

Board Report

Month: July 2025

Administrator: Angela Telfer, Executive Director for Special Education

Update:

The Michigan Department of Education's Office of Special Education (OSE) oversees a system called **General Supervision**, which ensures that schools across the state follow federal and state laws for educating students with disabilities. This system is required under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and includes eight key components, such as monitoring school performance, providing training and support, resolving disputes, and making sure funds are used properly. To meet these requirements, schools must provide a Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) in the Least Restrictive Environment (LRE), identify and evaluate students who benefit from special education services, and develop Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) tailored to each student's needs. Intermediate School Districts (ISDs) help local schools meet these obligations and are held accountable for following the rules and improving outcomes for students with disabilities.

KRESA's Special Education Program Improvement and Accountability Director, Shelly Hawthorne, in collaboration with Engagement Specialists Kelli Bielang, Carolann Williams and Jen Schmidtendorff from KRESA's Educator Supports Center of Excellence compiled this year-end report on the progress made in educational environments for students eligible as students with autism spectrum disorder in Kalamazoo County over the last four years. We are celebrating a significant increase in participation in general education classrooms by improving the supports that students have access to in all our districts.

Action Item:

None

Fiscal Impact:

None

Attachments:

[July – General Supervision Grant Outcomes](#)

