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MDE-LIO Updates

Greetings! MDE-LIO has some exciting new projects for which we will be gathering feedback and input in the coming months. In an effort to keep you informed with more concise updates, we now have a [Facebook page](#) and an updated newsletter layout. Thanks to Rory Goodine and Kaitlin Shawgo, who worked hard to make this happen.

Upcoming Blind/Visually Impaired (BVI) Events

LIO will offer a beginner braille class in Lansing this summer. Our very own Johanna Anand and Brenda Mahoney will teach the class, so take advantage of this great summer opportunity. Additionally, Pat Love has been participating in many activities for pre-employment transition services through the Bureau of Services for Blind Persons (BSBP). Check our [BVI Events](#) section for upcoming opportunities.

Congratulations to Lynn Pensari and Judy Holmes

I would like to congratulate LIO BVI Education Consultant Lynn Pensari, who received this year's Michigan Association for the Education and Rehabilitation for the Blind and Visually Impaired (MAER) Award. I would also like to congratulate Judy Holmes from Macomb Intermediate School District (ISD), who received MAER's David and Joann Search Lifetime Achievement Award. Both awards were well-deserved.

Braille Challenge Finalists

LIO would like to recognize two Michigan students who are Braille Challenge finalists this year. Julia LaGrand (Junior Varsity) and Alexandra Allers (Varsity) will travel to California for the National Braille Competition later this month. Great accomplishment, Julia and Alexandra.

New Deaf/Hard of Hearing (DHH) Initiatives

Our DHH consultants, John Kirsh and Beth Rice, have been busy offering workshops for educational interpreters and families. They are now gathering information on quality programs and the expanded core curriculum for DHH. This is a new area of exploration for the DHH team, and we are very excited to start bringing in stakeholders.

Instructional Materials Center (IMC)

Our IMC is hitting its busy time of the year. We are starting to receive many requests for braille books, and our Braille Production Coordinator, Robert Beaton, is gearing up to make sure students receive books and materials in time for the fall. Don't delay; get your requests in now. If you have any items you are not using, please return them so we can have them available for other students.

Have a great summer.

Roxanne Balfour
APH Ex-Officio Trustee
Michigan Department of Education
Office of Special Education, Low Incidence Outreach

Newsletter Format Update

We are pleased to issue the first digital-only edition of our newsletter.

Previously, our newsletters were longer and designed for print. However, we understand that the teachers, consultants, specialists, and parents who use our services are often busy. We've streamlined the newsletter format so you can get the information you need more quickly.

If you are accessing this newsletter in a browser, it will appear to be like any other web page. If you are using a screen reader, the newsletter can still be downloaded as an accessible PDF.

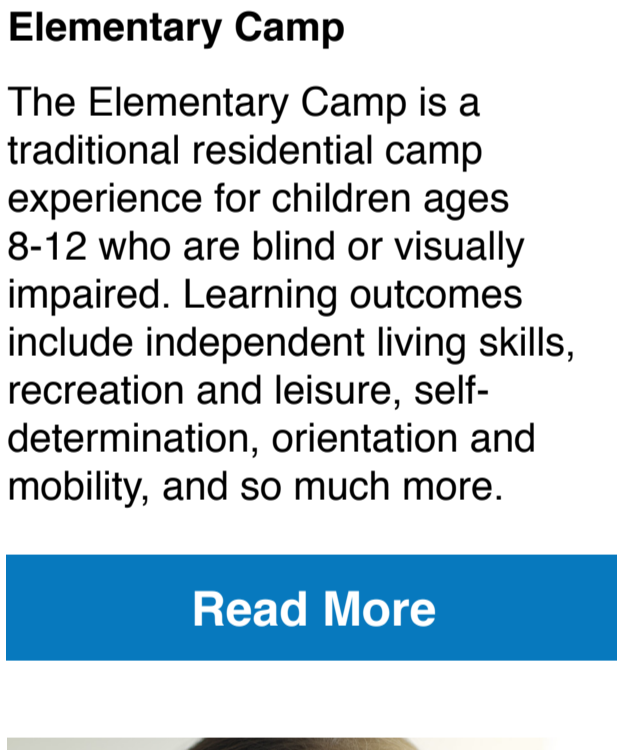
We hope you enjoy this new approach!

