

**MCEC 81st Annual Conference - Virtual**  
**Friday, March 4, 2021 Session Schedule**  
 (\*SSW approval has been applied for these sessions)

| Session Title   | Session Description  | Topic Area   | Information | Session Day | Session Time    | Presenters   |
|---|--|--|-------------|-------------|-----------------|--|
| Behavior and a Screen- Oh My!: Positive Behavior Supports for Students in a Virtual Learning Environment                | Supporting students with behavioral needs adds a whole new layer of complexity. Learn about positive behavior strategies to support ALL learners within the classroom, school-wide and at-home setting. Attendees will leave with specific resources and materials to be used in a virtual environment that focus on positive reinforcement, token economies, self-regulation strategies and positive behavior supports. This presentation also focuses on the importance of using social emotional learning daily to reinforce positive behavior. | Special Education Services in a Remote Environment | Basic       | Friday      | 09:30am-10:30am | Elizabeth Harnden, Special Education Teacher, Grand Rapids Public Schools; Raechelle Huston, Special Education Teacher Consultant, Grand Rapids Public Schools                                   |
| TEAM UP! Using a Team Approach to Support Infants and Toddlers who are Blind/Visually Impaired or Deaf/Hard of Hearing* | Early intervention for infants and toddlers who are Blind/Visually Impaired (BVI) or Deaf/Hard of Hearing (DHH) is essential. Hear the Michigan Department of Education-Low Incidence Outreach (MDE-LIO) outline the unique needs of infants and toddlers who are BVI or DHH and gain the insight, tools, and resources you need to support the families you serve!  | Early Childhood                                    | Basic       | Friday      | 09:30am-10:30am | Beth Rice, Education Consultant-DHH, Michigan Department of Education-Low Incidence Outreach; Johanna Brutvan, Education Consultant-BVI, Michigan Department of Education-Low Incidence Outreach |
| Virtual? Hybrid? Face-to-face? What is student teaching in a pandemic?  | Student teaching is a time in which dreams come true for many future educators. It's their first time in front of a classroom, bursting with energy and passion to teach the future of the world. But when indoor gatherings are limited to ten or less people and teachers have 20 children in their classrooms, where does the focus lie: on safety or quality education?  | College Students                                   | Basic       | Friday      | 09:30am-10:30am | Panel of Student and First-Year Teachers   |

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| We are in This Together: Engaging Diverse Families (MCEC Pre-Recorded Webinar) | Today's students come from increasingly diverse ethnic, racial, and socioeconomic backgrounds. Promoting effective engagement with their families is key to providing equitable service, supports, and promoting success. During this webinar, a panel of community stakeholders will share their perspectives on what has worked and recommend strategies to facilitate engagement. Webinar attendees will be able to identify the essential elements needed to increase community involvement.  | Culturally Responsive Teaching | Basic        | Friday      | 09:30am-10:30am | Precios Armstrong   |
| Your Voice Counts!   | Your voice as a special educator can help shape the legislation and policy decisions that impact the lives of students with disabilities! Learn from members of the MCEC Legislative Advocacy and Action Committee how to make your voice heard through the use of practical tools and processes currently available to MCEC members. Gain confidence in your ability to truly make a difference for our kids!  | Legal/Compliance/Policy        | Intermediate | Friday      | 09:30am-10:30am | Donna Tinberg, Consultant, Thayer-North Educational Consulting, LLC   |
| Behavior Management Tips and Tricks for Early Childhood Staff                  | Participants will be given a quick overview of Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS). This will be followed by a deep dive into high yield and other evidenced based Tier 1 PBIS basic behavioral management techniques that benefit all types of learners. There will be time for participants to integrate their learning into their own personal artifacts and/or reflect on how they can immediately use this learning with their students when they see their students next. Lastly, participants will be given some basic strategies to use to deescalate students in crisis, including setting limits. | Early Childhood                | Intermediate | Friday      | 09:30am-11:30am | Kristen Wrase, ASD Coach, Wayne-Westland Community School District; Daniel DePaulis, ASD Coach, Wayne-Westland Community School District; Katrina Moxham, Early Childhood ASD Coach, Livonia Public Schools |

