

NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER

2026

Parent Advisory Committee (PAC)

The Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) is established under Michigan Administrative Rule 340.1838 to provide advisory input on matters related to the improvement of special education programs and services within the intermediate school district. PAC members are parents of students with disabilities who are nominated by their constituent local school district or public school academy and appointed to serve on the committee.

Upcoming Opportunities



Family Matters - Michigan Department of Education

Family Matters is an outreach initiative by the Michigan Department of Education Office of Special Education (MDE OSE) designed to provide parents and families with clear, user-friendly information about special education laws, resources and services

Visit their webpage at:

michigan.gov/specialeducation-familymatters

This month we are highlighting Family Matters
“Advocating for Your Child Fact Sheet”

- **What is Parent Advocacy?** Advocating means speaking, writing, or acting on behalf of your child, with parents serving as the primary and central support in their education.
- **Key Action Steps:**
 - **Stay Organized:** Keep a dated file of IEPs, progress reports, and staff communications.
 - **Prepare & Partner:** Set priorities before meetings and build calm, collaborative relationships with school staff.
- **Support Resources:**
 - **Michigan Alliance for Families:** Access free webinars and connect with regional parent mentors.
 - **Special Education Mediation Services (SEMS):** Free meeting facilitation and mediation resources.
 - **MDE OSE Info Line:** Contact special education specialists at 1-888-320-8384 or mde-ose@michigan.gov





Additional Resources for Parents

Michigan Alliance for Families:

<https://www.michiganallianceforfamilies.org/>

Special Education Mediation Services:

<https://www.mikids1st.org/>

MDE - Family Matters:

michigan.gov/specialeducation-familymatters

Xceptional Heroes:

<https://xceptionalheroes.org/>

More Information



810-591-4494



<https://www.geneseeisd.org>



adstephens@geneseeisd.org

Special Education Acronyms to know

- AAC – Augmentative and Alternative Communication
- ADA – Americans with Disabilities Act
- ADHD – Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder
- AG – Annual Goal
- ALJ – Administrative Law Judge
- ASD – Autism Spectrum Disorder
- AT – Assistive Technology
- BIP – Behavior Intervention Plan
- CBE – Community-Based Education
- CI – Cognitive Impairment
- DB – Deaf-Blindness
- DHH – Deaf or Hard of Hearing
- ECDD – Early Childhood Developmental Delay
- EI – Emotional Impairment
- ESY – Extended School Year
- FAPE – Free Appropriate Public Education
- FBA – Functional Behavioral Assessment
- IDEA – Individuals with Disabilities Education Act
- IEE – Independent Educational Evaluation
- IEP – Individualized Education Program
- IEPT – Individualized Education Program Team
- IFSP – Individualized Family Service Plan
- ISD – Intermediate School District
- LEA – Local Educational Agency
- LRE – Least Restrictive Environment
- MARSE – Michigan Administrative Rules for Special Education
- MDE – Michigan Department of Education
- MET – Multidisciplinary Evaluation Team
- O&M – Orientation and Mobility
- OHI – Other Health Impairment
- OSE – Office of Special Education
- OSEP – Office of Special Education Programs
- OT – Occupational Therapy / Occupational Therapist
- PAC – Parent Advisory Committee
- PI – Physical Impairment
- PLAAFP – Present Level of Academic Achievement and Functional Performance
- PT – Physical Therapy / Physical Therapist
- REED – Review of Existing Evaluation Data
- SLD – Specific Learning Disability
- SLI – Speech and Language Impairment
- SLP – Speech-Language Pathologist
- SSW – School Social Worker
- SXI – Severe Multiple Impairment
- TBI – Traumatic Brain Injury
- TC – Teacher Consultant
- VI – Visual Impairment