Share Your Opinion

What do you think of the updated newsletter? Please take a moment to let us know your thoughts.

[Take The Survey](#)

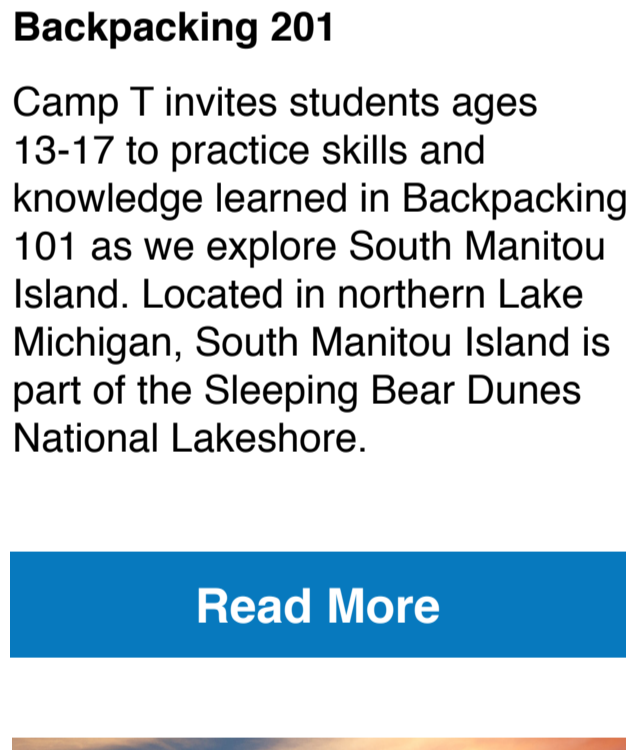
Upcoming Summer Events



Foundations for Literacy

On August 18-19, this training will provide Michigan certified teachers who deliver reading and early literacy instruction to students who are DHH the opportunity to discover the benefits of the *Foundations for Literacy* curriculum.

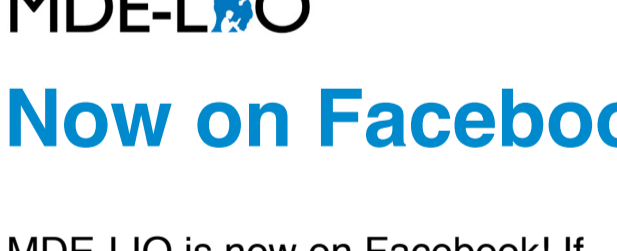
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EIPA Skill Development

In this event, educational interpreters will learn skills for including key vocabulary when interpreting from American Sign Language (ASL) to English. Participants will engage in small group and partner practice, and presenters will provide individual feedback.

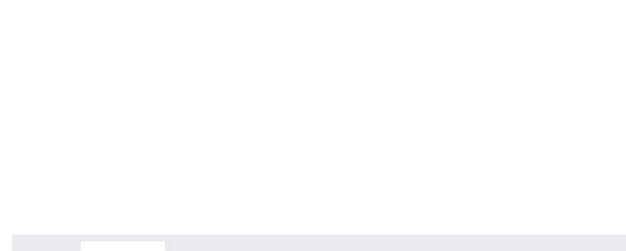
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Technology Assessments

MDE-LIO will offer assistive technology assessments August 13-17 in Lansing. These assessments are for students with visual impairments ages 3 to 26 and will help determine which tools are appropriate for meeting the student's current and future needs.

