

# Susan Ward Schmidt

## Core Competencies

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Educational field 35+ years</li><li>• Teacher, Elem. Ed., K-12 Special Ed./SLD</li><li>• K-adult teaching experience</li><li>• Experience in urban, rural and suburban schools in several states</li><li>• Reading Instruction Specialist/Dyslexia</li><li>• Leading effort to pass dyslexia legislation</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Former president/member of school board</li><li>• 7+ years of legislative experience</li><li>• Ability to facilitate and work with diverse groups to identify problems and solutions and implement a shared vision</li><li>• Private business owner, tutor/advocate</li></ul>
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## Education

### **Michigan Dyslexia Institute, Lansing, MI, (1998, 1999, 2019)**

- Orton-Gillingham Seminar/Encoding and Advanced Morphology

### **M.A. Educational Policy and Research, Ohio State University (1984)**

- Curriculum and Supervision emphasis
- Learning disabilities and emotional impairments
- Study in Israel focusing on desegregation in Jewish Schools

### **B.S. Early and Middle Childhood Education, Ohio State University (1979)**

## Professional Education Certification

State of Michigan: Elementary K-5 All Subject (K-8 Self CC) expires 6/2027

State of Michigan: Learning Disabilities K-12 expires 6/2027

## Legislative and Policy Experience

### **Michigan Dyslexia Laws (2019-Present)**

- Currently leading efforts with bi-partisan legislators in the Michigan Legislature to pass legislation to address inadequacies in screening, instruction, and intervention with those exhibiting characteristics of dyslexia and reading difficulties. SB380-383 (passed by the Senate), HB5934-5937 [website](#), [Detroit Free Press](#)

### **President (2002-2003); Board Member (1999-2003)**

#### **East Lansing School Board, East Lansing, MI**

- Oversaw evaluation of District Superintendent whose job included bond oversight
- Responsible for setting school policies and passing a school district budget
- Facilitated creation, passage of 92 million-dollar bond for school construction

### **Chief of Staff for Democratic Representative, 69<sup>th</sup> District (2006 - 2011)**

#### **Michigan House of Representatives, Lansing, MI**

- Coordinated activities to shepherd legislation through the legislative process
- Policy areas included education, Great Lakes and environment

## **Professional Experience**

### **Business Owner, SWS Literacy Solutions, Ann Arbor, MI (2020 - present)**

- Tutor kindergarten-adult students with characteristics of dyslexia
- Facilitate parent/school communication to meet the needs of students with learning differences

### **Scarlett Middle School, International Baccalaureate World School, Ann Arbor, MI**

- Title I Tutor (2021-2022)
- English Language and Literature-Sp. Ed. (2015-2019)
- Adviser for [Make a Difference Student Service Club](#)

### **Wayne Memorial High School, Wayne, MI (2014-2015)**

- Co-taught within an inclusion model Chemistry, Biology, Sophomore English

### **Eastern International Baccalaureate High School, Lansing, MI (2013–2014)**

- English Language Arts Sp. Ed.
- Incorporated Orton-Gillingham method resulting in significant reading gains

### **Lansing Community College, Lansing, MI (2009-2012)**

- Adjunct Faculty-Center for Transitional Learning
- Taught remedial reading to students 19-70 years old

### **Reo Elementary School, Lansing School District, Lansing, MI (1996-2007)**

- K-5 Sp.Ed. Resource and General Ed. Classroom
- Co-taught composition with inclusion of learning disabled students

### **Owen Valley High School, Spencer, IN (1987-88)**

- Grades 9-12 English Language Arts - Spec. Ed.

### **Central Middle School, Waukesha School District, Waukesha, WI (1985-87)**

- Grades 7-9th severely learning disabled students, English Language Arts Sp. Ed.
- Received facilitation training to work with students affected by the use and abuse of drugs and alcohol

### **Columbus Public Schools, Columbus, OH (1979-85)**

- Grades 4-6 and 6-8 English language arts, social studies and math - Learning Disabilities
- Established new learning disabilities (LD) programs in 3 out of 4 school placements which involved educating general education staff and administrators as to specific needs of the LD population

## **Additional experience**

### **Academic Adviser, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN (1988-90)**

- Assisted students with coursework selection related to personal and career interests
- Counseled students dealing with a variety of college adjustment issues

### **Staff Member, Cornell Biological Field Station, Oneida Lake, NY (Summer 1987)**

- NASA Planetary Biology and Microbial Ecology summer course
- Coordinated daily operations and worked with other staff to compile and format written research data to be published by NASA

## **Awards and Community Involvement**

- Board member - International Dyslexia Association-[Michigan Chapter](#) (Current)
- Member - The Reading League-[Michigan](#) (Current)
- MEA Retired (2019 - Present)
- Washtenaw Literacy - County Jail Tutor (2019)
- Sierra Club, Huron Valley Group - Member (2015-present)
- Board Member - [Reach Out and Read - Michigan](#) (2010 - 2014)
- Finalist, Governor's Lifetime Achievement Community Service Award (2011)
- East Lansing Rotary Member (2009-13)
- Distinguished Community Service Award, East Lansing Educational Foundation (2005)
- City of East Lansing [Crystal Award](#) for Community Volunteerism (2007)
- Recycle! East Lansing - Co-coordinator (1996-2014)
- East Lansing Athletic Boosters – Member, Vice President (2005-06)
- East Lansing Recreation and Arts Board (1998), President, (1999)
- MEA member, Building Rep. at Reo Elementary and Scarlett Middle School (1995-2019)
- NEA local member in Ohio, Indiana, Wisconsin (1979 - 1987)