

# Why It Matters: Indicators 1-14

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# Why It Matters: Indicators 1 through 14

## Indicator 1: Graduation

### Graduation Matters for Students with an Individualized Education Program (IEP)

- High school graduation is one of the critical steps students take toward independence, meaningful work and realizing their dreams.
- Graduation rates are one indication of the degree to which educational services support student success.

### Michigan Information on Graduation

Michigan uses the exiter graduation rate for the State Performance Plan/Annual Performance Report (SPP/APR) in alignment with the federal regulations.

**What is Michigan Doing to Improve Graduation Rates among Students with an IEP?** [Michigan's MTSS Technical Assistance Center](#) (MiMTSS) promotes positive behavior supports and literacy in schools throughout the state in collaboration with intermediate school districts. MiMTSS works with schools to develop infrastructures to ensure these practices can be implemented with fidelity and will endure over time.

### For More Information

[Michigan's Graduation Requirements](#)

Center for Educational Performance and Information (CEPI), [Graduation and Dropout Review and Comment Application \(GAD\) User's Guide](#)

National High School Center content has been incorporated into the [College and Career Readiness Center](#). This is where you will find graduation and other positive postsecondary outcome resources.

[Michigan's State Performance Plan/Annual Performance Report \(SPP/APR\)](#)

## Indicator 2: Dropout

### Data on Dropout Matters for Students with an Individualized Education Program (IEP)

- National data demonstrate students with an IEP have an increased risk of dropping out of school and high dropout rates are an indication of barriers to learning exist.

- Students with an IEP who drop out of school have more difficulty attaining meaningful employment and postsecondary education.
- Understanding the early warning signs which lead to dropout is critical to ensure student success.

### **Michigan Information on Dropout**

Michigan reports dropout rates in the State Performance Plan/Annual Performance Report (SPP/APR), the Consolidated State Performance Report (CSPR), and the Michigan Cohort Graduation and Dropout Reports. The APR and CSPR use a dropout event rate based on federal reporting requirements using the following formula:

[Event rate = (# of youth with an IEP who dropped out of high school in one year) divided by the (# of youth with an IEP who were enrolled in grades 9-12 in the same year)] times 100. This includes students ages 14-21 who were in ungraded programs and matched by age to grades 9-12.

### **What is Michigan Doing to Improve Dropout Rates among Students with an IEP?**

Educators are using the early warning signs to make improvements for students with an IEP by analyzing grades, course failure and attendance data related to graduation and dropout. These factors also impact successful transitions and positive postsecondary outcomes. This integrated approach strengthens the support system for students.

- [Michigan's MTSS Technical Assistance Center](#) (MiMTSS) conducts early intervention strategies in elementary schools. By supporting students in becoming more successful academically, socially and behaviorally, students may stay on track through secondary school and decrease their risk of dropping out.

### **For More Information**

Center for Educational Performance and Information (CEPI), [Graduation and Dropout Review and Comment Application \(GAD\) User's Guide](#)

[National Dropout Prevention Center for Students with Disabilities \(NDPC-SD\)](#)

[Michigan's State Performance Plan/Annual Performance Report \(SPP/APR\)](#)

## **Indicator 3: Statewide Assessment**

**\*\*In March 2021, Michigan received a waiver for federal accountability requirements that include the need for at least 95 percent student participation on the state summative assessments.\*\***

### **Statewide Assessment Matters for Students with an Individualized Education Program (IEP)**

- Statewide assessment provides the opportunity for more meaningful access to and achievement in the general education curriculum.
- Statewide assessment encourages parents and teachers to have high expectations for students regardless of individual differences.
- Statewide assessment results inform school efforts to improve instruction and learning for all students.

