



Montcalm County

Montcalm County Great Start Collaborative

Agenda

8/6/25

11:30am - 1:30pm

Meeting in Person at MAISD 621 New St Stanton

- I. Call to order:
- II. Welcome & Introductions:
- III. Public Comment:
- IV. August Agenda Approval:
- V. June Meeting Minutes Approval:
- VI. Director Report: Cari O'Connor [The Business Case for Child Care](#)
- VII. New Business:
 - A. Highlight Presentation: Mid-Michigan Health Department WIC
 - B. Greenville Childcare Project Data
 - C. 2026-2031 Strategic Planning Activities: *Action
 - D. 2024-2025 Preschool Annual Report *Action
 - E. 2025-2026 MCGSC Meeting Schedule *Action
 - F. 2025-2026 MCGSC Vice Chair Nominations
- VIII. Old Business:
 - A. Dolly Parton Imagination Library update: Mindy Train
 - B. Early On Local Interagency Coordinating Council (LICC): Cindy DeYoung
 - C. Talking is Teaching Update: Monique Cooper
- IX. Committee Reports:
 - A. Executive & Communication: Cari O'Connor
 - B. Early Care & Education: Mindy Train
 - C. Family Wellness: Karen Marsman
 - D. Family Leadership: Monique Cooper
- X. Roundtable Updates
- XI. Principals of Collaboration Survey
- XII. Adjournment

Next Meeting Date *October 1st, 2025*, 11:30 am – 1:30 pm

Location 621 New St Stanton MI 48888

Advance health equities. Early Childhood services meet high standards of quality. Children prenatal to age five and their families thrive.

Visit our website for the most updated calendar information at www.GreatStartMontcalm.org



Montcalm County

Montcalm County Great Start Collaborative

Minutes

6/4/25

11:30am - 1:30pm

I. Call to order:

The meeting was called to order at 11:33 am by Jennifer Peterman

II. Welcome & Introductions:

Present: Abbey Blondin, Janel Boulis, Elizabeth Buskirk, Monique Cooper, Cindy DeYoung, Katie Flynn, Jessica Higley, Liz Ingraham, Sue Kearney, Dena Kent, Karen Marsman, Anita McIntyre, Lillie McNeil, Cari O'Connor, Jennifer Peterman, Tammy Rumsey, Drew Train, Mindy Train, Joanna Urban

III. Public Comment:

There was no public comment

IV. June Agenda Approval:

A motion was made by Sue Kearney and supported by Drew Train to approve the agenda of June 4, 2025, as presented. Motion carried.

V. February Meeting Minutes Approval:

A motion was made by Anita McIntyre and supported by Monique Cooper to approve the minutes of February 5, 2025, as presented. Motion carried.

VI. Director Report: Cari O'Connor

[Early Childhood Education: Power of Interactions](#)

2025-2026 Preschool applications are being processed and widely distributed!

Anyone need Hard copies? We need 4-year-olds in every area. We are hoping to fill programs and not send dollars back this year.

Parent Board member opportunities! If you have any family members you are working with that would be interested, please connect them to me!

2025-2026 GSRP Implementation Plan: Round one submission. Requested the previously approved amount of funding to serve over 400 students; with three new subrecipients coming on board: Head Start & Natures Wonder (Edmore, Greenville, & Tr County).

MAISD Kindergarten Readiness definition: How do WE answer the question: Did GSRP did get kids ready for kindergarten? Jump Start to Kindergarten Bag activities In Montcalm to support family engagement!

Summer Playgroup Opportunities! Please help us in spreading the word and connecting with parents by putting this information on your Facebooks & social media!

Math in the Mail Project: We are building a summer family engagement support focused on Math. Partnering with Daily News to get this product out mid-June, July and August.

Preschool Matters Billboard Campaign to promote preschool enrollment is under way and will continue through August. 128,846 impressions and 541 clicks!

Strong Beginnings Application submitted to start a 3-year-old evidenced based preschool opportunity in MAISD. Partners in the proposal were Head Start, Lakeview Community Schools, and Huntley's Clubhouse in Howard City. We are hoping to hear by the end of June.

Family Engagement Hub: MCGSC staff attended the Relational Leadership Master Class in Zeeland focused on building relationships and family engagement.

Annual 32P Convening: Family Liaisons represented MCGSC at the annual convening in Traverse City. Lots of discussions on the budget and potential changes in GSC work. **32P 4 Application** was submitted in partnership with Corewell Health. Thank you to all who took the time to support this heavy lift. 40 plus pages of home visiting need assessment and application. We are hoping to hear by Aug.

Thank yous and Acknowledgements:

Thank you to We Care for Kids and all our parents in making this year's Community Baby Shoer a success!

United Way: Diaper support for families

Greenville Area Community Foundation for their continued DPIL support. All seven school districts contributed to DPIL support this year!

Billboard partners!!

VII. New Business:

A. 2025-2026 GSRP Implementation Plan review*

A motion was made by Karen Marsman and supported by Lillie McNeil to approve the 2025-26 GSRP Implementation Plan, as presented. Motion carried.

The GSRP 2025-2206 application is due May 15th.

MAISD GSRP Implementation Plan for 2025-2026 school year:

- Huntley's Clubhouse: 2 Extended Day classrooms serving 40 students.
- Tri County 4 Extended Day classrooms serving 80 students (4 start up grants as they are expanding from 16 to 20 per classroom)
- Natures Wonder: 1 Extended Day classroom serving 8 students.
- Head Start 2 school day classroom serving 40 students (2 start up grants as these are new classrooms for us)
- Central Montcalm 4 school day classrooms serve 80 students.
- Vestaburg 2 school day classrooms serving 40 students.
- Montabella 2 school day classrooms serving 40 students.
- Lakeview 2 school day classrooms serving 40 students.
- Greenville 7 Extended Day classrooms serve 140 students.
- CCC 2 school day classroom serving 32 students.

B. 2026-2031 Strategic Planning Activities

- More Parent Engagement and Need Local Accessibility to Support is needed. Why do we think this is occurring? See Answer sheet as reference. What activities might the MCGSC do to create positive outcomes?
 - Parent Trainings on Math and literacy- early practice that is developmentally appropriate 1 vote keep
 - Social media presence & Parent engagement through incentives for sharing a reputable article/video/program/service/event around parenting 4 votes keep
 - Training for providers related to poverty. Need a better understanding to help the "WHY?" 5 vote keep
 - Advocate for equitable, evidenced based services for Montcalm County 1 Vote keep
 - More pop-up events in the areas where there is less engagement (NOT GREENVILLE) 3 vote keep
- Children in Montcalm County Lack Access to Local Resources for Healthy Early Childhood Development. Why do we think this is occurring? See Answer sheet as reference. What activities might the MCGSC do to create positive outcomes?
 - More access to free childcare 2 vote keeps but looks Like: Support childcare sustainability and capacity building events: LIST**
 - Programs that ANY/ALL families can participate in 3 votes keep

- Annual baby shower 4 vote keep
- Local Community activities to promote literacy weekly with activities to work on all areas of development (Gross motor, Communications, Sensory, Etc.) 4 votes keep
- Build links with Primary Care Providers through Corewell Health Systems 1 vote keep
- Children are not Prepared for Kindergarten. Why do we think this is occurring? See Answer sheet as reference. What activities might the MCGSC do to create positive outcomes?
 - Continue playgroups in local communities year-round. 2 vote keep
 - Continue to build social media platforms and technology-based opportunities to increase access to literacy: google classroom, website, Facebook. 1 vote keep
 - Facilitate literacy learning opportunities for continuing education for Montcalm County childcare providers. 1 vote keep
 - Partner with schools to create a “readiness check list” for preschool and kindergarten 6 vote keep
 - Share created check list with daycare providers. Pediatricians, and families 6 vote keep
 - Caregiver support for Licensed AND unlicensed providers
 - Support knowledge about how daycare/childcare is different than Pre-K 4 vote keep
 - Expand the idea that childcare can offer Pre K experiences to 4 votes keep
 - Share different standards in many formats
 - Expand 3-year-old classrooms in head start 5 votes keep

VIII. Old Business:

A. Dolly Parton Imagination Library update: Mindy Train

Current number enrolled - 1,828

Total number of children served in 2024: 2,122

Total number of books mailed in 2024 - 19,852

Total number of children that graduated from the program in 2024 - 346

Donations received since the last meeting - \$540 - Entrican Gleaners Arbor #184

B. Early On Local Interagency Coordinating Council (LICC): Cindy DeYoung

Update attached

C. Talking is Teaching Update: Monique Cooper

Continuing to support talking is teaching throughout Montcalm County, all of the books we hand out have a poster and tip sheet to go along with the book.

