

Special Education Report

December 12, 2024

**Natalie Fuller – Cyndi Geiger – Trisha Hassett– Mark Sly
Cheryl Granzo – Angela Miller – Ben Woolston – Kathy Foote**

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

- The GSM Team has worked together to identify the needs for and develop a county wide General Supervision Monitoring Plan Manual. The Manual describes the vision and roadmap for ICISD to support and monitor the 5 LEAs in the county. This Plan and General Supervision Monitoring activities will ensure that our local districts know the requirements of IDEA and implement the requirements with fidelity. The GSM Team will support the LEAs in identifying any professional development needed, how to collect and analyze data effectively, and provide targeted technical assistance.
- The ICISD General Supervision Team met on 11/22/24 with each of the 5 district's special education coordinators/directors to review LEA data pertaining to the Grant focus area of Graduation Rates. The team determined that with the assistance of the ICISD GSSG Team, each LEA will evaluate data input procedures and processes to ensure valid and reliable data. As part of Graduation Rates, the causal factors of Discipline, Absenteeism, the Least Restrictive Environment, State Assessment rates, and the use of Personal Curriculums play into graduation outcomes. The team identified Discipline and Absenteeism as the LEA's priority areas. Available data in MSDS, Skyward, and SWIS demonstrated inconsistencies leading to the discussion of what action steps are needed to mediate missing and incongruent data.
- The GSM team and two LEA directors will complete file reviews to measure compliant IEP goal writing, clear statements of Supplementary Aids and Services, and thorough documentation of IEP Notice statements on December 11.

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

- No updates

Early Childhood Programs (C. Granzo):

Early On:

We received 24 referrals to the program in the month of November. Several staff will be taking FMLA starting in November and staggering thru June. We are re-assigning families and leaning into a couple of our retired staff to potentially provide support if needed.

In October, Cheryl and several of her staff (Marcie Moline, Tanya McPheron and Katie Fischer) presented at the state Early On Conference. One session was on the work we have done in childcares supporting Early On eligible kids and the childcare staff, the other was on the High Quality Evaluations Birth to Three with a section specifically on evaluations for Autism Spectrum Disorder under the age of three that Katie assisted with



DPIL:

November 1963 40 newly enrolled, \$4612.80

We are trying to disperse the remaining quilt panels; we have 16 that are available to be made for our quilt show in March.

We have been working on establishing an online payment method for the public to make donations to the program.

Freedom Acres School Programs (A. Miller):

Principal's Report- November Highlights

Staffing Updates

- We currently have one open Health Care Aide position in our SEI (Severely Emotionally Impaired) program.

SEI Program Achievements

- **Commitment to Restorative Practices:** Our SEI program has shown exceptional success in implementing trauma-informed strategies and restorative practices. As of November 27th, the program reports zero incidents of restraints, seclusions, or suspensions, highlighting the effectiveness of their approach.
- **Professional Development:** The SEI team has scheduled additional district-provided professional development. On December 5th, they will participate in a full-day training with Robin Gobell, author of



Baffling Behavior, at Right Door. On December 6th, FBA (Functional Behavior Assessment) and BIP (Behavior Intervention Plan) training for teachers, principal, and behavior coach.

Community Support and Partnerships

- Turkey Angel Donation: Families in need received donated turkey dinners, delivered or sent home with learners on Wednesday, November 20th.
- VFW Support: Our local VFW donated a turkey dinner to a Freedom Acres family on Tuesday, November 26th, continuing their tradition of supporting our school community.



- MDOC Partnership: The Michigan Department of Corrections (MDOC) continues to be an incredible partner, engaging in various projects to support our students.
- Recent contributions from Dan Schafer, Special Activities/Volunteer Coordinator at the Richard A. Handlon Correctional Facility – MTU, include pumpkins in October, crocheted items, and no-sew blankets.
- The latest delivery of crocheted items arrived on Friday, November 22nd.

Upcoming Events

- Annual Christmas Celebration: Scheduled for Thursday, December 19th, this event will feature:
 - A visit from Santa.
 - Gifts for each student, generously secured through donations.
 - A shared lunch with students, staff, and members of our local VFW.

Our school continues to thrive thanks to the dedication of our staff, the commitment of our community partners, and the generous support we receive from organizations like MDOC and the VFW.

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

- PI-OHI welcomes Tatiana Kenny to our team. She will be working at Orchard Hills in the ECSE classroom and Head Start.
- PI-OHI has one open position at Oakwood in Portland
- Assistive Technology is working with Alt Shift Education on a potential partnership regarding new guidelines for Assistive Technology. <https://www.altshift.education/implementation-partnerships>

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

- Our MoCI Christmas Party will be held at the ISD on the 18th of December.
- One HCA opening for community-based services.

Deaf & Hard of Hearing (C. Geiger)

- The Middle School and Elementary DHH classrooms will have a joint Christmas gathering the second week of December. The date will be finalized after Thanksgiving break.
- Both the Elementary and Middle School program will be adopting a new Reading Curriculum in January. The curriculum focuses specifically on the unique teaching methodologies for Deaf or Hard of Hearing Students.
- 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.

Upcoming Events

- December 12th - *Regional OT/PT Collaboration*
- December 17th – *2nd Annual Jingle Mingle-Christmas Party* from 3:00pm – 6:00pm at Steel Street Hall in Ionia