults who wander dangerously from safety ([navigator@aaomi.org](mailto:navigator@aaomi.org)).

**Color of Autism** is a non-profit organization committed to educating and assisting African American families who are frequently confronted with late diagnosis of autism or misdiagnosis. Their goal is to help families identify the warning signs of autism early and help children reach their full potential. Color of Autism empowers families with information they can use to advocate for their child including: a tool kit to assist families in getting critical information within the first 100 days after an autism diagnosis, guidance for children who wander and for children who are sensitive to noise, Kohl's Autism Awareness, shopping guidance, estate planning and family stories.

**Early On Michigan** is a system for helping infants and toddlers (birth to age 3) and their families who have developmental delays or are at risk for delays due to certain health conditions. They partner with the Office of Special Education, Michigan Department of Education to help families find the social, health and educational services that will promote the development of infants and toddlers with special needs. To do so, Early On Michigan focuses on early identification and early referral to enhance the development of infants and toddlers with disabilities, to minimize their potential for delay and to recognize the significant brain development that occurs during a child's first three years of life.

[Family Center of Michigan](#) is a non-profit community organization that provides resources and preventative education to empower families to successfully navigate life's social, emotional, and physical challenges. The Family Center offers programs on a wide range of topics aimed at building strong families and helping parents raise children and teens who will become competent, caring and responsible community members. This website includes a list of available professional resources for: mental health support, substance abuse, community organizations, financial legal business, learning support, healthcare, community faith organizations and schools.

[Michigan Department of Education, Office of Special Education \(OSE\), Family Matters Resources](#) consist of brief, concise, and family-friendly fact sheets with information about special education topics, are accessible, and provided in three languages: English, Arabic and Spanish. Examples of topics include: Advocating for your child, Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA), Communicating for Student Success, Educational Development Plans (EDPs), Educational Placement and Least Restrictive Environment (LRE), Educational Teams and Roles, Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE), Navigating Extended Time Away from School, Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) for home and school, and others.

[Michigan Alliance for Families](#) connects families of children with disabilities with resources to help improve their children's education. MAF facilitates parent involvement and assists families in knowing their rights, effectively communicating their child's needs, including advising families how to help their child develop and learn. This website offers an extensive list of resources, disability information, a link for information about babies and toddlers and a listing of webinars and upcoming MAF events.

[Michigan Autism Program](#) provides extensive information about Autism Spectrum Disorders, including the State ASD Plan, legislative actions and Applied Behavior Analysis services. The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) maintains this website and includes links for Medicaid resources.

[Michigan Career & Technical Institute \(MCTI\)](#) is a universal access educational center for adults with autism and/or other disabilities in Michigan offering career assessment services that help students explore job options. MCTI has 13 training programs, each with an active advisory committee made up of people who work in that business industry and help ensure our curriculum and equipment meet business standards and needs. MCTI also offers medical and counseling services, occupational therapy, interpreters for deaf students, classroom and job accommodations, and job placement services. MCTI is located on the shore of Pine Lake in Barry County, 20 miles southeast of Kalamazoo, MI. Its campus features fully accessible classrooms, dormitory rooms, a cafeteria, library and on-campus apartments to give students the best experience.

[Michigan Family to Family Health Information Center \(MI F2F\)](#) shares information and resources with families of children and youth with special health care needs. MI F2F is staffed by family members with experience raising a child with special health care needs and helps families navigate the maze of services to locate professionals who will meet their needs. Within the MI F2F website, there is a link to the Family Center for Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs. This Family Center is also a parent-directed Michigan center affiliated with Children's Special Health Care Services (CSHCS) and the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS). Children are not required to be enrolled in CSHCS to receive services from the Family Center, which includes a family phone line and resources for family centered care.

[Michigan Rehabilitation Services \(MRS\)/Bureau of Services for Blind Persons \(BSBP\) – State Vocational Rehabilitation \(VR\)](#) provides specialized employment and education-related services and training to assist teens and adults with autism and/or other disabilities in becoming employed or retaining employment. In addition, VR and its partners provide statewide school-to-work, postsecondary, and adult life programs to help individuals with disabilities succeed in secondary and postsecondary education and transition to employment. BSBP specifically serves individuals who are blind and/or legally blind who may also have autism and/or other disabilities which includes adjustment counseling and training in skills for daily living without vision for eligible candidates including adaptive equipment. VR partners with businesses to provide education on how to effectively employ individuals with disabilities and provide accommodations to retain employees. Additionally, VR utilizes their internal Occupational Therapists to provide worksite evaluations, ergonomic assessments, and develop reasonable accommodation plans. MRS and BSBP collaborates with individuals with disabilities and business partners to empower individuals to experience sustainable careers and grow professionally.

[Michigan Department of Education MiFamily](#) facilitates the [MiFamily: Michigan's Family Engagement Framework](#) which provides research based resources and tools for schools to further improve and develop family engagement. The MiFamily website offers a short video and downloadable document offered as the first in a series of support documents to help educators support families in their child's learning.