### **Michigan Information on Statewide Assessment**

The Michigan Student Test of Educational Progress (M-STEP) assessments are administered electronically with a paper option as an accommodation in the spring only. English language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies are assessed at different grade levels. Starting in 2019, Michigan began using the PSAT (from College Board) as the statewide assessment for English language arts and mathematics in grade 8. Michigan uses MI-Access as the alternate assessment. The alternate assessment is designed for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities and is based on alternate achievement standards and are aligned to Michigan's alternate content standards in English language arts, mathematics, science and social studies. For high school, the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) is used as the general assessment for English language arts and mathematics.

### **What is Michigan Doing to Improve Assessment Results among Students with an IEP?**

In October 2005, the Michigan State Board of Education approved the Vision and Principles of Universal Education as a framework and foundation for policy development by the state board, the Michigan Department of Education (MDE), intermediate school districts and member districts. The Vision and Principles of Universal Education reflects the beliefs each person deserves and needs a concerned, accepting educational community which values diversity and provides a comprehensive system of individual supports from birth to adulthood. The activities listed below provides additional information pertaining to improving assessment results.

- Within the MDE, there is significant cross-office work in the Division of Educator, Student and School Supports in the development and dissemination of information on state content standards and high school reform.
- The [Michigan's MTSS Technical Assistance Center](#) (MiMTSS) provides Response to Intervention (RtI) strategies to improve access to the general education curriculum for students with an IEP and to improve academic and behavioral performance.
- The Office of Educational Assessment and Accountability (OEAA) and the Office of Special Education (OSE) have provided coordinated professional development opportunities to member districts on the Michigan Statewide Assessment Selection Guidance document for participation in statewide assessments and continues to have this resource posted on the MDE web page. This will assist IEP teams to determine the appropriate assessment for each student. The assessment selection guidance was revised with additional clarification provided in March of 2018 and two online training modules, one for educators and one for IEP teams, posted in August of 2018.
- Michigan uses online and computer adaptive assessments which include the needs of students with an IEP. Michigan educators and representatives from the OEAA and OSE have participated in focus groups, item review, pilot testing and field testing of potential future assessments and testing engines for both general and alternate assessments. Special care has been taken to look at all assessment options to ensure the proper accommodations for students with an IEP are included. Supports and accommodations available to students, including students with an IEP, is a topic revisited every year so options available to students can change as technology changes. Changes to the participation level of the MI-Access assessment in 2019 was to include an explicit adaptation suggestion for students taking this level of the alternate assessment who are blind or visually impaired. While the flexibility for adaptation for access has always been available, this new explicit suggestion highlights this for assessment administrators.
- Michigan is currently working to create new alternate content standards in science, aligned to the most recently adopted K-12 science standards for the state. These will serve as the foundation for science instruction for students with the most significant cognitive impairments and will serve as the foundation to a future revision to the MI-Access science assessment.

### **For More Information**

Michigan Department of Education (MDE), [Division of Educator, Student and School Supports \(DESSS\)](#)



[Michigan Student Test of Educational Progress \(M-STEP\)](#)

[MI-Access \(Alternate Assessment based on Alternate Achievement Standards\)](#)

Michigan Department of Education (MDE), [Office of School Improvement](#)

[Michigan's MTSS Technical Assistance Center \(MiMTSS\)](#)

[Alt+Shift](#)

[Michigan's State Performance Plan/Annual Performance Report \(SPP/APR\)](#)

## **Indicator 4A: Suspension/Expulsion**

### **Data on Suspension/Expulsion Matters for Students with an Individualized Education Program (IEP)**

- Data on the rates of suspension/expulsion for students with an IEP prompts Intermediate School Districts (ISD) and member districts to examine how discipline decisions are made.
- ISDs and member districts with high rates of suspension/expulsion receive technical assistance (TA) from the Office of Special Education (OSE) regarding additional supports to enable students with an IEP to remain in school and receive appropriate instruction.

### **Michigan Information on Suspension/Expulsion Rates**

ISDs and member districts report disciplinary actions for students who have an IEP through the Michigan Student Data System (MSDS). ISDs and member districts report specific disciplinary actions for each student every school year.

