



May 2017 Newsletter

Special
Edition



Low Incidence Outreach
702 W. Kalamazoo St.
PO Box 30742
Lansing, MI 48909

Phone: 888-760-2206 Toll Free
Direct: 517-373-2887
Fax: 517-335-1632
Email: msdb-outreach@michigan.gov

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Greetings

APH News

Here is the latest issue of the APH News!

www.aph.org/news/may-2017/

We invite you to click on the above link or copy and paste it into your favorite web browser.

This month we continue our focus on partnerships. Larry Skutchan, Director of Technical Product Research, shares an overview of APH's rich history of partnering on cutting edge technologies.

A Few of This Month's Headlines:

- Partnerships: You Cannot do it Alone
- NEW! Bright Shapes Knob Puzzle
- Order Fall 2017 Textbooks Now!
- Field Tests and Surveys
- APH Annual Report Celebrates the Year of Braille
- STEM Corner: the DNA RNA Kit
- New on the APH Website: Tactile Skills Matrix
- Parts Lists Download Page Now Available!
- Typhlo and Tactus is Underway!
- Social Media Spotlight



Greetings!

I just had the privilege of spending a week at the Educational Products Advisory Committee (EPAC) meeting in Louisville, KY. It is the home of the American Printing House for the Blind (APH). I am happy to report there are some very innovative and exciting products and services being developed for our students. The APH Staff is a very dedicated group who are creative, hard-working and passionate about their work. It is always exhilarating to attend EPAC and learn about the inside workings of APH. Stay tuned for new releases! You will be thrilled!

Have a great summer!

Thanks,

Collette Bauman

Collette Bauman

Supervisor, MDE-LIO
APH Ex-Officio Trustee

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APH Materials Requests

System Update



New!

New Features

Michigan Department of Education-Low Incidence Outreach (MDE-LIO) is pleased to announce the launch of a new American Printing House for The Blind (APH) Materials Request System. This will be a major update to the APH order system. We are excited to show you the new tools that will make ordering APH materials faster, easier, and more reliable.

Those who attended our Michigan Association of Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired (MAER) presentation got a sneak peak at this new order system. Now, we are ready to share with everyone the new features that will be coming soon.

- 1. Built in High-Ticket Requests**
- 2. Login Tools**
- 3. APH Order Status Updates**
- 4. Automatic Email Notifications**
- 5. A Single Login for Both Book Requests and APH Materials**
- 6. Launch Date and Transition**



New High-Ticket Request Process

1. Login to the MDE-LIO APH Materials Request System
2. Fill out the required shipping and requester information
3. At the bottom of the page locate the high-ticket request section
4. Select the high-ticket item you would like to order
5. Fill out the student rationale. What objectives and goals will the high-ticket item accomplish for the student?
6. Read the loan agreement and click "agree"
7. Click "submit request"

High-Ticket Requests

MDE-LIO offers qualified students access to three high-ticket APH items:



MDE-LIO is pleased to offer such valuable resources to students. However, their high cost and high demand, combined with a reduction in available Federal Quota Funds has led to a need to monitor when these items are ordered. To review these orders, MDE-LIO created a high-ticket request system which includes a rationale form and a loan agreement. Currently, those forms are sent via email to anyone who requests high-ticket items. They are then filled out and faxed or emailed back to MDE-LIO. After they are received they go through an approval process. This process allows MDE-LIO to identify students who will benefit most from these items and monitor the budget to ensure funding is available.

We are excited to announce that the high-ticket request system will be integrated into our new APH Materials Request System. When creating an APH Materials Request you will be able to add high-ticket items, fill out the rationale form, and read/accept the loan agreement on one online form. By eliminating the paper forms, the process will be faster and more reliable as well as provide a clearer understanding of what is required to complete a high-ticket item request.



Login Tools

A key new feature of the updated APH Materials Request System will be user login tools. Creating an account and logging into the system will allow users to access their dashboard. Upon logging in users will see their five most recent orders. Each APH Materials Request will receive a unique order number which can be opened to view more details. More orders can be viewed by clicking "View More". A user's full order history can be viewed by clicking on "My Orders". Shipping addresses can also be saved and managed from the dashboard. These saved addresses can be used to quickly create new APH Materials Requests and Book Requests.

