

# MDE-LIO Newsletter

April 2018



Low Incidence Outreach  
702 W. Kalamazoo St.  
Lansing, MI 48909  
[www.mdelio.org](http://www.mdelio.org)

# MDE-LIO April 2018

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# LIO Updates

**G**reetings, and welcome spring! We've had another successful year of gathering census information from all of you. Thank you for putting in the time to complete and update this information. Through April 20, LIO will continue accepting parent consent forms for this year's census. Consent forms are needed so we can count students for quota funds.

LIO is gearing up for a new look to our newsletter in June. We know how busy all of you are, and we will try to capture important resources and event information in a more concise format. We value your input, so let us know what you think when it comes out.

LIO has lots of great workshops and other events coming up. Take a look at the events listed in this newsletter and on our website, and register today.

## **APH Equipment Update**

Orbit Readers are not in stock at APH. There is no waiting list; we have received requests but do not have any in stock to provide. We are checking with APH daily, as Orbit Readers will be available on a first come, first serve basis.

Thanks.

Roxanne Balfour  
Michigan Department of Education, Low Incidence Outreach  
Ex Officio Trustee



**Orbit Readers are not in stock at APH.**

# Instructional Materials Center (IMC)

## Spring Update



# Mark Your Calendars!



## **Michigan AER**

April 26-27, 2018

Courtyard by Marriott Detroit  
Laurel Park Place  
37700 Six Mile Rd.  
Livonia, MI 48152

## **National Braille Association**

October 24-26, 2018

The Book Cadillac Detroit  
1114 Washington Blvd.  
Detroit, MI, 48226

## **Textbook Transcriptions and Book Searches**

Now that we're well into the school year and students are deep into their curriculum, it's a great time to start looking ahead! We strongly encourage you to start thinking about sending us information to get books ready for the 2018–2019 school year. That might sound far off, but it's just around the corner! The average geometry textbook can take 6–8 months to transcribe, so submitting an order today means that your books can be ready come August.

Our goal is to have textbooks available on the first day of school, so braille readers can have the same content as their sighted peers at the same time. But we need your help to make that goal a reality—no order is ever too early.

## **Free and/or Reduced Funds Available**

Do you have a student who receives free or reduced meals? If so, funds are available to offset the cost of their original braille transcriptions (the costliest aspect of a braille textbook). These funds are limited and offered on a first come, first serve basis, so get your order in today!

## **UEB Literacy Expansion Program**

MDE-LIO is excited to offer Unified English Braille (UEB) recreational reading books **free of charge** to students across Michigan. Each month, our catalog of free books continues to expand as more titles available.

