



## Special Education Report March, 2025

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### **Administrators for Accountability & Program Improvement (C. Geiger, T. Hassett, M. Sly):**

- The GSM team is continuing to work on an ISD General Supervision Manual.
- The B13 Corrective Action Plans with LPS and PPS were approved and closed by MDE.
- The GSM team has completed a monitoring review with IPS related to B4: Discipline.
- The GSM team is also working on a B11: Child Find Corrective Action with LPS.
- The GSM team is working on B13: Transition Data Collection activities with all LEAs.
- We are working with a representative from Kelvin Education to propose updates to the Illuminate system in advance of LRE (Least Restrictive Environment) Capacity Building with MDE taking place next year.
- All disciplines continue to meet regularly for Professional Learning.
- There is a school psychologist vacancy.

### **Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) Program (B. Woolston):**

- We have filled the open ASD Consultant vacancy. Cindy Zamarron has worked for the ISD as a Health Care Aide and HCA Mentor for eight years. She began working on her degree in ABA several years ago with the intent to become an ASD consultant. We are very lucky to have someone with such relevant experience and loyalty to the organization to fill this position!

### **Early Childhood Programs (C. Granzo):**

#### Early On:

February is the month we conduct the spring count. We are continuing to clean the data but unofficially, the count revealed a total of 181 active children in the program with 75 eligible for Early On only and 106 eligible for SPED. This is comparable to the February of 2024 count of 186.

The program received 30 new referrals this month. From an evaluation perspective there are currently 35 children that are in the evaluation process; 4 that are being evaluated to move from Early On only to special education and 19 children that are currently in the program that we are scheduling additional evaluations to address ASD characteristics.

We also received our report from last year's indicators. We met the criteria for family outcomes which is a results indicator. These include: families knowing their rights, effectively communicating their



needs and helping their children develop and learn. We actually did very well in this area with  $\frac{2}{3}$  areas being reported at 100%. In the link below you can see the results for each question that families were asked. The reporting rate which is a new area that the state is issuing a finding around is the reporting rate for child outcomes. We have done a lot of work in this data collection area and as you can see we moved from 62.26% reporting rate to an 84.09% reporting rate in one year. We did meet the benchmark however we dug deeper into this data point as it did not seem to be in line with our data. We were able to discover that we still had 5 children that had their ratings reporting in Illuminate, it moved to Skyward but it did not appear in data extract for these kids in MSDS. Finally, our child outcome data like the state overall did not meet the targets in this results area. As noted last year, an analysis from Wayne State indicated that we service a higher number of special education eligible children and we do more comprehensive testing which contributes to the slower rate of progress. With respect to the benchmarks. they are measuring how the percent of children that are functioning like their same age peers upon exiting Early On.

### [FY2023 Early On Data](#)

We also received our findings report for the previous year. We received 3 findings, 2 of which were related to data entry. Because the percentage of compliance was so high, we are able to fast track our report to MiLeap and not have to do an actual CAP process. This is due April 1.

### DPIL:

For the month of February 1957 children received books; there were 38 new children that enrolled. Cost for the month was \$4646.00 We are preparing for the quilt show and raffle which will be **Saturday, March 22, 2025**. You can view the quilts in the hallway at the ISD, Biggby in Ionia or the local libraries. You can also follow us on Facebook Ionia Imagination Library.





## Freedom Acres School Programs (A. Miller):

### Program updates (Celebrations & Challenges)

- SCI teachers and itinerants met collaboratively to work on the summer theme schedule and plan recreational activities.
  - Our themes:
    - **Week 1:** Amphibians & **Word of the Week:** Watch
    - **Week 2:** Farm & **Word of the Week:** Feel
    - **Week 3:** Zoo & **Word of the Week:** Find
    - **Week 4:** Insects & **Word of the Week:** Look
    - **Week 5:** Jungle & **Word of the Week:** Live
    - **Week 6:** Sea Life & **Word of the Week:** Think
- SEI team has been responding to very challenging student behavior with the most professionalism and collaborative skill set. This team is solid in their response with regard to legality, trauma-informed care, and collaboration with school staff, families, and community agencies. This team is built to endure the most challenging days with grace!

### Staffing Update

- Fully staffed at this time with a long term supporting in one SCI HCA position.

### Behavioral Data Update

- As of March 4th, the SEI program has not reported any suspensions through the MSDS collection.
- There have been four seclusions and one restraint implemented to ensure *felt safety* during a behavioral episode.
- Our SEI team has been supported by non-emergency law enforcement on five occasions.

### Annual IEP Meeting Updates

- Since September 5th, Freedom Acres has conducted a total of 36 IEP meetings. Parents or guardians were present for 34 of these meetings (94%), reflecting strong family engagement. Local directors participated in 16 of 36 (44%) the IEP meetings.

### Professional Development:

March 21st: SCI program complete Ukeru, and the SEI program will complete its biannual CPR and First Aid.



### **POHI/SXI Lunch and Learn**

- The next Lunch and Learn session is scheduled for **April 30th from 11:30 to 12:30.**
  - **Link to Join:** [meet.google.com/ubh-wqab-qhr](https://meet.google.com/ubh-wqab-qhr)
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- POHI/SXI Board Members tour the ISD on May 16th and start planning for the biannual statewide PHO/SXI conference to be hosted at Ionia ISD on April 20, 2026

### **PI-OHI & Assistive Technology Department (K. Foote):**

- PI-OHI HCA opening for one full time position
- Assistive Technology and the Regional team met on Tuesday the 25th to start the process of the AT Journey. More updates to follow.
- Assistive Technology has purchased new reader pens for the ISD Lending Library.

### **Transition Training Sites/MoCI Programs (M. Sly):**

- We still have one HCA and TC opening for community-based services.

### **Deaf & Hard of Hearing (C. Geiger)**

- We continue to have a part time opening for a DHH TC/Specialist. We continue to partner with two Educational Audiologists from U of M to fill the void to the best extent possible. We have contracted with a DHH TC from Kent ISD for temporary support 1 to 2 hours a week. We have interviewed two virtual applicants. A decision is pending.
- The two DHH classrooms will participate in a bowling field trip in April at the Wagon Wheel in Portland
- **Upcoming Events**
  - PAC Meeting, March 24th
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