



## **Michigan's Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) Meeting Minutes for September 17, 2024**

An in-person orientation meeting.

### **Meeting Minutes**

#### Call to Order

Lydia Moore (SEAC Chair) called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

#### Approval of June 2024 Meeting Minutes

Jennifer Johnson moved, seconded by Kathy Krause that SEAC approve the June 2024 meeting minutes. Motion carried.

#### Approval of the September 2024 Agenda

Motion made to approve the September 17, 2024 agenda by Katherine Mills, seconded by Karyn Anspach. Motion carried.

#### Welcome From the Michigan Department of Education (MDE), Dr. Michele Harmala, Deputy Superintendent, Educator Excellence, Career and Technical Education, Special Education, and Administrative Law

Dr. Harmala welcomed SEAC members to the new year of SEAC. She spoke about inclusion and opportunities for all our students.

#### Michigan Department of Education (MDE) Legislative Liaison, Dr. Sheryl Kennedy

Dr. Sheryl Kennedy provided a legislative update including a link to a student resource for understanding our Michigan legislature.

The governor passed the school budget taking effect October 1<sup>st</sup>. Items included: funding increases for the Great Start Readiness program, Early Childhood and Early



On, early literacy, math essentials, mental health, hearing/vision/dental screening, school safety, increasing the percentage of students graduating from high school, increasing the number of Michigan teachers, loan repayment for teachers, students with disabilities, and before and after school programs.

Attendance Tracker, Teri Pettit, SEAC Facilitator

A new system has been implemented and will be used by individual members in the upcoming year.

Review of the Six Functions of SEAC From the Office of Special Education, Teri Rink, Director; Rebecca McIntyre, Assistant Director, and Supervisors John Andrejack, Jessica Brady, Chantel Mozden

Function 1: Advise the State Educational Agency of unmet needs within the state in the education of children with disabilities.

Function 2: Comment publicly on any rules or regulations proposed by the state regarding the education of children with disabilities.

Function 3: Advise the State Educational Agency in developing evaluations and reporting on data to the secretary (20 USC 1418).

Function 4: Advise the State Educational Agency in developing corrective action plans to address findings identified in federal monitoring reports under this part.

Function 5: Advise the State Educational Agency in developing and implementing policies relating to the coordination of services for children with disabilities.

Function 6: Receive findings and decisions of all hearings related to special education (34 CFR300.513(d)(1)).



### Advocacy vs. Advisory, Teri Pettit

Introduction of *SEAC shorts*, specifically one on advising vs. advocating followed by a small group activity the results of which will be shared for the remaining months of SEAC meetings in 2024-25.

### Introduction of Michigan Teacher of the Year (MTOY) Kelley Cusmano and Region 3 Teacher of the Year (RTOY), Molly Dunham

The two teachers shared information about themselves and what brought them to the attention of the MDE.

### 1 percent Alternate Assessment, Chantel Mozden, OSE Supervisor of Program Accountability

The request for a Michigan waiver has been denied twice in a row. More than 1 percent of students with disabilities are taking MI-Access. The target was 95 percent of students participating in statewide assessments. Michigan did not meet the target last year and must make significant improvement in lowering the number of students taking the alternate assessment. Michigan has the highest percentage of students taking an alternate assessment in the country.

A rubric for assigning students to an alternate assessment was provided by OSE and input regarding the draft has been requested of SEAC members.

### 2024-25 SEAC Priorities, Teri Rink

*Priority 1:* SEAC will provide ongoing feedback and input about the MDE OSE cohort model for FAPE in the LRE capacity-building activities as part of monitoring ISD's on a six-year cycle.

*Priority 2:* Further the knowledge and broaden the understanding of SEAC members regarding virtual schools and virtual programming for fully supporting students in their least restrictive environment (LRE) in a virtual setting.