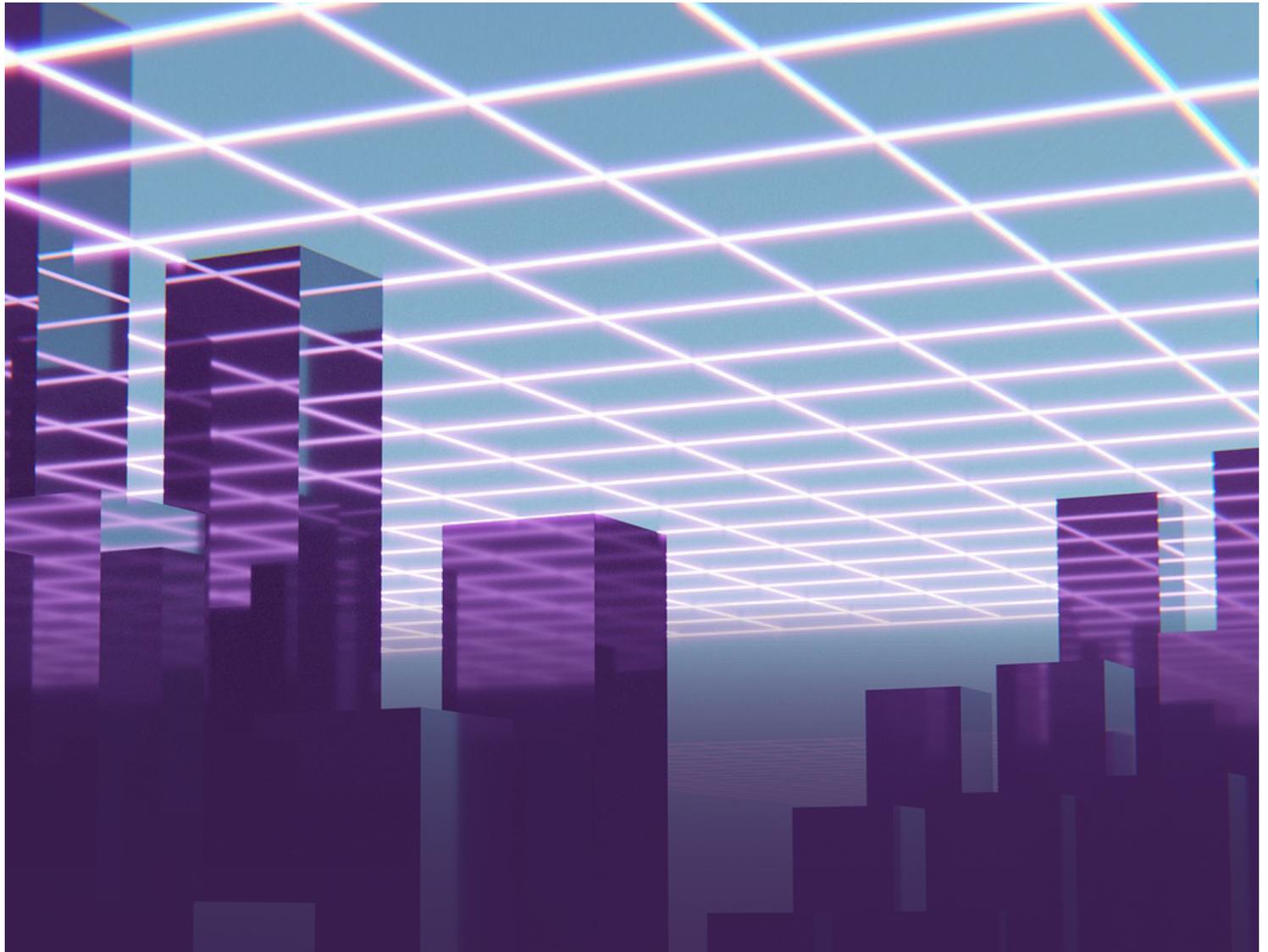
Be sure to expand your students' reading horizons and their understanding of UEB by taking advantage of this exciting new initiative. Watch the listserv for new titles as they are released!

## **Contact Us**

Too swamped with this year's schedule to send in an order for next year? We are here to help! Please don't hesitate to contact us for assistance.

# Deaf/Hard of Hearing News

## Just STEM It!



### Just STEM It! Conference

Michigan School Professionals for Students who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing (MSPSDHH), in collaboration with MDE-LIO, will host a statewide conference.

Keynote and panel discussions will focus on how to prepare and motivate students who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing to engage in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) fields. SCECH credits will be available. For more information, visit the [MSPSDHH website](http://mspdhh.org) (mspdhh.org).

**When:** April 27, 2018

**Location:** Clinton County Regional Educational Service Agency (RESA)

**Cost:** \$100 per person

# Deaf/Hard of Hearing Resources



## Expanded Core Curriculum

The Expanded Core Curriculum for Students who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing (ECC-DHH) can be used as a resource for developing educational plans for students with hearing loss. The ECC-DHH covers eight content areas:

