

Join Us!



## Family Champions Group

**Where children with special needs and their families come together with their peers to champion opportunities in their school and community.**

The Family Champions Group was formed by a group of caregivers who have a child with a disability in the CSD. Our mission is to work with the Special Education Director, building Principals, peer students and their families to build inclusive opportunities and experiences for everyone. We do this by tying into the Chelsea School Districts Portrait of a Graduate; academically, socially, and emotionally. Our goals are to raise awareness, increase understanding and empathy, and build genuine friendships.

### Things we are working on and need volunteers to help with:

1. **Social Saturdays** - for children in K - 12th grade to have a place to hang out, meet friends, and build relationships with their peers.
2. **Disability Awareness Workshop** - a workshop that allows students to better understand the difficulties their peers with disabilities face everyday - great demos and historical info too!
3. **Sensory friendly events** - work with local businesses like the Chelsea TreeHouse, PAX gymnastics, the Library, Chelsea Bowling Alley, etc. to create times for kids and teens that need a calmer environment to enjoy as well.
4. **Education series** - 2 to 4 times a year for caregivers to learn more about programs available to them such as; guardianship, SSI, Medicaid, etc.
5. **Social media** - updating information for websites and flyers

**\* We meet monthly or as needed \***

While the FCG was created by parents of children with disabilities and the purpose of this group is to create opportunities for those children and their families, that they can enjoy along with their peers, the FCG is open to any adult, with or without a child of a disability that would like to help in our mission. Please email us for more information!

[Familychampionsgroup@gmail.com](mailto:Familychampionsgroup@gmail.com)

# CSD Programs for students with IEPs:

## CSD Programs and Activities for students with IEPs:

<p><b><u><a href="#">Pierce Lake Early Childhood Center</a></u></b>          Early Childhood and Childcare          Director: Sarah Barth</p>	<p>The Pierce Lake Early Childhood Center is home to Chelsea School District's Preschool Program for children ages 3-5.</p>
<p><b><u><a href="#">North Elementary</a></u></b>          Principal: Casey Wescott</p>	<p><b>“North Crew”</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Offers a <a href="#">Buddy Bench</a> where students can sit, alerting others they're looking for a friend to play with</li> <li>● Leadership opportunities for second graders to ....</li> </ul>
<p><b><u><a href="#">South Elementary</a></u></b>          Principal: Katie Spisich</p>	<p><b>“South Crew”</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Lunch Buddy program</li> <li>● Southside Eats</li> </ul>
<p><b><u><a href="#">Beach Middle School</a></u></b>          Principal: Matt Ceo &amp;          Vice Principal: Adam Schilt</p>	<p><b>“Chelsea Unified”</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● BMS is a <a href="#">Unified School</a> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Students participate in Special Olympics as a Unified player</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Weekly events where gen ed students have a chance to engage with special ed peers such as:           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Meeting for lunch</li> <li>○ Playing math games</li> <li>○ Joining peers for swim or gym class</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Going on field trips together</li> <li>● Supporting each other in sports and clubs</li> <li>● Celebrating birthdays together</li> </ul>
<p><b><u><a href="#">Chelsea High School</a></u></b>          Principal: Amanda Clor &amp;          Vice Principal: Andrea Franco</p>	<p><b>“Bulldog Crew”</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Key Club members have lunch weekly with Independence Hall students</li> </ul>
<p><b><u><a href="#">Community Education</a></u></b></p>	<p><b>T.E.A.M. Activities</b> - Where Together Everyone Achieves More</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● TBD, when official dates are available they will be posted below in the <a href="#">Upcoming Events</a> section.</li> </ul>

Community partnerships and other local resources:

## Community partnerships and other local resources:

\*These opportunities are always a work in progress and evolving. Please always look on the [Upcoming Events](#) section for if/when these are happening.

