

October 15, 2018

  LivingstonESA.org



LESA rank in Michigan; SET-SEG Award Application; Opportunity to Learn

From Dr. Michael Hubert, Livingston ESA Superintendent

Quick Fact....The Livingston Educational Service Agency is the **10th largest** Educational Service Agency ("ESA" - a/k/a: Intermediate School District) in the state of Michigan as measured by total ESA student enrollment. There are 56 Educational Service Agencies in Michigan.

The Agency has won three **SET-SEG Education Excellence awards** over the past two years and the application window is open now through December 14th for the next round of awards. SET-SEG is the Agency's property/casualty insurance provider and they are looking for programs that change lives and positively impact students' futures. Examples are programs that encourage academic achievement, community involvement, critical thinking, social responsibility or leadership. Only 10 programs from across the state will be recognized this year and I would love it if a program you are proud of becomes one of the next winners! You will be able to use the entire award amount to further the work in your program. Please contact me directly if you would like to have **your program** featured as one of our **applications** this year.

We added the term "**Opportunity to Learn**" as a belief in the Agency's strategic plan last February. The following definition was also added to clarify our commitment: "**Every child in the county, regardless of their socioeconomic status or disability, should receive equitable opportunities to learn.**" Check out page 4 as just one example of where equitable opportunity is still a challenge. Please let me know if you ever observe an instance where we fall short in this regard.

SPECIAL EDUCATION

ECSE Community Outings; PREPaRE Training



From Doug Haseley and Dr. Rachel Kopke

In Livingston County, we have embraced the concept of inclusion as being a critical component for all early childhood special education students. This includes community based outings for our families of students with special needs. The first Early Childhood Special Education Community Outing of the year took place October 12th at Spicer's Orchard in Hartland. Over 100 families, kids, and staff participated on a cold fall afternoon. With four wagons full of kids, parents, siblings, grandparents, aunts, and uncles, Livingston ESA staff modeled the use of visuals, social stories, pre-literacy read alouds, and facilitation of strategies for embedding language opportunities within natural contexts. Parents connected with one another and were able to draw on similar experiences with taking children into the community and offered ideas and support to one another. Next ECSE Community Outing will take place in December at Howell Nature Center as we host a breakfast with Santa.

We are prepping for the [PREPaRE](#) Training at the end of the month. The PREPaRE curriculum has been developed by the National Association of School Psychologists (NASP) as part of NASP's decade-long leadership in providing evidenced-based resources and consultation related to school crisis prevention and response. PREPaRE training is ideal for schools committed to improving and strengthening their school safety and crisis management plans and emergency response. Training will be targeted for LIPSA staff as well as local district counselor representatives. To learn more information about the the training, read the National Association of School Psychologist article [on PREPaRE training](#).

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EARLY CHILDHOOD

Literacy Essentials.org



From Sean LaRosa

Have you heard of literacyessentials.org? The Early Literacy Task Force created the website to provide an Early Literacy Essentials resource space for Michigan educators. The Early Literacy Task Force is a workgroup of [MAISA's](#) General Education Leadership Network (GELN) and authors of the Essential Practices in Early and Elementary Literacy. literacyessentials.org is a place where educators can find all things connected to the Essential Practices.

The website has resources including; news and updates related to the work of the Early Literacy Task Force, information on the history of the Early Literacy Task Force and development of the Essential Practices, links to videos, information on how to obtain Early Literacy Essential module training and SCECHs, information related to statewide trainings being offered, links to all documents connected to the Essentials Practices in Early and Elementary Literacy. Resources are continually being added so it is best to sign up for updates by clicking on the ABOUT tab and then on Connect.

When visiting literacyessentials.org, be sure to click on the "Our Work" tab and scroll down to "Videotaping Essential#2: Meet The Crew". This short video shows what goes into the production of training module videos and is noteworthy because it was filmed in a Livingston ESA GSRP classroom featuring one of our preschool teachers. This was a rigorous process for our staff and involved multiple days of working with Tanya Wright, MSU researcher, and a full day of filming. Be sure to check it out!

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SECONDARY OPTIONS

Foster Care Support



From Michelle Radcliffe and Candice Olrich

There is a special population of youth in Livingston County who are often “hidden” from the public eye. Each year, there are roughly 150-250 foster youth in Livingston County. Funding for foster students to participate in school/community extra-curricular activities is extremely limited. This can often mean that foster students do not have the same opportunity to participate in school trips, sports, and other extra-curricular activities like their peers. Recreational and school activities such as prom, clubs, sports, field trips, and purchasing a yearbook can be quite costly. For some, the financial burden to foster families is too great to justify their student participating. The schools provide some assistance where they can, but it is not always enough and the need to support these youth and their families have grown over the past few years.