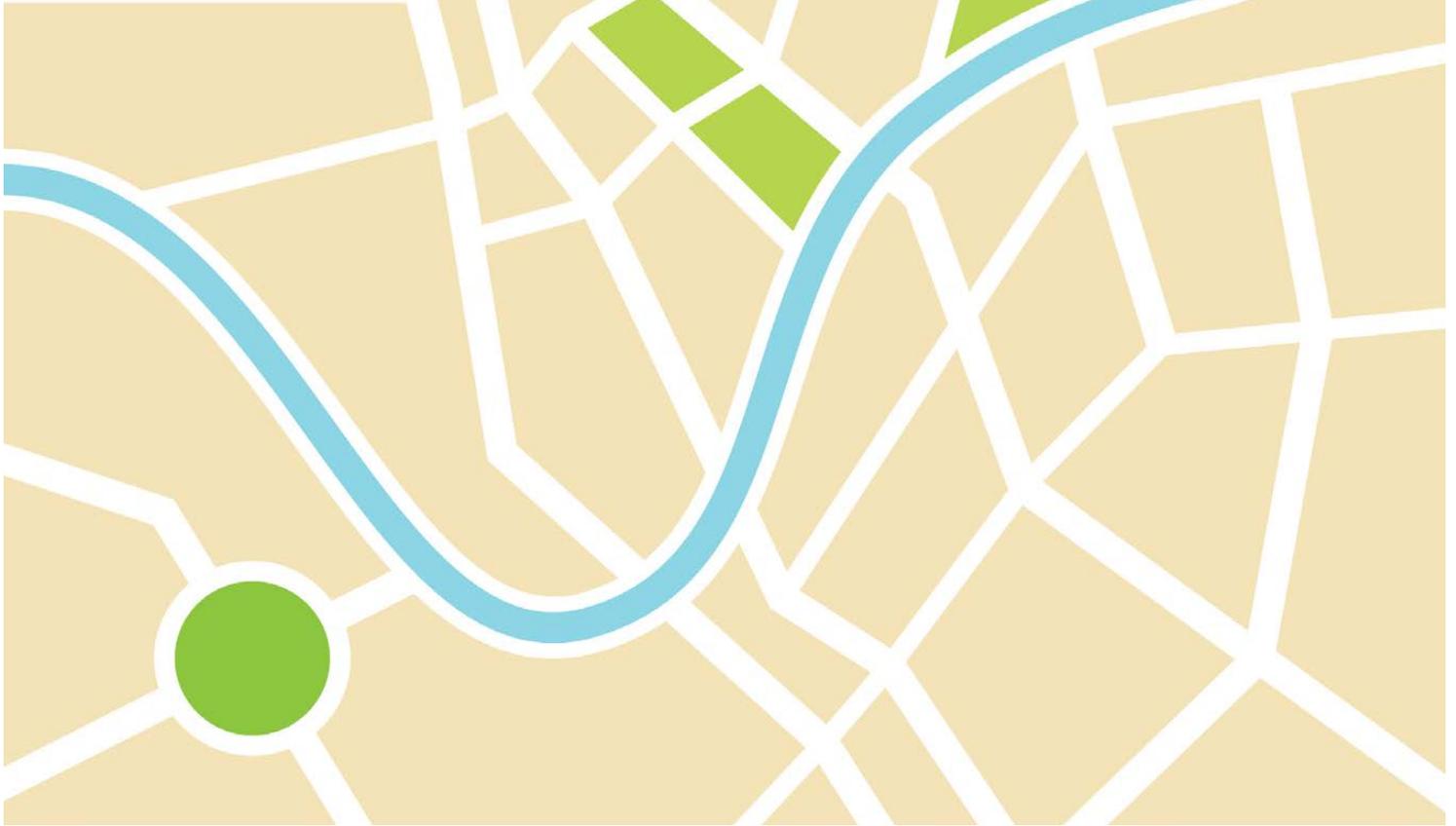
- Audiology
- Career education
- Communication
- Family education
- Functional skills for educational success
- Self-determination and advocacy
- Social-emotional skills
- Technology

Each content area includes specific skills and targets to address the specialized needs of students with hearing loss. School planning teams can use the ECC-DHH to identify and prioritize skills needing explicit instruction. Visit the [Iowa Department of Education's Deaf and Hard of Hearing page](http://www.ed.gov/pk-12/special-education/special-education-programs-services/audiology-deaf-and-hard-hearing) (educateiowa.gov/pk-12/special-education/special-education-programs-services/audiology-deaf-and-hard-hearing) for more information, including additional ECC-DHH companion documents teams may find helpful as they identify student needs and develop educational plans.

