

Lapeer County Intermediate School District Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) for Special Education



Newsletter for the Families of Children with Special Needs

Winter Edition
February 2018
Issue: 2 of 3



**“Most people see
what is, and never
see what can be”**

- Albert Einstein

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Lapeer County Intermediate School District
Parent Advisory Committee is to promote partnerships among parents and educators that benefit students with disabilities.

PAC Representatives

ALMONT

Kim Schurig- (586) 873-8611
Holly Ardman- (586) 372-1942
Kelley Bussen- (810) 841-5334

DRYDEN

Melanie Starr-(810)895-6449

IMLAY CITY

Melivia Mutch-(810)724-3918
Heather Brown- (810) 614-4746
Denise Kipp (Rossen)-(810)-721-1342

LAPEER

Kim Hall-(810)-664-4743 Chairperson
Kim Mileski-(810) 660-7751
VACANCY

LAPEER COUNTY ISD

Regina Starr- (810) 623-2041
Jessica Dombeck- (810) 701-0486

NORTH BRANCH

Becky Baksa-(989)245-7308
Amy Hyrman- (810) 287-2806

CHATFIELD

Contact Lapeer County ISD

Welcome New PAC Representatives

Read More On Page 3



Amy Hyrman

North Branch Area Schools



Heather Brown

Imlay City Schools

The Lapeer County ISD Special Education Parent Advisory Committee

The Lapeer County Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) is a group of educators and parents representing our local school districts whose primary focus is to stay informed regarding Special Education plans and changes, current trends in Special Education at the County, State, and Federal level, and if needed, to assist and promote partnerships among parents and educators that benefit students with disabilities.

The PAC takes an active role in the development of the Lapeer County Special Education Mandatory Plan, a document which describes the delivery of special education services in Lapeer County. The PAC provides workshops and speakers from the county and state-wide programs which can richly serve not only the parents of children with special needs, but in many instances the individual with the disability.

The PAC meets at:

**Lapeer County ISD Education and Technology Center
690 N. Lake Pleasant Road, Attica, MI.
6 p.m.–8:00 p.m.**

Please visit the ISD website at: www.lcisd.k12.mi.us

PAC Meeting Dates 2018

February 5

Topic:

**Michigan Special
Education Mediation**

March 5

Topic:

**Determining Course
of Study**

May 7

Topic:

**Coping with Emo-
tional Stress-
Parenting A Child
with Special Needs**

Please join us at our meetings,
we welcome and encourage your
participation and suggestions.
Childcare is not available



Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) Presents:

“Michigan Special Education Mediation”



Beth Kohler, Outreach Representative with Michigan Special Education Mediation will present how the Michigan Special Education Mediation Program is FREE for parents and schools and offers a range of services including:

- ◇ Meeting Facilitation
- ◇ Mediation
- ◇ Collaboration Skills Training

This no-cost resource can help improve communication, manage complex meetings, and resolve disagreements.



**February 5, 2018
6:00-8:00 PM**

Location:

Lapeer Education
& Technology Center
690 N. Lake Pleasant Rd.
Attica, MI 48412
Conference Room 146



Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) Presents:

“Determining Course of Study”

Michelle Proulx, Special Education Director for the Lapeer County Intermediate School District will present:

- ◆ Certificate of Completion vs. High School Diploma
- ◆ When does an IEP team consider course of study?
- ◆ How does a personal curriculum fit into graduation?

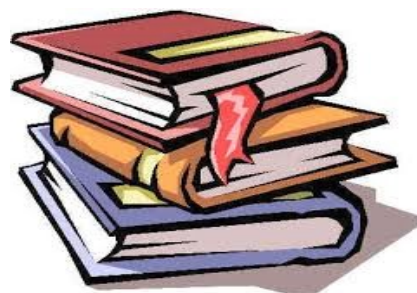
Parents are encouraged to attend this informative presentation to better understand how and when to determine what course of study a student is on and what that means for the student and parent.



**March 5, 2018
6:00-7:30 PM**

Location:

Lapeer Education
& Technology Center
690 N. Lake Pleasant Rd.
Attica, MI 48412
Conference Room 146



WELCOME!