<b>The Chelsea TreeHouse -</b>	Once a month - currently on pause *This event is for children in the CSD with an IEP and their families. Currently, normal admission applies. For official dates please see <a href="#">Upcoming Events</a> below.
<b>CHS Open Gym -</b>	Currently on pause
<b>Chelsea Lanes -</b>	<i>TBD</i>
<b>PAX Gymnastics -</b>	<i>TBD</i>
<b>Chelsea District Library -</b>	<i>TBD</i>



**Rollerines** Wheelchair basketball - Ages 5-18 - Email:

[pmr-umaisetr@umich.edu](mailto:pmr-umaisetr@umich.edu)

Competition & Rec teams available (Jr. Prep competition team ages 5-13)

**Sports wheelchairs provided!**

Season: Sept - May

**Special Olympics College at U of M - 2024-2025AY** - Email: [socollege@umich.edu](mailto:socollege@umich.edu)

- Flag football will be every Tuesday, 5:30-6:30pm  
Pattengill Elementary (2100 Crestland Dr, Ann Arbor, MI 48104).
- Soccer will be held every Sunday, 11am-12pm  
Pioneer High School (601 W Stadium Blvd, Ann Arbor, MI 48103).

**[Work and Play Cafe](#): 444 N Hewitt Rd, Ypsilanti, MI 48197** “The Work and Play Special Needs Resource Center was founded to provide a central location for therapists to provide services, fun gatherings, and crucial information for those with developmental disabilities of all ages and their caregivers.” Social hours, IEP help, Story times, support groups, plus more activities and events!

**[Exceptional Journeys](#): 3060 Packard St. Suite B in Ann Arbor, MI 48108** “A community for all abilities” - offers various events to build relationships and teach new skills such as make a friend, cooking classes, and games, and more!

**We Rock the Spectrum**: 4370 Varsity Dr, Suite A, Ann Arbor, MI 48108 Just opened and currently offers open gym play for all. Coming soon - respite care and classes.

**Best Buddies - Washtenaw County** - Social opportunities and friendships for adults with and without intellectual & developmental disabilities - email: [Lydiagoff@bestbuddies.org](mailto:Lydiagoff@bestbuddies.org) or [jrose15@emich.edu](mailto:jrose15@emich.edu)

Upcoming events:

## Upcoming events:

There are many events held on a somewhat continuous basis at local or nearby businesses. Please check the listing [above](#) for more information not listed below.

[Michigan Alliance for Families](#) - continuously offers in person and/or virtual events and on demand webinars that include information such as Understanding IEPs, Transitioning, Assistive Technology, and much more! Check out their website for more information on dates and times.

## November:

[Beach Middle School](#) is a [Unified Champion School!](#)? Unified Champion Schools are schools where students with disabilities feel welcome and are meaningfully included in all school activities, opportunities, and functions. This is accomplished by implementing three components of Unified Champion Schools: Inclusive Student Leadership, Unified Sports, and Whole School Engagement. With sports as the foundation, the three-component model offers activities that equip students with tools and training to create teams, classrooms, and entire schools of acceptance.

Ask Mr. Ceo about their soccer team!

[Family to Family \(F2F\)](#) – *“provides resources, information and education for children and youth with special health care needs, the families who love them, and the professionals who support them”*. Check out their webinars to learn more about the [Children with Special Needs Fund](#), [Michigan’s Children’s Waiver Program](#), [transitioning healthcare from pediatrics to adult healthcare services](#), and more!

[Saline EMAGINE theater](#) – hosts sensory friend movies.