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| Elements in Creating Effective IEP Team Meetings*                       | Learn how collaboration and communication skills, such as active Listening and effective questioning can increase parent involvement. Discuss the 10 steps to building a trusting relationship with parents. Learn how to organize and facilitate effective IEP meetings.   | Special Education Services in a Remote Environment | Basic       | Friday      | 09:30am-11:30am | Diane Kullis, Intake Coordinator, Special Education Mediation Services  |
| Supporting Self-Regulation With Scripts*                                | In our current context of continuous change and uncertainty, shifts in the delivery of instruction and services to students, and the implementation of safe practices in schools, we must consider the impact of stress on both students, staff, and families. Predictable and consistent procedures and routines are an effective way to manage and reduce stress and anxiety. This session outlines a process for developing and implementing prevention, teaching, and response behavioral strategies in a script format in order to promote consistency, self-regulation of students, and emotional regulation of staff and families. Examples of universal supports and prevention scripts, as well as scripts to respond to challenging behavior, will be shared. | Social Emotional Learning                          | Basic       | Friday      | 09:30am-11:30am | Stephanie Dyer, Autism Education & Intervention Specialist & Professional Learning Content Specialist, Statewide Autism Resources & Training (START) & MiMTSS TA Center, Kelly Rogers, Special Education Coordinator, Char-Em ISD |
| Going Virtual: Birth-3 (Early On) Service Strategies, Tips, and Tricks* | We will be presenting on the strategies (with examples) we used to take clunky VIRTUAL Early On services from dull to dynamic!<br>1. Parent Collaboration Group<br>2. Early On "Material Bags" (Materials and Cost Breakdown)<br>3. Engaging parents in play-based learning (with videos) 4. Zooming together is lasting 30-60 minutes with 1- & 2-year-olds!   | Special Education Services in a Remote Environment | Basic       | Friday      | 09:30am-11:30am | Jaime Knape, Ed.S, Special Education Supervisor, Mecosta-Osceola ISD  |

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| Edcamp: Exploring Strategies for Diverse Learners with Communication Needs* | Join us for a phenomenal Edcamp experience that focuses on supporting the communication needs of diverse learners in various educational settings. Edcamps are informal sessions by and for educators. The focus is on collaboration and connections, group expertise, tools, and instructional strategies. The conversation will be driven by participants. The Edcamp model will provide educators with a sustainable model for learning, growing, connecting, and sharing. Everyone's expertise is honored, and specific, concrete strategies are exchanged. | Special Education Services in a Remote Environment | Intermediate | Friday      | 09:30am-11:30am | Nichole Moore, Director of Special Services, Walled Lake Consolidated Schools   |
| Connections that Zoom: Providing Mentorship in a Virtual Environment*       | Connections that Count is a mentoring initiative at Central Michigan University partnering college students with area youth impacted by disabilities. Join us as we share how we transitioned to Connections that Zoom during the pandemic. Lessons learned, suggestions, and insights to be shared.  | Special Education Services in a Remote Environment | Basic        | Friday      | 10:45am-11:45am | Holly Hoffman, Professor, Central Michigan University; Joe Wentworth, Program Co-Facilitator, Connections that Count, Central Michigan University |

