


Parent Advisory Committees: Best Practices

with Stephanie Nicholls



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Please type in the chat where you are in Michigan.

You can put the number on the map, your county, or how you tell people where you live?

Where joining from?





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Please type in the chat if you are a current, past, or possible future member of a PAC (Parent Advisory Committee).

Do you serve on a PAC?



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Today's Discussion

PAC: Best Practices

What is a Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) and what do they do?

- Committee set up
- ISD (intermediate School District) Plan
- Planning content



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Parent Advisory Committees (PAC)

- IDEA does not require regional or local special education advisory committees.
- **Michigan Administrative Rules for Special Education (MARSE)** requires each intermediate school district board to appoint a Parent Advisory Committee.
 - **R 340.1838** Parent advisory committee. Rule 138.
- Some local school districts form Special Education Parent Advisory Committees – these are not required under IDEA or MARSE.

<https://www.michigan.gov/mde/services/special-education/laws-regs/marse/p7/r340-1838>



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Who serves on the PAC?

A parent advisory committee shall be appointed by each intermediate school district board.

- The parent advisory committee and its officers shall consist only of **parents of students with disabilities with at least 1 parent from each constituent local school district and public school academy** unless no parent agrees to serve on the parent advisory committee to represent the constituent local school district or public school academy.
- Each constituent local school district board of education and each public school academy board of directors shall nominate at least 1 parent.
- The intermediate school district board of education may nominate additional members not to exceed 33 1/3% of the total parent advisory committee membership.



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What is the ISD's role?

The intermediate school district board of education shall **make every attempt** to assure that **all types of impairments** and **all identifiable organizations of parents** of students with disabilities within the intermediate school district are **represented** on the parent advisory committee.

The intermediate school district board of education may recommend operational procedures for parent advisory committee review and adoption.

The intermediate school district shall **secure or allocate fiscal and staff resources** to the parent advisory committee to make it efficient and effective in operation.

<https://www.michiganallianceforfamilies.org/isdresa/>



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Parent Advisory Committee MARSE R 340.1838

Responsibilities of the Parent Advisory Committee:

Determining and documenting, in writing, the organizational structure of the committee

Participating in the development of the ISD's plan and any modifications of the plan

Providing input on any matter that the committee deems appropriate to the improvement of special education services within the ISD

<https://www.michigan.gov/mde/services/special-education/laws-regs/marse/p7/r340-1838>



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Committee Setup

The Parent Advisory Committee determines and documents, in writing, the organizational structure of the committee.



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Organizational Structure

- (a) Officers and their responsibilities.
- (b) Meeting times.
- (c) Notice of meeting times.
- (d) Voting procedures.
- (e) Terms of office.
- (f) Related matters.



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Organizational Structure: Meeting Logistics



- How often does the committee meet?
- What is the schedule?
- Where? Virtual or in person?
- How is meeting information shared?



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Share Expectations

- Long-range, systems change issues for all children, not just one
 - from “ME” to “WE”
- Read the agenda and be prepared to contribute to the discussion
- Review previous minutes and be prepared to discuss any questions or vote on approval
- Communicate: share your perspective and listen to others

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Share Expectations: How to Participate

- Formal or Informal?
- How are decisions made?
- Who coordinates meetings?
- Who leads the meetings?
- How do members add to the agenda?



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Parent Advisory Committee



Parent **Advisory** Committee

Advise:

- to give a recommendation about what should be done
- power to make recommendations but not take action
- Consider a defined purpose, mission, and vision?

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How does your PAC work?

How did you learn about your PAC?

How often do you meet?

Who leads the meeting?

Who sends communications?

How does the public know?



Please raise your hand or type in the chat.

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ISD Plan

The Parent Advisory Committee participates in the development of the ISD's plan and any modifications of the plan.




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ISD (Intermediate School District) Plan


Each ISD is required to have an "Intermediate School District Plan for the Delivery of Special Education Programs and Services" which must include:

- ISD Plan Signatures
- Public Awareness and Child Find
- Diagnostic and Related Services
- Special Education Programs and Services
- Paraprofessional
- Transportation
- Millage Fund Distribution
- Parent Advisory Committee (PAC)
- Surrogate Parents



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Objections to the ISD Plan



Any constituent district or the PAC may file a written objection regarding the ISD Plan.

The written objection must specify the portion(s) of the ISD Plan being contested, provide a reason for the objection, and propose an alternative provision.

An objection can be filed against an ISD Plan which has already been approved by the State Superintendent or one which may be under review by the Office of Special Education.



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Planning Content

The Parent Advisory Committee may provide advisory input on any matters that the committee deems appropriate to the improvement of special education services within the intermediate school district.



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How does your PAC plan the learning for the year?

Does the general membership have input?

Do you set the year in advance?

One or two meetings at a time?

Are there standing topics?