[Special Education Mediation Services \(SEMS\)](#) also known as MI Kids 1st provides mediation, facilitation and training towards working through disagreements between students, parents and educators so that students with disabilities receive the services they need to develop and succeed in school free of charge. The mediation process includes five steps: contact with SEMS by phone/completion of service request form, request for information about the student and the caller's concerns, explanation how SEMS can assist, contact with the other party for agreement to participate in mediation and coordination of mediation services with a neutral mediation facilitator through a local resolution center. Training sessions include a number of workshops including "Effective IEP Team Meeting Participation Techniques" and "Conflict Resolution and Communication in Special Education".

[\*\*The Statewide Autism Resources and Training Project \(START\)\*\*](#) the START Project, funded by the Michigan Department of Education, Office of Special Education since 2001, provides training, technical assistance, and resources to school-based teams serving students with ASD to increase local capacity, promote collaboration across the state, and create a comprehensive model for serving students with ASD. Families are invited to be members of K-12 and secondary transition intensive training teams to work with their child's school team to improve the implementation of evidence-based practices. Parent representatives participate with Regional Collaborative Networks (RCN) to address state and regional priorities focused on training, coaching, peer to peer support, transition, and family engagement. Resources and information are available on the website. START is housed in the Grand Valley Autism Education Center and works with families, schools and, community partners to support students with ASD to become active, engaged members in their schools and local communities. Evidence-based training, technical assistance, coaching support, peer to peer support and resources are available to school-based teams and families. The website includes parent information and family resources such as sibling support.

[\*\*Western Michigan University Autism Center of Excellence \(ACE\)\*\*](#) works towards improving the lives of individuals on the autism spectrum and their families with focus on personnel preparation and the creation/dissemination of evidence-based assessments and treatments. ACE provides training videos, conferences, services and employment opportunities for individuals with autism, their families and professionals in the school, medical and community-based settings.

### **National Resources**

[\*\*The Arc\*\*](#) promotes and protects the human rights of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and actively supports their full inclusion and participation in the community throughout their lifetimes through innovative programs. The Arc has 8 initiatives: Criminal Justice, Education, Future Planning, Employment, Health, Technology, Travel and Volunteering.

[\*\*Association for Science in Autism Treatment \(ASAT\)\*\*](#) promotes awareness about autism treatment through Treatment Summaries that include a brief description, an assessment of the scientific research supporting or refuting that treatment, and key references for additional information. ASAT helps parents navigate the maze of autism treatment options and provides information how parents / their child can overcome some of the day-to-day challenges.

[\*\*Autism Internet Modules \(AIM\)\*\*](#) designed to provide high-quality information and professional development for anyone who supports, instructs, works with, or lives with someone with autism spectrum disorder. Each module guides you through case studies, instructional videos, pre- and post-assessments, a glossary, and much more. AIM modules are available at no cost and certificate and credit options are available for a fee.

[Autism Focused Intervention Resources and Modules \(AFIRM\)](#) offers 27 modules regarding evidence-based practices (EBPs) focused on interventions for students and individuals with autism spectrum disorder (ASD). This includes topics in applied behavior analysis (ABA), understanding autism, data collection, and more. Parents and providers can visit the website and complete courses of interest. Each module is approximately 1.5-2 hours long.

[Autism Distance Education Parent Training Modules \(ADEPT\)](#) are available from UC Davis MIND Institute. Each module is 10-lessons in length, interactive, self-paced and online to help provide parents with tools and training to effectively teach their child with autism and other related neurodevelopmental disorders using applied behavior analysis (ABA) techniques. The MIND Institute also provides educational resources to the community including access to experts in neurodevelopmental disabilities such as autism, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder, Chromosome 22, Down Syndrome and fragile X syndrome.

[Autism Speaks](#) is dedicated to promoting solutions, across the spectrum and throughout the life span, for the needs of individuals with autism and their families through advocacy and support, increasing understanding and acceptance of people with autism and advancing research into causes and better interventions for autism spectrum disorder and related conditions. Numerous [Tool Kits](#) are available free of charge to families and providers on a variety of ASD related topics.

[Beach Center](#) is one of 15 Life Span Institutes at the University of Kansas that includes a multidisciplinary research and training center committed to making a significant and sustainable positive difference in the quality of life of individuals and their families impacted by disability and the professionals who support them. The Beach Center provides support for: Supported Decision Making, Families, Family Employment Awareness Training and Self-Determination.

[Center for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#) CDC provides essential data on ASD and searches for factors that put children at risk for ASD, as well as risk factors and possible causes. CDC also develops resources that help identify children with ASD as early as possible. Fact sheets, videos and research articles are available for review.

[Charting the LifeCourse](#) was created by families to help individuals and families of all abilities and all ages develop a vision for a good life, think about what they need to know and do, identify how to find or develop supports, and discover what it takes to live the lives they want to live. Individuals and families can focus on their current situation and stage of life and look ahead to think about life experiences that will help move them toward an inclusive, productive life in the future. Charting the LifeCourse was originally created for people with disabilities; however, this universally-designed framework may be used by any person or family making a life plan. Tools for conversations, learning materials and videos are available on the website.