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| Empowering Students with Autism & Learning Challenges to Reach their Full Potential* | Educators and parents will learn practical ways to empower students with autism to develop their gifts, handle sensory issues, decode behavior issues, and learn self-efficacy. Sandison gives insight for creating a hope complex, activities to encourage socializing, enhance decision-making ability, learn new skills and broaden interests. Ron shares his own journey with autism and the wisdom he gained from his mom and the forty plus autism professionals he interviewed while writing his third book Views from the Spectrum which Kregel Publications, a national publisher is publishing in April 2021. | Early Childhood                | Intermediate | Friday      | 10:45am-11:45am | Ron Sandison, Presenter with Autism, Author and Founder of Spectrum Inclusion               |
| Making the World a Bigger Place for AAC Users  | Would you like Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) users to be able to go more places and communicate with the people they encounter? If you answered yes, then you can help make this a reality! Learn practical ways educators and families can expand access to AAC and then plan to take AACtion for your own learners.  | Culturally Responsive Teaching | Intermediate | Friday      | 10:45am-11:45am | Carolyn Ohearn, AT/AAC Specialist, Alt+Shift; Sara Pericolosi, AT/AAC Specialist, Alt+Shift |
| Resourceful Resources from Resourceful Resources                                     | Learning to teach in a pandemic was not part of our practicum classes, however, we lived through it and have the resources available to help you adapt to life that is teaching in a pandemic. Join us for a session full of extraordinary resources including all of the job openings that you can imagine. Hear from administrators around Michigan that are hiring in their schools!   | College Students               | Basic        | Friday      | 10:45am-11:45am | Kassey Kytola, Teacher, Chesaning Public Schools; Joni Vernia, Teacher, Jackson County ISD  |

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| Seamless Transitions: Providing Continuous Instruction Across All Learning Environments for Students with Autism | Educators have faced unprecedented challenges this school year, including shifting between in-person and remote learning due to ever-changing conditions. In this session, we will discuss how to provide a consistent transition of instruction for students with autism and other developmental disabilities through evidence-based practices.  | Special Education Services in a Remote Environment | Basic       | Friday      | 10:45am-11:45am | Kathryn Morrow, Training Specialist, STAR Autism Support            |
| Division for Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Exceptional Learners (DDEL- Michigan) Annual Meeting          | DDEL is one of the special interest groups of the Michigan Council for Exceptional Children (MCEC), the largest international professional organization dedicated to improving educational outcomes for individuals with exceptionalities, including students with disabilities and those identified as gifted. DDEL advances educational opportunities for culturally and linguistically diverse learners with disabilities and/or gifts and talents, their families, and the professionals who serve them. It is the only professional organization dedicated exclusively to the concerns of culturally and linguistically diverse exceptional learners. This division meeting will showcase DDEL and solicit engagement from current and future members. YOU can directly impact our next steps. | Division Meeting                                   | Basic       | Friday      | 12:00pm-1:00pm  | Precios Armstrong, Special Education Supervisor, Jackson County ISD |
| <b>State of the State*</b>   | Please join Teri Rink, Director of the MDE Office of Special Education as she shares relevant and current information on the status of special education during the challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic and moving forward.   | Leadership   | Basic       | Friday      | 1:30pm-2:30pm   | Teri Rink, Director, Office of Special Education, MDE               |

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| Bridging the Gap Between Students with Disabilities and their Non-Disabled Peers | Many of the students involved in an inclusive setting range from kindergarten through high school. The social interactions of students has an effect on their learning. This presentation will examine the social interactions of students with disabilities in a 5th grade level inclusive classroom and the effect on academic achievement.   | Social Emotional Learning      | Basic              | Friday             | 2:45pm-3:45pm       | Estella Marshall-Reed, Special Education Resource Teacher, Dearborn Public Schools |
| Preparing Students with Autism for Growth & Transitioning into Adulthood*        | Currently in the U.S 80% of people on the spectrum are unemployed or underemployed only 3% are gainfully employed. Teachers and parents will learn 8 ways to empower individuals with autism for life transitions and growth. Learn to teach skills for employment and independence. How to break transition phases of life into manageable steps for independence. Creating an IEP to prepare a student or child with autism for transitioning into adulthood. Ron shares his own struggles in life's transitions and becoming an author, husband, dad, and having a career. | Culturally Responsive Teaching | Intermediate       | Friday             | 2:45pm-3:45pm       | Ron Sandison, Presenter with Autism, Author and Founder of Spectrum Inclusion      |
| Teacher Panel  | During this panel, you will hear from a variety of professionals in the educational field. From first-year to veteran teachers as well as other professionals in the school setting, you will be able to ask any questions or gather some great advice.   | College Students               | Basic              | Friday             | 2:45pm-3:45pm       | Panel of Teachers  |
| MDE Town Hall  | Join the MDE Office of Special Education Director, Teri Rink and staff, to discuss current issues and initiatives in special education. Teri and her team will also address questions from conference participants.   | Leadership                     | Basic              | Friday             | 2:45pm-3:45pm       | Teri Rink, Director, Office of Special Education, MDE                              |