## Teacher Vacancies

Does your school district have a vacancy for a teacher of the Deaf? The National Deaf Center (NDC), a technical assistance center funded by the U.S. Department of Education, shares employment opportunities and job posting information via a nationwide listserv. Email [nationaldeafcenter@utlists.utexas.edu](mailto:nationaldeafcenter@utlists.utexas.edu) to submit your job posting to NDC. Also, visit the [NDC website](http://nationaldeafcenter.org) (nationaldeafcenter.org) to learn more about the data, resources, and assistance the center provides.





### Map It Teacher Curriculum

[The Map It Teacher Curriculum](http://dcmp.org/learn/538-map-it-teacher-curriculum) ([dcmp.org/learn/538-map-it-teacher-curriculum](http://dcmp.org/learn/538-map-it-teacher-curriculum)) provides lesson plans, materials, and resources that help educators and professionals actively engage and guide students who are DHH in developing their self-determination and self-advocacy skills.

The curriculum culminates in a student-focused transition plan and materials to support students' active involvement in the IEP process. The curriculum also recognizes that educational settings and access to services vary across the country, creating different needs for students, educators and professionals.

Map It is based on the principles of Bloom's taxonomy and supports the development of critical thinking skills that are essential to self-determination. Lesson plans are scaffolded, providing learning opportunities that range from basic understanding and knowledge to synthesis and evaluation. This design allows educators and professionals to customize lessons and meet individual needs as they guide students to think about their lives. The step-by-step guide supports the complexity of goal setting by building an understanding of personal identity, self-determination skills, and self-advocacy skills in education and employment settings.

### Map It: What Comes Next? Module

The Map It: Teacher Curriculum is part of the overall [Map It: What Comes Next? Module](http://dcmp.org/learn/465-map-it-what-comes-next-module) ([dcmp.org/learn/465-map-it-what-comes-next-module](http://dcmp.org/learn/465-map-it-what-comes-next-module)), which is a free interactive training for transition-age students who are DHH. The training is centered around

three questions: who am I, what do I want, and how do I get there? Short videos are provided in American Sign Language (ASL) with spoken English and a written transcription. Also included are self-assessments and a series of interactive questions to guide students as they identify their goals and develop strategies to achieve them.

All interactive materials are saved and compiled in an electronic portfolio. To access the materials, students need to set up a free account on the [Described and Captioned Media Program \(DCMP\) website](http://dcmp.org) ([dcmp.org](http://dcmp.org)).

# Deaf/Hard of Hearing Events

## Thank You for Attending: Educational Interpreter Performance Assessment (EIPA) Video Conference Series

**B**oys Town National Research Hospital's EIPA Video Conference Series was a success this past year. Feedback from the fall, winter, and spring workshops indicate they were well-received. The last workshop was held on April 7, 2018. Thank you to all who attended.

MDE-LIO sponsors the video conference series and has tentative plans to continue sponsoring it for the 2018–2019 school year. Stay tuned for announcements!

## Upcoming EIPA Skill Development Workshops

Need to work on your key vocabulary skills when interpreting from ASL to English? MDE-LIO will offer an EIPA Skill Development Workshop on the topic in four locations this spring and summer:

- April 14: Ingham Intermediate School District (ISD), Mason
- April 28: Northview High School, Grand Rapids
- June 2: Bloomfield Hills High School  
Bloomfield Hill
- June 21: Clare-Gladwin Regional Education Service District, Clare

Certified educational interpreters Megan Seipke-Dame and Erin Seipke-Brown will present the workshop. The workshops have Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID) and Michigan Continuing Education Unit (MI CEU) approval for .6 units.