1. Brighter house lights and lower volume.

*\*Note: there are no modifications made to the film*

2. Audience interaction (movement, speaking, singing) and electronic device (phone, tablet, etc.) usage are allowed.

3. Guests are welcome to bring a safe snack for any food allergies or food avoidance/restrictions.

## October:

[October 3](#) Transition: What You Need to Know with Karen Wang from 6:30pm-8:30pm. Register at <https://tinyurl.com/4fvk9mm2>

[October 4 & 11](#) Sensory Processing (two part webinar) with Dr. Sally Burton-Hoyle from 1:00pm-2:30pm. Register at <https://tinyurl.com/mw994tnn>

**October 8 in Clawson** Understanding IEPs with Haley Cason Grobbel at Clawson High School at 6:30pm. [Register for in-person event in Clawson.](#)

**Adaptive Archery - UMAISE**

Wednesday, October 30th from 1-2pm and 2:30-3:30pm

Email: [pmr-umaisetr@umich.edu](mailto:pmr-umaisetr@umich.edu) for more information

**Fall Hiking Club - UMAISE**

Tuesdays October 8 - October 29th from 5:00 - 6:00 pm

Email: [pmr-umaisetr@umich.edu](mailto:pmr-umaisetr@umich.edu) for more information

**AAC Awareness month:** Please see this [flyer](#) for more information

**Sensory-Friendly programs at The Henry Ford:** To register:

<https://forms.gle/BB1t9EHyUjJr3bo58>

Hotel Transylvania 2 - *register by noon on October 11, 2024.*

A customized movie experience designed for those with Autism Spectrum Disorder / Sensory Processing Disorder and their loved ones. These movies are free to you and your family.

**Disability Network Washtenaw Monroe Livingston** - DNWML Washtenaw office

Join for a Spooktacular Night! 🧛 🍊 - When: Friday, October 11th - Time: 6-9 PM

Get ready for a frightfully fun evening at our Trunk or Treat & Dance Party!

Costumes are encouraged, and ages 14+ are invited!

Sign up at [www.tinyurl.com/DMWMLHalloween](http://www.tinyurl.com/DMWMLHalloween)

**24-25 Agency Transition Services** - Informational Parent Meetings - multiple agencies!

Tuesday, October 22, 2024 - 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

[Zoom](#) - Meeting ID: 920 9755 9294 Passcode: 517087

# IEP Information:

## IEP Information

**\*\*The information below was sourced from the agencies listed. Please use those links for up-to-date information. If a link no longer works, please email [christinarae.2023@gmail.com](mailto:christinarae.2023@gmail.com).**

### [Michigan Administrative Rules for Special Education \(MARSE\) With Related IDEA Federal Regulations](#)

[Wrights Law](#) - Parents, advocates, teachers, and attorneys come to Wrightslaw for reliable, up-to-date information about special education law and advocacy for children with disabilities.

[Michigan Alliance for Families](#) - is filled with a tremendous amount of information including webinars, fact sheets, and detailed information relating to the IEP process. From their website:

Once a child has been determined to be [eligible for special education services](#), the IEP team will work together to write a plan that provides a [free and appropriate public education \(FAPE\)](#).

The IEP will include:

- [Present level of academic achievement and functional performance](#) statement in the IEP is a snapshot of the child's current abilities and skills.
- [Goals and objectives](#) are the specific, measurable skills or behaviors that the student will master in one year's time. The student's [progress](#) will be monitored.
- [Accommodations and modifications](#) allow the student to participate and be successful.
- [Special Education and Related Services](#) are the programs and supports provided so the child can meet their goals.
- Students will be part of the [general education curriculum](#) and included in [extracurricular activities](#) as part of being educated in the [least restrictive environment](#) .
- The IEP also addresses [assistive technology](#), [behavior considerations](#), and participation in [statewide assessments](#).

As part of the IEP process, parents should receive a copy of their [procedural safeguards](#), which includes providing [prior written notice](#) and information on [resolving disagreements](#). For students who are 16 or older, a [transition](#) plan is part of the IEP.

**Special Education Mediation Services** - “Special Education Mediation Services (SEMS), formerly known as Michigan Special Education Mediation Program, provides mediation, facilitation and training services for working through disagreements so that children with disabilities promptly receive the services they need to develop and succeed in school. These services often help to avoid disputes or help resolve them early.”