Dashboard

View My Orders Shipping Addresses Shortcuts Devel

User Information

Full Name:	CEN Fullname
Phone:	555-555-5555
Phone Alternate:	123-123-1234

Update profile

Recent Orders

Order #	Created
126	04/13/2017 - 10:03
121	04/12/2017 - 12:19
119	04/11/2017 - 14:39
116	04/11/2017 - 13:52
113	04/11/2017 - 13:50

View More

My Orders

My Orders

View My Orders Shipping Addresses Shortcuts Devel

Order #	Actions	Created
68	View Order	04/04/2017 - 11:25
82	View Order	04/04/2017 - 15:12

Shipping Address

Shipping Address

View My Orders Shipping Addresses Shortcuts Devel

+ Add New Address

Address Name	Shipping Name	Address	Actions
CEN	Justin Furnas	6412 Centurion Drive Suite 130 Lansing, Michigan 48917	Edit Delete
CEN Test 2	Administrator One	6412 Centurion Dr., Suite 130 Suite 130	Edit Delete



Status Updates

An exciting new feature of the upcoming APH Materials Request System will be order status updates. The system will provide users with the ability to check their previous orders. When an order is opened users will be able to see all the items that were requested and their status. MDE-LIO will update the status of items as they are processed. Status updates will include:

- 1. Pending**
- 3. Ordered from APH**
- 5. Backordered**
- 2. Shipped from Loan Library**
- 4. Shipped from APH**
- 6. Canceled**

MDE-LIO will update the status of each item on a request as information becomes available. Items ordered from APH will be updated as APH provides shipping or backorder information.

Order Details

Shipping Information

shipping name:
Justin Furnas
Address 1:
6412 Centurion Drive
Address 2:
Suite 130
City:
Lansing
State:
Michigan
Zip Code:
48917

Non High Ticket Items

Item Name Description: Step-by-Step An Interactive Guide to Mobility Techniques
Quantity: 1
Catalog Number: 8-75980-00
Status: Pending

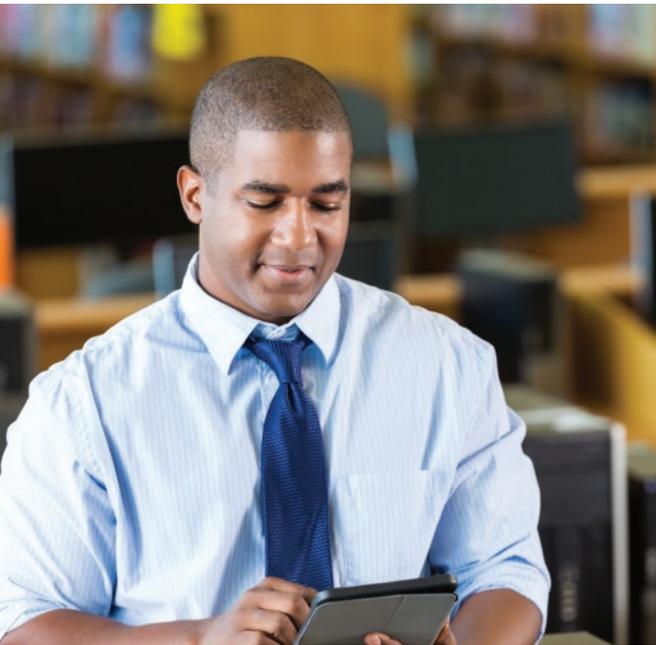
Item Name Description: Sound Adapted Tangle Ball Kit
Quantity: 1
Catalog Number: 1-08111-00
Status: Pending

Item Name Description: Tactile Tangrams: Print Grid Sheets (Set of 5)
Quantity: 1
Catalog Number: 61-249-016
Status: Pending

Item Name Description: ToAD: Object Cards
Quantity: 1
Catalog Number: 1-08152-01
Status: Pending



APH Materials Request System: Email Notifications



Automatic Email Notifications

MDE-LIO is happy to announce that the new APH Materials Request system will include automatic email notifications. Anyone who has used the MDE-LIO Book Request system will find this service familiar. Every time MDE-LIO staff indicate an item has shipped, been ordered from APH, is backordered, or canceled an email will be sent to the requester notifying them of the change.

At times, an item ordered from APH can take two to eight weeks to ship, and backordered items can take over eight weeks to ship. As soon as we receive status information from APH we will update users' requests. If, at anytime, users would like to know the status of an item, they can either check their automatic email notifications or they can login to their account and locate the APH Materials Request order number from the "My Orders" tab.

