

Parent Programs

A variety of education-related resources support parents and families in Michigan. Look for additional resources at www.cenmi.org/LeadingChange/index.asp.

Comprehensive School Health Education: The Michigan Model for Comprehensive School Health Education® facilitates interdisciplinary learning through lessons that integrate health education into other curricula including language arts, social studies, science, math, and art. Teacher training in the implementation of the model ensures that students and their schools get maximum benefits from this structured program. For more information, visit www.michigan.gov/mdch/0,1607,7-132-2946_5113-20942--,00.html.

Michigan Creative After School Experiences (MICASE): The Michigan Department of History, Arts, and Libraries created the MICASE catalog to help connect those seeking creative out-of-school educational experiences with cultural organizations that provide them. Some of the programs are partners with other after-school education providers. For more information, visit www.michigan.gov/miparentresources/0,1607,7-107-35977_36067-116299--,00.html.

Michigan Department of Education (MDE) Web Site: Parents can learn about student testing, high school graduation requirements, student rights, adequate yearly progress (AYP), teacher certification and preparation, and more. For more information, visit www.michigan.gov/mde.

Partnership for Learning *EduGuides*: With focus on the elementary, middle, and high school grade levels, *EduGuide* is designed to help Michigan students navigate the path to college. For more information, or to download a PDF copy of one or all of the guides, visit www.eduguide.org.

Parent Engagement Information and Tools: *Moving Beyond Parent Involvement to Parent Engagement*. This document, produced by the Michigan Department of Education, supports districts in the development, assessment, and implementation of parent engagement policies, programs, and plans. To view or download a copy of the document, visit www.michigan.gov/documents/Parent_Involvement_Part_1_12-16-04_111426_7.pdf.

Paying for Education: Finding money for college (especially scholarships) can be a frustrating and time-consuming endeavor. The following Web sites help to make the search easier:

- The Michigan Department of Treasury Web site (www.michigan.gov/treasury/0,1607,7-121-1748_1902---,00.html) provides information on the Michigan Education Trust (MET) (www.michigan.gov/treasury/0,1607,7-121-1752_2235_2236---,00.html).
- Michigan Education Savings Program (MESP) (www.misaves.com).
- Student Financial Aid (www.michigan.gov/studentaid).
- Michigan College Tuition Income Tax Credit Information (www.michigan.gov/treasury/0,1607,7-121-1748_1902-5749--,00.html).
- The Student Financial Services Bureau Web site (www.michigan.gov/studentaid) offers information and resources for obtaining financial aid. The "Parents and Students" section provides links to financial aid basics for understanding and navigating the financial aid process.

Project Great Start (PGS): Doing simple everyday things like talking, reading, and playing will help your child grow. The PGS Web site provides information and tools to help parents help their children with these important tasks. PGS is a statewide effort to coordinate all state initiatives toward meeting measurable results for Michigan's youngest children. PGS offers a strategic plan for Michigan's early childhood system with programs, services, and support aids for all children from birth to age five. For more information, visit www.michigan.gov/greatstart.

Supplemental Educational Services (SES): Students who are struggling in schools identified as "in need of improvement" may be eligible for SES. Services include tutoring, small group instruction, and computer instruction in reading or math. Services are provided at no cost to parents before or after school, on weekends, or during the summer. The Michigan Department of Education Web site offers a listing of SES providers by school district as well as a master list of approved providers. For more information on the program and the requirements, visit www.michigan.gov/mde/0,1607,7-140-6530_30334-49582--,00.html.

Universal Education: The principles of Universal Education reflect the belief that in order to support desired educational outcomes for all there must be a learning community, a learning environment involving culture and resources, and adult support of student learning. Universal Education is a Michigan Department of Education initiative designed to remove barriers, provide flexibility and responsive support, and facilitate life-long learning for all. For more information, visit www.michigan.gov/documents/UnivEdBrochureFINAL_incl_152066_7_Glossary_03-02-06a.pdf.

www.michigan.gov/mdch

www.michigan.gov/documents

www.michigan.gov/greatstart

www.michigan.gov/mde

and Resources

Early On® Michigan: *Early On* Michigan is the system of early intervention services for infants and toddlers, birth through age two years of age, with disabilities or delays, and their families. *Early On* ensures that eligible children and families receive comprehensive, collaborative, family-centered, strength-based services. *Early On* supports families as families help their children to learn and grow. For more information, visit <http://1800earlyon.org>.

