

September 17, 2018

Welcome To A New School Year

The Michigan Department of Education - Low Incidence Outreach is so excited about all the events we have planned for this upcoming year. We recently sent an announcement over our listservs about providing workshops, classes, and trainings in a new format. Based on input from the field, we have determined that we will provide our high-quality trainings and workshops regionally with preplanned dates and online trainings in place of on-demand workshops. Visit our [BVI events page](#) to sign up.

LIO welcomes Sarah Oberlin! Sarah is our new American Printing House for the Blind (APH) contact person for all your APH product needs. She has already proven to be a wonderful addition and a quick study with processing orders and learning about our APH inventory.

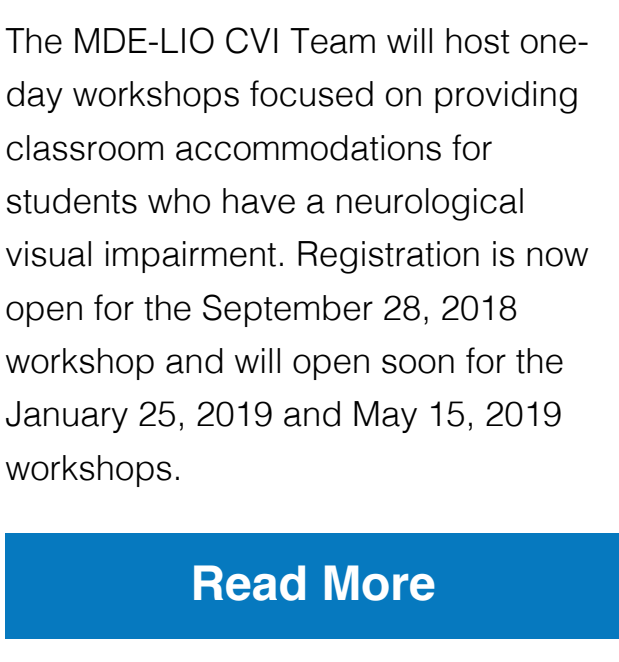
In October, the National Braille Association Professional Development Conference will be held in Detroit for the first time in more than 30 years. The conference will be held October 24-26 and will offer a wide variety of workshops on braille-related topics. We hope to see you there.

In December, MDE-LIO will have a Parent Forum/Expo in collaboration with the Bureau of Services for Blind Persons. The event is for parents of students who are Blind/Visually Impaired (BVI) and will be held in Lansing. More details will be provided in the upcoming weeks.

We continue to work with our partner agencies, professionals, related services, and families for our students who are BVI and Deaf/Hard of Hearing (DHH). As we move forward with improvements in our work, we may ask for feedback from time to time or have stakeholder meetings to make sure we are providing the support needed to make children's lives better.

Roxanne Balfour
MDE-LIO Interim Director

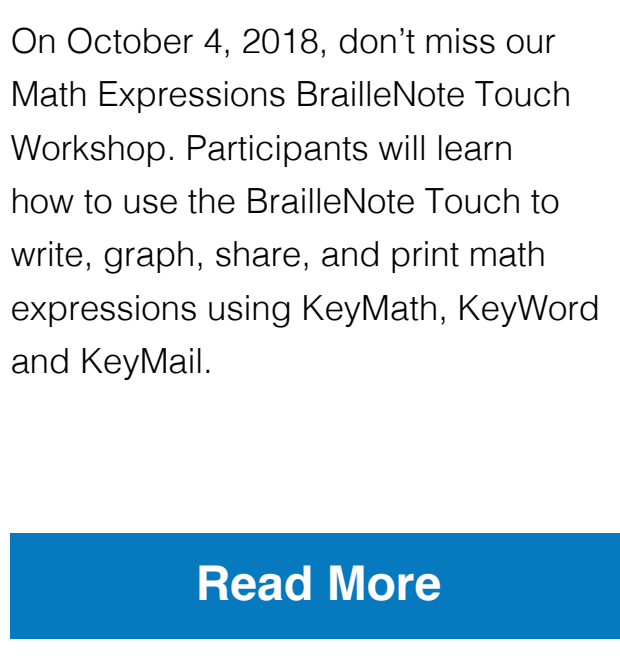
Upcoming Events Mark Your Calendars



Neurological Visual Impairment

The MDE-LIO CVI Team will host one-day workshops focused on providing classroom accommodations for students who have a neurological visual impairment. Registration is now open for the September 28, 2018 workshop and will open soon for the January 25, 2019 and May 15, 2019 workshops.

