

MATCEI

Michigan Association of Teachers of Children with
Emotional Impairments

MATCEI's mission is to support and assist its members committed to providing quality educational experiences for all students struggling with emotional and behavioral challenges.



Welcome Back MATCEI Members!

by Richard Spring, MATCEI President

This is your welcome back to what promises to be another exciting school year! Hopefully your summer gave you the opportunity to recharge your batteries and was filled with fun and relaxation. You know that you are going to need that to help the children with whom you work so they can have their best year ever. We recognize that not everyone is able to do the challenging work that is required of each of us each and every day. We also believe that **MATCEI members are a special breed** who face these challenges head on with a smile on their faces. Our students need that. They also need us to be able to give each of them a fresh start every single day. Is it easy? Heck no! But that is who we are and why we have chosen, or have been called, to do this work.

The MATCEI Board is determined to help you to have your best year ever as well. We will be regularly communicating with you our members to bring you resources you can use, and introduce you to additional tools you can put in your toolbox. These will be coming in the newsletters you receive like this one. We are working to bring you a one day workshop this fall at a very special low price. Information on that should be coming soon. Our Spring Conference Committee is hard at work to bring you another exciting and resource filled conference in April.

We are sad to lose two important members of our board who have contributed greatly. We wish Michelle Urbanek and Lori Ott our best, and send them a huge thank you for all they have brought to the board. We are anxious and eager to fill these vacancies and if you would be able to commit to monthly meetings that are scheduled for the second Wednesday of the month in either Williamston or Howell at 6:30pm please contact me! We are a small group, but we know how important this work is, and somehow we always manage to have fun doing it. **So, please consider joining us this year.**

Last, I again want to welcome you to the 2012-13 school year. Make this your best school year ever! The kids need it!

In this issue....

- Welcome back from your President
- SEAC Update
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- Website Wonders
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Join us at the monthly MATCEI meetings!

We will be meeting at 6:30 at Cleary's Pub in Howell, MI.

Tuesday, November 13th
Tuesday, December 11th





The mission of the SEAC is to support opportunities for all students in Michigan and especially those with disabilities by gathering, sharing, and disseminating information with the public; advising the State Board of Education; and working with the Office of Special Education.

SEAC, Sequestration, and Why Should I Care?

by Richard Spring

What is SEAC?

Once again I am serving as the MATCEI representative to SEAC (Special Education Advisory Committee). SEAC is made up of members appointed by the State Board of Education to serve a three year term. Half of the members are mandated by Federal Law to be either parents of a child with a handicapping condition or a person with a handicapping condition.

For this term MATCEI is not required to be represented by a parent or person with a handicap. SEAC's mandate is to advise the State Board of Education on unmet needs of students with handicaps. SEAC meets monthly during the school year and next month the charge to the committee is to bring issues, and this is where you come in! If there are issues of unmet needs of students with emotional impairments or behavioral concerns, please contact me so I can move those forward to SEAC.

What the Heck is Sequestration?

If you haven't heard about Sequestration, you will! In July 2011 the Congress was dealing with raising the debt ceiling so the Federal Government could meet their obligations. A "Super Committee" was formed of Republicans and Democrats (House and Senate members) and their charge was to figure out how to best reduce the Federal budget. Low and behold they failed to do this in the time they were given. However, when the debt ceiling was raised (but not in time to keep the credit rating of the US from dropping) Congress inserted in the legislation that if the "Super Committee" failed and Congress failed to act by January 1, 2013 that \$1.2 trillion would be slashed across the board of all Federal spending.



Why Should YOU Care?

Are you still awake? Well, Congress is out campaigning and no legislation will be passed until after the election. At that time it will be considered a "lame duck" session until the new members of the House and Senate are sworn in in January (after the time the \$1.2 trillion is required to be cut). Many of the members who will be voting on this may not be staying after the cuts take place. Yipes! Also, the ones who are staying may not want to deal with all the pressure not to cut from certain areas i.e. military.

Regardless, cuts are coming! Cuts to education and IDEA funding in particular will be cut between 8 and 13%. That may not sound like much, but because IDEA services are mandated local school districts will be picking up the tab. Most districts have been cut to the bone already! Because most of the costs of education are staff salaries and benefits this will mean cuts in staff i.e. lay-offs. At the SEAC meeting, we were informed these cuts will bring funding down to 2006 levels. It is time for each of us to contact our US House member and our Senators to tell them this cannot stand. Yes, something does have to be done about the budget but we would prefer they do the work they are paid to do. Use a scalpel not a machete to address these issues.

MATCEI

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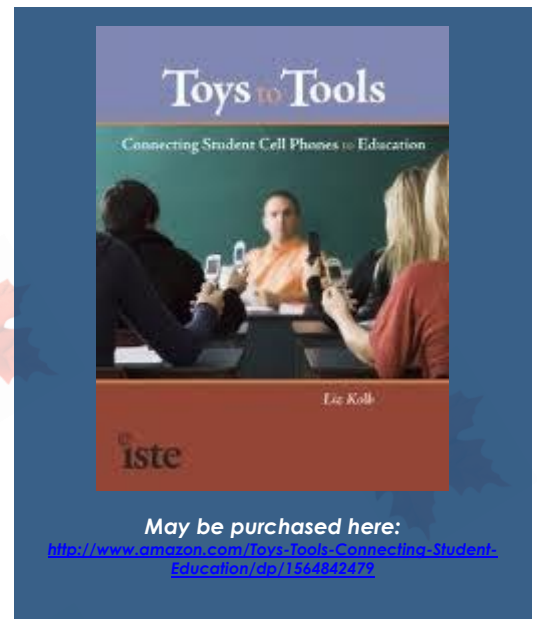
Book Review

Toys to Tools: Connecting Student Cell Phones to Education

Many, if not most, educators view cell phones as the enemy. Author [Liz Kolb](#) sees them as powerful technology in the hands of students. Acknowledging the current reality that many schools ban student cell phone use in the classroom, Kolb discusses a host of innovative and highly interesting uses for the technology that do not require using the phones in the classroom. She also addresses the issues that have caused the bans and provides guidelines for overcoming these problems.

Ignoring, or worse, demonizing a technology that students willingly and actively use in every other aspect of their lives is not a winning educational strategy. Mini lessons and powerful resources throughout the book are easily adaptable and appropriate for almost any grade level and are designed to enhance learning both inside and outside of the classroom.

This book is a practical guide for educators who would like to turn what many consider an annoying digital toy into a powerful educational tool.



May be purchased here:

<http://www.amazon.com/Toys-Tools-Connecting-Student-Education/dp/11564842479>

Website Wonders!

- **Transition Planning for families and professionals:** This is a Michigan based website that provides video supports in understanding and planning for transitioning. It also has tool kits for topics such as: Education and Career Development, Housing, Independent Living, and more.
 - <http://www.mifuturebuilder.com/>
- **Evidence Based Interventions:** Looking for evidence based interventions (behavior or academic) this website is an AMAZING resource!
 - <http://www.interventioncentral.org/>