The OSE identifies and monitors an ISD or member district if more than five percent of its students with an IEP received out-of-school suspensions/expulsions for greater than ten days cumulatively during the school year and had at least 5 incidences. The OSE reviews the ISD and/or member district's policies, procedures and practices relating to the development and implementation of IEPs, the use of positive behavior interventions and supports, and alignment with procedural safeguards to ensure compliance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). ISDs and member districts are required to revise those policies, procedures and practices which may lead to inappropriate suspensions and expulsions.

### **What is Michigan Doing to Improve Suspension/Expulsion Rates among Students with an IEP?**

On September 12, 2006, the State Board of Education adopted a policy on positive behavior support stating each Intermediate School District and member district

should implement a system of school-wide positive behavior support strategies. The vision of this policy is to advance a proactive, positive, skill-building approach for the teaching and learning of successful student behavior. Positive behavioral interventions and supports provide effective strategies which promote appropriate social behavior and respectful learning environments.

- [Michigan’s MTSS Technical Assistance Center](#) (MiMTSS) works with Intermediate School Districts and member districts to develop capacity for Positive Behavior Support implementation by providing professional development, TA and resource materials. Member districts with a significant discrepancy in the rate of suspensions and expulsions have priority when applying to participate in technical assistance.
- Catamaran provides ISDs and member districts with feedback regarding their suspension and expulsion data to assist improvement efforts.
- Intermediate School Districts and member districts with significant discrepancy in rates of suspension/expulsion participate in focused monitoring and are provided with information and TA.

#### **For More Information**

[Michigan State Board of Education’s Positive Behavior Support Policy](#)

National Technical Assistance Center on [Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports \(PBIS\)](#)

[Michigan’s MTSS Technical Assistance Center](#) (MiMTSS)

[Michigan’s State Performance Plan/Annual Performance Report \(SPP/APR\)](#)

### **Indicator 4B: Suspension/Expulsion by Race/Ethnicity**

#### **Data on Suspension/Expulsion Matters for Students with an Individualized Education Program (IEP)**

- Data on the rates of suspension/expulsion for students with an IEP prompts Intermediate School Districts (ISD) and member districts to examine how discipline decisions are made.
- ISDs and member districts with high rates of suspension/expulsion receive technical assistance (TA) from the Office of Special Education (OSE) regarding additional supports to enable students with an IEP to remain in school and receive appropriate instruction.

## **Michigan Information on Suspension/Expulsion Rates by Race/Ethnicity**

ISDs and member districts report disciplinary actions for students who have an IEP through the Michigan Student Data System (MSDS). ISDs and member districts report specific disciplinary actions for each student with an IEP every school year.

The OSE identifies and monitors an ISD and member districts if more than five percent of its students with an IEP received out-of-school suspensions/expulsions for one or more racial/ethnic groups for greater than ten days cumulatively during the school year and had at least 5 incidences. The OSE reviews the ISD and member districts' policies, procedures and practices relating to the development and implementation of IEPs, the use of positive behavior interventions and supports, and alignment with procedural safeguards to ensure compliance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). ISDs and member districts are required to revise those policies, procedures and/or practices which may lead to inappropriate suspensions and expulsions.

### **What is Michigan Doing to Improve Suspension/Expulsion Rates among Students with an IEP?**

On September 12, 2006, the State Board of Education adopted a policy on positive behavior support stating each ISD and member district should implement a system of school-wide positive behavior support strategies. The vision of this policy is to advance a proactive, positive, skill-building approach for the teaching and learning of successful student behavior. Positive behavioral interventions and supports provide effective strategies which promote appropriate social behavior and respectful learning environments.

- [Michigan's MTSS Technical Assistance Center](#) (MiMTSS) works with Intermediate School Districts and member districts to develop capacity for Positive Behavior Support implementation by providing professional development, TA and resource materials. MiMTSS is also working with the National Center on Positive Behavioral Interventions and supports to develop a model to address disproportionality in regards to race and discipline. Intermediate School Districts and member districts with a significant discrepancy in the rate of suspensions and expulsions have priority when applying to participate in technical assistance.
- Catamaran provides ISDs and member districts with feedback regarding their suspension and expulsion data to assist improvement efforts.
- Intermediate School Districts and member districts with significant discrepancy in rates of suspension/expulsion by race/ethnicity—and have policies, procedures and practices which contribute to the discrepancy are provided with TA.

