



IDEA Grant Funded Initiatives

The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) Office of Special Education (OSE) awards grants funded through Part B of the *Individuals with Disabilities Education Act* (IDEA) to initiatives that support special education in Michigan. The grant funded initiatives (GFIs) support diverse students by promoting evidence-based practices in identified areas of need. IDEA GFIs provide expertise to families of students with disabilities and school districts by providing training, professional development, and guidance; creating materials for students and schools; and implementing proven programs in schools.



Alt+Shift

altshift.education

With a focus on accessible digital materials, assistive technology, augmentative and alternative communication, and math supports, Alt+Shift maintains a focus on collaboration and impact by partnering with educators and families to improve educational outcomes for all students. Alt+Shift offers professional learning opportunities, technical assistance, and implementation planning to support learning and success of every student.

[Get to Know Alt+Shift \(video\)](#) :: [Alt+Shift YouTube Channel](#)



Catamaran

[training.catamaran.
partners](http://training.catamaran.partners)

The Catamaran Technical Assistance (TA) website houses TA resources for local and intermediate school districts and supports them in meeting requirements of the IDEA, the *Michigan Administrative Rules for Special Education* (MARSE), and state priorities. The MDE Offices of Special Education (OSE) and Great Start use Catamaran to track information related to the IDEA and the MARSE. The OSE manages Catamaran.



**Michigan Alliance
for Families**

[michiganalliance
forfamilies.org](http://michiganallianceforfamilies.org)

Michigan Alliance for Families is a statewide organization which provides regional support to parents of children with disabilities, 0-26 years of age. Michigan Alliance for Families offers individual parent mentoring, local and online learning opportunities, and special education and disability-related resources for families of children with disabilities.

[Get to Know Michigan Alliance for Families \(video\)](#)
[Michigan Alliance for Families YouTube Channel](#)

April 2024



1-888-320-8384
(OSE information line)



[michigan.gov/
special-education-family-matters](http://michigan.gov/special-education-family-matters)



[mde-ose@
michigan.gov](mailto:mde-ose@michigan.gov)

Family Matters fact sheets are intended to enhance public understanding of Michigan's special education system and are not a substitute for official laws and regulations.



Michigan's Multi-Tiered System of Support (MiMTSS) Technical Assistance Center

mimtsstac.org

The MiMTSS Technical Assistance Center works on behalf of the MDE to provide technical assistance to intermediate school districts (ISDs), school districts, and individual schools in a Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) framework. This is a "tiered" system of support for learning and behavior. Tier 1 means all students, with and without disabilities, are provided universal supports and practices. Tier 2 means some students receive an increased level of support to meet their needs. Tier 3 involves a smaller number of students receiving intensive and highly individualized intervention.

[MiMTSS Overview \(video\)](#) :: [MiMTSS YouTube Channel](#)



Special Education Mediation Services (SEMS)

mikids1st.org

Special Education Mediation Services (SEMS) provides trained, impartial facilitators and mediators to assist with individualized family service plan (IFSP) meetings, individualized education program (IEP) team meetings, mediation, and resolution sessions at no cost to parents or districts. SEMS can assist with working through disagreements so children with disabilities can more quickly receive needed services for development and success in school. SEMS offers various workshops on special education related topics, including conflict resolution.

[About SEMS](#) :: [SEMS FAQ](#)



Statewide Autism Resources and Training (START)

gvsu.edu/autismcenter

The START Project provides evidence-based training, technical assistance and coaching support, and resources to school-based teams in Michigan who support students with autism spectrum disorder (ASD). START is a statewide collaborative effort to make systems level changes to improve the educational programming and quality of life for students with ASD.

[The START Project](#) :: [START Events and Training](#)

Resources



[Michigan Alliance for Families](#)

Michigan Department of Education

- [IDEA Grant Funded Initiatives \(GFIs\) web page](#)
- [IDEA GFIs Online Resources](#)
- [MDE Office of Special Education Online Resources](#)