

Nominee: **Elaine Meyer**

Running for: **Secretary**



Nomination Statement:

I am currently the Early Childhood Compliance Consultant for Oakland Schools. In this position, I provide Intermediate School District (ISD) level support to Early Childhood Special Education Staff, including ancillary staff, and district special education and general education supervisors on compliance with national, state, and local special education statutes, mandates and best practices.

My background includes experience working in both early childhood and early childhood special education from birth to five. I have worked in childcare, Head Start, GSRP, tuition-based preschool, Kindergarten, and Jr. Kindergarten settings. In addition to being an Early Intervention teacher and ECSE classroom teacher, I provided 1755 ECSE Services to children placed in general education preschool, Jr. Kindergarten, and Kindergarten classrooms, as well as co-taught in a Blended Preschool Classroom.

In my current position, I coordinate, develop, and provide numerous professional learning, guidance, and program improvement opportunities. In recent years, I started an annual county-wide conference for ECSE staff. In addition, I was a member of the writing team for the recently revised DEC Position Paper on MTSS. I've been a member of the CEC/DEC for 20 years. I was a member of the MiDEC Membership Committee for one year, the Professional Learning Committee for four years, and have served as Member at Large for two years. I have previous experience serving as secretary for another organization for 2 years.

As secretary of the Michigan DEC Board, I would offer diverse knowledge and experiences from both general education and special education perspectives. I believe this gives me an advantage when working with our general education and special education partners to improve and expand inclusive opportunities and to improve outcomes for all young children. However, I am not afraid to take a stand when necessary. I work well as a member of a team and enjoy organizing opportunities to bring people together for a common goal. I view myself as an advocate for children, families, staff, and professionals. I believe progress is made through collaboration and developing a shared respect and understanding of the unique needs of the populations we serve. I know that ALL children benefit from inclusive practices, as well as staff and families. It is my intention to help Michigan move toward more collaborative and inclusive practices that best meet the needs of children and families. We have some significant barriers to overcome in our state. However, we CAN overcome them by thinking creatively, working persistently, and communicating effectively.