[Read More](#)



BrailleNote Touch Workshop

On October 4, 2018, don't miss our Math Expressions BrailleNote Touch Workshop. Participants will learn how to use the BrailleNote Touch to write, graph, share, and print math expressions using KeyMath, KeyWord and KeyMail.

[Read More](#)



Matt Connect/Connect 12

Catch an introductory workshop focused on using the Matt Connect/Connect 12. Learn the basics of capturing printed material, using the distance camera, and downloading apps on October 3, 2018.

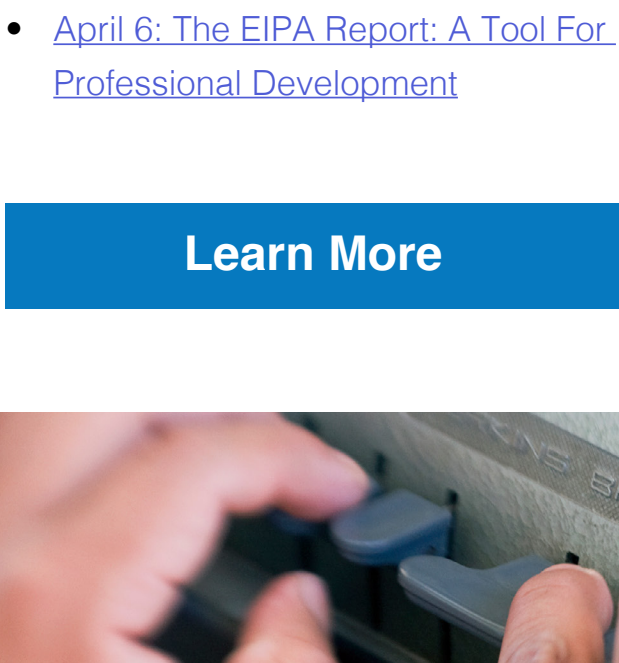
[Read More](#)



Intermediate ASL Class Online

Need to brush up on your signing skills? MDE-LIO will offer an eight-week Intermediate ASL class online for professionals who work with DHH students. The class will start September 26, 2018 and end before Thanksgiving.

[Read More](#)

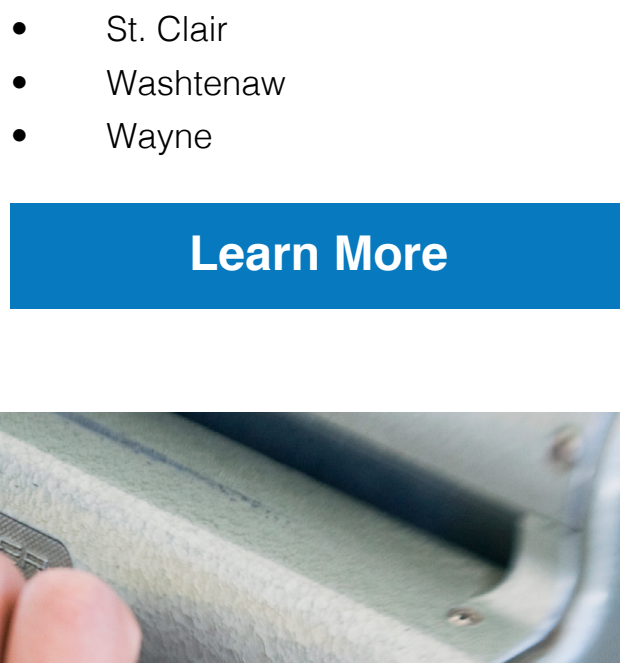


EIPA Video Conference Series

MDE-LIO is pleased to offer Boys Town's annual Educational Interpreter Performance Assessment (EIPA) Video Conference Series again this school year. The workshops will be held on the following Saturdays:

- [October 6: How Do I Interpret In Math Class?](#)
- [December 1: Developing Effective Interpreting Skills for Using Fingerspelling and Numbers](#)
- [February 16: Understanding Prosody](#)
- [April 6: The EIPA Report: A Tool For Professional Development](#)

[Learn More](#)



Junior Achievement

On May 10, 2019, MDE-LIO and Junior Achievement of Southeastern Michigan, Inc. will collaboratively host a Finance Park event for Deaf/Hard of hearing students from school districts/programs in these ten counties:

- Genesee
- Lapeer
- Livingston
- Macomb
- Monroe
- Oakland
- Shiawassee
- St. Clair
- Washtenaw
- Wayne

[Learn More](#)

Braille Classes

MDE-LIO has a few upcoming braille class opportunities this fall and next spring. The fall classes will include one held in Macomb County and one online, both starting the first week of October. Spring classes will be held in Genesee County, Kent County and online starting the second week of February. Registration is now open for fall classes!

