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MICHAEL F. RICE, Ph.D.
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 28, 2023

TO: ISD Directors of Special Education

FROM: Teri L. Rink, Ed.S., Director
Office of Special Education 
Jonnie Taton, S.Psy.S., NCSP., Director
Office of Great Start, Early Childhood Development & Family Education 

SUBJECT: Determination of Eligibility for Michigan Mandatory Special Education for Infants and Toddlers, Birth to Age Three, Deaf or Hard of Hearing Guidance

The Determination of Eligibility for Michigan Mandatory Special Education (MMSE) for Infants and Toddlers, Birth to Age Three, Deaf or Hard of Hearing (DHH) guidance document is now available. This document was made possible through a joint effort of the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) Office of Special Education, Office of Great Start/Office of Early Childhood Development and Family Education, and MDE Low Incidence Outreach. The document helps promote the appropriate identification and qualification of infants and toddlers, aged birth to three, who are eligible for MMSE in addition to being eligible for *Early On*[®] services.

In addition to the DHH document, previously released guidance for MMSE eligibility categories includes:

- Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)
- Early Childhood Developmental Delay (ECDD)
- Other Health Impairment (OHI)
- Speech Language Impairment (SLI)

These guidance documents are intended to inform key stakeholders and, to provide awareness, guidance, professional development, training, and additional supports regarding the appropriate identification of infants and toddlers under MMSE.

The process for creating guidance for the application of [Michigan Administrative Rules for Special Education \(MARSE\)](#) categories for infants and toddlers, birth to age three,

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includes convening stakeholder groups, creating broad and expert developer and reviewer workgroups, and final approval at the Michigan Department of Education Office of Special Education and Office of Great Start/Office of Early Childhood Development and Family Education.

Visit the [MDE Office of Special Education Evaluations and Eligibility page](#) to access the DHH guidance and other eligibility categories guidance documents.

Thank you to those who were involved in the creation of these documents. Guidance regarding the remaining eligibility categories is under evaluation.

Contact Janet Timbs in the Office of Great Start/Office of Early Childhood Development and Family Education at timbsj@michigan.gov or Jessica Brady in the Office of Special Education at bradyj@michigan.gov with questions or comments.