

Part II: Educational Advocacy for the MiPCT CM Reference & Resource links

1. Special Education: An Advocate's Manual

- Obtained from Michigan Protection & Advocacy Service (MPAS)
 - (800) 288-5923 or www.mpas.org

2. Michigan Alliance for Families

<http://www.michiganallianceforfamilies.org/>

3. Michigan Special Educational Rules

- Obtained from the Center for Educational Networking at the Eaton Intermediate School District
 - (888) 463-7656 or www.cenmi.org

4. Steps to take when applying for educational support:

- National Dissemination Center for Children with Disabilities:
<http://nichcy.org/schoolage/evaluation>

5. Review of Existing Evaluation Data (REED):

<http://www.michiganallianceforfamilies.org/education/reed/>

REED Process: <http://www.michiganallianceforfamilies.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/09/REED.pdf>

6. Educational Support Categories:

- Individualized Education Plan (IEP)
- 504
- Response to Intervention (RTI)
 - * Comparison chart for IEP, 504, ADA, NCLB:

http://www.michiganallianceforfamilies.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/09/iep.idea_.comparison.pdf

7. Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973:

<http://nichcy.org/laws/section504?PrintMode=true>

- To be protected under Section 504, a student must be determined to:
 - have a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities; *or*
 - have a record of such an impairment; *or*
 - be regarded as having such an impairment.

8. IEP Development Process / Michigan Department of Education:

http://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,4615,7-140-6530_6598_36168-236252--,00.html

- IEP Overview: <http://nichcy.org/schoolage/iep/overview>
- IEP form sample:

http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/IEPform_319500_7.pdf

http://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,4615,7-140-6530_6598_36168-236252--,00.html

- IEP Manual: http://www.emich.edu/coe/sped/docs/mde_iep_manual.pdf

9. Sample Letters for application:

- NICHCY:

<http://www.michiganallianceforfamilies.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/08/nichy-sample-letter-request-eval.pdf>

- MPAS:

<http://www.michiganallianceforfamilies.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/08/mpas.sample-letters-request-eval.pdf>

10. Timelines:

- Michigan Department of Education (MDE) and Office of Special Education (OSE):

<http://www.cenmi.org/Documents/02351afb-caf9-4853-bb80-912fe0854d44.MDE-OSE-Timelines-for-Initials.pdf>

11. Multidisciplinary Evaluation Team (MET):

- Sample MET form can be found:

http://www.michiganallianceforfamilies.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/09/iep.met_.pdf

12. Pre-school Programs:

- *Early On* - <https://1800earlyon.org/>

- Children - birth and up to 36 months of age

- assists families with infants and toddlers, from birth until 36 months or 3 years of age, who have a delay in their development or a diagnosed disability.

- Central contact # for application: (800) 327-5966

- *HeadStart* - <http://michheadstart.org/>

- Children 3 years and older

- *Michigan HeadStart Association (MHSA)*:

- 808 W Lake Lansing Rd, Suite 205, East Lansing, MI 48823

- Phone 517-374-6472

- County Program Locator: <http://michheadstart.org/locator>

13. Transition to Adult Living:

- Link with resource information for student involvement, options, college, guardianship, work-based learning

- <http://nichcy.org/schoolage/transitionadult>

- Michigan Rehabilitation Services

- http://www.michigan.gov/dhs/0,4562,7-124-5453_25392-272058--,00.html

- Michigan Council for Rehabilitation Services: <http://www.mrccouncil.org/>

- Michigan Works, Association: <http://michiganworks.org/>

14. Accommodation Examples for Specific Disabilities

<http://www.bridges4kids.org/articles/2004/4-04/SevierAcc.html#top>

15. Adaptation refers to both accommodations and modifications:

- An *accommodation* gives the student equal access and opportunity to benefit from the educational program. The assignment, test, or policy is the same as for the other students.
- A *modification* alters what is expected of the student.
- A student may require both.

<http://www.pacer.org/publications/pdfs/ALL15.pdf>

16. Private School Students

- Eligible for educational support
- Pertinent information can be found at: <http://www.pacer.org/parent/php/php-c147.pdf>

17. Independent Educational Evaluation (IEE).

- Sample request letter:

<http://www.michiganallianceforfamilies.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/08/mpas.sample.letters-IEE.pdf>

18. State Organizations: <http://nichcy.org/state-organizations-search-by-state-results?typegroup=ALL&statesheet%5B%5D=MI&start=Search+State+Organizations>

19. National Organizations: <http://nichcy.org/org-gateway>

20. Complaints:

- IEP: Michigan process and forms found at: http://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,4615,7-140-6530_6598_36168---,00.html
- 504's: Office of Civil Rights (OCR)
 - Michigan process information found at: <http://www.michiganallianceforfamilies.org/education/section-504>
 - Direct link to OCR: <http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/qa-complaints.html>

21. Advocacy Tips:

- Contact the Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) at your local intermediate school district (ISD) for support
- Work with local school district first
- Charter schools are local schools publically funded
- Intermediate School District (ISD) (aka: ESA = Educational Service Agency)
 - Michigan has 57 ISD's serving its school districts
 - ISCD's are county-level education agencies, either individual or 2 or + counties operating jointly.
- Typically do not enroll students directly, rather provide several different kinds of special education services.