



Special Education Newsletter Tech Edition January 2017

LEAD/EMPOWER/ASSIST/PARENTS: LEAP CONFERENCE

The Kent ISD will be hosting their annual LEAP conference on March 4, 2017. The day long conference is designed to support parents and providers of children with disabilities. There are approximately 25 different breakout sessions offered throughout the day.

Sessions Include

- Maintaining a Healthy Relationship: Strategies for Couples
- Legal Planning for a Child with Disabilities
- Building Communication Skills Through Play
- Navigating Insurance & Community Resources
- Top Tips on Transition
- Understanding Your Child's IEP & Section 504
- Myths and Legends of Extended School Year versus Summer School

Save the date! The LEAP conference is always well attended. Follow the link below for registration information.

[LEAP Conference Registration](#)

SAVE THE DATE!
LEAP
CONFERENCE

LEAD/EMPOWER/ASSIST/PARENTS
A Conference for Parents & Providers of Children with Special Needs

Saturday, March 4, 2017
8:30am – 2:30pm
Kent Intermediate School District, Filtration Service Center
2090 Knapp Grand Rapids, MI 49525

Keynote: Leslie Falke is an author & advocate for creating a life that matters for ALL our children. She has helped assist parents & providers to gain insight as they work together. Her message is both inspiring and hopeful.

Some breakout topics include:

- Building Communication through Play
- Calming, Energizing & Body Awareness Strategies
- Understanding the MI-ARI F Act
- Creating Circles of Support
- Strategies for Decreasing Challenging Behaviors
- Legal Planning for a Child with Disabilities

Learn, share, and network with others • Explore community resources
\$15 registration per person - Continental breakfast & lunch included
Scholarships available for parents
Free childcare (registration required)

Watch for more information at www.kentisd.org Professional Learning-Workshops & Registration
For questions email: Maundy.love@kentisd.org

▲ Click on the image above to enlarge ▲



GOOGLE CHROME EXTENSIONS

SPEECH TO TEXT

Type with your voice!

Dictation turns your Google Chrome into a speech recognition app designed to assist with written expression.

You can use Google Chrome as a voice recognition app and type long documents, emails, and school essays without touching the keyboard. Dictation uses Chrome's local storage to automatically save the transcriptions, so you will never lose your work. There is no need to continuously press the "Save" button. Internally, it uses the Web Speech API of Chrome that is supported in all the newer releases of Chrome browser including Google Chrome on Android. The



app is integrated with Dropbox and Google Drive to help you easily export the transcribed text to your various online accounts. Alternatively, you can send the dictated text to any email address.

[Click here for the Voice Recognition Chrome link](#)

BEE LINE READER

The BeeLine's color gradient makes reading faster and easier for both children.

Have a lot to read? Make reading easier and faster using BeeLine Reader! BeeLine uses a color gradient to guide your eyes from the end of one line to the beginning of the next. This seemingly simple tweak makes reading substantially easier and faster because it allows you to transition between lines quickly and effortlessly. Based on diagnostic information supplied by BeeLine Reader, users have reported being able to read 20% to 30% faster due to the reduction of ads and other distracting items located on most



webpages. BeeLine Reader provides a free unlimited 30 day trial. Once the free trial has expired, users can access BeeLine Reader up to five times per day for free. The enhanced BeeLine Reader Pro can be purchased for 84¢ per month. Follow the link below for more information.

[Click here for the BeeLine Reader Website](#)



MICHIGAN ELECTRONIC LIBRARY : MeL

Administered by the Library of Michigan in partnership with Michigan's libraries of all types, the Michigan eLibrary (MeL) will provide all Michigan residents with free access to online full-text articles, full-text books, digital images, and other valuable research information at any time via the Internet. MeL provides an easy-to-use interlibrary loan system to allow Michigan residents to borrow books and other library materials for free from participating Michigan libraries.

MeL is accessible online to Michigan residents 24/7 while the databases allow you instant access to full text articles from tens of thousands of magazines and newspapers. Databases are available for kids and adults, and

provide information on specialized topics. MeLCat allows you to order books, audio books, music, movies, and other materials and have them delivered to your participating library. MeL Michigan contains photographs, diaries, oral histories, local records, and historical Michigan data. MeL Gateways include specialized resources such as those focusing on government, health, and topics for kids and teens.

[Click here for the MeL Website](#)



READ WRITE THINK

Free interactive essay maps and after school resources supported by the National Council of Teachers of English.

ReadWriteThink's mission is designed to provide educators, parents, and after school supporters with access to the highest quality practices in reading and language arts instruction by offering free research based materials. Endorsed by both the International Literacy Association (ILA) and the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE), ReadWriteThink provides interactive student resources that range from organizing thoughts to learning about language. Within the Parent and After school Resource tab,



students can find a variety of activities designed to encourage and enhance reading or writing skills. Age appropriate book suggestions and activities are available for all grade levels. Utilize the link below to access ReadWriteThink's main page.

[Click here for the ReadWriteThink Website](#)

SPECIAL EDUCATION PARENT HANDBOOK WITH PROCEDURAL SAFEGUARDS

We invite you to become acquainted with the programs, people, and organizations available to help you and your child. This handbook was developed for parents of students with disabilities by the Kent Intermediate School District. It serves as one source of information regarding state and federal laws that have been written to protect the rights of special education students. In general, as a parent of a child with a disability, you will receive a copy of procedural safeguards prior to each IEP team meeting. Additional copies of the booklet are available upon request from the EGRPS Special Education Department or the Kent Intermediate School District.

[Procedural Safeguards](#)

Special Education Parent Handbook

with Procedural Safeguards



 **Kent ISD**
We Lead Learning

IMPORTANT LINKS

[EGRPS Special Education Home Page](#)

[EGRPS Community Budget Guide 2016-2017](#)

[Kent ISD - Special Education Home Page](#)

[Parent Advisors for Special Education - PASE](#)

[Michigan Department of Education - Special Education Home Page](#)

[US Department of Education - OSERS](#)