## **For More Information**

[Michigan State Board of Education's Positive Behavior Support Policy](#)

National Technical Assistance Center on [Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports \(PBIS\)](#)

[Michigan's MTSS Technical Assistance Center \(MiMTSS\)](#)

[Michigan's State Performance Plan/Annual Performance Report \(SPP/APR\)](#)

## **Indicator 5: Educational Environments: 5 Year Old Kindergarten students and Ages 6-21**

### **Educational Environments Matter for Students with an Individualized Education Program (IEP)**

Educating students with an IEP in general education classrooms, to the maximum extent appropriate, matters because the environment:

- Provides, with tiered supports, flexible instructional methods and materials, and collaborative practices between general education, special education and families, for student access to and achievement in the general education curriculum.
- Creates an inclusive and accepting educational community while providing greater social opportunities with the student's peer group.
- Supports educators, parents and all students to have expectations for successful academic performance and appropriate behavior.

### **Michigan Information on Educational Environments**

One of the requirements of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) is to enable students with an IEP to receive their education in the general education classroom to the maximum extent appropriate. Through the use of flexible instructional methodologies and materials, tiered supports, and collaboration between general education and special education providers, students with an IEP can achieve positive academic outcomes. The IDEA refers to this as the "least restrictive environment." The appropriate environment may be different for each student because the least restrictive environment is individually determined based on the student's unique educational needs.

## **What is Michigan Doing to Improve Educational Environment Rates among Students with an IEP?**

State Board of Education policies on Positive Behavior Support and Universal Education create a framework for member districts to understand the importance of inclusive and constructive educational environments for all students. Additionally, there are several initiatives funded under the IDEA through the Office of Special Education (OSE) to provide support to ISDs and member districts in meeting the needs of students with an IEP.

- The OSE reviews educational environments data annually. Member districts whose educational environments percentages vary significantly from the state targets are considered for monitoring activities.
- The OSE assists ISDs to work with their member districts in reviewing their policies and procedures related to educational environments and requires member districts, as needed, to develop and implement corrective action plans.

### **For More Information**

[Michigan's MTSS Technical Assistance Center \(MiMTSS\)](#)

[Alt+Shift](#)

[Statewide Autism Resources and Training \(START\)](#)

[Michigan's State Performance Plan/Annual Performance Report \(SPP/APR\)](#)

## **Indicator 6: Preschool Educational Environments: Preschool Ages 3-5**

### **Educational Environments Matter for Students with an Individualized Education Program (IEP)**

Educating students with an IEP in age-appropriate general education classrooms, to the maximum extent possible, matters because this environment:

- Supports access to and achievement in the general education curriculum.
- Creates an inclusive and accepting educational community.
- Supports educators, parents and all students to have expectations for successful academic performance and appropriate behavior.

Inclusive programs offer many benefits for children with and without disabilities, families of children with and without disabilities, and the community. Those benefits include, but are not limited to:

- Development of meaningful relationships between children with and without disabilities.
- Children without disabilities serve as peer role models to children with disabilities.
- Higher, developmentally appropriate, expectations are placed on children with disabilities.
- Participation increases in parents who have children with and without disabilities.
- Greater opportunities for collaboration between the general education setting and the specialists providing the therapies to the children.

### **Michigan Information on Educational Environments**

One of the goals of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) is to enable students with an IEP to receive their education in the general education classroom to the maximum extent appropriate. The IDEA refers to this as the “least restrictive environment.” The appropriate environment may be different for each student because the least restrictive environment is individually determined based on the student’s unique educational needs.

