



Montcalm County Great Start Collaborative

Status of Young Children 2023

OUR VISION:

Children in Montcalm County have the opportunity to be healthy, eager, and prepared to succeed in school and life.

For more information about early childhood in Montcalm County or to provide feedback regarding this data, please go to:

www.GreatStartMontcalm.org

Visit us on Facebook:

[greatstartmontcalmcounty](https://www.facebook.com/greatstartmontcalmcounty)



For more information you can contact the MCGSC at:
(616) 225-6146

WHAT THE DATA SHOWS US:

- 18% of children ages birth to seventeen live in poverty. State of MI is 18%.
- 65% of students receive free or reduced school lunch assistance; a rise from 2019 at 60%. State of MI is 53%.
- 29% of Montcalm County mothers who gave birth did not receive appropriate health care in 2021. This is an improvement since 2018. The State of MI is 32%.
- Medicaid paid for 39% of Montcalm County births in 2021. State of MI is 39%.
- 66% of 19–35-month age children in Montcalm County are up to date on their immunizations. The State average is 68%. This is the first time in over 10 years Montcalm County has fallen below the state average.
- 50% of children ages 0-4 are participating in Women, Infant, & Children (WIC). State of MI is 42%. Data from the five plus years shows a declining enrollment trend despite being above the state average.
- Montcalm County is higher than the state average in the number of children birth to five that were substantiated for child abuse and neglect. Montcalm County stands at 16% while the state average is at 17%. This is the first time in the last five years that Montcalm County has been below the state average and the trajectory moving in the positive direction.
- 330 birth to five children were served through Early ON & Special Education services in the 2022. This number has risen from 205 children in 2018. 11% of the 330 identified children were consistently receiving special education services in 2022.

Report Data Sources: Michigan Kids Count & MAISD EO

Dear Community Member,

The Montcalm County Great Start Collaborative (MCGSC) continues to look for ways to promote the wellbeing of young children through our annual Status of Young Children report. MCGSC continues to lift up our vision to build a community that supports all families. We must prioritize young children and their families because the first five years of a child's life is a time of great opportunity! Research tells us that by age six, most of a child's brain is developed. In 2021, there were 652 births and a total of 4,397 children birth to age eight living in Montcalm County. We hope to keep the conversation going around continued supports in raising healthy children prepared to succeed in school and life.

Parents and community leaders in Montcalm County who understand the vital importance of investing in young children continue to work together to implement the 2022-2025 MCGSC Strategic Plan. We invite you to join us in fighting for a **continued investment in research based, high quality early childhood supports**. The MCGSC has prepared this 2023 Status of the Young Child Report to present information about our community and our young children. Please contact us with any feedback at www.GreatStartMontcalm.org

[Montcalm County Great Start Collaborative Members](#)





Montcalm County Great Start Collaborative Meeting Schedule 2022-2023

Montcalm County GSC Board Meetings (at the Montcalm Area Intermediate School District, Stanton):

Contact person: Cari O'Connor

- **October 5, 2022**, from 11:30-1:30pm
- **December 7, 2022**, from 11:30-1:30pm
- **February 1, 2023**, from 11:30-1:30pm
- **April 5, 2023**, from 11:30-1:30pm
- **June 7, 2023**, from 11:30-1:30 pm
- **August 2, 2023**, from 11:30-1:30 pm

Montcalm County GSC Committee Meetings:

Parent Leadership Committee - Parent Coalition Meetings (All meetings will be located at the Montcalm Area Career Center, 1550 W Sidney Rd, Sidney) [Contact person: Monique Cooper](#)

- **September 12, 2022** from 5:30pm-7:00pm (Childcare and dinner will be provided)
 - **Meeting Topic: Emotionally Charged Child Tips**
- **October 10, 2022** from 5:30pm-7:00pm (Childcare and dinner will be provided)
 - **Meeting Topic: Helping Children Build Peer Relationships**
- **November 14, 2022** from 5:30pm-7:00pm (Childcare and dinner will be provided)
 - **Meeting Topic: Sensory Activities & Play Ideas**
- **December 12, 2022** from 5:30pm-7:00pm (Holiday potluck with crafts and a special guest)
 - **Holiday Celebration with Santa**
- **February 13, 2023** from 5:30pm-7:00pm (Childcare and dinner will be provided)
 - **Meeting Topic: ACE's Information**
- **March 13, 2023** from 5:30pm-7:00pm (Parenting Awareness Month, special event)
 - **Meeting Topic: Parenting Awareness Special Event**
- **April 10, 2023** from 5:30pm-7:00pm (Childcare and dinner will be provided)
 - **Meeting Topic: Raising Children with Attention Disorders**
- **May 8, 2023** from 5:30pm-7:00pm (Childcare and dinner will be provided)
 - **Meeting Topic: Body Safety Parenting Tips**
- **June 12, 2023** from 5:30pm-7:00pm (Summer kickoff event)
 - **Maddie's Park Summer Kick Off**

Family Wellness Committee (Meetings currently being held through Zoom):

[Contact person: Monique Cooper](#)

- **October 5, 2022**, from 1:30-2:30pm
- **December 7, 2022**, from 1:30-2:30pm
- **February 1, 2023**, from 1:30-2:30pm
- **April 5, 2023**, from 1:30-2:30pm
- **June 7, 2023**, from 1:30-2:30pm
- **August 2, 2023**, from 1:30-2:30pm

Early Care & Education Committee (Meetings currently being held through Zoom):

[Contact person: Mindy Train](#)

- **October 12, 2022**, from 9:00am-10:00am
- **December 14, 2022**, from 9:00am-10:00am
- **February 8, 2023**, from 9:00am-10:00am
- **April 12, 2023**, from 9:00am-10:00am
- **June 14, 2023**, from 9:00am-10:00am
- **August 9, 2023**, from 9:00am-10:00am
- **Early Childhood Conference, September 16, 2023**