We appreciate your patience as we make status updates. MDE-LIO is notified of shipping and backorder information from APH via USPS. Due to USPS shipping times, items shipped from APH can arrive at their destination at the same time item status updates are made available to MDE-LIO.

Book Request System Integration

Many of the great new features of the APH Materials Request System will be integrated into the MDE-LIO Book Request system. The first step in this integration will be the ability to login and use saved addresses when creating a Book Request. The ability to use saved addresses will make submitting Book Requests much faster.

Additional features will be added to the Book Request system in the future including unique order numbers, the ability to view previous Book Request System from the dashboard, and additional status update options.



APH Materials Request System: Launch Date & Transition



The updated
APH Materials
Request System
goes live May 31st!

Transition

Starting May 31st the new APH Materials Request System will go live. Existing accounts will automatically be transferred to the new APH Materials Request System. Creating a new account will not be required. However, **passwords cannot be transferred**. On May 31st anyone with an existing account will receive an email with instructions to change their password. The email will contain a link to the password reset page of the New APH Materials Request System. The link in the email will expire after seven days.

“Existing accounts will automatically be transferred to the new APH Materials Request system.”

APH orders can continue to be placed using the existing APH Materials Request System. However, orders placed before the new APH Materials Request System goes live will not be transferred over. They will still be processed, but they won't receive an order number, automatic follow up emails, or status updates. We thank you for your patience as this transition is made.

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Camp Tuhsmeheeta



Family Nature Club

Over the last four months, Camp Tuhsmeheeta (Camp T) has hosted monthly Family Nature Club events. The goal of the Family Nature Club is for families and youth who are Blind/Visually Impaired (BVI) to get outside and spend time together. We focus on a general theme for our events such as birding, hiking, gardening and paddling. We would love to have your family join us! We will be taking the summer off but will be continuing the program in October 2017. Plan now to attend one of our Family Nature Club events.

Outdoor Education Workshops

Outdoor Education Workshops are two to four day workshops at Camp T. They are designed for middle school and high school students who are BVI. The workshops use hands-on, experience based learning opportunities for students to learn about themselves, others, and the world. This summer we are pleased to present two Outdoor Education Workshops.

Sign Up for Camp T Events at:

www.mdelio.org/blind-visually-impaired/events

Outdoor Education Workshop: Confidence

June 20-21, 2017

Middle School students will be faced with challenges which build confidence, comradery, and competence. They will learn about self-defense, strength training, and self-confidence. During the workshop, students will also have opportunities to meet friends from all over the state. This workshop is a great opportunity for your students.

Outdoor Education Workshop: Backpacking

August 15-18, 2017

The Backpacking Workshop will give high school students the opportunity to learn how to pack overnight backpacks, pick campsites, purify water and cook in a backpack stove. They will also learn about the outdoor ethic "Leave No Trace" and find ways to apply the ethic in their backcountry travels. Hiking/backpacking can be a lifelong leisure pursuit. Students will explore all aspects of the outdoor activity and have the opportunity to learn from experienced outdoor leaders.

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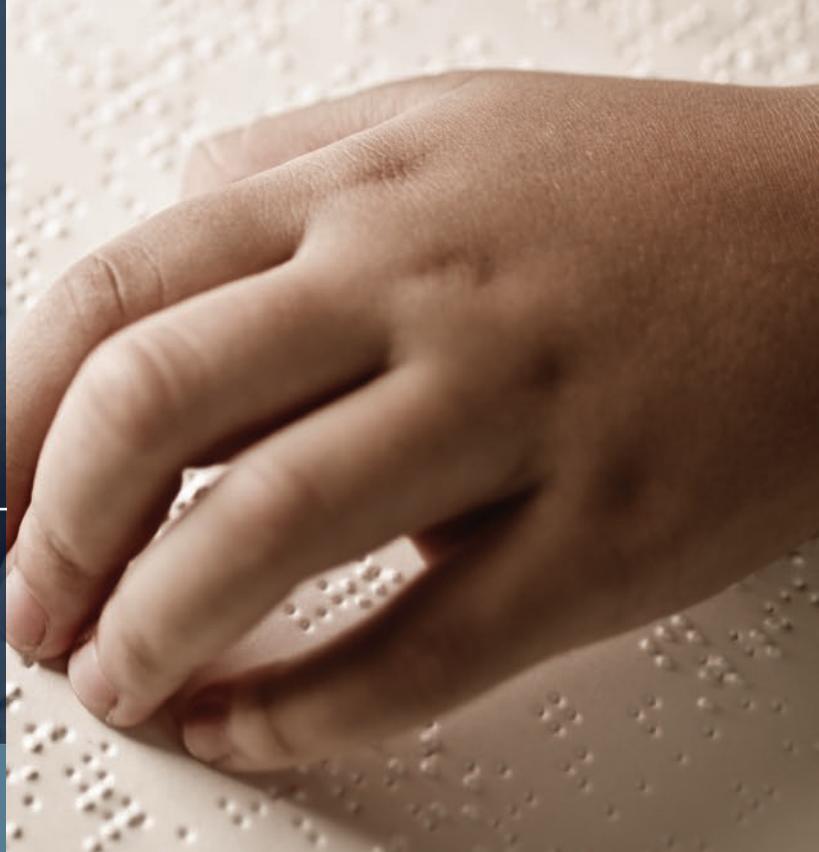
Braille