IX. Committee Reports:

A. Executive & Communication: Cari O'Connor

Worked on strategic planning to prepare for the June MCGSC board meeting

B. Early Care & Education: Mindy Train

Provided 831 Jumpstart kindergarten bags to incoming 2025 kindergarten kids.

Provided bags at

Kindergarten rounds up

GSRP & Head Start classrooms

Literacy event is coming up at the Flat River Library on July 11th, the theme is Color Our World.

C. Family Wellness: Karen Marsman

March 7 was our Coffee, Cupcakes, and Creams for Breastfeeding Moms.

Baby Shower was May 17 was a great success.

D. Family Leadership: Monique Cooper

June 9th – End of Year Celebration at Carson City Splash Pad

July 24th Parent Café Tower Riverside Park
MCGSC 2025-2026 Family Coalition schedule is available
Family Coalition numbers have increased this year

X. Roundtable Updates

- Jessica – DHHS waiting on diapers based on press release, restrictions in place
- Monique – creating summer bags for community events
- Drew – MCGSC has a limited supply of diapers to provide to community families
- Karen – Alpha Family Services is hosting a run/walk fundraiser on June 4th, partnering with EightCAP to host a murder mystery dinner fundraiser.
- Sue – We Care for Kids like to thank everyone for their support, numbers were down this year, gearing up for summer events, car seat event on August 8th, internet safety class first week of September, hired a new director she will start full time this fall.
- Dena – Alision last day is Friday, she is having twins and will be staying home with them, June 1st WIC eligibility guidelines changed
- Lillie – GSTQ is hosting two provider appreciation events in Big Rapids/Grand Haven, open to all licensed providers. Always doing childcare referrals and helping with those that are licensed/unlicensed
- Janel – Head Start included in presidents budgets, no increase
- Abby – RAVE has a waitlist
- Jen – Welcome Baby almost out of funding, funding ends 9/30

XI. Principals of Collaboration Survey

Any questions or comments regarding 2026-2031 strategic plan?

- Lots of thoughts, but hard to put into words for posters
- Love all the discussion and ideas on how to better serve our families
- Thank you for including us
- Thank you for the engagement and soliciting our feedback
- The cuts and freezes of funding from our current governmental administration is not helpful
- Enjoyed the interactive idea session

Do you or your organization need talking is teaching materials?

- Lillie would like to have access to PDF to be able to print as needed
- MMDHD is always willing to take materials to share with parents or have you come to our office/clinics to share with them

Organizations in Montcalm County, that you would like more information on?

- Updated on access to counseling services at MCN
- All the different sections of DHHS and what each department supports
- IMSAFE CAC

Other comments

- Good food
- Food was amazing

XII. Adjournment

Adjourned at 1:30 pm

Next Meeting Date *August 6th, 2025*, 11:30 am – 1:30 pm
Location 621 New St Stanton MI 48888



Advance health equities for young children.

Great Start System Component(s):

- ☒ Physical Health
- ☐ Social & Emotional Health
- ☒ Early Care & Education
- ☒ Parenting Leadership
- ☒ Family Support

ABLE Change Characteristics:

- ☒ Mindsets
- ☒ Components
- ☒ Connections
- ☐ Regulations
- ☒ Resources
- ☐ Power

Michigan's Early Childhood Outcomes:

- ☒ Born Healthy
- ☒ Healthy, Thriving & Developmentally on Track
- ☐ Ready to Succeed in school at School Entry
- ☐ Reading Proficiently by the end of 3rd grade

Objective 1: Build a strong local system that supports families and children through quality programs and initiatives.

	Action Strategies	Responsible Entities	Target Dates	Resources Needed	Progress Measures for Activities
Performance Measure: Families will have an increased knowledge of their children's developmental progress and services available to support them in being their child's first and best teacher. Root Cause: Access Support Resources	Local community activities to promote weekly developmental resources for families (gross motor, communications, sensory, etc.).	Wellness	All three years	Funds Staff Supplies	1. Number of partners 2. Number of parent/ caregiver connections
	Create tools to increase awareness, access, and availability to developmental resources for children, parents, providers, and community stakeholders.	Early Care & Learning Wellness	Year two	Staff	1. Social media data 2. Number of partnerships
	Identify, facilitate, and coordinate access to Ages & Stages Questionnaire (ASQ) developmental screening resource for children and families.	MCGSC Director Family Liaisons	All three years	Staff	1. Number of connections 2. Number of activities
	Promotion of local health resources through website and social media.	Wellness	All three years	Staff	1. Website data 2. Kindergarten Round Up Data
	Host annual Community Baby Shower.	Wellness	All three years	Funds Staff Supplies	1. Number of participants 2. Survey responses 3. Number of partnerships
	Promote dental homes and dental resources at local community events.	Family Liaisons MCGSC Board Wellness	All three years	Funds Staff Supplies	1. Number of connections 2. Kindergarten Round Up Data 3. Total amount of funds obtained
	Conduct quarterly WIC clinic connections activities for resources and activities.	Wellness MCGSC Board	All three years	Staff	1. Number of connections 2. Number of activities



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	Action Strategies	Responsible Entities	Target Dates	Resources Needed	Progress Measures for Activities
Performance Measure: Families will have an increased knowledge of their children's developmental progress and services available to support them in being their child's first and best teacher. Root Cause: Access Support Resources	Partner with local resources to promote healthy lifestyle choices: gardening, canning, and food storage education activities.	MCGSC Director Family Liaisons	Year one	Staff	1. Number of connections 2. Number of activities
	West Michigan Perinatal Alliance participation and priority promotion.	MCGSC Director Family Liaisons	All three years	Staff	1. Number of connections 2. Number of activities
	Maintain Welcome Baby (universal access) new parent supports.	Wellness MCGSC Director	All three years	Staff Funds	1. Number of participants 2. Welcome Baby program data
	Coordinate kindergarten readiness tools: Math in The Mail and Talking is Teaching calendar project, target age 0-3 and "back to school resource events",	Early Care & Learning MCGSC Director	All three years	Staff Funds	1. Number distributed 2. Number of partners
	Strengthen We Care for Kids partnership with parent voice.	Family Liaisons	All three years	Staff Funds	1. Number of participants 2. Survey data
	Continue to build social media platforms and technology-based opportunities to increase access to literacy: website and social media.	Early Care & Learning Wellness MCGSC Board	All three years	Funds Staff	1. Number of partnerships established 2. Social media and website data



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Objective 2: MCGSC will play a vital role in supporting Early Childhood services and engaging in local capacity building efforts.

	Action Strategies	Responsible Entities	Target Dates	Resources Needed	Progress Measures for Activities
Performance Measure: Families will have an increased knowledge of their children's developmental progress and services available to support them in being their child's first and best teacher. Root Cause: Access Support Resources	Build, maintain and promote Family Coalition to support capacity building efforts.	Family Liaisons MCGSC Director MCGSC Board Family Coalition	All three years	Staff	1. Number of participants 2. Survey responses, parent data reflects strong parent participation in MCGSC network
	Maintain and distribute Great Start Resource guide tool (wellness focus) in coordination with 211 promotion.	Wellness Family Coalition	All three years	Staff	1. Number of connections 2. Kindergarten Round Up Data
	Recruit parents to participate in local community (7 districts) resource and referral information to families at summer community events.	Early Care & Learning Wellness	All three years	Staff	1. Number of connections 2. Number of events with MCGSC parent representation
	Participate in parent leadership support activities to increase opportunities that support Montcalm County parent as leaders.	School Readiness Advisory Council MCGSC Board	All three years	Staff	1. Number of parent leaderships 2. Survey responses
	Partner with West Michigan Prenatal Alliance to promote maternal depression materials with families of newborns through partnerships in the community.	Wellness MCGSC Board West MI Prenatal Alliance	All three years	Staff	1. Number of partnerships developed
	Maintain leadership role at Montcalm Human Service Coalition.	MCGSC Director	All three years	Staff	1. Number of connections 2. Number of activities



Expand involvement and impact of community partners in our collective Early Childhood work.