Candice Olrich, McKinney-Vento Grant Coordinator, recognized this need and with the generosity of 2/42 Church, a new program “The Enrichment Project for Foster Youth (EPFY)” has been created. The program will provide the needed financial assistance for families to support their youth and enrich their school experiences and recreational activities. We look forward to assisting as many foster youths as possible this year and appreciate the generosity of 2/42 Church.

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COLLABORATION

MyStop GPS Tracking Program



From Teresa Zigman and Alice Johnson

As part of the Agency's strategic plan, the Specialized Transportation Department fully implemented the "[MyStop](#)" live GPS-tracking school bus program on September 4, 2018 for all specialized routes.

The MyStop program became an initiative within the transportation department after receiving feedback from parents within the community. MyStop is an application that works in collaboration with the Agency's bus routing software and provides mobile app users near real-time data regarding the exact location and estimated arrival of their child's bus.

This program enhances the transportation service that the Agency provides through better communication with our community and increases safety for students and Agency staff.

As a result of utilizing the MyStop program, the department has noticed the following benefits:

- Parents no longer wonder if the school bus is on time, which in turn reduces the amount of incoming calls to the transportation office.
- Students do not need to be waiting outside, especially in inclement weather, for a bus that may be late.
- Agency staff receive enhanced administrative information, such as the exact location of the bus fleet, which insures policies and practices are followed, further increasing safety.

The transportation department has received very positive feedback from parents who have expressed appreciation for the security and piece of mind knowing the location of their child's bus at all times.

If you are interested in using the MyStop program, please send an email to **Eric Petrie**, Associate Supervisor of Specialized Transportation at ericpetrie@livingstonesa.org or call 517-548-3052.

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PARENTS & COMMUNITY

Bus safety week October 22-26, 2018

From Alice Johnson

From October 22 to October 26, 2018, Livingston ESA will be celebrating **National Bus Safety Week** with this year's chosen theme **"My Driver - My Safety Hero!"** Held every year during the third week of October, National Bus Safety Week is an opportunity to educate staff, students, and the entire community on safety inside and outside the school bus. We hope to keep bus safety at the forefront of what we do by engaging students, staff, parents, and the community during this week and beyond.

Although we believe every day should be school bus safety day, this week encourages all districts to review policies and procedures with staff and to teach safety rules to students in unique ways.

For example, **Hartland Transportation bus drivers** discuss a bus safety rule each day with students and send a letter home to parents about the teaching. **Pinckney Transportation** has a coloring contest where students pick a bus rule, color a picture, and drivers pick winners. **Brighton Transportation** hands out stickers and pencils decorated with bus rules to serve as reminders. **Howell Transportation** does a presentation with "Buster" an animated school bus.

For more information visit the National Association for Pupil Transportation's website at napt.org regarding National Bus Safety Week and for additional tips on school bus safety.

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LEADERSHIP

Talking Is Teaching Launch in Fowlerville

From Sean LaRosa

The “**Talking Is Teaching, Talk, Read, Sing**” community campaign is now underway! The public awareness and action campaign will share information with parents about the critical role they play in their child’s early brain and language development, and support them with concrete tools to talk, read and sing with their young children from birth. As an Agency, we recognize that if we are not connecting with families in a positive manner and supporting early language and literacy development before children enter kindergarten, they will be less likely to read successfully by the end of 3rd grade.

On October 2nd we conducted our first “Talking Is Teaching, Talk, Read, Sing” trusted messenger training with 17 community members from Fowlerville. Trusted messengers are community members who have established positive trusting relationships with parents and are conduits of information and strategies to support early language interactions within families. We had a wide variety of representation in attendance; Fowlerville Schools, elected officials, local churches, police department, and the library.

The ripple effect of the training happened immediately! I was invited to visit Jubilee Farm and will be working with Julie Beach to coordinate some of the messaging she uses to align with the campaign. Jubilee Farm is a language and literacy rich environment for young children and their families and is truly a hidden gem in Fowlerville. In addition, I was able to meet with a representative from UB Church and we are planning multiple ways for them to become involved in supporting the campaign.

Stay tuned for more!

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