Braille Production

If you haven't submitted your orders, there is still plenty of time. We are always happy to be of assistance. The Instructional Materials Center (IMC) is in full swing with some exciting transcriptions for the library. Each transcription is in Unified English Braille (UEB), and all the math and/or technical material is transcribed with encapsulated Nemeth. We have seen a huge increase in requests this year and are excited to see the IMC expanding. None of this could be possible without each of you and your requests/inquiries. The future of your library has never been brighter! Speaking of "bright"... have you heard we are heading outside and onto the trails? Yes, we are taking reading outside!! Check with your local library to see if they are participating – if they aren't, encourage them to look into it!

UEB Literacy Expansion Program

MDE-LIO has been offering UEB recreational reading books free of charge to students across Michigan throughout this past school year. This has been an extremely popular program; so mark your calendars and watch the Listserv this fall. We will begin offering additional titles on September 1, 2017!



Build a Better World Summer Reading Program

The Braille and Talking Book Library (BTBL) in collaboration with Michigan Department of Education–Low Incidence Outreach (MDE-LIO) is pleased to present the Build a Better World Summer Reading Program.

If you are interested in participating contact:

Youth Librarian Stephanie Wambaugh

Email: wambaugh@michigan.gov

Or call the library at: 1-800-992-9012

Summer Reading Logs

Is your child or student expected to keep track of their summer reading? Check out this great note-taking strategy from Paths to Literacy to log summer reading. The best part about this idea is that it is something your child or student can do independently!

www.pathstoliteracy.org/strategies/note-taking-strategy-log-school-reading-assignments

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Deaf/Hard of Hearing (DHH)

DHH Events



Educational Interpreter Performance Assessment (EIPA) Skill Development Workshop in Traverse City, Michigan

June 26-27, 2017

Improve your interpretation skills in a two-day workshop presented by Michigan Department of Education-Low Incidence Outreach (MDE-LIO). During the workshop, our team of presenters will provide specific skill instruction, and participants will have a chance to engage in small group and partner practice. Presenters will also provide individual feedback designed to help educational interpreters improve skills assessed on the EIPA.

The Visual Communication Sign Language (VCSL) Checklist Workshop

August 1, 2017

The VCSL Checklist is a standardized comprehensive tool used to assess and monitor a child's language development and use of American Sign Language (ASL). Dr. Laurene Simms, a co-author of the VCSL, will conduct the training.

This training is provided for professionals in schools working with students who are DHH. Attendees are required to possess "Intermediate" or "Advanced" skills in ASL. The training will be presented in ASL without a voice interpreter provided.

Sign up and learn more at:

www.mdelio.org/deaf-hard-of-hearing/events



Free Online Resources

The Laurent Clerc National Deaf Education Center at Gallaudet University offers seven online modules entitled "Setting Language in Motion: Family Supports and Early Intervention for Babies Who Are Deaf or Hard of Hearing". The modules are presented in spoken English, with subtitles, and ASL simultaneously. Topics covered include early identification, intervention, and family involvement.

www3.gallaudet.edu/clerc-center.html

DeafTEC is a grant-funded project administered by the National Technical Institute for the Deaf (NTID). DeafTEC offers online resources and information for secondary students as well as professionals. Students can learn more about post-secondary opportunities especially in the areas of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM). Professionals can access information regarding best practices for teaching students who are DHH. Information for professionals is found within the ClassACT section of DeafTEC. ClassACT topics include Universal Design for Instruction (UDI), Access/Support Services, and Strategies for Writing in the Disciplines.

www.deaftec.org
www.deaftec.org/resources

All three of the cochlear implant companies that are approved in the United States offer resources for parents and professionals regarding auditory skill development, listening and spoken language development, and device management.