New Lapeer County Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) Reps



My name is Amy Hyrman. I grew up in Lapeer County, in the North Branch area. My husband and I have three children, two boys and a girl. Our middle child receives services for speech and language and began Early-On just after his second birthday. He is now in pre-school and in the past year has made tremendous improvement! He can express his wants and needs in complete sentences now which expressing himself was a huge struggle for him. We have witnessed such growth not only in language but in self-esteem too. He loves to learn and we love to learn with him each and every day.



My name is Heather Brown. My husband and I both grew up in Imlay City and are thrilled to be raising our family there as well. We have 3 boys. Our youngest is on the spectrum and started Early-On when he was 2. We have made great strides and he is now a thriving 1st grader. I will always continue to grow with him and educate myself with any resource I can find. It's a journey that I wouldn't have any other way.



Lapeer County Parent Advisory Committee Highlighted

The County Press

Locally Owned – Locally Connected – Locally Committed



Nicholas Pugliese from the Lapeer County Press featured the Lapeer County Parent Advisory Committee (PAC). Below is a excerpt from the article:

“The primary focus of the PAC is to help families stay informed regarding special education plans as well as changes and current trends in special education at the county, state and federal level. The group also assists and promotes partnerships among parents and educators that benefit students with disabilities.

The PAC also provides workshops and speakers from county and statewide programs aimed to serve not only the parents of children with special needs but in many instances the individual with the disability as well.

The PAC meets once per month during the school year to provide information to families on various topics relevant to living with special needs, including personal curriculum, state laws regarding emergency use of seclusion and restraint, coping with emotional stress, special education legislation and the No Child Left Behind Laws.”



About The Great Bike Giveaway

For a child with special needs, bike riding offers far more than a recreational experience. Bike riding provides a source of much-needed exercise, gives therapeutic value, and contributes to an inclusive environment where a child with special needs can ride a bike like everyone else.

Due to balance and mobility challenges, many children and teens with special needs require the use of an adaptive bike. Sadly, most families cannot afford the high costs of adaptive bikes and their children remain on the sidelines watching their friends and family members ride by.

Registration deadline: **Tuesday, March 6, 2018**

Visit their website at:

<https://bikes.friendshipcircle.org>

Adaptive bikes
promote health,
inclusion
and plain old fun.

View a list of adaptive bike health benefits.



Forever Friends Network (FFN)

Every child wants to be accepted and have a place where they can be themselves without judgment. Forever Friends Network (FFN) is a place where they can go and have fun. We are an Autism Support Organization based in Lapeer, MI. Everyone is welcome to join our social groups. Ages 5-10 must be accompanied by an adult.



Social groups are held on the:

1st & 3rd Friday every month / 5:30 - 7:30 pm

Location: 323 Jefferson Street, Lapeer, Michigan 48446

For details visit: www.foreverfriendsnetwork.net

Questions Contact: Regina Starr (810) 623-2041

Upcoming Events:

- ♦ **February 19th (5:00-7:00 PM) "Parent Safety Training"**
- ♦ **February 24th (9:30 AM– 12:00) "Painting Fundraiser"**
- ♦ **March 9th (9:00 AM– 12:00) "Guardianship, Sexuality, and Social Norms"**



NEWS RELEASE!

New Mediation Assistance Hot Line To Provide Improved Resolution to Special Education Disputes

The Michigan Special Education Mediation Program (MSEMP) has a new toll-free, statewide phone number:
833-KIDS1ST or 833-543-7178.



The new number will connect callers to a new Intake Coordinator at the Michigan Department of Education. MSEMP's new intake coordinator will conduct intake on requests for mediation, or facilitated special education meetings, and provide information about the dispute resolution options available to the Michigan special education community.

1-833-KIDS1ST will replace the MSEMP's previous number, 1-800-8RESOLVE, which routed callers to their local Community Dispute Resolution Program Center. Now, callers requesting assistance are directed to MDE's new Intake Coordinator, Laura Zangara.

