



Special Education Report May, 2025

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

- The GSM team is putting the finishing details on the ISD General Supervision Manual. We have begun planning for next year and how to improve our collaborative work toward both improving student outcomes and maintaining high compliance with IDEA.
- The GSM team is continuing work on a B11: Child Find Corrective Action with LPS and B13: Transition Data Collection activities with all LEAs.
- We have started the process of compiling information regarding students who will require compensatory education. We have had two speech and language pathologists out for short FMLA leaves, thus requiring the ISD to make up for that lost instruction. This same requirement is in place for students who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing, receiving DHH TC services who did not receive instruction on their goals from the start of the year to March 21st.
- The GSM team has reviewed student data regarding the 1% Justification for students taking the alternate assessment with three of the LEAs identified. Each LEA was able to analyze their student data and move students from MI- ACCESS to M-STEP.
- The Functional Behavioral Assessment/Behavior Intervention Plan Documentation Committee recently met to discuss how the documents released in the fall of 2024 were working for school teams. Overall, the new documents are easier for our evaluation teams to write, share results, and distribute to others. As expected, we will continue to improve our implementation of practices in these areas.
- The Illuminate user group is examining the IEP and how to support users in documenting their decisions related to Least Restrictive Environment.
- IEP reviews related to goal writing and SAS clarity were recently completed. Data is being compiled and will be released soon.

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

- Nothing to report

Early Childhood Programs (C. Granzo):



Early On:

During the month of April, we received 34 referrals to the program. One of our team members had her baby-one yet to go. We received a report back from the state that our Fast Track Cap documentation was reviewed and accepted. This will be our last month of playgroups for the summer; groups will start again in August. Home visits and evaluations will continue all summer. SLPS on the team are working to provide much more robust options for AAC to our very young children so they can get access to this prior to moving to a classroom environment.

We are working on submitting a grant for some assessment and curriculum for children that are DHH. This is in response to a new law that will come into effect in September of 2025 specifically children birth to five who are deaf and/or hard of hearing. We are partnering with Montcalm ISD to submit this grant.

DPIL: The May distribution has not been done at the time of this report. Of concern at this time is the proposed elimination of 32p(6) from the state budget per the Senate. This line item has funded literacy initiatives, specifically in our community, the Dolly Parton Imagination Library. This funding source has provided approximately \$45,000 each of the last two years to the program. If this funding is eliminated we will need to move to the endowment to fund this program as the revenue is significantly less than the expenses.

Freedom Acres School Programs (A. Miller):

Program Updates:

Annual IEP Meeting Progress:

- Since September 5, a total of 39 IEP meetings have been conducted.
- Parent/guardian participation occurred in 37 of 39 meetings (95%), reflecting strong family engagement.
- Local special education director participation occurred in 19 of 39 meetings (49%), supporting compliance and program collaboration.

State Testing Update:

- MI-Access testing is underway, with a completion window of April 7 – May 9.
- M-STEP online testing continues through May 16.
- Testing progress is actively monitored and verified through the DRC Insight Portal.

2025–26 School Calendar Planning:

- Collaborative planning for next year's calendar is in progress with strong teacher representation.



- A tentative calendar has been developed and will be shared with all stakeholders after the approval process is complete.

DPPD (District-Provided Professional Development) Planning:

- A dynamic professional learning calendar is taking shape, combining motivational, virtual, and in-person training opportunities.
- Planned topics include Personal Curriculum, MOVE, POHI-SXI Statewide Conference, SEL, Culture Building, and Adaptive Schools.

SCI Program Summer Instruction:

- The SCI program maintains a 200-day instructional calendar, with extended learning into the summer.
- Summer instruction will continue to progress in MOVE, Core Language, IEP benchmark skills, and feature seasonal, animal-themed learning.
- Special experiences will include visits from farm animals and amphibians, enriching student engagement and thematic learning.

Staffing Update:

- Both SCI and SEI programs remain fully staffed, ensuring program continuity and support.

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

- A big “Shout Out” to the Portland High School Robotics Club for modifying one of our PI-OHI students' older walker into an “all terrain” walker that he can use to be independent on the playground.
- Assistive Technology is creating a lending library for Assistive Technology and AAC devices. In the future, we are hoping to add the lending library to the ISD website.

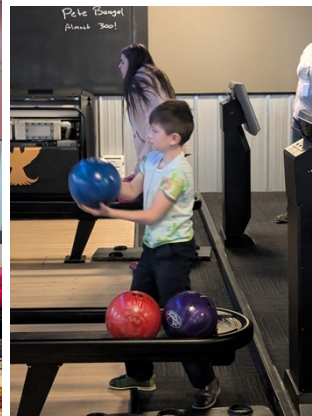


Transition Training Sites/MoCI Programs (M. Sly):

- No Report

Deaf & Hard of Hearing (C. Geiger)

- The students from the DHH program went on a bowling field trip on 4/23/25:



- ICISD DHH program staff and Early On staff are collaborating with Montcalm County DHH and Early On staff to complete the grant application for LEAD K. The grant is due May 15th. Any awarded funds will support our counties in developing training, acquiring assessment tools, curriculum development, and parent education.

Upcoming Events

- Nothing to report