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Objective 1: Coordinate community resources and reduce barriers to support each family and child.

Performance Measure: Families will have an increased knowledge of their children's developmental progress and services available to support them in being their child's first and best teacher. Root Cause: Access Support Resources	Action Strategies	Responsible Entities	Target Dates	Resources Needed	Progress Measures for Activities
	Continue Play, Learn, and Read activities in four local communities (year-round).	Family Liaisons MCGSC Board	All three years	Funds Staff Supplies	1. Parent survey responses 2. Number of partnerships
	Publish Family Coalition newsletter with Strengthening Families Protective Factors focus.	Family Liaisons	All three years	Staff	1. Number of connections
	Promote GSTQ with parents and providers to support quality childcare opportunities.	Family Liaisons MCGSC Director	All three years	Staff	1. Number of parent participation 2. Social Media data
	Partner with Montcalm County service providers to support parents and childcare providers in building social emotional skills and practices (conscious discipline).	Early Care & Learning Family Liaisons	All three years	Grant Funds Staff	1. Number of partnerships established 2. Survey responses
	Facilitate with Western Regional Resource Center for trainings for childcare providers: poverty, conscious discipline, and literacy focus.	Early Care & Learning Family Liaisons Wester Regional Resource Center	All three years	Grant Funds Staff	1. Number of partnerships established 2. Survey responses
	Conven childcare summit in partnership with two community partners.	Family Liaisons MCGSC Director MCGSC Board Family Coalition	Year two	Funds Staff Supplies	1. Number of participants 2. Survey responses 3. Number of partnerships
	Regional Childcare action team participation	Family Liaisons MCGSC Director	All three years	Staff	1. Number of connections 2. Number of activities



Coordinate community resources and reduce barriers to support each family and child.

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Objective 2: Identify, facilitate, and coordinate access to resources so that families' basic needs are met.

	Action Strategies	Responsible Entities	Target Dates	Resources Needed	Progress Measures for Activities
Performance Measure: Families will have an increased knowledge of their children's developmental progress and services available to support them in being their child's first and best teacher. Root Cause: Access Support Resources	Provide education and information about community resources available to Montcalm County families.	MCGSC Director Family Liaisons	All three years	Funds Staff Supplies	1. Parent survey responses 2. Number of referrals
	Support Joint Recruitment to ensure three and four year olds have free preschool access.	MCGSC Director Family Liaisons EightCAP	All three years	Staff	1. Number of connections 2. Number of activities
	Facilitate Welcome Baby project partnership with Corewell Health	MCGSC Director Family Liaisons Corewell Health	All three years	Funds Staff Supplies	1. Parent survey responses 2. Number of partners
	Promote 211 resources	Family Liaisons MCGSC Director	All three years	Staff	1. Number of partners
	Chair monthly legislative update for Montcalm County (local, state, and federal representatives)	Family Liaisons MCGSC Director	All three years	Staff	1. Number of elected officials



Coordinate community resources and reduce barriers to support each family and child.

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Objective 3: Parents, service providers, and caregivers will be supported in building Talking is Teaching into their everyday activities

	Action Strategies	Responsible Entities	Target Dates	Resources Needed	Progress Measures for Activities
Performance Measure: Families will have an increased knowledge of their children's developmental progress and services available to support them in being their child's first and best teacher. Root Cause: Access Support Resources	Continue educating service providers on the Talking is Teaching tools and campaign	MCGSC Director Family Liaisons	All three years	Staff Funds Supplies	1. Parent survey responses
	Promote development of appropriate emergent literacy experiences: create one new tool.	MCGSC Director Family Liaisons	All three years	Staff Funds Supplies	1. Number of connections 2. Number of activities 3. DPIL report data
	Maintain and support Dolly Parton Imagination Library	MCGSC Director Family Liaisons	All three years	Staff Funds Supplies	1. Number of enrolled children 2. Family Survey responses 3. DPIL report data
	Continue Talking is Teaching county wide campaign: presentations, social media, website, and resource development.	Family Liaisons MCGSC Director	All three years	Staff Funds Supplies	1. Number of connections 2. Number of activities 3. Social media data
	Continue Talking is Teaching presentations to service providers (1 per quarter) and resource development.	Family Liaisons	All three years	Staff	1. Evaluation data 2. Number of participants
	Support Great Start Readiness Program, EightCAP Early Head Start, Head Start, and Early On programming with Talking is Teaching implementation needs.	Family Liaisons	All three years	Staff Supplies	1. Number of connections 2. Number of children impacted



Children prenatal to age five and their families thrive.

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Objective 1: Collaborate with ongoing collaboration with local state and federal to address the needs of Montcalm County families and children.

	Action Strategies	Responsible Entities	Target Dates	Resources Needed	Progress Measures for Activities
Performance Measure: Families will have an increased knowledge of their children's developmental progress and services available to support them in being their child's first and best teacher. Root Cause: Access Support Resources	Continue Preschool Matters Campaign to promote the universal preschool mind set .	MCGSC Director MCGSC Board	All three years	Funds	1. Number of partnerships 2. Number of GSRP slots
	Support childcare sustainability and capacity building through Regional Childcare Hub and Western Region Resource Center participation.	MCGSC Director Early Care & Education	All three years	Staff	1. Number of participants 2. Evaluation data 3. Total dollars brought in to support
	Lead data driven conversations with annual data community reports: Kindergarten Round Up, Preschool, and Dolly Parton Imagination Library reports.	Early Care & Education Wellness	All three years	Staff	1. Number of participants 2. Evaluation data 3. Number of data sharing activities
	Partner with Montcalm Prevention Collaborative during medication take back activities	Family Liaisons	All three years	Staff	1. Number of pounds collected 2. Number of activities
	Promote inclusion opportunities within preschool settings.	MCGSC Board MCGSC Director Family Liaisons Special Education	Year three	Funds Staff Leadership	1. Number of kids in ECSE programming 2. Preschool data report



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Objective 2: Maintain an effective GSC; that engages constituents as early childhood leaders in Montcalm.

		Action Strategies	Responsible Entities	Target Dates	Resources Needed	Progress Measures for Activities
Performance Measure: Families will have an increased knowledge of their children's developmental progress and services available to support them in being their child's first and best teacher.	Root Cause: Access Support Resources	Conduct parent engagement & recruitment activities in all local communities	Early Care & Learning Wellness	All three years	Funds Staff	1. Number of engaged parents
		Engage MCGSC members around advocacy for equitable supports and promote rural communities access and equality for Montcalm County families at state networks.	Family Liaisons MCGSC Director MCGSC Board	All three years	Staff	1. Number of participants 2. Number of legislative updates
		Immerse early childhood messaging (every child health, safe, and eager to learn) into Montcalm County community activities.	Family Liaisons MCGSC Director	All three years	Funds Staff	1. Number of connections made 2. Number of community partners
		Maintain GSC website to support as the early childhood resource tool in Montcalm County.	Family Liaisons MCGSC Director MCGSC Board	All three years	Funds Staff	1. Annual updates completed 2. Website data
		Publish annual Community Preschool Report	Family Liaisons MCGSC Director School Advisory Council	All three years	Staff Printing	1. Number of children enrolled in GSRP 2. Data showing increase in development
		Publish annual Kindergarten Readiness report	Family Liaisons MCGSC Director	All three years	Staff Printing	1. Number of children entering kindergarten 2. Data showing increase in development
		Convene School Advisory Council quarterly with parent voice to support ongoing program quality implementation progress.	MCGSC Director	All three years	Staff	1. Number of parent participation 2. Survey data 3. Number of goals achieved