# Transition to Adulthood:

## **Transition to Adulthood:**

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**Michigan Alliance for Families** - A wonderful resource for [Adult Services](#)

**WACA** - The Washtenaw Association for Community Advocacy can help with - Washtenaw Association for Community Advocacy focuses on inclusion in community life. WACA helps with complex systems navigation such as SSI, MDHHS, help with employment, financial needs, special needs trust education, etc. WACA also assists with IEPs and transition planning for those who qualify. [Washtenaw ACA | Opening Doors for Inclusion](#)

**The ARC** - You can pay for a membership to the ARC of Oakland County (even if you are not an Oakland County resident) and receive benefits like an attorney on staff & 2 school staff advocates that are available to members, expert, experienced professionals with knowledge on matters of: Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Social Security disability Insurance (SSDI), Special Education Law, Adult Home Help Services, and much much more! Membership is only \$55 per year. [Membership | The Arc of Oakland County MI \(thearcoakland.org\)](#)

**Guardianship or Conservatorship information - Washtenaw County Probate Court** - Members of the Washtenaw County Bar Association (WCBA) who specialize in probate matters are available to answer questions at no cost on the first Wednesday of the month from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Registration is required for a 20-minute session. You may register by contacting the WCBA office at 734-996-3229. The WCBA also has a Lawyer Referral and Information Service if you are interested in hiring an attorney. You can also contact the court and pay \$30 to speak with an attorney for 30 minutes. [Developmental Disability | Washtenaw County, MI](#)

**ABLE Accounts** - [Achieving a Better Life Experience Act](#) - [MiABLE \(michigan.gov\)](#)

“The MiABLE Disability Savings Program was created to allow individuals with disabilities and their families to save funds for Qualified Disability Expenses that support health, independence, and quality of life without jeopardizing eligibility for necessary federal benefits.”

**[Michigan Rehabilitation Services](#)** - MRS provides vocational rehabilitation services for eligible individuals with disabilities, consistent with their unique strengths, resources, priorities, concerns, abilities, capabilities, interests, and informed choice, to prepare for and engage in employment and achieve economic self-sufficiency. We partner with

business in employee development, business consulting and corporate relations. We are committed to building the workforce of tomorrow... today.

### **[Community Housing Network](#)**

A nonprofit organization providing housing and housing resources for people with disabilities.

### **[Community Living Services](#)**

Providing community-based services and supports to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, seniors and those with chronic illness, that are living in the greater metropolitan area.

### **[Macomb Oakland Regional Center](#)**

Coordinates long-term supports for individuals with physical and developmental disabilities and the elderly in Southeast Michigan.

### **[Accessible Chef](#)**

Accessible Chef is a collection of free visual recipes and other resources to help teach cooking skills to individuals with disabilities at home

### **[Michigan Merit Curriculum- High School Graduation Requirements](#)**

This document is intended to provide general guidance. Due to the complexity of the law, policies and guidance will continue to evolve. For specific information regarding the law, please refer to MCL 380.1278a and MCL 380.1278b.

### **[Michigan Department of Education - Michigan Merit Curriculum](#)**

The Michigan Merit Curriculum (MMC) is not a curriculum in the traditional sense - it is legislation that specifies all students awarded a diploma have demonstrated proficiency with the content outlined by the state academic standards, benchmarks or guidelines.

### **[College Planning Guide for Students with Learning Disabilities](#)**

Information on disclosing disability status, getting accommodations, legal rights of disabled students, Assistive Technology to support disabled students, and scholarships for disabled students

### **[Moving From High School To College Accommodations: Changes in Vocabulary and Expectations](#)**

Information on transitioning to college, differences in vocabulary, and how and where colleges are included under the law for section 504

## **[Nursing Careers for People with Disabilities](#)**

Guide with a comparison of some of the benefits and challenges of a nursing career, tips on choosing an accessible nursing school, and examines different nursing career paths, their demands, and accommodations available. It also includes practical advice on job interviews, disclosing disabilities to employers, and understanding legal protections.