Advanced Bionics provides educational support materials through their Tools for Schools program. Professionals can download resources and activity-related materials for free.

www.advancedbionics.com/content/advancedbionics/us/en/home/support/tools-for-schools.html

MedEL offers support materials through their comprehensive "BRIDGE to Better Communication" program. The BRIDGE materials include downloadable materials, apps, and interactive online listening games as well as a catalog of rehabilitation materials for educators and professionals.

www.medel.com/us/rehabilitation/

The Cochlear Corporation's Communication Corner offers rehabilitation materials for families of infants through high school aged students and beyond. Parents (and professionals) can access customized suggestions and materials after completing an online fillable assessment tool.

www.cochlear.com/wps/wcm/connect/us/communication-corner





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Tips & Events

Tips

Independent Living Skills (ILS) Tip

Most children go through stages of being picky about what and how they eat. Some babies and young children with visual impairments can be particularly resistant to trying new foods. Sometimes this can be especially true of premature babies or those who have disabilities in addition to their visual impairments, possibly because they may be particularly sensitive to new textures or smells. If your child/student is reluctant to try certain foods or textures, the American Foundation for the Blind (AFB) gives a few tactics to consider.

www.familyconnect.org/info/browse-by-age/infants-and-toddlers/growth-and-development-iandt/picky-eaters/1235

Orientation and Mobility (O&M) Tip: Geocaching

Have you tried geocaching with your student on an orientation and mobility lesson? Geocaching is an outdoor treasure hunting game using a Global Positioning System (GPS) enabled device. The student navigates to a specific location using GPS coordinates and tries to find the geocache (treasure) that has been hidden. A great way to combine O&M skills and technology for a creative learning experience! For more information, check out:

www.livebinders.com/play/play?id=1854563#

www.sensorytravel.com/blog/?p=59

www.geocaching.com/guide/default.aspx

www.allreadable.com/d9964ao3

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Events

Braille Challenge 2017 National Finals!

Congratulations to Julia from Grand Rapids for qualifying for the Braille Challenge 2017 National Finals. More than 1,100 total students participated in Regional Braille Challenge events across the United States and Canada with over 200 participants in the Junior Varsity category. Julia is one of 10 in her group to qualify. MDE-LIO wishes her the best of luck on June 17th in Los Angeles, CA!

Save the Date! Friday, October 27, 2017

Join Diane Wormsley as she presents:

The Individualized Meaning-Centered Approach to Braille Literacy Education (I-M-ABLE) – for children with visual impairments and additional cognitive disabilities.

Diane P. Wormsley, Ph. D. has worked with all ages of children and adults with visual impairment including children with additional multiple disabilities. Her work spanned several countries including the United States, Australia, and Papua New Guinea. Out of these varied experiences she gradually developed the I-M-ABLE.

Equine Guided Journey

Michigan Department of Education-Low Incidence Outreach (MDE-LIO) provides experiential opportunities for students state-wide. One of the newest and innovative events was held on Saturday, May 6, 2017! Students experienced the Equine Guided Journey and became part of the herd. The day was spent learning about horses, meeting and greeting the herd, painting the horses, with the grand finale of a parade. Students walked away with a better understanding of working together and feeling the calmness of being a part of the journey.



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Technology Corner

Basic Duxbury Braille Translation (DBT) Workshop

When:

June 2, 2017

Location:

Michigan Library and Historical Center
702 W. Kalamazoo St.
Lansing, MI 48915

Register online:

www.mdelio.org

Michigan Department of Education-Low Incidence Outreach (MDE-LIO) has added another new and dynamic workshop to its regional on-demand workshops: Basic Duxbury. New to Duxbury, just getting started or haven't had the time to explore it? Here is the chance to learn the overall basics of Duxbury. Whether you are a six-key entry person or Word aficionado, this training will help you get a better grasp on how using Duxbury will aid in converting text to Unified English Braille (UEB) for your students. This workshop will take you from the beginning steps of Duxbury for customizing to creating simple tables, charts, and doing elementary math worksheets. You can even bring some examples of your student's assignments to get help with or ask questions about the best method of input.