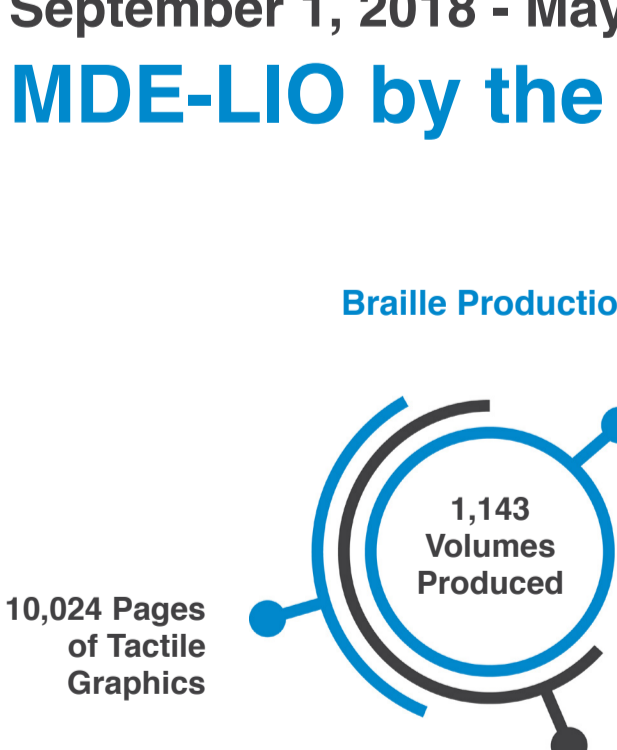
[Read More](#)



Beginner Braille Class

This class will give beginners who have little or no experience with the Unified English Braille (UEB) code the necessary and practice necessary to effectively support students who use braille.

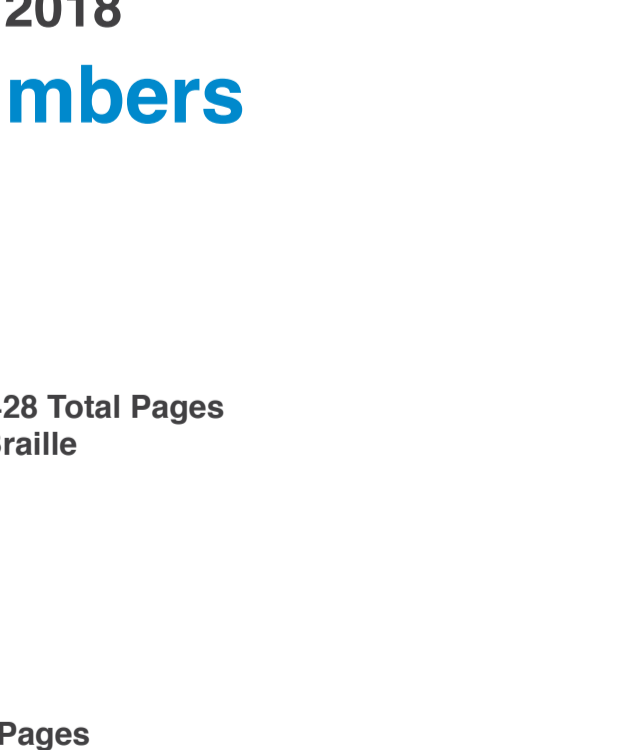
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Elementary Camp

The Elementary Camp is a traditional residential camp experience for children ages 8-12 who are blind or visually impaired. Learning outcomes include independent living skills, recreation and leisure, self-determination, orientation and mobility, and so much more.

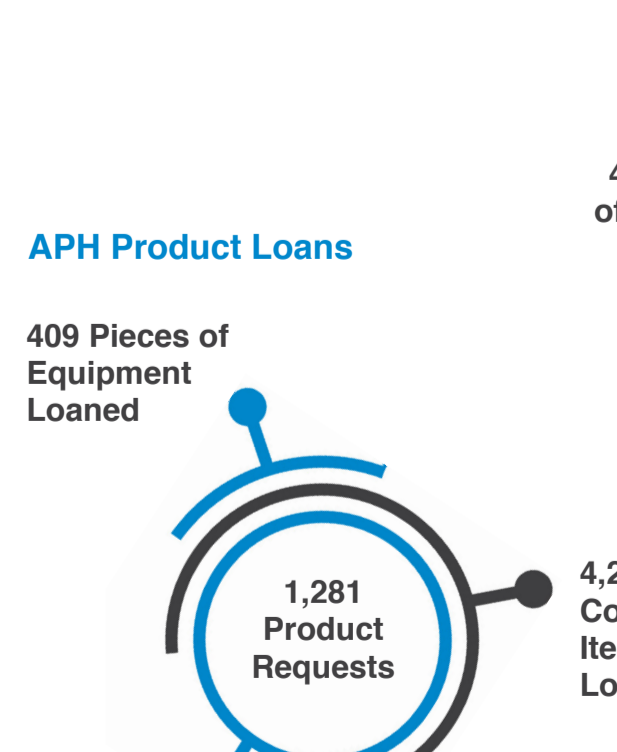
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Backpacking 201

Camp T invites students ages 13-17 to practice skills and knowledge learned in Backpacking 101 as we explore South Manitou Island. Located in northern Lake Michigan, South Manitou Island is part of the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore.