Montcalm Area ISD Preschool Annual Report 2024-2025



Montcalm Area Intermediate School District
621 New Street, PO Box 367, Stanton, MI 48888



Approved: August 2025

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Acronym List

ASQ-3	Ages & Stages Questionnaire-3 rd Edition
BOQ	Benchmarks of Quality
CLASS	Classroom Assessment Scoring System
DEC	Division for Early Childhood
DECA	Devereux Early Childhood Assessment
EC	Early Childhood
ECC	Early Childhood Contact
ECSE	Early Childhood Special Education
ECS	Early Childhood Specialist
EHS	Early Head Start
EPSDT	Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment
GSRP	Great Start Readiness Program
HS	Head Start
ICP	Inclusive Classroom Profile
IEP	Individualized Education Program
IFSP	Individualized Family Service Plan
MAISD	Montcalm Area Intermediate School District
MTS	My Teaching Strategies
MTSS	Multi-Tiered System of Supports
PBS	Positive Behavior Support
PELI	Preschool Early Literacy Indicator
PQAr	Program Quality Assessment Revised
TPOT	Teaching Pyramid Observation Tool

Executive Summary

The Great Start Readiness Program (GSRP) is a state funded preschool program for four-year-olds that is coordinated by local ISD's. GSRP programming supports the development of young children through partnering with parents. GSRP programming acknowledges children must be educated with a whole child view. Children in the program are developing their mind, body, and social emotional capacity. GSRP programming strives to support parents and students in all areas. GSRP also recognizes parents are their children's first and best teachers. GSRP is a holistic approach to kindergarten readiness for four-year-old children. Recently, GSRP was ranked as one of the highest quality programs by the National Institute for Early Education in the country.

In Montcalm County, GSRP is coordinated by the Montcalm Area Intermediate School District (MAISD). The MAISD provides services, programs, and support to all the local school districts within Montcalm County. The MAISD also operates four facilities serving students in the areas of special education, general education, and career technical education. Facilities include the Seiter Education Center in Greenville, Montcalm Area Career Center in Sidney, Montcalm Transition Center in Stanton, and the Helen L. Hamler Administration Building in Stanton.

The MAISD:

- The MAISD offers center-based programs and programs within local districts supporting more than 1,800 students aged from birth to age 26 years old. These programs include education services for Autism Spectrum Disorder, Emotional Impairment, Cognitive Impairment, Hearing Impairment, Early Childhood Identification services, and Early Childhood Special Education (SE) for Birth to Three Years Old. The MAISD also offers Early College and career tech opportunities. MAISD actively engages in early intervention through Early On and Great Start programming. These programs serve over 157 families each year in Montcalm County.
- Operates the Montcalm Area Career Center serving juniors and seniors attending Montcalm County schools with career technical education programs, serving 307 students in 2024-25. All programs have articulation agreements allowing students to earn free college credits.
- Operates Early College program that services students who are 11th, 12th, and 13th grade high school students, services students in the seven local school districts, serving 69 students in 2024-25.
- Provides a technology infrastructure, which supports local district systems, allows for curriculum integration, and provides an outstanding foundation of assistive technology to meet individual learning needs.
- Offers a broad spectrum of services in the areas of general education including curriculum, instruction, and professional development as well as school safety, truancy, pupil accounting, and business and finance. All departments provide support and facilitation for local district collaboration.
- Supports the evidenced-based Great Start Readiness Programming (GSRP) for four-year-old preschool opportunities. There are eight sub-recipients that include all seven school districts, and one community-based organization.

In the 2024-25 school year, the MAISD received funding for 423 GSRP students. This was an increase from the 418 children served in 2023-24. We were able to increase the number of GSRP classrooms within the MAISD through partnerships. All programming was used to support school day programming. Historically, GSRP targets families who have identified risk factors that may interfere with their child's educational success. The priority risk factor with PreK for all, these factors are taken into consideration for enrollment priority, however no family is charged tuition. For 2024-25 income was identified at or

below 400% of the federal poverty level. Other risk factors are defined by Michigan legislation; there are seven risk factors total for eligibility.

In 2024-25 we continued to focus on educating our preschool children with whole child support. We continue to problem solve and learn from the COVID pandemic to serve children in the highest quality programming. Michigan legislation included language that said 30% of allocated slots must be bid out to private providers so they can operate GSRP. Due to COVID-19, in 2019 the MAISD lost its only eligible community-based organization (CBO). In 2024-25 CBO opportunities were offered to only eligible options, however most eligible parties continued to decline interest in participating. In August of 2025 we were able to develop a new partnership with one eligible new CBO. We continued to invest in building our CBO partnership throughout the 2024-25 school year.

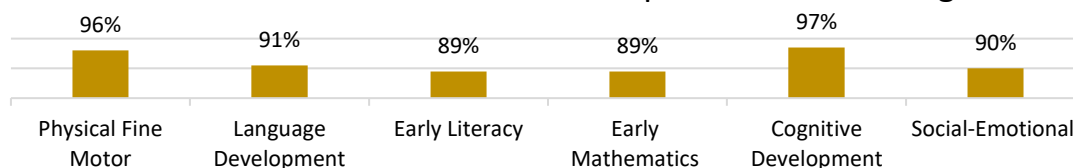
All preschool children are served in a licensed, center-based option. Great Start to Quality improvement system through the State of Michigan. Programs are encouraged and supported (with resources, guidance, and coaching) to continue to reflect on their practices.

1. Enhancing Quality – Set goals and receive coaching and consultation for validation.
 - 5 out of 11 buildings are under this improvement system.
2. Enhancing Quality-Validated – Complete validation and prepare for on-site observation.
 - 1 out of 11 buildings are under this improvement system.
3. Reflection On Quality – Use quality indicators to reflect on program quality.
 - 3 out of 11 buildings are under this improvement system.
4. Demonstrating Quality – Meet threshold scores during on-site observation.
 - 1 out of 11 buildings are under this improvement system.
5. Maintaining Health and Safety Quality- Licensed childcare in Michigan, who has not started the quality improvement process or has an expired quality level.
 - 1 out of 11 buildings are under this improvement system.

In 2024-25, there were twenty-six classrooms directly operated by seven sub-recipients, one Community Based Organization (CBO) GSRP classroom (operated by Huntley's Clubhouse), and the other 25 classrooms were operated by seven local school districts. Children attend class four days per week during a typical school day throughout the school year and receive two home visits during the school year. Two local school districts and our CBO operated the five day a week GSRP option with success. The majority of GSRP programs in the MAISD ran school day operations last year, which helped to support working parents in our identified childcare deserts. In the 2024-25 school year over 842 joint recruitment applications were processed.

All children are screened within the first five days of enrollment using the Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ-3). This tool covers six areas of development and generates a report letting staff and parents know if a child is typical, needs monitoring, or needs a referral for further evaluation in each area. For ongoing assessment information, the staff uses SmartTeach. This allows staff to continue to assess and level a child's progress in all areas of development. GSRP teachers provide additional referral and resource information for the identified needs of their families. The curriculum that is used in all GSRP classrooms is Creative Curriculum, and SmartTeach (assessment tool).

Percent of Children at or Above Expected Growth Range



Preschool experiences can be the most critical in a child’s education and can influence future learning. Family background, cultural lifestyle, experiences, and learning expectations all play a role in how teachers interact with children. GSRP teachers reflect on their practices in an ongoing manner and participate in regular professional development provided by the MAISD. GSRP staff and the MAISD are dedicated to supporting children in kindergarten ready. Last year 22 plus hours of face-to-face professional learning opportunities were offered by the MAISD to GSRP teaching teams. Topics included Social Emotional Competencies, Early Childhood Pyramid Model, and Motor Development. The MAISD provided virtual professional learning opportunities for a total of 16 hours for CLASS, PELI, Conscious Discipline, and Curriculum support. Optional Social Emotional professional learning was also offered, as social emotional Learning continued to be priority for 2024-25. Working with teaching teams to support literacy training and math competency is reflected in our student growth data as well. The data above reflects growth in all five areas from previous years. The overall benchmark of 80% of students meeting or exceeding learning objectives was met by all classrooms within the MAISD in the 2024-25 school year.