### **What is Michigan Doing to Improve Educational Environment Rates among Students with an IEP?**

The Office of Great Start (OGS) reviews preschool educational environments data annually. Member districts whose educational environments percentages vary significantly from the state targets are considered for targeted training and technical assistance (TA).

- OGS developed and disseminated two TA documents which helped member districts to determine appropriate educational environment codes. The educational environment worksheet provided a detailed explanation of each code. The second was an educational environment decision tree document which assisted districts to select the appropriate environment codes.
- OGS and its TA grantee, Clinton County Regional Educational Service Agency (CCRESA), recorded a webinar to help districts understand and utilize the developed documents on determining appropriate educational environments.

- Dr. Barbara Smith created an [IDEA Provisions Supporting Preschool Inclusion handout](#) which briefly outlines provisions in the IDEA supporting inclusive practices in the preschool.
- U.S. Department of Education and Health and Human Services released a [Policy Statement on Inclusion of Children with Disabilities in Early Childhood Programs](#) on September 14, 2015. It states all young children with disabilities should have access to inclusive high-quality early childhood programs, where individualized and appropriate support in meeting high expectations are provided. There is also an [executive summary](#) of this policy statement.

### **For More Information**

[Clinton County Regional Educational Service Agency \(CCRESA\), Early On Training and Technical Assistance \(EOT&TA\)](#)

Michigan Department of Education (MDE), [Early Childhood Special Education - Ages 3-5](#)

[Michigan's State Performance Plan/Annual Performance Report \(SPP/APR\)](#)

## **Indicator 7: Preschool Outcomes**

### **Preschool Outcomes Matter for Students with an Individualized Education Program (IEP)**

- Federal law requires a child to be assessed in three areas: social-emotional, knowledge and skills, and appropriate behaviors. This is also an early childhood education best practice.
- Children are more successful when teachers and service providers use assessment data about the whole child when planning and delivering instruction and services.

### **Michigan Information on Preschool Outcomes**

Michigan's preschool special education programs are required to collect information on the performance of children entering and exiting those programs. The Office of Special Education (OSE) and the Office of Great Start (OGS) work together to collect and report data for this indicator.

### **What is Michigan Doing to Improve Preschool Outcomes Rates among Students with an IEP?**

The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) developed a procedural and technical assistance (TA) handbook, with accompanying online training sessions. The purpose

of these materials is to clarify all aspects of data collection about reporting child outcomes and to use data to improve preschool outcomes for children. The materials incorporate:

- The OGS will develop awareness level opportunities, provide TA to preschool teachers and service providers about measurement tools and data collection, and provide sustained learning opportunities.
- The OGS and HighScope Educational Research Foundation will monitor data measuring this indicator and develop additional improvement activities to improve the system:
  - Individually, to improve children’s IEPs based on results.
  - Locally, to support districts in improving outcomes and to support districts not meeting targets.
  - Statewide, to improve policy and program decision making, including personnel development.

### **For More Information**

Michigan Department of Education (MDE), [Early Childhood Special Education - Ages 3-5](#)

[Early Childhood Training Center](#)

[Clinton County Regional Educational Service Agency \(CCRESA\), Early On® Training and Technical Assistance \(EOT&TA\)](#)

[Michigan’s State Performance Plan/Annual Performance Report \(SPP/APR\)](#)

## **Indicator 8: Parent Involvement**

### **Parent Involvement Matters for Students with an IEP**

Research suggests students with involved parents are more likely to:

- Earn higher grades and test scores
- Be promoted and earn credits
- Attend school more regularly
- Demonstrate appropriate social skills
- Graduate from high school



- Go on to higher education

## **Michigan Information on Parent Involvement**

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) requires member districts to develop ways to involve parents in their child's education. The IDEA refers to parent involvement 1,299 times throughout the entire act, describing parent participation in the Individualized Education Program (IEP) process as well as identification, evaluation, educational placement and all other parent rights under the law.