[Iris Center](#) is supported by the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP), located at Vanderbilt University's Peabody College and offers a wide variety

of high-quality, online open educational resources about evidence-based instructional and behavioral practices to improve the educational outcomes of all students, especially struggling learners and those with disabilities. The IRIS Modules offer in-depth looks at topics relevant to educators and includes an ASD module.

[\*\*Kennedy Krieger Institute Center for Autism and Related Disorders \(CARD\)\*\*](#) offers a training program that addresses social-communication difficulties that affects the lives of children with autism spectrum disorder and their families. Training methods vary from child-specific consultations to system-wide change for a wide range of educational components including empowering and working with families, early intervention models and consultations, specific intervention strategy training and consultations for classroom design and supervision.

[\*\*National Employment Team \(NET\)\*\*](#) is a national network of 78 public vocational rehabilitation (VR) programs, including Michigan Rehabilitation Services and the Bureau of Services for Blind Persons. The NET supports a united or “one company” approach across public VR programs to create employment opportunities. The NET operates the Talent Acquisition Portal® (TAP) in partnership with disABLEDperson, Inc. TAP is a system which includes both a national talent pool of vocational rehabilitation candidates looking for employment and a job posting system for businesses looking to hire individuals with disabilities. The NET supports a dual customer base, meeting the employment needs of business through the qualified applicants and support services provided by the public VR system. Individuals can benefit from viewing jobs that span across the country and having a single point of contact through the NET who offer support services regarding disability employment.

[\*\*National Technical Assistance Center for Transition \(NTACT\)\*\*](#) is funded by the U.S. Department of Education’s Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) to assist with implementation of evidence-based practices to ensure that students with disabilities, including those with significant disabilities, graduate prepared for success in postsecondary education and employment. NTACT works with State and Local Education Agencies, as well as, State and Local vocational rehabilitation (VR) service providers to improve the outcomes for youth with disabilities by disseminating resources and tools regarding effective practices and the use of data for program improvement through strategic planning.

[\*\*Organization for Autism Research \(OAR\)\*\*](#) applying research to the challenges of autism and using science to address social, educational, and treatment concerns of self-advocates, parents, autism professionals, and caregivers. OAR disseminates and provides free online and print resources to members of the autism community which directly impact quality of life and are considered evidence based. OAR’s work promotes positive outcomes in education, communication, self care, social skills, employment, behavior, and adult and community living.

[\*\*Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services \(OSERS\)\*\*](#) is committed to improving results and outcomes for people with disabilities of all ages. OSERS provides a wide array of supports to parents and individuals, school districts and states in two main areas: special education and vocational rehabilitation, through two main components: OSEP and RSA.

[Ohio Center for Autism and Low Incidence \(OCALI\)](#) works to build the capacity of school districts and other education agencies to improve their instruction and support for individuals with autism. The Autism Center also provides support to families of children diagnosed with autism through booklets, parent videos and opportunities to learn what strategies parents are utilizing / reading / watching / listening to and being inspired by. The Ohio's Parent Guide to ASD covers a wide range of topics of interest to families with reference materials, books, websites and names of organizations where additional information can be found.

[Pennsylvania Training and Technical Assistance Network \(PaTTAN\)](#) The PaTTAN Autism Initiative is committed to helping educators and parents meet the educational needs of children and young adults with ASD. PaTTAN offers ABA-focused training and on-site technical support to a wide range of public school autism support programs through summer institutes, ongoing professional development and webinars.

[Transition Tennessee:](#) offers online and in-person resources to prepare transition-age youth with disabilities for life after high school. Topics include: Guiding Principles, Age-Appropriate Transition Assessments, Developing a High-Quality Transition Plan, Pathways to Employment, Pathways to Community Life, Pathways to Self-Determination, Pathways to Postsecondary Education and Supports/Partnerships. There are three sections for specific groups of readers: Educators (teachers and school administrators), Pre-ETS (counselors and service providers), as well as, an upcoming section for students regarding self-advocacy. Most pages within this website require the reader to log in/register for access. Webcasts are offered on a regular basis and previous webcasts, as well as, summary notes are available without a log-in requirement.

[Think College](#) is a national organization dedicated to developing, expanding, and improving inclusive higher education options for people with developmental and intellectual disabilities. With a commitment to equity and excellence, Think College supports evidence-based and student-centered research and practice by generating and sharing knowledge, guiding institutional change, informing public policy and engaging with students, professionals and families. This website offers online learning modules, webinars, peer mentor training, family resources, in addition to information regarding colleges and employment opportunities

[Virginia Commonwealth University \(VCU\) Autism Center of Excellence](#) is a comprehensive website with evidence-based resources for professionals and parents related to autism spectrum disorder (ASD) across the age span. It includes a parent portal, an educator portal, webinars, seminars, a parent playbook, online courses, a resource page, information on transition and employment, and much more.