Programming Information

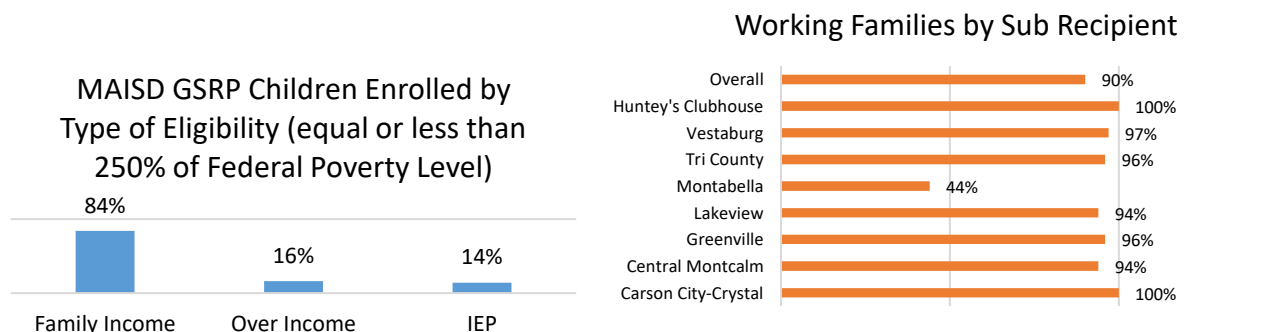
The data represented in this selection is gathered throughout the program year using Drop Box, Online CLASS assessment, and SmartTeachassessment database system. Data review teams met quarterly (3x a year) as a classroom team, a district team, and MAISD team to review child, classroom, and district progress. 20 parents in total participated in the data review process in 2024-25 school year.

Enrollment

The total cumulative enrollment for the 2024-25 was 423 Children. This is an increase from previous years (2023-24 enrollment of 418 children and in 2022-23 enrollment of 389 enrolled and completed).

Type of Eligibility

1. **Low family income-** Equal or less than 400% of federal poverty level
2. **Diagnosed disability or identified development delay-** Child’s developmental progress is less than expected for his/her chronological age, or chronic health issues cause development or learning problems.
3. **Severe or challenging behavior-** Child has been expelled from preschool or childcare center.
4. **Primary home language other than English-** English is not spoken in the child’s home; English is not the child’s first language.
5. **Parent/guardian with low educational attainment-** Parent has not graduated from high school or is illiterate.
6. **Abuse/neglect of child or parent-** Domestic, sexual, or physical abuse of child or parent; child neglect issues.
7. **Environmental risk-** Parent loss due to death, divorce, incarceration, military service, or absence



School Readiness Goals

School Readiness at the federal level is defined as children possessing the skills, knowledge, and attitudes necessary for success in school and for later learning and life. GSRP strives to support the same concept in defining kindergarten readiness. **The GSRP approach to school readiness is children are ready for school, families are ready to support their children's learning, and schools are ready for children.**

Office of Great Start Goals:

1. Children are born healthy.
2. Children are healthy, thriving, and developmentally on track from birth to third grade.
3. Children are developmentally ready to succeed in school at the time of school entry; and
4. Children are prepared to succeed in fourth grade and beyond by reading proficiently by the end of third grade.

2024-25 Year-End Data:

Language and Literacy:

- ◆ Children will engage with print (e.g., stories and books) appropriately. **91% of MAISD GSRP preschools are meeting or exceeding this objective.**
- ◆ Children will hear, distinguish, and identify the sounds of rhymes of language. **89% of MAISD GSRP preschools are meeting or exceeding this objective.**

Cognitive:

- ◆ Children will use all their senses to investigate their environment, to discover what objects and people do, how things work, and how they make things happen. **97% of MAISD GSRP preschools are meeting or exceeding this objective.**

Math:

- ◆ Children will begin to develop and demonstrate the ability to remember and connect new and known experiences and information. **89% of MAISD GSRP preschools are meeting or exceeding this objective.**

Physical Well Being and Motor Development:

- ◆ Children will learn and begin to demonstrate healthy and safe habits. **97% of MAISD GSRP preschools are meeting or exceeding this objective.**

Approaches to Learning:

- ◆ Children will demonstrate persistence in learning and discovery. **95% of MAISD GSRP preschools are meeting or exceeding this objective.**
- ◆ Children will learn and use words to describe what they are thinking and doing. **90% of MAISD GSRP preschools are meeting or exceeding this objective.**

Social-Emotional Development:

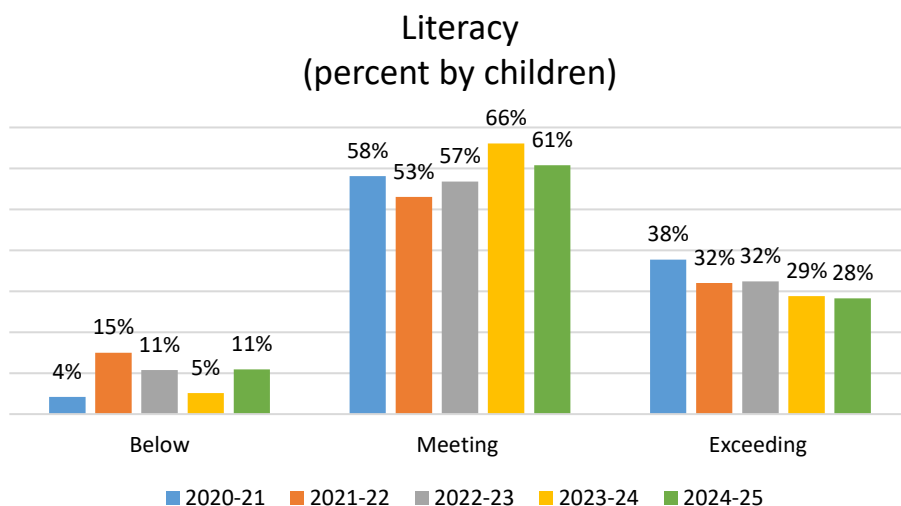
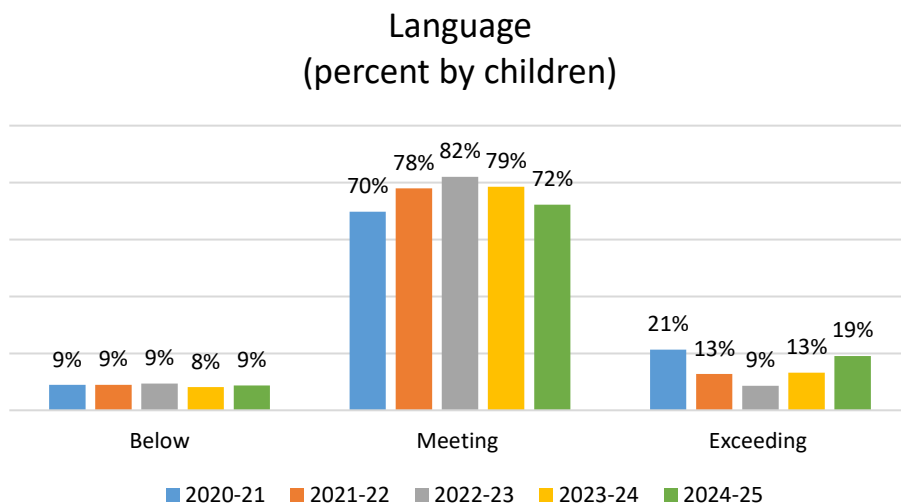
- ◆ Children will develop and engage in positive relationships and interactions with adults. **91% of MAISD GSRP preschools are meeting or exceeding this objective.**
- ◆ Children will begin to develop and demonstrate control over some of their feelings and behaviors (self-regulation). **95% of MAISD GSRP preschools are meeting or exceeding this objective.**

Language and Literacy

Language Development refers to emerging abilities in receptive and expressive language. This domain includes understanding and using one or more languages. Language development is among the most important tasks in the first five years of a child's life. **91% of GSRP students met or exceeded this area in 2024-25.**