Michigan sent surveys to all parents of preschool children (ages 3 and over) and to one-third of all parents of school-aged children (kindergarten through age 26) who receive special education and related services. For the State Performance Plan/Annual Performance Report (SPP/APR), data for school-aged students is reported only through age 21. There are separate versions of the survey for parents of preschool children and parents of school-aged students.

The parent survey measures families' perceptions of the schools' efforts to involve them in their child's education. This indicator is not about parents taking the initiative to become involved, nor is the indicator about parent satisfaction. School efforts for involving families include establishing and maintaining relationships, engaging families as partners in improving the academic and behavioral performance of their children, and jointly planning and participating in IEP team meetings.

### **What is Michigan doing to improve parent involvement rates among students with an IEP?**

- Parent survey results were reported to member districts for use in their planning.
- Michigan's Grant Funded Initiatives are working to identify the key evidence-based practices of parent involvement to connect this indicator with student outcomes.
- Wayne State University maintains a public website to help districts and parents access and interpret parent survey results by member district.

### **For More Information**

[Michigan Alliance for Families](#)

Wayne State University: [Parent Survey Results](#)

[Part B Samples of the Parent Surveys \(for reference only\)](#)

[Michigan's State Performance Plan/Annual Performance Report \(SPP/APR\)](#)

## **Indicator 9: Disproportionate Representation in Special Education and Related Services**

### **Disproportionate Representation Matters for Students with an IEP**

When ISDs and member districts inappropriately identify students for special education and related services, it may result in educational and economic consequences such as:

- Limited access to the general education curriculum with appropriate supports
- Lowered expectations
- Poor school attendance
- High dropout rates
- Low graduation rates
- Higher rates of unemployment
- Increased likelihood of incarceration
- Increased discipline

### **Michigan Information on Disproportionate Representation in Special Education and Related Services**

The Michigan Department of Education (MDE), Office of Special Education (OSE) monitors ISDs which have a two-year pattern of over-representation of racial/ethnic groups (American Indian or Alaska Native, Asian, Black or African-American, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, White, or Hispanic or Latino) in special education and related services.

The monitoring process determines if the over-representation is the result of inappropriate identification policies, procedures or practices.

### **What is Michigan doing to improve disproportionate representation rates among students with an IEP?**

Michigan addresses disproportionate representation through data verification, monitoring, corrective action plans and technical assistance to ISDs and member districts as needed.

- The OSE provides technical assistance to increase awareness of the impact of disproportionate representation and to improve identification policies, procedures and practices.

- [Michigan's MTSS Technical Assistance Center \(MiMTSS\)](#) provides member districts with technical assistance to implement a Multi-Tier System of Supports (MTSS) approach to working with students facing challenges in the general education classroom prior to considering a referral for special education services.

### **For More Information**

[Michigan Department of Education \(MDE\) Office of Special Education \(OSE\) Disproportionate Representation Resources](#)

[U.S. Department of Education](#)

[Michigan's State Performance Plan/Annual Performance Report \(SPP/APR\)](#)

## **Indicator 10: Disproportionate Representation in Specific Disability Categories**

### **Disproportionate Representation Matters for Students with an IEP**

When ISDs and member districts inappropriately identify students for special education and related services, it may result in educational and economic consequences such as:

- Limited access to the general education curriculum with appropriate supports
- Lowered expectations
- Poor school attendance
- High dropout rates
- Low graduation rates
- Higher rates of unemployment
- Increased likelihood of incarceration
- Increased discipline

### **Michigan Information on Disproportionate Representation in Specific Disability Categories**

The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) Office of Special Education (OSE), monitors ISDs which have a two-year pattern of over-representation of racial/ethnic groups (American Indian or Alaska Native, Asian, Black or African-American, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, White, or Hispanic or Latino) in specific disability

categories (cognitive impairment, emotional impairment, specific learning disability, speech and language impairment, other health impairment, and autism).

The monitoring process determines if the over-representation is the result of inappropriate identification policies, procedures or practices.