MEDICALNEWS TODAY

The Top 10 Mental Health Apps

Apps are available for everything these days — from shopping to entertainment and travel. Apps that claim to help look after your mental health and well-being are also available. So, Medical News Today recently published an article where they selected the best apps for mental health.

Among U.S. adults aged 18–44, mood disorders such as depression and bipolar disorder are now the third most common reason for hospitalizations.

Apps focus on protecting or improving mental health using methods including meditation, hypnosis, cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT), and providing a valuable support network.

Medical News Today has put together a list of the top 10 apps that can help to enhance your well-being and look after your mental health. See the attached website for the top ten apps:

<https://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/320557.php>



Calm

Headspace



Moodnotes

Pacifica



Happify



Family Matters Fact Sheets

Visit Michigan Department of
Education Website at:

http://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,4615,7-140-6598_81739-425428-,00.html

The website has several FACT sheets that explain special education laws and practices. The documents are easy to read and give links to more in-depth resources.

Fact Sheets

- Procedural Safeguards Fact Sheet
 - Procedural Safeguards Fact Sheet - Arabic
 - Procedural Safeguards Fact Sheet - Spanish
 - Procedural Safeguards Notice
- Special Education Process Fact Sheet
 - Special Education Process Fact Sheet - Arabic
 - Special Education Process Fact Sheet - Spanish
- Educational Placement and the Least Restrictive Environment (LRE) Fact Sheet
 - Educational Placement and the Least Restrictive Environment (LRE) Fact Sheet - Arabic
 - Educational Placement and the Least Restrictive Environment (LRE) Fact Sheet - Spanish
- Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) Fact Sheet
 - Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) Fact Sheet - Arabic
 - Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) Fact Sheet - Spanish
- Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Fact Sheet
 - Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Fact Sheet - Arabic
 - Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Fact Sheet - Spanish
- Privacy and Access to Records Fact Sheet
 - Privacy and Access to Records Fact Sheet - Arabic
 - Privacy and Access to Records Fact Sheet - Spanish
- Seclusion and Restraint Fact Sheet
 - Seclusion and Restraint Fact Sheet - Arabic
 - Seclusion and Restraint Fact Sheet - Spanish

Family Matters
Michigan Department of Education, Office of Special Education

Educational Placement and the Least Restrictive Environment (LRE)

Educational placement is the setting where your child receives his or her education and services. Schools must place students in the least restrictive environment (LRE). That means students must be placed in the general education setting whenever possible, and receive supports and services as determined by the individualized education program team.

Students must be taught alongside their nondisabled peers as much as possible.

The General Education Setting
If your child did not need special education services:

- Where would he or she go to school?
- What classes would he or she be in?
- What activities would he or she do?

These answers make up the general education setting. General (sometimes called regular) education settings include classrooms, lunchrooms, playgrounds, gyms, libraries, and any other location where children without disabilities are educated. Unless otherwise noted in the IEP, this is the setting where your child should be educated.

When can a school place my child outside the general education setting?

Options like special classes or schools may only be used if your child cannot make satisfactory progress toward his or her individualized education program (IEP) goals in the regular educational environment, even with supplementary aids and services.

September 2017

MICHIGAN
Department of Education

1-888-320-8384
(OSE Information Line)

michigan.gov/
specialeducation-familymatters

mde-ose@
michigan.gov

TEFRA Medicaid

Kids' Waivers

The **Tax Equity and Fiscal Responsibility Act (TEFRA)** Medicaid Eligibility Option allows children with disabilities from near-poor and middle-income families to qualify for Medicaid. Through TEFRA, children can receive Medicaid services that address their needs, but still live with their families. **To qualify, your child must:**

- Be under 19-years-old
- Meet the SSI definition of “disability”
- Need the level of care provided in a hospital, nursing facility or intermediate care facility for persons with mental retardation (ICF/MR).

The state will only count your child’s income and resources for eligibility. If you think your child might be eligible for TEFRA Medicaid, please contact your local CSHCS office:

<http://www.michigan.gov/cshcs> or <http://www.kidswaivers.org/mi/>