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| What Do/Did We Know About Effective Communication and Collaboration and How Has the Pandemic Changed Our Way of Building Family Relationships?* | Communication in special education has always played an important role in building collaborative relationships between families and schools. When we communicate with each other we build better teams which result in improved educational outcomes for students. Covid-19 has presented us with a unique opportunity to create and/or improve family-school partnerships. Now more than ever before we need to work together. This workshop will provide you with communication and collaboration strategies and help you learn how to build stronger, more effective family-school relationships. | Special Education Services in a Remote Environment | Basic        | Friday      | 2:45pm-3:45pm | Cheryl Levine, Program Coordinator, Special Education Mediation Services; Bern Dempsey, Training Coordinator, Special Education Mediation Services                       |
| A Remote Learning Journey - Providing Elementary Level Special Education Services During a School Closure*                                      | In this presentation attendees will learn of the challenges, successes, and cooperative efforts undertaken by an elementary school special education staff as they delivered instruction and ancillary support services to students receiving special education supports in the areas of speech, learning disabilities, and Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD).  | Special Education Services in a Remote Environment | Intermediate | Friday      | 4:00pm-5:00pm | Drew Towleron, Principal, Lake Orion Community Schools; Alison Gilreath, Psychologist, Lake Orion Community Schools  |
| Self-Determined Learning for Transition: A Student Curriculum Project*  | The Self-Determined Learning Model of Instruction (SDLMI) is a useful tool for growing employability skills. In this session, you will see an SDLMI case study for a student transitioning to the workforce. You will learn the SDLMI process, hear from the student researcher, examine N2Y tools, and learn from the self-advocate who participated!   | College Students                                   | Basic        | Friday      | 4:00pm-5:00pm | Kate Strater, Assistant Professor, Calvin University; Joslyn Fox, Student Researcher, Calvin University; McKenna Crossley, Self-Advocate, Forest Hills Transition Center |

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| The Strengthening Family-School Partnerships Project: How Building Bridges Improves The Educational Experience* | <p>This winter, Michigan educators and families engaged in the Strengthening Family-School Partnerships Project (SFSP), identifying common challenges and proposing practical ideas to build bridges between home and school.</p> <p>Explore the SFSP resource and learn how you can improve in-person and remote learning experiences with a stronger family/school partnership.</p>   | Special Education Services in a Remote Environment | Basic        | Friday      | 4:00pm-5:00pm | Carolyn Ohearn, AT/AAC Specialist, Alt+Shift; Sara Pericolosi, AT/AAC Specialist, Alt+Shift  |
| Why do they keep engaging in that behavior?<br>Identifying the Functions of Challenging Behaviors*              | <p>In this session, participants will learn the functions of behavior as well as the concepts of operant conditioning. Participants will then practice identifying the function of student behavior utilizing real life scenarios. Participants will also learn about connections between disabilities, trauma, and challenging behaviors during the session.</p> <p>Lastly, participants will have the opportunity to ask the presenter questions about specific challenging behaviors they are currently encountering for in the moment feedback and support.</p> | Social Emotional Learning                          | Basic        | Friday      | 4:00pm-5:00pm | Lisa Drumb, Assistant Teaching Professor of Special Education, Marian University   |
| New Administration, New Congress, New Priorities: What's In Store for Education Policy in 2021?                 | A new administration and change of leadership in Congress will bring many changes to the federal education policy landscape this year. In this session, CEC's Executive Director, Chad Rummel, and Senior Policy & Advocacy Advisor, Kuna Tavalin, will update you on how these changes could affect you and how you can get involved with CEC.   | Legal/Compliance/Policy                            | Intermediate | Friday      | 4:00pm-5:00pm | Chad Rummel, Executive Director, Council for Exceptional Children; Kuna Tavalin, Senior Policy Advisor, Council for Exceptional Children |