Please raise your hand or type in the chat.



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Topics to Consider: Part B SPP Indicators

PART B State Performance Plan Results Indicators

- 1. Graduation** - Percent of youth with Individualized Educational Programs (IEPs) exiting special education due to graduating with a regular high school diploma.
- 2. Dropout** - Percent of youth with IEPs who exited special education due to dropping out of high school.
- 3. Statewide Assessment** - (A) Participation rate for children with IEPs, (B) Proficiency rate for children with IEPs against grade-level academic achievement standards, (C) Proficiency rate for children with IEPs against alternate academic achievement standards, (D) Gap in proficiency rates for children with IEPs and for all students against grade-level academic achievement standards.
- 4. A. Rates of Suspension and Expulsion** - Percent of Local Educational Agencies (LEAs) that have a significant discrepancy in the rate of suspensions and expulsions of greater than 10 days in a school year for children with an IEP.
- 5. Educational Environments** - Percent of children with IEPs, age 5 and enrolled in kindergarten and ages 6-21, served (A) Inside regular class 80% or more of day; (B) Inside regular class less than 40% of day; (C) In separate schools, residential facilities, or homebound/hospital placements.
- 6. Preschool Environments** - Percent of children with IEPs, ages 3, 4, and 5 who are not yet enrolled in kindergarten and are, (A) Receiving majority of special education and related services in regular early childhood program; (B) Attending separate special education class, separate school, or residential facility; (C) Receiving special education and related services in the home.
- 7. Preschool Outcomes** - Percent of children with IEPs, ages 3, 4, and 5 who are not yet enrolled in kindergarten and demonstrate improved (A) Positive social-emotional skills, (B) Acquisition and use of knowledge and skills, (C) Use of appropriate behaviors to meet their needs.
- 8. Parent Involvement** - Percent of parents with a child receiving special education services who report schools facilitated parent involvement.
- 14. Post-School Outcomes** - Percent of youth with IEPs, no longer in school, (A) Enrolled in higher education; (B) Enrolled in higher education or competitively employed; (C) Enrolled in higher education, other postsecondary education, or training program or competitively employed or in some other employment, within one year of leaving high school.
- 15. Resolution Session Agreements** - Percent of hearing requests that went to resolution sessions that were resolved through resolution session settlement agreements.
- 16. Mediation Agreements** - Percent of mediations held that resulted in mediation agreements.
- 17. State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP)** - A comprehensive, ambitious, yet achievable multi-year plan for improving results for children with disabilities.

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Topics to Consider: SPP APR Part B

State Performance Plan Annual Performance Report (SPP APR)



- Compare the current data with state averages and goals
- Outcomes – Part B
- Number of students receiving special education supports and services
- % of students who receive services in regular education settings
- % of students who receive services in segregated settings
- Current outcomes for students with disabilities
- Graduation and Dropout Rates



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Topics to Consider: Discipline

Part B – Indicator #4



- Student suspension rates in your district (for students who do and do not have disabilities)
- Number of students placed in Interim Alternative Educational Settings (IAES)
- Major behavior concerns that result in IAES placement, and district planning to address the concerns



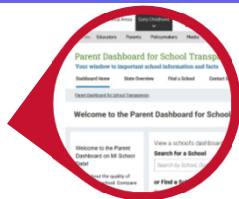
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MI School Data

Michigan's Official Education Data Source

<https://mischooldata.org/dashboard-home/>

- MI School Data is the State of Michigan's official source for pre-K, K-12, postsecondary and workforce data to help residents, educators and policymakers make informed decisions to improve student success.
- The site offers multiple levels and views for statewide, intermediate school district, district, school and college level information. Data are presented in graphs, charts, trend lines and downloadable spreadsheets to support meaningful evaluation and decision making.



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Topics to Consider: What is Happening?

- Share Public Comment Windows
- Review Guidance documents:
Supporting Attendance for Students with Disabilities
- Legislative Updates

<https://www.michigan.gov/mde/news-and-information>



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Topics to Consider



- Surrogate Parents
(Parent video)
- Local Organizations
- Assistive Technology
November 12 Assistive Technology: What It Is and Why It Matters with Alt+Shift from 11:00am-12:00pm. Register at <https://tinyurl.com/2j9dxps9>
November 17 Intro to AAC & Resources with Michigan Disability Rights Coalition from 6:30pm-8:00pm. Register at <https://tinyurl.com/murxuphk>



YouTube

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What are the expectations on members sharing out information from PAC meetings?


- Local PACs (not required in MARSE or IDEA)
- Connect with your local district Special Education Director
- Newsletters
- Social media groups

Please raise your hand or type in the chat.



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Thank You for Sharing

Michigan Alliance for Families Parent Mentors connect with PACs where we live and serve.

Please share comments in the evaluation if you would like more PAC collaboration topics in the future.



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