### **What is Michigan doing to improve disproportionate representation rates among students with an IEP?**

Michigan addresses disproportionate representation through data verification, monitoring, corrective action plans and technical assistance to ISDs and member districts as needed.

- The OSE provides technical assistance to increase awareness of the impact of disproportionate representation and to improve identification policies, procedures and practices.
- [Michigan's MTSS Technical Assistance Center](#) (MiMTSS) provides member districts with technical assistance to implement a tiered approach to working with students facing challenges in the general education classroom prior to considering a referral for special education services.

### **For More Information**

[Michigan Department of Education \(MDE\) Office of Special Education \(OSE\) Disproportionate Representation Resources](#)

[U.S. Department of Education](#)

[Michigan's State Performance Plan/Annual Performance Report \(SPP/APR\)](#)

## **Indicator 11: Child Find**

### **Child Find Matters for Students with an Individualized Education Program (IEP)**

Meeting required evaluation timelines matters for children with an IEP and their parents because it:

- Provides a predictable, timely process for the potential need for the delivery of special education programs and services.
- Indicates member districts are compliant with federal and state requirements which will assist in contributing to open collaboration between families and school personnel.

## **Michigan Information on Child Find**

Michigan is required to have policies and procedures in place to ensure all children suspected of having a disability are identified, located and evaluated within specific timelines. Michigan has established a 30-school-day timeline to evaluate and provide notice of an offer of a free appropriate public education or determination of ineligibility for a child suspected of having a disability. This timeline is documented in the Michigan Administrative Rules for Special Education (MARSE) (R40.1721b(1)). The timeline begins when the member district receives signed parental consent to evaluate the child. The timeline may be extended if agreed to by both the parent and the district.

### **What is Michigan Doing to Improve Child Find Rates among Students with an IEP?**

The MDE is committed to ensuring both the requirements and the intent of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) are implemented and met.

- MDE continues to implement improvements in child find practices and procedures to ensure improved rates of compliance with federal requirements.
- MDE continues to collaborate with targeted stakeholders to review and update statewide policies and procedures, as necessary.
- MDE continues to improve and refine data collection for this indicator.
- MDE continues to provide training, technical assistance and support to districts.

### **For More Information**

Michigan's [Catamaran](#)

Policy and Guidance Updates—[Building the Legacy](#): IDEA 2004

[Michigan's State Performance Plan/Annual Performance Report \(SPP/APR\)](#)

## **Indicator 12: Early Childhood Transition**

### **Early Childhood Transition Matters for Children with an Individualized Education Program (IEP)**

- The earlier services are provided, the greater the chance a child can begin school ready to learn.

- Knowledge of the supportive services provided to children before the age of three will enhance the preschool planning process.

### **Michigan Information on Early Childhood Transition**

Early childhood transition is an effort to promote successful transitions between infant/toddler programs, preschool programs and public school programs for young children with disabilities and their families.

In Michigan, children from birth through age two with disabilities are supported by Early On and sometimes special education services. Transition data are collected to help ensure that as children grow, they and their families receive uninterrupted support from birth through their transition to school-age support services.

ISDs and member districts are required to develop an IEP for all children referred by Early On who are eligible for special education programs and services prior to their third birthday. If the child is found to be eligible for programs and/or services, there is a requirement to implement the IEP by the child's third birthday.

### **What is Michigan Doing to Improve Early Childhood Transition Rates among Students with an IEP?**

The Office of Special Education (OSE) collaborates with the Office of Great Start (OGS) regarding early childhood transition. Michigan is a birth mandate state (special education services are available from birth). Therefore, the transition process for the majority of children and their families is seamless.

- The Michigan Department of Education continues to work with Early On Training and Technical Assistance (EOT&TA)—as well as with districts—to define, support and monitor transition activities from Part C to Part B.
- The OSE continues to collaborate with the OGS in order to improve transition from Part C to Part B services.
- Early On and Part B systems are implementing plans and interagency agreements designed to improve the transition process.