Some of the learning objectives for this training are:

1. To learn the basic text to braille terminology.
2. To learn how to configure or customize Duxbury options in the initial setup.
3. To learn various entry methods for creating documents, such as six-key, Qwerty, Word conversion, scanning, and uploading documents.
4. To learn how to translate print documents into UEB.
5. To learn how to create and modify tables and charts.
6. To learn how to create math documents using the Braille Authority of North America (BANA) Nemeth Template.



Google Duo

Duo is a one-to-one video calling app for everyone – designed to be simple, reliable, and fun so you never miss a moment.

Features:

- Simple interface.
- Pick a loved one and jump right in, with a simple interface that brings video to the forefront.
- See the caller before you pick up with Duo’s live preview feature.
- High quality video.
- Experience faster and more reliable video calls whether you’re on Wi-Fi or on-the-go.

Once again, MDE-LIO will be conducting technology evaluations for students with a visual impairments August 2017.

If you have a student or child that you would like to have evaluated prior to the start of the next school year, please contact Pat Love-Sypho for more information.

Email: lovep@michigan.gov

Phone: 517-241-2903



Microsoft Office Lens

People who have a vision impairment we will often come across inaccessible print documents. This is very common in classrooms where the teacher will provide the class with hand-outs but often in the wrong format. It is either too small, or for those who have no sight, it is completely inaccessible.

Introducing Microsoft Office Lens

This changed when Microsoft came out with their free Office Lens app, which is a scanner that uses your camera to create digital copies of printed documents such as business cards and receipts. Once you take a picture of a document you can trim, crop, and edit the image. It also acts very well as an Optical Character Reader (OCR) scanner as well. Just take a picture of some writing on a sign or paper, and have it read back to you using their Immersive Reader.

How To Use Office Lens

Although Android has Office Lens, it doesn't have Immersive Reader (which is needed for documents to be read out loud) unfortunately. So this tutorial will be on the iPhone and other iOS devices only.

- Once downloaded, open up the app and go through the welcome screen.
- Allow access to the camera.
- Point the back of the phone towards some text.
- If you are using Voiceover, Frame Guide will help you capture the best shot. It will tell you to move back if you're too close or go left/right or up/down to get the whole document in the frame.
- Double tap the red capture button at the center bottom of the screen to take a picture.
- When it finishes processing, it will give you the option to edit it or add another picture (useful if you're scanning multiple documents such as a book).
- You don't need to edit anything; just tap on the done button to export the picture you've just taken.
- From the list of apps where you can export, select Immersive Reader.
- It will then ask you to log into your Microsoft account. If you have an Outlook.com, Live or Hotmail email you can sign in. If not, go and create one.
- Then it will scan the image for text.
- Once scanned, the written text from the document will now be on your screen. You can read it using Voiceover by placing a finger on the screen or press the play button to use one of their voices to read the whole document.
- Once you are done listening you can tap close, which will give you the option to save it by exporting to another Microsoft app such as Word or OneDrive. If you don't want to save it, just tap close again, and it will take you back to the capture screen so you can scan a new document.

And there you have it, a free alternative to KNFBReader. Carry this app in your pocket, and whenever you are presented with print text, take a picture and get it read back to you. I personally know of a couple of individuals who have visual impairments that have used this app and love it!



Go Green!



Save Paper

Protect the environment and go paperless whenever you can. Let us know your email address if you want to be added to our email list. Just send a request to:
msdb-outreach@michigan.gov

The Newsletter is edited by Collette Bauman, Rory Goodine, Brenda Mahoney, and Lynn Pensari. Comments or questions can be directed to Collette Bauman at baumanc@michigan.gov or Lynn Pensari at pensaril@michigan.gov or (888) 760-2206. This publication is available in alternate formats. Please contact us for braille, print or large print copies.

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MDE-Low Incidence Outreach
PO Box 30742
Lansing, MI 48909
Toll Free Phone: 888-760-2206
Email: msdb-outreach@michigan.gov

Michigan Department of Education Statement of Assurance of Compliance With Federal Law

The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) complies with all Federal laws and regulations prohibiting discrimination and with all requirements and regulations of the U.S. Department of Education. It is the policy of the Michigan Department of Education that no person on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin or ancestry, age, sex, marital status, or handicap shall be discriminated against, excluded from participation in, denied the benefits of, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination in any program or activity for which it is responsible or for which it received financial assistance from the U.S. Department of Education.

For further information or inquiries about this law, contact:

The Michigan Department of Education
Civil Rights Coordinator
P.O. Box 30712
Lansing, MI 48909