The process for scheduling our braille classes has changed:

MDE-LIO will now offer braille classes throughout the year instead of scheduling classes on demand. This new format will allow you to plan ahead for staff or family members who may need a braille class.

www.mdelio.org Website Updates

New Online Production System

MDE-LIO has launched a new online production system. This new system eliminates the need for paper forms and will streamline book ordering. Now the [Request a Book Form](#) will give Michigan organizations access to our loan library, APH books, and production services. [Learn more about the new system.](#)

Support Request Change

The process for requesting support has changed. Families and school districts can now initiate a request for support using our new outreach support process.

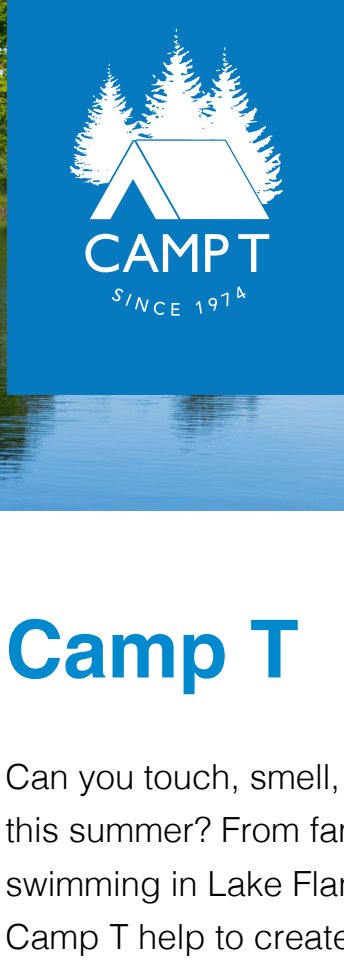
Read the outreach support guidelines and access the request forms:

- [Blind/Visually Impaired Outreach Support page](#)
- [Deaf/Hard of Hearing Outreach Support page](#)

DHH Expanded Core Curriculum Resources

The [Expanded Core Curriculum for Students who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing \(ECC-DHH\)](#) is a resource that educational teams can use to identify needs not addressed in the general education curriculum. The ECC provides a framework for addressing the unique needs of students who are DHH.

Information, links, and resources for the eight content areas of the ECC-DHH are now available in the [DHH Expanded Core Curriculum section](#) of our website.



Camp T

Can you touch, smell, hear, and taste the great things happening at Camp Tuhsmehta this summer? From families spending time together around campfires to friends swimming in Lake Flanigan, the natural wonders of this great outdoor place called Camp T help to create memories that last a lifetime.

"Recreation and leisure" is one part of the expanded core curriculum that students receive at school, in the community, and home. Recreation and leisure can be an end, or it can be a means to an end. Both are valuable, and they both have a place in our lives. As Site Director of Camp T, I seek to build a comprehensive therapeutic recreation program that is based on both.

Spending time outside enjoying nature, listening to birds, learning about the parts of a flower, hiking on the trails, swimming in the lake, pulling weeds in the garden, telling stories, singing together, learning techniques for backcountry camping, and other activities have inherent benefits for our health, wellness, and quality of life. This is recreation and leisure as an end.

Camp Tuhsmehta is one setting where youth who are Blind/Visually Impaired and their families can experience recreation and leisure. Our goal is to help them improve their ability to find leisure in their lives—whether it is around the corner, in their local neighborhood, or across this great state. To learn more about Camp T's events throughout the year, visit the [Camp T website](#).

Jereme Vanden Heuvel
Camp T Site Director

2018 AER Conference

AER Conference

The Association for Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired (AER) held its biannual national conference July 26–29, 2018 in Reno, Nevada. Pre-conference sessions were also held on July 25. More than 700 professionals, parents, and administrators attended the conference and had an opportunity to attend sessions related to Neurological Visual Impairments, infant and preschool development, transition, orientation and mobility, and much more.

AER Resolution Concerning Cortical Visual Impairment (CVI)

During AER's biennial business meeting, held in conjunction with the AER Biennial International Conference, the membership group adopted a [Resolution on CVI \[Word\]](#) that promotes and defends the right of children who have neurological visual impairments, including Cortical Visual Impairment (CVI). Children have a right to a free and appropriate public education through proper evaluation by qualified personnel.

The authors of the resolution have prepared a set of accompanying [Resolution on CVI: Explanatory Notes \[PDF\]](#) that offer additional clarity and context for properly understanding and applying the resolution.

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