### **For More Information**

Michigan's [Catamaran](#)

Michigan Department of Education (MDE), [Early Childhood Special Education - Ages 3-5](#)

[National Early Childhood Transition Center](#)

[Clinton County Regional Educational Service Agency \(CCRESA\), Early On® Training and Technical Assistance \(EOT&TA\)](#)

## **Indicator 13: Secondary Transition**

### **Secondary Transition Matters for Students with an IEP**

- Supportive academic and community experiences assist in making the educational experience meaningful for students.
- Positive student engagement in school experiences reduces dropout rates and contributes to higher achievement and graduation rates.
- Effective transition practices engage students, families, educators and community members in a collaborative, meaningful process.

### **Michigan Information on Secondary Transition**

The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) Office of Special Education (OSE) collects secondary transition information through Individualized Education Program (IEP) reviews. These data inform the direction and design of statewide support. The term transition services means a coordinated set of activities for a child with a disability:

- Is designed to be within a results-oriented process focused on improving the academic and functional achievement of the child with a disability in order to facilitate the child's movement from school to post-school activities including postsecondary education, vocational education, integrated employment (including supported employment), continuing and adult education, adult services, independent living, or community participation.
- Is based on the individual child's needs, taking into account the child's strengths, preferences and interests.
- Includes instruction, related services, community experiences, the development of employment and other post-school adult living objectives, and, if appropriate, acquisition of daily living skills and functional vocational evaluation.

### **What is Michigan doing to improve secondary transition rates among students with an IEP?**

The OSE has embedded components of this indicator into the Catamaran System. This has yielded two primary benefits: a statewide consistency in compliance expectations and defined measures of both compliance and quality. Guidance documents and webinars have been developed to help improve districts' understanding of secondary transition planning.

## **For More Information**

[National Technical Assistance Center on Transition: The Collaborative](#)

The Council for Exceptional Children, [Division on Career Development and Transition](#)

[National Dropout Prevention Center for Students with Disabilities \(NDPC-SD\)](#)

[College and Career Readiness and Success Center](#)

[Michigan's State Performance Plan/Annual Performance Report \(SPP/APR\)](#)

## **Indicator 14: Postsecondary Outcomes**

### **Postsecondary Outcomes Matter for Students with an Individualized Education Program (IEP)**

- Making the educational system better for all students is a desired outcome of this indicator.
- Postsecondary outcomes data assist in determining the effectiveness of the education system to impact successful post-school outcomes for students with an IEP in the areas of postsecondary education, post-school competitive employments and student engagement.
- Understanding the postsecondary life experiences of students with an IEP assists educators in ongoing education reform efforts to ensure career and college readiness.

### **Michigan Information on Postsecondary Outcomes**

The National Post-School Outcomes Center's Postsecondary Outcomes Survey was used to collect information from former students who had exited school (graduated, dropped out, or received a certificate of completion) in the previous academic year. The MDE OSE used the sample language from National Technical Assistance Center on Transition (NTACT) to develop additional survey questions to meet the new data collection requirements.

Approximately one-third of member school districts within every intermediate school district (ISD) are selected to participate in the survey each year.

### **What is Michigan Doing to Improve Postsecondary Outcome Rates among Students with an IEP?**

The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) and the Center for Educational Performance and Information (CEPI) initiated the linking of secondary transition



data to graduation, dropout, assessment results, reason for leaving school and postsecondary outcomes data.

- The OSE continues to create and make available online modules to provide training on a standardized method for planning the student's successful exit from school.
- Survey results were shared with postsecondary service providers to improve services which assist students.

### **For More Information**

[Michigan Transition Services Association \(MTSA\)](#)

[College and Career Readiness and Success Center](#)

[National Technical Assistance Center on Transition: The Collaborative](#)

[National Dropout Prevention Center for Students with Disabilities \(NDPC-SD\)](#)

[Wayne State University – Postschool Outcomes Survey Results](#)

[Michigan's State Performance Plan/Annual Performance Report \(SPP/APR\)](#)