*Priority 3:* Remaining aligned with the ESSA 1 percent CAP requirements, SEAC members will concentrate on the development of recommendations regarding the Michigan Department of Education State Plan to increase the participation of students with disabilities in statewide assessments and ensure only those students with the most significant disabilities are participating in the alternate state assessment.

Welcome SEAC Members to the 2024-25 School Year, the Honorable Tiffany Tilley, Co-Vice President, Michigan State Board of Education (SBE)

Discussed the role of SEAC, the relationship with the SBE, and asked that members of SEAC plan to join the SBE for public comment, to share with them the good things happening in SEAC. She is hopeful members will attend the public comment section of the meeting in person, but if not available to travel to Lansing, on the phone. Anyone interested must register prior to 1:00 p.m., Tuesday, November 12.

Roles of Members on SEAC, Things to Know, Teri Pettit

Review of Operating Procedures, Member Directory, website, Annual Report, committee work, *September 2024 Advisor*.

Family Matters, Stacie Rulison, MDE Family Matters Development Leader

Report on existing and upcoming family matters fact sheets available to public.

OSE Report, Teri Rink

Keys to successful membership, Special Education 101



Wrap-Up, Lydia Moore

Adjourned

Lydia Moore moved, seconded by Kathy Krause, for the SEAC business meeting to be adjourned at 2:45 p.m. A vote was taken on the motion. Motion carried.

Minutes submitted by Angela Khater, SEAC Executive Committee.



## **Attendance**

Attendance code: A = Absent, P = Present

\*Defined members

<b>Delegate</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Organization / Agency</b>	<b>Code</b>
Abrahamson, Patricia	Support	<a href="#">Michigan Department of Education - Office of Special Education</a>	P
Anspach, Karyn	Delegate	<a href="#">Michigan Reading Association</a>	P
Bacalia, Sarah	Delegate	<a href="#">Michigan Elementary and Middle School Principals Association (MEMSPA)</a>	P
Balfour, Roxanne	Ex-officio	<a href="#">Michigan Department of Education Low Incidence Outreach (MDE-LIO)</a>	A
*Barto, Alexandra	Delegate	<a href="#">Learning Disabilities Association of Michigan (LDA of Michigan)</a>	p
Berg, Steve	Alternate	<a href="#">Michigan Association of Intermediate School Administrators (MAISA)</a>	P
Beyer, Rachel	Delegate	<a href="#">Michigan Education Association (MEA)</a>	P
*Biswanger, Kelsey	Alternate	<a href="#">Michigan Alliance for Families (MAF)</a>	P
Bodell, Belle	Ex-officio	<a href="#">Michigan Department of Corrections (MDOC)</a>	A
*Boggs, Katie	Member-at-large	Non-applicable	P
Brutvan, Johanna	Ex-officio	<a href="#">Michigan Department of Education Low Incidence Outreach (MDE-LIO)</a>	A
*Castiglione, Tammy	Delegate	<a href="#">Michigan Association of Non-Public Schools (MANS)</a>	A
Chapp, George	Member-at-large	Non-applicable	A