# Drivers Education:

## **DRIVER'S EDUCATION**

**\*\*The information below was sourced from the agencies listed. Please use those links for up-to-date information. If a link no longer works, please email [christinarae.2023@gmail.com](mailto:christinarae.2023@gmail.com).**

### **[A & A Driving School](#)**

Your driving skills will be evaluated by one of our Occupational Therapists, Certified Driving Instructors and Certified Driver Rehabilitation Specialists who have been board certified by Association for Driver Rehabilitation Specialists (ADED).

### **[Gresham Driving Aids](#)**

They can install a passenger side brake for practicing at home with students or when they have their permit.

### **[Official Driving School](#)**

Ask for Rachel, who has experience working with young adults and adults with disabilities.

Summer Camps:

## Summer Camps:

**\*\*The information below was sourced from the agencies listed. Please use those links for up-to-date information. If a link no longer works, please email [christinarae.2023@gmail.com](mailto:christinarae.2023@gmail.com).**

\*\*\*Please email Christina Hollis ([christinarae.2023@gmail.com](mailto:christinarae.2023@gmail.com)) or Jamie McCollum ([jamielmccollum@gmail.com](mailto:jamielmccollum@gmail.com)) if you have information you think should be added to this list.

### **The Family Center for Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs (Family Center) offers a Camp Scholarship every year.**

- Camp scholarships have been increased from \$250 to \$350/per child;
- Multiple applications per family will be accepted; however, each camper is only eligible for funding every other year;
- Children who are not enrolled in CSHCS, or do not have a CSHCS-eligible diagnosis, are required to submit a letter from their specialty provider verifying their diagnosis/special health care need. This includes children with developmental and/or behavioral conditions;
- Applications will be accepted beginning February 1st, and will be accepted as long as funding is available;
- Only 10 scholarships per camp will be awarded.

The application can also be downloaded from the [CSHCS website](#). If you have any questions, or would like more information, please don't hesitate to contact Jane Pilditch at [PilditchJ2@michigan.gov](mailto:PilditchJ2@michigan.gov), or the Family Phone Line at 800-359-3722.

#### [Friendship Circle](#) - West Bloomfield, MI

"Friendship Circle provides an incredible overnight camp experience for children and individuals with special needs."

#### [Camp Sky Wild](#) - West Branch, MI

"Camp Skywild is a sleepaway camp designed for autistic children and their siblings in West Branch, Michigan"

#### [The Fowler Center](#) - Mayville, MI

"Accessible activities and programming to meet the needs of the children and adults we serve. Our year round programs include Summer Overnight Camp, Summer Day Camp, Travel Adventures, Equestrian Programs, Weekend Respite Camps, Community Events, and Group Events."

#### [Camp Fish Tales](#) - Pinconning, MI

"The goal of Camp Fish Tales is to promote an atmosphere for individuals with disabilities to meet and make new friends while participating in group growth activities."

[Indian Trails Camp](#) - Grand Rapids, MI

“Indian Trails Camp brings adaptive recreation to campers in a safe, barrier-free environment. Campers participate in a wide range of activities while learning perseverance, teamwork, and self-reliance and experiencing empowering fun and friendship. At the same time, their families and caregivers are afforded some much-needed rest.”

Respite Care:

## **Respite Care:**

**\*\*The information below was sourced from the agencies listed. Please use those links for up-to-date information. If a link no longer works, please email [christinarae.2023@gmail.com](mailto:christinarae.2023@gmail.com).**

[Lahser House](#) - Beverly Hills, MI - Under 18

"Provides families with a break from the day to day stresses of caring for a child with a disability."

[St. Louis Center](#) - Chelsea, MI - Over 18

"Respite Care services are designed to meet the needs of families and agencies who need a place for their loved one/client to stay while they take a break or attend to other needs. The average length of stay is typically from two to seven days but is flexible."

[Home Help](#) - Michigan

"Provides personal care services to individuals who need hands-on assistance with Activities of Daily Living (ADLs) and assistance with Instrumental Activities of Daily Living (IADLs)."