Literacy Knowledge & Skills refers to the knowledge and skills that lay the foundation for reading and writing, such as understanding basic concepts about books or other printed materials, the alphabet, and letter-sound relationships. Early literacy is the foundation for reading and writing in all academic endeavors in school. It is a key area for young children's growth, development, and learning. **89% of GSRP students met or exceeded this area in 2024-25.**

Source: GSRP SmartTeach Database Year End Data
MAISD GSRP Program Data for Literacy and Language Objectives (average):



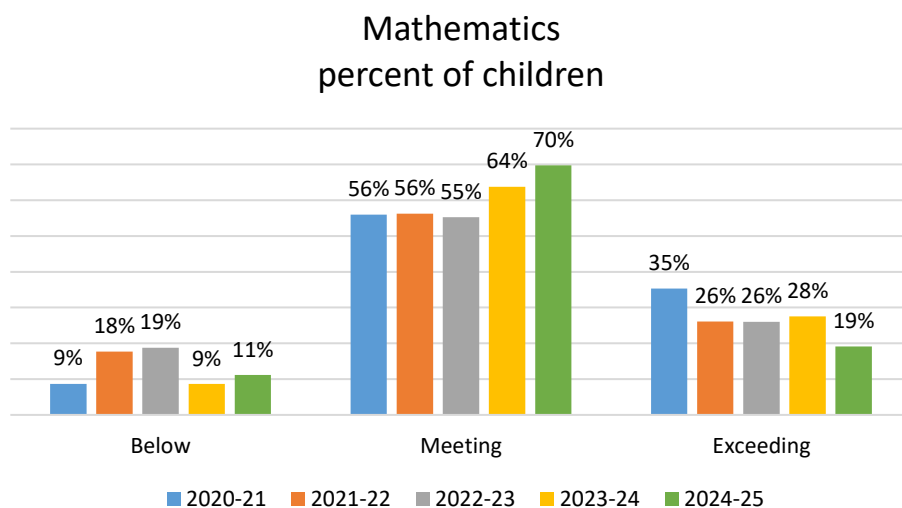
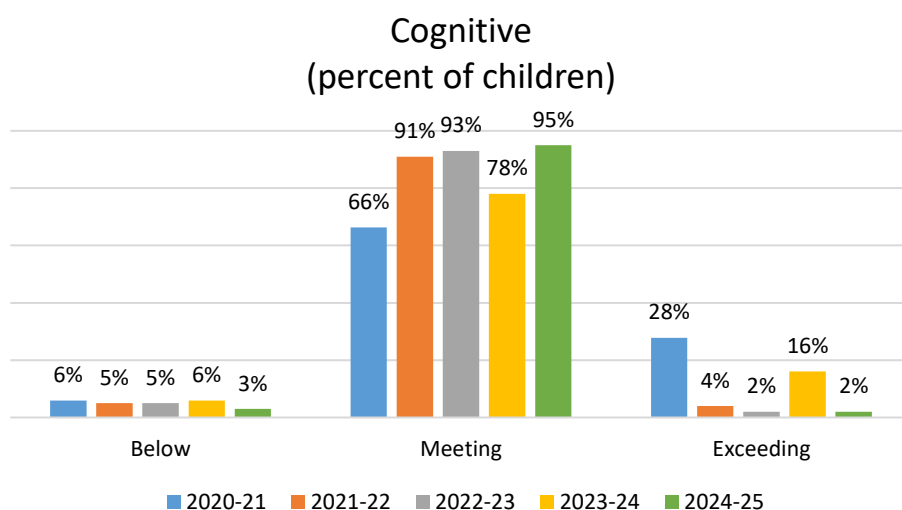
Cognitive and Mathematics

Cognitive Development, also called intellectual development, is influenced by a range of factors including biological makeup, the environment, and how the child approaches learning tasks (e.g., attention, persistence, curiosity, and flexibility). A child's background knowledge, or knowledge base, also affects the way a child thinks. **97% of GSRP students met or exceed this area in 2024-25.**

Mathematics: Research has made a clear link between early math skills and later school reading and math achievement. Children's mathematical knowledge at kindergarten entry is considered predictive of future mathematics success throughout their years in school. **89% of GSRP students met or exceed this area in 2024-25.**

Source: GSRP SmartTeach Database Year End Data

MAISD GSRP Program Data for Cognitive Function and Mathematics Objectives (average):

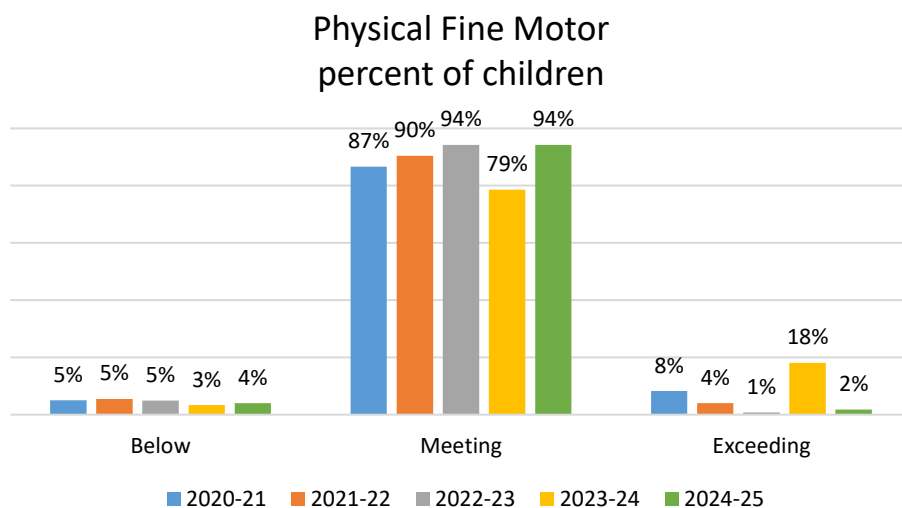


Physical Motor Development

Physical development includes children's fine-motor (small muscle) skills. Physical development affects other areas of development. In fact, brain research points to the importance of early, positive movement experiences to brain development (Gabbard, 1998; Robert, 1999), and physical development is linked to children's emotional development and their school performance (Pica, 2006; Rule & Steward, 2002; Sanders, 2002; Son & Miesels, 2006). **97% of GSRP students met or exceeded Fine Motor in 2024-25.**

Source: GSRP SmartTeach Database Year End Data

MAISD GSRP Program Data for Physical and Motor Development Objectives (average):



Approaches Toward Learning

Approaches toward learning refer to observable behaviors that indicate ways children become engaged in social interactions and learning experiences. Children's approaches toward learning contribute to their success in school and influence their development and learning in all other domains. Children's ability to stay focused, interested, and engaged in activities supports a range of positive outcomes, including cognitive, language, and social and emotional development.

Expanding Expressive Vocabulary - Incorporates new words or less familiar or technical words in everyday conversations.

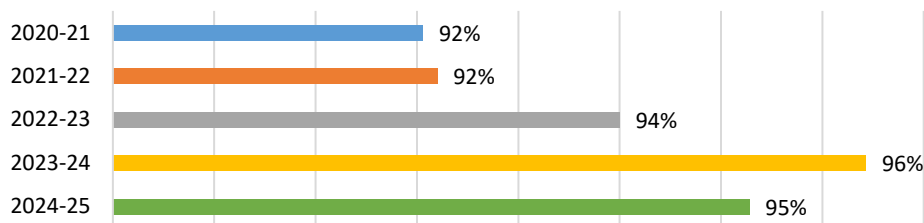
Attends and Engages - Sustains work on age-appropriate interesting tasks; can ignore most distractions and interruptions.

Persists - Demonstrate planning, persistence, and problem-solving skills while working independently or with others during creative processes.

