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News from LIO

Greetings from all of us at MSDB-LIO! We hope you are off to a good start and will have a rewarding year teaching all of those important Expanded Core Curriculum skills to your students. We have some great offerings this year and want you to be sure and check them out on our website at

<http://www.cenmi.org/msdb-lio>.

Highlights: Hot Off the Press: Project Learning Media Assessment (LMA) Workshop

How do you know what media should be selected for the best learning literacy for students with a visual impairment? The LMA is an objective process of systematically selecting learning and literacy media for students with visual impairments. We will host an all day workshop to teach and/or review the process at the East Lansing Marriott on December 1, 2006.

A practical approach to administration will be lead by Chrissy Cowan, an itinerant teacher for children with visual impairments from Austin, Texas. She trains TVI's in the skill of conducting and writing functional vision evaluations and learning media assessments. Feel free to bring your LMA's you have administered and Ms. Cowan will provide consultation time to answer any questions you may have regarding the assessments.

Please go to our website for details and to register.

<http://www.cenmi.org/msdb-lio>.

Combining
Resources and
Expertise in a
Central
Location.

Regional On Demand Technology Classes

JAWS and Word Processing for Teachers and Parents

Who is this class for?

This is a course for teachers (VI and general education), paraprofessionals and parents who are planning to teach a student with a visual impairment to use JAWS with a word processor (especially Microsoft Word). This course will also be useful for adults who are supporting students who are utilizing computers in classroom work. For more information please go to <http://www.cenmi.org/msdb-lio/regionaltech.asp>.

Regional Braille Classes

Do you want to learn Braille or enhance your skills?

A 15 week course will be offered for teachers (VI and general education), paraprofessionals, and parents who are involved with children who are Braille readers and would like to enhance or develop their knowledge and skills of the Literary Braille Code. This course would also be useful to adults and/or college students who are supporting students in utilizing their Braille skills. For complete information and details go to our website <http://www.cenmi.org/msdb-LIO/regionalbraille.asp>.

Educational Interpreters Workshop

Plans are firming up for the November 3rd and 4th Educational Interpreters Workshop – “All of us Together!” For more information and to sign up for the workshop, please go to our website <http://www.cenmi.org/msdb-lio/default.asp> and look for this workshop under the “Events” tab.

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Psychologist Helpline

MSDB – Low Incidence Outreach (MSDB-LIO) now offers the expertise of a highly qualified and experienced, certified school psychologist for consultation purposes. MSDB-LIO's school psychologist has extensive experience in assessing students with visual impairments, including those with multiple impairments. For a list of services related to supporting psychological assessments of students with a visual impairment go to our website at <http://www.cenmi.org/msdb-LIO/psychologist.asp>.

Sex Education for Students with Visual Impairments

Michigan, like most states, makes provision for sexuality education in its school code provision. The State Board of Education sets guidelines for instruction in many phases of health and sexuality education. Administrative policy paves the way for program implementation at the local district levels. Districts are required to have their own formal plan for instruction of sex education.

For specific language of all the sections of School Code and State Aid that pertain to HIV and Sex Education, visit the Michigan Department of Education Web site

http://www.michigan.gov/documents/Current_Revised_School_Code_110529_7.pdf or

download a chart summarizing the law http://www.michigan.gov/documents/Sex_Ed_Policy_Resources_77379_7.pdf.

MSDB-LIO is in the process of coordinating with people at the state level who provide training on sexuality and special education issues to:

- Ensure that students with visual impairments have the proper accommodations when learning this subject.
- Assist in the training of educators who serve students with visual impairments.

MSDB-LIO has been available to provide technical assistance to teachers, parents, and general educators that work with students with visual impairments. Assistance may be in the

This publication is available in alternate formats. Please contact Ann Langley, Langleya@michigan.gov, 1-800-622-6730 ext. 11421 for Braille, large print or electronic copies of this publication.

following manner:

- Loan of gender models (List of Human Reproductive Models and Contraceptives-Word document) available from MSDB-LIO.
- Consultation about appropriate resource materials.
- Loan of resource materials.

Marty Doring at Bay Arenac ISD has a series of trainings that she offers related to sexuality and special education issues. These trainings are for any educator around the state interested in learning more about sexuality education and special education. The trainings are very informative, enlightening, and thought provoking. Download a flyer at <http://www.baisd.net/documents/AIDS%20Ed%20Cert%20Sp%20Ed.pdf> outlining upcoming trainings for the 2006-2007 school year.

Improving Outcomes for High School Students

To ensure Michigan's students have the skills and knowledge needed for the jobs of the 21st Century global economy, on April 20, 2006, Governor Jennifer M. Granholm signed into law a rigorous new set of statewide graduation requirements that are among the best in the nation. (Public Acts 123 & 124)

<http://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,1607,7-140-38924---,00.html>.

Listed below are some valuable resources to assist in teaching the required skills to students with a visual impairment.

Adapting Science for Students with Visual Impairments: A Handbook for the Teacher and Resource Specialist (ASSVI)

This product is designed to assist teachers, particularly those with minimal science background and/or VI experience, in making operational science activities accessible to students who are visually impaired or blind <http://www.aph.org/advisory/2006adv08.html#P5>.

**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.

Check out these two websites for some great ideas on how to teach mathematics. The Eisenhower site also includes information on science instruction.

Project Math Access, by Gaylen Kapperman and Jodi Sticken is hosted by Texas School for the Blind. The website includes a plethora of information to assist you in teaching students mathematical concepts. Advanced math, teaching Nemeth code, tactile displays and graphics are just a few of the areas included in the website listings.

Eisenhower National Clearinghouse. (2003). Mathematics and science for students with special needs. *ENC Focus*, 10(2), p 43. The website was selected as an exemplary resource from the ENC Collection to illustrate this issue's theme of turning special needs into special opportunities.

Eisenhower National Clearinghouse (2000) Making schools work for every child. *ENC Focus*, 7(4), p 66. The website was selected as an exemplary resource from the ENC Collection to illustrate this issue's theme of meeting the needs of all learners. To go directly to the specific record:

<http://www.enc.org/resources/records/full/0,1240,017234,00.shtm>.

Respectfully Submitted by Collette Bauman, Special Education Consultant, Michigan Schools for the Deaf and Blind-Low Incidence Outreach, baumanc@michigan.gov.

**Sign Communication
Proficiency Interview
(SCPI) Program Services
Offered**

- SCPI/MSCPI Interviews
- Post Interview Sessions
- One-to-One interview with candidates
- Assistance to the Educational team (MSCPI)
- Support to parents of MSCPI candidates
- Professional development sessions for staff to enhance sign communication skills
- Assistance to Sign Language instructors using SCPI/MSCPI results to plan instructional

strategies

- Assistance to parents in understanding the SCPI/MSCPI Interview outcomes

About the Sign Communication Proficiency Interview (SCPI) Team

The SCPI program has conducted SCPI interviews for over 20 years. The program provides assessment, reports and gives feedback to candidates wishing to know about their current level of sign language proficiency skills. The candidates are teachers, professional staff and other individuals in educational programs working with students who are deaf and hard of hearing. For detailed information about the team and the SCPI process please go to our website at <http://www.cenmi.org/msdb-LIO/scpi.asp>.

Contact Us

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Opportunities Unlimited for the Blind

Don't forget to check out the OUB newsletter. Go to their website at <http://www.campt.org/>.

Education has for its object the formation of character.

Herbert Spencer

English philosopher (1820 - 1903)