<b>Delegate</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Organization/Agency</b>	<b>Code</b>
Cooley, Derek	Delegate	<a href="#">Michigan Association of Administrators of Special Education (MAASE)</a>	P
Cusmano, Kelley	Ex-officio	<a href="#">Michigan Teacher of the Year (MTOY), Office of Educator Excellence at the MDE</a>	P
*Darrough, Jackie	Member-at-large	Non-applicable	P
DeWaard, Jennifer	Alternate	<a href="#">Michigan Council for Exceptional Children (MCEC)</a>	A
Dowding, Crystal	Ex-officio	<a href="#">Labor and Economic Opportunity, Michigan Rehabilitation Services (MRS)</a>	A
Dunham, Molly	Ex-officio	<a href="#">Regional Teacher of the Year (RTOY), Office of Educator Excellence at the MDE</a>	P
*Eckner, Heather	Delegate	<a href="#">Autism Alliance of Michigan (AAoM)</a>	P
Eling, Aaron	Alternate	<a href="#">Michigan Education Association (MEA)</a>	P
*Friedman, Jenna	Alternate	<a href="#">Autism Alliance of Michigan (AAoM)</a>	P
*Gaines-Moore, Doena	Delegate	<a href="#">Michigan Speech Language and Hearing Association (MSHA)</a>	P
George, Pamela	Ex-officio	<a href="#">Michigan Educator Preparation Institutions</a>	A
Gilbert, Angela	Delegate	<a href="#">Michigan Association of Public School Academies (MAPSA)</a>	P
*Gillman, Dani	Delegate	<a href="#">Friendship Circle of Michigan</a>	P
*Goad, Sarah	Ex-officio	<a href="#">Michigan Department of Health &amp; Human Services - Foster Care</a>	A
Goosen, Jacqueline	Delegate	<a href="#">American Federation of Teachers (AFT)</a>	P
*Hirst, Jennifer	Ex-officio	<a href="#">Labor and Economic Opportunity, Michigan Rehabilitation Services (MRS)</a>	P
Hoskin, Samantha	Alternate	<a href="#">American Federation of Teachers (AFT)</a>	A



<b>Delegate</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Organization/Agency</b>	<b>Code</b>
*Jabboori, Sama	Member-at-large	Non-applicable	A
*Johnson, Jennifer	Member-at-large	Non-applicable	P
*Johnson, Lindy	Member-at-large	Non-applicable	A
Kennedy, Jason	Delegate	<a href="#">Michigan Association of Superintendents and Administrators (MASA)</a>	A
*Khater, Angela	Member-at-large	Non-applicable	P
Koenigsknecht, Scott	Member-at-large	Non-applicable	P
Kohler, Beth	Ex-officio	2023-24 SEAC chair	A
Krause, Kathy	Alternate	<a href="#">Michigan Association of Non-Public Schools (MANS)</a>	P
Kuipers, Mark	Delegate	<a href="#">Michigan Department of Lifelong Education, Advancement, and Potential (MiLEAP) – 619 Preschool Education</a>	P
*Lehman, Melissa	Delegate	<a href="#">Down Syndrome Association of West Michigan (DSAWM)</a>	A
Lopez-Barajas, Irma	Ex-officio	<a href="#">Michigan Department of Education, McKinney-Vento Homeless</a>	P
*Lovy, Jennifer	Alternate	<a href="#">Friendship Circle of Michigan</a>	A
Mainka, Ben	Alternate	<a href="#">Michigan Association of Superintendents and Administrators (MASA)</a>	A
*McQuiston, Birgit	Delegate	<a href="#">Michigan Association of School Boards (MASB)</a>	A
*Mead, Debra	Member-at-large	Non-applicable	P





<b>Delegate</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Organization/Agency</b>	<b>Code</b>
Mileski, Joshua	Ex-officio	<a href="#">Michigan Department of Health and Human Services Juvenile Justice</a>	A
Mileski, Terri	Ex-officio	<a href="#">Michigan Department of Health and Human Services Juvenile Justice</a>	A
*Mills, Katherine	Member-at-large	Non-applicable	P
Moore, Lydia	Delegate	<a href="#">Michigan Council for Exceptional Children (MCEC)</a>	P
Mozden, Chantel	Ex-officio	<a href="#">Michigan Department of Education - Office of Special Education</a>	P
Muhammad, Fatimah	Delegate	<a href="#">Michigan Association of School Psychologists (MASP)</a>	P
*Nicholls, Stephanie	Delegate	<a href="#">Michigan Alliance for Families (MAF)</a>	A
Novak, Jorri	Alternate	<a href="#">Michigan Department of Lifelong Education, Advancement, and Potential (MiLEAP) – 619 Preschool Education</a>	A
O'Connor, Colleen	Ex-officio	<a href="#">Michigan Department of Lifelong Education, Advancement, and Potential (MiLEAP) - Early On</a>	A
Orris, Sara	Ex-officio	<a href="#">Michigan Department of Education, McKinney-Vento Homeless</a>	A
*Pettit, Teri	Facilitator	<a href="#">Special Education Advisory Committee</a>	P
*Race, Maura	Alternate	<a href="#">Learning Disabilities Association of Michigan (LDA of Michigan)</a>	A
*Rathke, Daniel	Member-at-large	Non-applicable	p
Rink, Teri	Ex-officio	<a href="#">Michigan Department of Education - Office of Special Education</a>	P
*Rodriguez-Curry, Margarita	Delegate	<a href="#">The Arc Michigan</a>	P