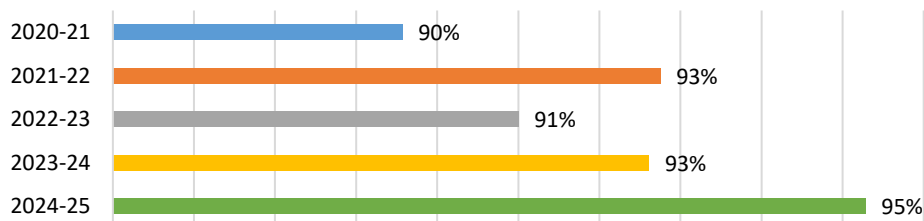
Source: GSRP SmartTeach Data Base

MAISD GSRP End of Year Program Data:

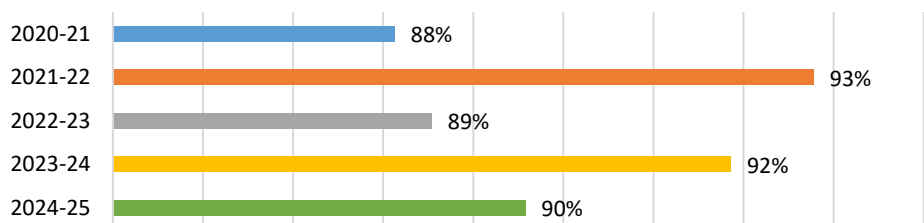
Expanding Expressive Vocabulary



Attends and Engages



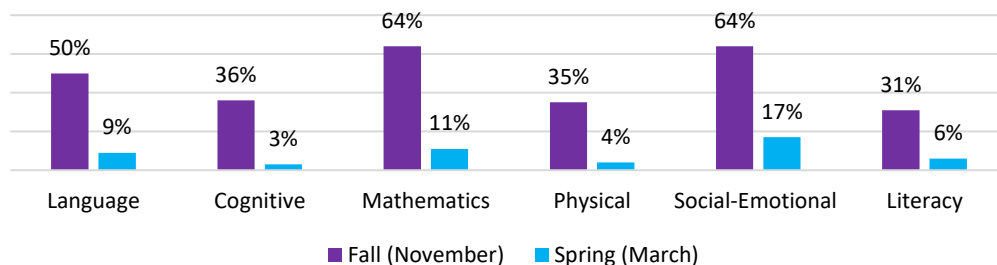
Persists



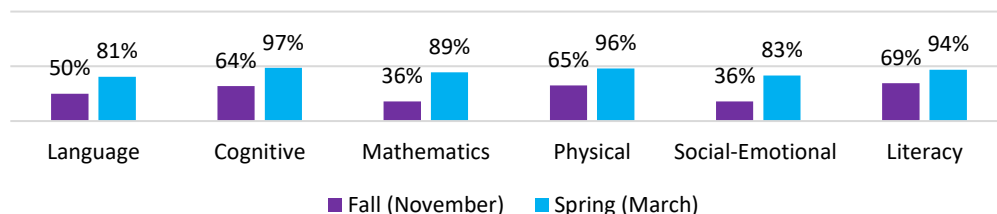
Classroom Learning

Classroom learning data is from teachers using assessments within SmartTeach (MTS). The following data shows weaknesses and strengths in MAISD GSRP classrooms as identified by observational note taking data. This data was compiled from the first two check points of 2024-25 SmartTeach data. The data reflects where students came into GSRP and where they ended up at the end of the year. This data reflects student growth as observed by classroom teaching teams.

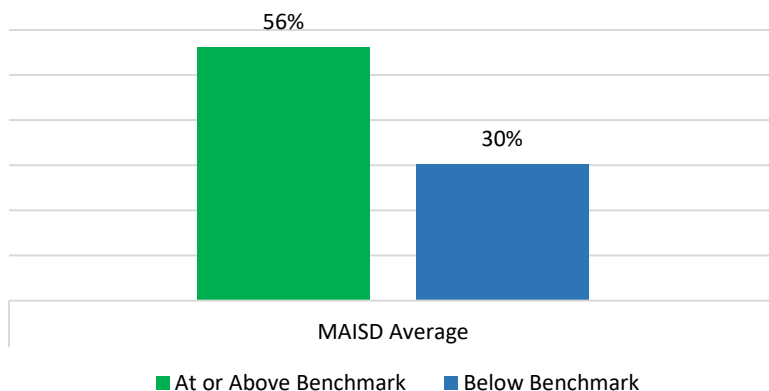
Areas to Address for Improvements (percent of children) Below Growth Range Target Goal



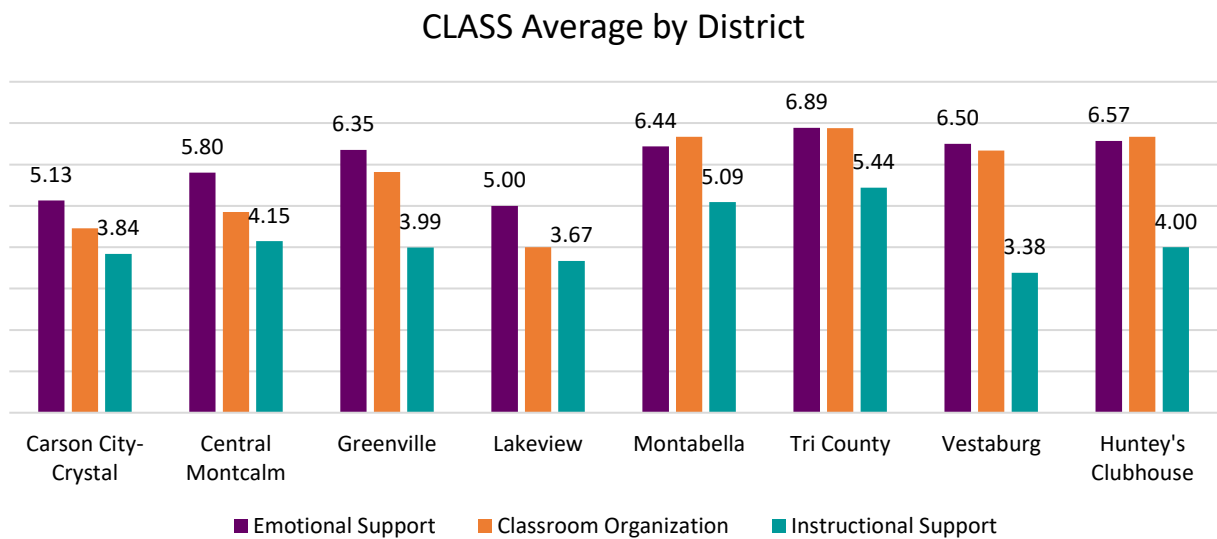
Areas to Address for Improvements (percent of children) Meeting/Exceeding Growth Range Target Goal



Preschool Early Literacy Indicator (PELI)
May 2023 (End of Year)



CLASS Results



Using Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS) as a quality improvement tool for GSRP teaching, teams help to focus, measure, and improve classroom interactions — a key factor proven to drive children’s academic and life-long success. CLASS defines teaching quality through the lens of interactions; it also provides the ability to measure and improve the interactions that matter most for student outcomes. Each GSRP had a CLASS completed with noncoached implementors across the MAISD to support fidelity implementation. This was a data gathering exercise that focused on providing feedback to further teachers’ growth in their classroom competencies and best practices. CLASS is a 7-point scale. Each classroom dimension receives a score ranging from 1 (minimally characteristic of the classroom) to 7 (highly characteristic of the classroom). Composite scores for each dimension are created by averaging individual cycle scores across the number of cycles of observation completed. Composite scores for each domain are created by averaging dimension composite scores across the number of dimensions within the domain.

CLASS is a journey of continuous improvement that is data-driven and focused on what matters most for student outcomes and interactions. ECS coaches used the CLASS lens to support teaching teams within their own learning and development. Emotional Support scores continue to be high and reflected the work being done to support teaching teams and classroom materials. Over \$95,000 was poured into classroom materials around social emotional, and math learning tools for students use during this fiscal year. Data from TPOT, ICP, and CLASS were used to determine the need by classroom.