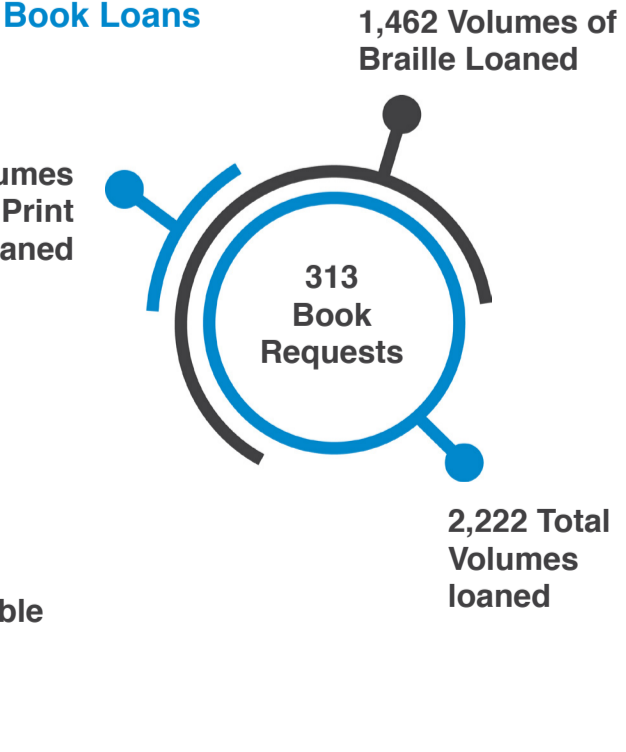
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Summer Reading Program

Registration is now open! This year's summer reading program will run June 24 - August 5 and will include three separate challenges students can participate in. The challenges are designed to be completed at home, so all Michigan students can participate.

[Read More](#)



Tools for Transition

On June 30, the Tools for Transition: Get Smart About Your Future workshop will provide students and parents skills and tools that will help students be more successful in a postsecondary training program or for employment after high school.

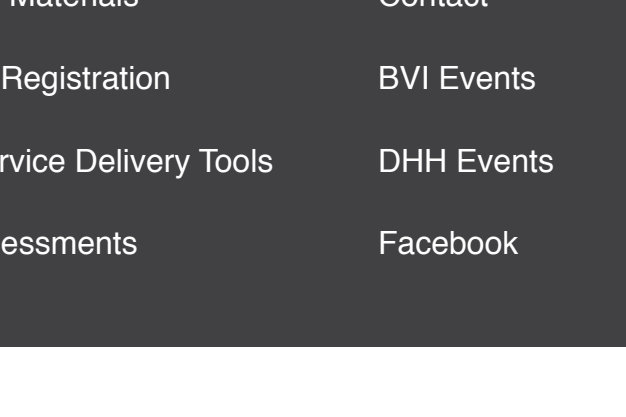
[Read More](#)

MDE-LIO Now on Facebook!

MDE-LIO is now on Facebook! If you use Facebook, please "like" or "follow" us at www.facebook.com/mdeliosocial. Our posts include upcoming LIO and Camp T events, best practices and tips, new LIO resources, information for families, and more.

Having a Facebook page allows us to share daily updates and better connect with you. We will occasionally request feedback as our page grows to make sure we're sharing relevant, useful information, so be on the lookout for opportunities to let us know what you think.

For those who do not use Facebook, never fear: We will continue to share information via our website, listserv, and newsletter.



September 1, 2018 - May 15, 2018 MDE-LIO by the Numbers

Contact Us:	Quick Links:	Website:
702 W. Kalamazoo St PO Box 30742 Lansing, MI 48909	Request Books	Homepage
Phone: 517-373-2887 Toll Free: 888-760-2206 Fax: 517-335-1632	Request Materials	Contact
msdb-outreach@michigan.gov	Student Registration	BVI Events
	DHH Service Delivery Tools	DHH Events
	ASL Assessments	Facebook