The following are Mandated Activities Projects (MAPs) supported by the Michigan Department of Education, Office of Special Education and Early Intervention Services (MDE, OSE-EIS) with funding through the *Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)*.

Center for Educational Networking (CEN): As a statewide education information network, CEN provides products and services that help education stakeholders improve outcomes for all Michigan students. CEN strives to increase awareness of special education issues and resources; provide information and services to impact educational programs and services; and offer publications and documents that provide information and opportunities to tap into a vast statewide and national resource network. Look for *Leading Change*; *FOCUS on Results*; the *Michigan Directory of Service Providers for Infants, Toddlers, and Students with Disabilities*; *Revised Administrative Rules for Special Education*; and *Procedural Safeguards* at www.cenmi.org.

Citizens Alliance to Uphold Special Education (CAUSE): CAUSE is the designated Parent Training and Information Center related to special education for the state of Michigan. CAUSE offers free workshops, as well as information via their toll-free number at (800) 221-9105, to anyone who needs assistance. CAUSE is a coalition which provides a forum for special education consumers and providers to exchange ideas and information with other groups, as well as help solve problems in the delivery of special education. For more information, visit <http://causeonline.org>.

Michigan Alliance for Families: Michigan Alliance for Families provides information, support, and education to families of children and adults with disabilities from birth through age 25 currently in the educational system. The purpose of the project is to increase the involvement of families in their children's education and in the educational system in general. For more information, visit www.michiganallianceforfamilies.org.

Michigan Department of Education Low Incidence Outreach (MDE-LIO): MDE-LIO provides programs and services to support children with visual impairments and children who are deaf or hard of hearing, their families, and school personnel. For more information, visit www.cenmi.org/msdb-lio.

Michigan Special Education Mediation Program (MSEMP): MSEMP helps parents, educators, and service providers to develop productive relationships for resolving issues in early intervention and special education. For more information, visit www.cenmi.org/msemp.

Project Find Michigan: Project Find conducts continuous public awareness and referral activities designed to locate, identify, and refer all children, youth, and young adults with disabilities who may be eligible for special educational services under *Michigan's Revised Administrative Rules for Special Education* and the *Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)* Part B. Project Find is devoted to helping individuals, parents, and people who work with families (known as primary referral sources), to connect with the special educational services that may be needed. For more information, visit www.projectfindmichigan.org.

Statewide Autism Resources and Training (START): The START Project at Grand Valley State University offers training, resources, effective practice, and collaboration and networking for individuals who support students with autism. For more information, visit www.gvsu.edu/autismcenter.

www.cenmi.org

causeonline.org

www.michiganallianceforfamilies.org

www.projectfindmichigan.org

www.michigan.gov/mdch

1800earlyon.org

www.cenmi.org/msemp

www.gvsu.edu/autismcenter

www.michigan.gov/studentaid

Creating Safer Schools and Communities—

This series, jointly put together by the Hamilton Fish Institute and Northwest Regional Educational Laboratory, includes five newly revised guidebooks for creating safe, positive schools. For more information on the entire series, visit www.hamfish.org.

Education of Homeless Children and Youth—

To ensure that homeless children and youth in Michigan have access to a free appropriate public school education, the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (Subtitle VII-B) of 2002, part of the *No Child Left Behind*, requires the Michigan Department of Education to take a number of steps on behalf of the population. For more information, visit www.michigan.gov/mde/0,1607,7-140-6530_30334_40067--,00.html.

Engaging Parents in Education: Lessons from Five Parental Information and Resource Centers—

The Parent Information Resource Center (PIRC) program is a nationwide effort designed to encourage family involvement in education. Funded by the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Innovation and Improvement, the program generally focuses on projects serving parents of low-income, minority, and limited English proficient children in elementary and secondary schools. PIRC projects provide resource materials and coordinate conferences covering high-quality family involvement programs. *Source: Michigan Association of School Administrators (MASA) in their newsletter, MASA Leader, December 14, 2007 (pg. 30).* For more information, visit <http://lifeservicessystem.org>.

Great Start—This State of Michigan initiative is designed to encourage early literacy efforts and parenting education. For more information, visit www.greatstartforkids.org.