To learn more and sign up, visit the [MDE-LIO DHH Events page](https://mdelio.org/deaf-hard-of-hearing/events) (mdelio.org/deaf-hard-of-hearing/events).



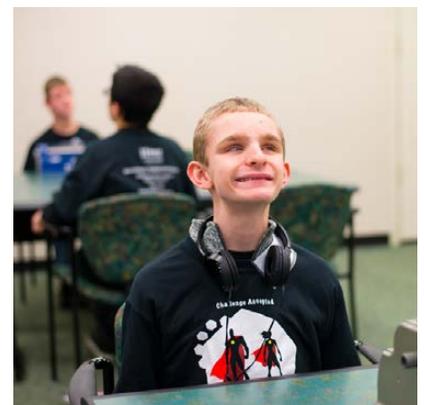
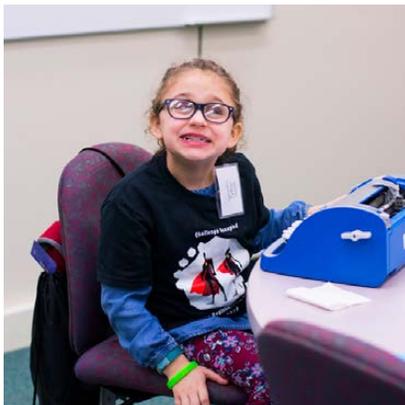
# Braille Challenge Update

## Challenge Accepted!

**O**n February 24, sixteen students and their families gathered at Genesee Intermediate School District (ISD) for the Michigan Braille Challenge.

This is the fourth year Michigan has hosted a regional Braille Challenge, and it was our largest turnout to date. Some students couldn't attend the Saturday event but took the challenge with a teacher. Overall, 28 students across the state accepted the Braille Challenge.

MDE-LIO would like to extend a huge thank you to the students, families, and 25 amazing volunteers who made this event a success.





**The**  
**BRaille**  
**challenge**<sup>®</sup>

A NATIONAL PROGRAM  
OF BRAILLE INSTITUTE

## Save the Date!

The 2019 Michigan Regional Braille Challenge will be held February 23, 2019, at Genesee ISD.

# Elementary Camp

Featuring the Expanded Core Curriculum



## Expanded Core

The expanded core curriculum is embedded in this unique three-night, four-day camp experience. Specific learning outcomes include independent living skills, recreation and leisure, self-determination, orientation and mobility skills, and so much more.

## New Experiences

If you are looking for a great opportunity for your child to have a short, residential camp experience away from home while maximizing opportunities for learning important life skills, this camp is just for you! Sign up today!

## Details

**Dates:** July 9-12, 2018

**Cost:** \$5 per family

**Lodging:** Available

**For:** Students ages 8-12 who are Blind/Visually Impaired

Learn more and sign up at: [www.goo.gl/Fc7wyB](http://www.goo.gl/Fc7wyB)

# Backpacking 201

## The South Manitou Island Adventure



Before attending  
this event students  
must complete  
Backpacking 101



### Expand Your Skills

Camp Tuhsmeheeta (Camp T) invites students ages 13+ to practice skills and knowledge learned in Backpacking 101 as we explore South Manitou Island. On the island, we will learn daily living and cooking skills as well as how to create an organized camp.

### Explore the Island

For two nights and three days, we will explore the island's coastline and visit shipwreck sites, old growth forests, and lighthouses. We will also explore the island's interior, touring early 20th century farms, cemeteries, and schoolhouses.

### Details

**Dates:** August 13-17, 2018

**Cost:** \$5 per person

**For:** Students ages 13+ who are Blind/Visually Impaired

Learn more and sign up at: [www.goo.gl/WVwWgU](http://www.goo.gl/WVwWgU)

# 2018 Space Camp

## Essay Competition



Students must be grades 7-12,  
Blind/Visually Impaired, able to  
care for themselves independently,  
and navigate new surroundings.