<b>Delegate</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Organization/Agency</b>	<b>Code</b>
Rossi, Ann	Ex-officio	<a href="#">Michigan Department of Health &amp; Human Services - Foster Care</a>	P
*Rutledge, Heather	Delegate	<a href="#">Michigan Association of Secondary School Principals (MASSP)</a>	P
Santer, Beth	Alternate	<a href="#">Michigan Transition Services Association (MTSA)</a>	A
Saville, Erica	Delegate	<a href="#">Michigan Association of School Social Workers (MASSW)</a>	A
Selling, Brandon	Alternate	<a href="#">Michigan Department of Corrections</a>	A
Sharp, Christina	Ex-officio	<a href="#">Confederation of Michigan Tribal Education Departments (CMTED)</a>	A
Sladewski, Anne-Marie	Delegate	<a href="#">Michigan Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (MiASCD)</a>	A
Sliwinski, Kristin	Alternate	<a href="#">Michigan Association of Secondary School Principals (MASSP)</a>	P
Smith, Angie	Member-at-large	Non-applicable	A
Smith-Darner, Rebecca	Alternate	<a href="#">Michigan Speech Language and Hearing Association (MSHA)</a>	A
Stone, Cathy	Ex-officio	<a href="#">Confederation of Michigan Tribal Education Departments (CMTED)</a>	P
Taiariol, Dr. Jennifer	Delegate	<a href="#">Michigan Association of Intermediate School Administrators (MAISA)</a>	P
*Takouz, Heba	Alternate	<a href="#">The Arc Michigan</a>	P
Timbs, Janet	Ex-officio	<a href="#">Michigan Department of Lifelong Education, Advancement, and Potential (MiLEAP) - Early On</a>	A
Tynan, Joshua	Alternate	<a href="#">Michigan Association of School Psychologists (MASP)</a>	p



<b>Delegate</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Organization/Agency</b>	<b>Code</b>
Vandenberg, Karla	Alternate	<a href="#">Michigan Association of School Social Workers (MASSW)</a>	P
*VanderBent, Stacy	Alternate	<a href="#">Down Syndrome Association of West Michigan (DSAWM)</a>	A
*Van Gasse, Janice	Alternate	<a href="#">Michigan Association of School Boards (MASB)</a>	A
*White, Kristin	Delegate	<a href="#">Michigan Transition Services Association (MTSA)</a>	P
*Wilson, Dara	Member-at-large	Non-applicable	P
Wolschlager, Michelle	Alternate	<a href="#">Michigan Association of Administrators of Special Education (MAASE)</a>	P
Wood, Gary	Alternate	<a href="#">Michigan Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (MIASCD)</a>	P
Yates, Peggy	Ex-officio	<a href="#">Michigan Educator Preparation Institutions</a>	A
*Zieleniewski, Lorri	Alternate	<a href="#">Michigan Reading Association</a>	A
Position Open	Alternate	<a href="#">Michigan Elementary and Middle School Principals Association (MEMSPA)</a>	A
Position Open	Delegate	<a href="#">Michigan Occupational Therapy Association (MiOTA)</a>	A
Position Open	Alternate	<a href="#">Michigan Occupational Therapy Association (MiOTA)</a>	A