

ATTRACT

PREPARE

RETAIN



# OPTIMISE

OPENING THE PIPELINE OF TALENT  
INTO MICHIGAN'S SPECIAL EDUCATION

ENERGY INTO ACTION

## OPTIMISE Task Force Minutes

Dec. 13, 2024

Members Present-Steve Martin (for Rep. Glanville), Shailee Patel, Tina Kerr, Abby Cypher, Teri Pettit, Lauren Mangus, Colin Ripmaster, Amy Phaneuf, Rachel Fuerer  
Guests-Jessica Szymoniak

1. Erik Edoff was introduced as a new member representing MEA.
2. Action Items
  - a. Recommendations from the Paperwork Action Team were reviewed for the members around universal training and a statewide IEP system. Jessica shared the recommendation that a universal training repository be developed and indicated that MI-SERC was interested in hosting this work. Laurie presented the recommendation around a statewide IEP system. Members discussed the pro's and con's along with any questions they had.
  - b. Both recommendations were approved to move forward.
3. Information items
  - a. Action Team updates
    1. The Paperwork Reduction Subgroup still working on IDEA and MARSE rules alignment along with other areas of compliance where there may be a possibility of paperwork reduction.
    2. Behavior Support-These recommendations have been prioritized with a focus now on how we move them to the legislature.
    3. Standards-It was shared that the standards are expected to go the State Board of Education on Jan. 14. OPTIMISE will share support at public comment.
    4. Workload/Caseload-This action team is still working to finalize their recommendations.
    5. Compensation-This new action team will meet on Jan. 15 in Lansing.
    6. Potential new action teams – IHE's/related services-We are gathering information to talk with IHE's about how programs for related service providers could be expanded or more accessible to many parts of the state.

- b. Legislator meetings-OPTIMISE has again been meeting with legislators to provide updates and will continue this in the new year. The Behavior Recommendations have been a large part of those updates.
  - c. Coalition for the Shortage of SE Personnel and Related Services-Laurie shared that she met with this national group to share the work of OPTIMISE. Members were very excited to hear about this work in Michigan and have signed up for our newsletter to keep abreast of what work continues.
  - d. Disability Caucus-Abby Cypher shared that MAASE and OPTIMISE did a presentation to this group around work that is being done to attract, prepare and retain special educators.
4. Website/job board/social media-current data was shared with the Task Force. We have had almost 10 million impressions this year with 100,000+ clicks to our website.
  5. Task Force members--updates, questions, etc.
    - a. School Psychologists have been meeting with the Department of Labor to discuss what should be in the grant application for new or expanded IHE programs. This came from the School Psychologist Action Team recommendations. The legislature funded \$1 million for these new programs.
    - b. MASSW shared that they are getting ready to be able to support an action team around the shortage of school social workers.
    - c. MAASE will host the New SE Administrator Academy on Jan. 15 at the Crowne Plaza in Lansing.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:13 a.m.

Future meetings held virtually from 9-11 a.m.:

- March 28, 2025
- June 27, 2025
- September 26, 2025
- Dec. 12, 2025