### Space Camp

Camp T invites students to submit an essay on “Why I should be chosen to go to Space Camp.” One male and one female candidate will win an all expense paid trip to the U.S. Space and Rocket Center in Huntsville, Alabama, to train in the Advanced Space Academy.

### Details

From September 29, 2018 to October 4, 2018 the selected candidates will undergo:

- Astronaut training exercises
- Engineering challenges
- Teambuilding activities
- An extended-duration simulated space mission

### Essay Submission

**Due:** April 30, 2018

**Required page length:**  
One printed or two brailled

**Mail to:**  
MDE - Low Incidence Outreach  
PO BOX 30742  
Lansing, MI 48909

Learn more at: [www.goo.gl/cgJ8eU](http://www.goo.gl/cgJ8eU) and [www.scivis.org](http://www.scivis.org)

# Independent Living Skills

## ILS Tip



**M**DE-LIO is pleased to announce Spicing Up Your Kitchen and Technology Skills: An Expanded Core Curriculum Training. This workshop is for students with visual impairments in kindergarten through 8th grade and their parents/guardians.

During this workshop the students will learn independent living skills and technology skills. Students will prepare lunch and learn additional independent living skills. Students will also work on technology skills which will include exciting apps for ILS.

### Located at:

Kalamazoo RESA  
Young Adult Program Entrance  
4606 Croyden Ave.  
Kalamazoo, MI 49006

### Cost:

\$15 per family

### Registration Deadline:

May 9, 2018

Learn more at: [www.mdelio.org/blind-visually-impaired/events](http://www.mdelio.org/blind-visually-impaired/events)

# O&M Tip

## Orientation and Mobility





## Expanded Core Curriculum

Orientation and mobility (O&M) is one of the nine areas of the expanded core curriculum (ECC). The ECC also includes assistive technology, career education, compensatory skills, independent living skills, recreation and leisure, self-determination, sensory efficiency, and social interaction.

Have you considered ways in which the other ECC areas can be addressed within O&M lessons? For example:

- **Assistive technology:** When you use a GPS, smartphone, or tablet with a student during an O&M lesson, you're using assistive technology.
- **Career education:** Students learn about careers from various people they meet while working on O&M lessons out in the community.
- **Compensatory skills:** When you encourage students to use braille, tactile, and auditory skills to access information for O&M lessons, they are using compensatory skills.
- **Independent living skills:** Independent living skills such as eating, food preparation, and money management also have O&M components.
- **Recreation and leisure:** This can be included by having a student find the food court or movie theater while completing an O&M lesson at the mall.
- **Self-determination:** This skill involves choice- and decision-making skills as well as problem-solving skills, which are all employed by the student during an O&M lesson.
- **Sensory efficiency:** Using an optical device such as a monocular or listening for auditory instructions at a crosswalk are examples of using senses efficiently.
- **Social interaction:** O&M lessons provide opportunities for students to talk with and ask questions of others out in the community.

O&M lessons provide endless opportunities that can be fun and meaningful as well as educational. During your next O&M lesson, think about how other parts of the ECC can be incorporated!