Keeping Students Safe with COPS—The U.S. Department of Justice Office of Community Orientated Policing Services (COPS) is offering several technical assistance resources to help school administrators, parents, and community leaders enhance school safety and address youth-related crime and victimization. The School Safety Package includes practical guidebooks and CDs that address issues such as developing a successful school safety program and emergency response plan, assessing and reducing gang activity, reducing bullying in schools, responding to bomb threats, dealing with disorderly youth,

preventing school vandalism and break-ins, and preventing gun violence among youth. The COPS School Safety Pack is available free of charge. For more information, contact the COPS Response Center at 800-421-6770.

Michigan Department of Education's R.E.A.D.Y. (Read, Educate And Develop Youth) Early Learning Program—

The national award-winning program was developed in 1998 to increase parent and caregiver awareness of the important connection between their child's early learning and future success. For more information, visit www.michigan.gov/ready.

Michigan Department of Education (MDE) Resource Links for Helping Your Child Succeed—

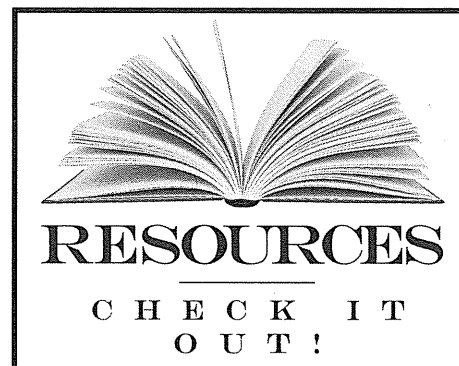
Resource links in MDE's section for parents and families offers connections to a vast array of information, on both the national and local level, to benefit parents and their children. For more information, visit www.michigan.gov/mde/0,1607,7-140-5233_5897-113523--,00.html.

MI Map Tool Kit—The Michigan Department of Education has developed a dynamic tool kit to assist schools in their school improvement efforts. The *MI-Map Tool Kit*, provides schools with more than 300 practical strategies and materials to shape, support, and sustain school improvement. For more information, visit www.michigan.gov/mi-map.

Michigan Parent Teacher Student Association (Michigan PTSA)—

As the largest volunteer child advocacy association in the nation, PTA reminds our country of its obligations to children and provides parents and families with a powerful voice to speak on behalf of every child while providing the best tools for parents to help their children be successful students. PTA does not act alone. Working in cooperation with many national education, health, safety, and child advocacy groups and federal agencies, PTA collaborates on projects that benefit children and that bring valuable resources to its members. For more information, visit www.michiganpta.org.

National Dissemination Center for Children with Disabilities (NICHCY)—NICHCY recently posted a training module titled *Options for Dispute Resolution* (Module 18) for the Building the Legacy training curriculum on the *Individuals with Disabilities Education Act* (IDEA). For more informa-



tion, visit the NICHCY Web site, at www.nichcy.org/training/contents.asp#ThemeE.

SIF Web Site—In 2003, the Michigan Department of Education established the Office of School Improvement (OSI) to promote student learning and achievement by providing statewide leadership, guidance, and support over a wide range of programs that directly impact teaching and learning, school leadership, and continuous school improvement. Since that time, OSI in conjunction with school improvement specialists and educators across the state have developed a nationally recognized school improvement framework based on current research and best practice to support school and district continuous improvement efforts. This Web site is filled with general school improvement planning tools and information, promising practices, research, and links to school improvement sites across the nation. For additional information, as well as a list of resources, visit www.michigan.gov/schoolimprovement.

Teaching Low-Income Parents to "Work the System" by Edwin C. Darden—

This article stresses the importance of teaching parents the advantages of getting involved and "working the system." The article also highlights the Parent Academy of Montgomery County Public Schools (Rockville, Maryland), which offers a number of solutions to educational problems faced by parents and their children. To view the article, as well as a link to Montgomery County's Parent Academy program, visit <http://njbullying.org/documents/involvingparents-educationweek12-07.doc>.

Voices for Michigan's Children—This non-profit organization is a statewide, independent voice for children and their families. It works with lawmakers, business leaders, and communities in an attempt to make Michigan a place where all children have the opportunity to thrive. For more information, visit www.michiganschildren.org.