# Assistive Technology (AT)

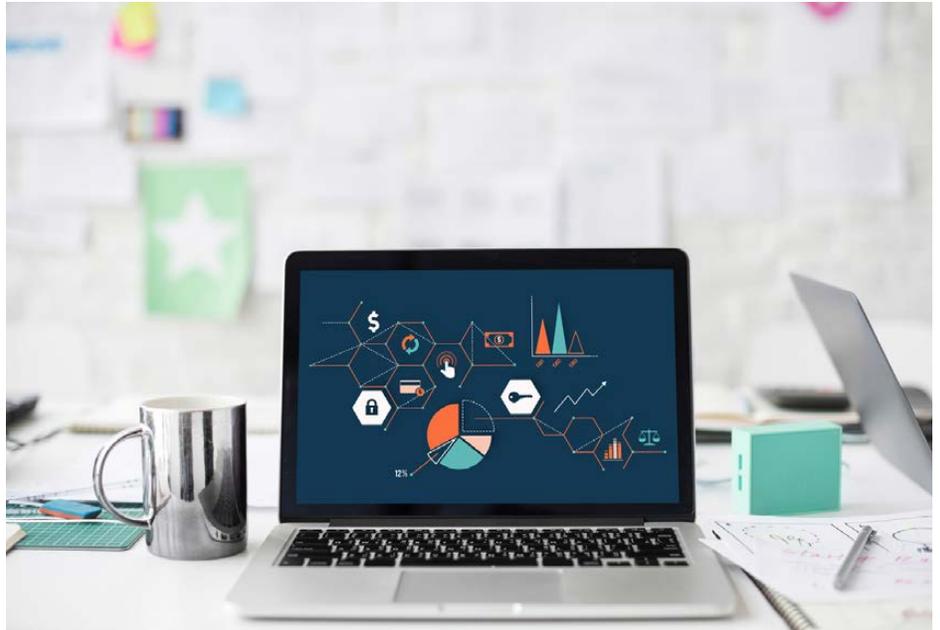
## Assistive Technology Assessment Workshop A Success

**T**he highly anticipated Developing a Process for an Assistive Technology Assessment for Students With Visual Impairments

workshop was well worth the wait! Participants were provided with valuable learning tools, including strategies, resources, and other information to help them understand the importance of an assistive technology (AT) assessment as well as the parameters involved in doing an AT assessment for students with a visual impairment.

One resource shared at the conference was the [Teaching Students With Visual Impairments website](http://teachingvisuallyimpaired.com) (teachingvisuallyimpaired.com). This site has a wealth of information and resources that will benefit all who are working in the BVI field.

Register for a workshop or learn more about upcoming events by visiting the [MDE-LIO BVI Events section](http://mdelio.org/blind-visually-impaired/events). (mdelio.org/blind-visually-impaired/events)



There you will find information related to

- The expanded core curriculum
- Adapting the learning environment, materials, and method of instruction for students
- Overall teaching strategies
- Professional development resources and opportunities

If you are a classroom teacher, therapist, or administrator who is unfamiliar with working with students who are BVI, this site will assist you in confidently preparing and creating a learning environment that is adapted to meet students' unique needs.

Thanks for sharing this great resource, Erica!

# Upcoming AT Workshops



## **Teaching Excel 2010 Using JAWS**

Location: Lansing, MI

Dates: May 9-10, 2018

This course is designed for individuals who will be teaching a student with a visual impairment how to use Microsoft Excel 2010 using JAWS. Participants should be experienced with the basics of Microsoft Excel and using JAWS with Microsoft products

## **Connect 12 / MATT Connect Introduction**

Location: Michigan Library and Historical Center, Lansing

Date: May 10, 2018

The Connect 12 / MATT Connect combines a high-performance digital magnifier with the versatility of an Android tablet. In this workshop, participants will use features of the devices to view and capture printed materials. They will utilize the distance camera to make observations and annotate on worksheets using writing, typing, and highlighting functions. Participants will also explore apps that can be downloaded from the Google Play Store.

## **Basic Duxbury**

Location: Michigan Library and Historical Center, Lansing

Date: May 18, 2018

Duxbury Braille Translator software offers braille translation and editing, formatting, production, publishing, and more. This course is designed for beginners who have little or no knowledge of the Duxbury Braille Translator. Individuals who have some experience but want to brush up on their skills may also participate in the course.

# 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](mailto:msdb-outreach@michigan.gov)

The Newsletter is edited by Roxanne Balfour, Rory Goodine, Brenda Mahoney, Kaitlin Shawgo, and Lynn Pensari. Comments or questions can be directed to Roxanne Balfour at [balfourr@michigan.gov](mailto:balfourr@michigan.gov) or Lynn Pensari at [pensaril@michigan.gov](mailto: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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## 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