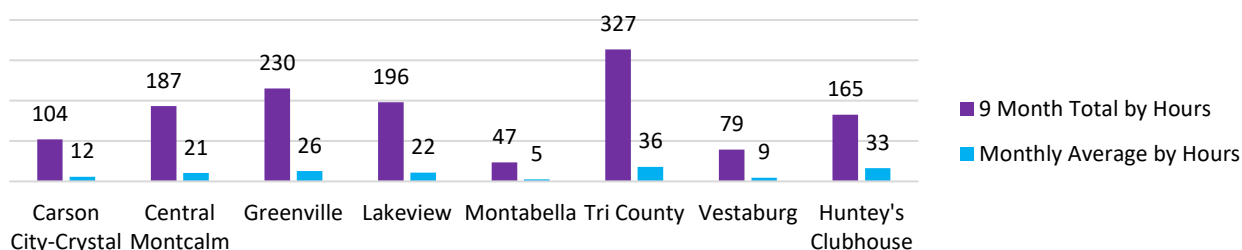
MAISD Early Childhood Coaching

Early Childhood Specialist provided coaching support focused on goals teachers identified as opportunities for growth. These coaching supports were provided face to face, (virtual or in-person).

MAISD Coaching Goals 2024-25

District	Number of Classrooms	Number of Goals Set	Percent of Goals Achieved
Carson City-Crystal	2	4	75%
Central Montcalm	4	10	90%
Greenville	8	20	95%
Lakeview	2	7	100%
Montabella	2	4	75%
Tri-County	4	12	100%
Vestaburg	2	6	67%
Hunteny's Clubhouse	2	5	83%

Hours of Face to Face Early Childhood Coaching Support
Total 1335 Hours



2024-25 Montcalm Area ISD Continuous Improvement Plan Progress

- ◆ Three individual data meetings (as required by GSRP Implementation Manual) were held in person and via Zoom, using updated Model Data Guides to review individual classroom, sub-recipient, and MAISD level data. Each sub-recipient was supported to improve individual classroom data considering SmartTeach data, ASQ data, PELI data, and CLASS feedback. Math and Social Emotional learning were the focus of professional learning.
 - The average evaluation of the three data meetings held at the MAISD were as follows:
 - 80% felt the time spent was valuable use of their time.
 - 87% stated that they left with an updated implementation/action plan that tied to their analysis of their classroom data.
 - 76% felt the materials for the day facilitated their learning and their team's productivity.
- ◆ Other professional development opportunities were provided at the MAISD for the Early Childhood community, GSRP teachers, and staff.
 - Social Emotional Competencies: Prevent, Teach, Reinforce evaluation results:
 - 91% felt the time spent was a valuable use of their time.
 - 91% stated they left with the tools and strategies to support families.
 - 89% felt the materials for the day facilitated their learning and their team's productivity.

- Motor Development in Preschool evaluation results:
 - 97% felt the time spent was a valuable use of their time.
 - 97% stated they left with the tools and strategies to support families.
 - 97% felt the materials for the day facilitated their learning and their team's productivity.
- ◆ Virtual opportunities self-paced were offered to all teaching team members on CLASS, Creative Curriculum, Conscious Discipline elements, Math Essentials, and PreK Literacy Essentials

2024-25 Highlights of Montcalm Great Start Readiness Classrooms

- ◆ Served 423 children in 26 classrooms and supported 26 teaching teams.
- ◆ Collaborated with 0-5 early childhood service providers in Montcalm County to provide support to all GSRP families for resources and referral information.
- ◆ Early Childhood Mathematics preschool professional development and classroom material supports were provided using GSRP grant district grant funds.
- ◆ Continued to partner with private preschool providers to support the development of high-quality programs in Montcalm County, which has resulted in two potential CBO's for 2025-26.
- ◆ Continued to support Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS) model for preschool with a focus on literacy, math, and social-emotional development. Continue to support certification in TPOT, CLASS, and ICP for new coaching staff.
- ◆ Conducted three School Readiness Advisory Council meetings (as required per GSRP manual) with an average of 20 parent participants.
- ◆ Supported building inclusion capacity with EC coaches: ICP, Literacy and Math Essentials, and over 20 hours of professional development for coaching staff.
- ◆ Targeted Early Math Essentials, Implementation of Creative Curriculum, Coaching and PELI fidelity support with teaching teams to provide individual classroom growth and increase staff capacity.

2024-25 Parent Satisfaction Survey Results for GSRP Programming

99.36% said that GSRP prepared their child for kindergarten.

99.36% said that GSRP helped their child grow socially and emotionally.

99.36% said that GSRP helped develop their child's thinking skills.

99.68% said that GSRP supported their child's academic skills.

99.04% said that GSRP supported their child's physical development.

99.04% stated that GSRP provided a variety of activities for parents to participate in the program.

98% stated that scheduled parent-teacher meetings or school events/activities met their needs.

99.04% stated that GSRP supported and respected their families' cultural backgrounds.

98% that teacher communicated about their child's academic progress and development.

97% stated that they felt involved and engaged by their teaching team.

98% stated that the schedule (4 days a week or 5 days a week) classroom met their families needs.

75% stated that they received information on before and/or after school childcare.



MAISD Continues to Support a Data Driven Early Childhood System

2024-25 MAISD Early Childhood Program-Wide PBS Benchmarks of Quality (BOQ)

The Early Childhood Program-Wide PBS Benchmarks of Quality (EC-BOQ) is a tool designed to measure the implementation efforts of the seven key components of EC PBIS. These components are:

1. Establish Leadership Team
2. Staff Buy-In
3. Family Engagement
4. Program-Wide Expectations
5. Professional Development and Staff Support Plan
6. Procedures for Responding to Challenging Behavior
7. Monitoring Implementation and Outcomes

The BOQ tool was completed in 7 school districts and one community-based organization for 2024-25 school year. This information included 11 buildings, and 26 classrooms within the MAISD GSRP program.

Top 3 Grows identified from GSRP Teaching Teams Completion of EC-BOQ

1. The need for a system level of support to address challenging behaviors of preschoolers
2. The need for an internal system for professional development and staff support to promote a growth mindset with professional development.
3. Staff buy in and program wide expectations were also identified by several sub-recipients as an area of growth possibly due to staff team change.

Top 3 Glo's identified from GSRP teaching teams completion of EC-BOQ

1. Establish leadership team at sub-recipient level that included PreK
2. Monitoring implementation outcomes at sub-recipient level
3. Family engagement activities and efforts were at our all-time high.

*Individual sub-recipient results are available upon request.

2024-25 MAISD Culturally Responsive Mathematics Teaching Confidence

Top 3 Grows identified from GSRP teaching team members as a result of math professional learning content:

1. Need to strengthen own math teaching identity
2. Need a better understanding of math content
3. Need to Increase student participation and engagement in math learning; being intentional

Top 3 Glo's identified from GSRP teaching team members as a result of math professional learning content:

1. Affirming multilingualism to support math learning
2. Addressing entrenched stereotypes in math
3. Connecting to social justice/critical knowledge in a math, learning has improved!



EightCAP, INC. 0-5 Head Start Annual Report

2023-2024



Early Childhood Services

EightCAP's Head Start and Early Head Start programs provide essential early childhood education services across multiple counties in Michigan. With a commitment to fostering school readiness and family support, the programs serve infants, toddlers, preschoolers, and expectant mothers.

Program Highlights

98%

Avg. Monthly Enrollment – Ensuring services reach families in need.

36

Classrooms – Supported early childhood education for 3-5 year olds.

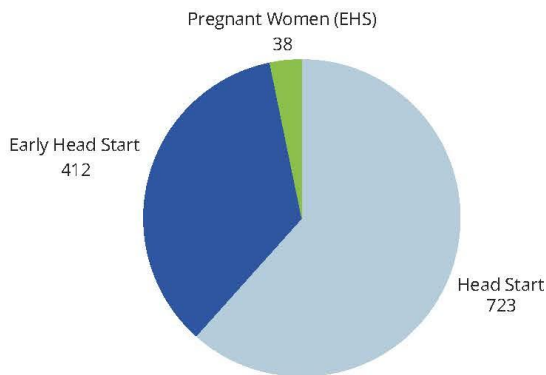
17

Home Visitors – supported early childhood education to 0-3 year olds

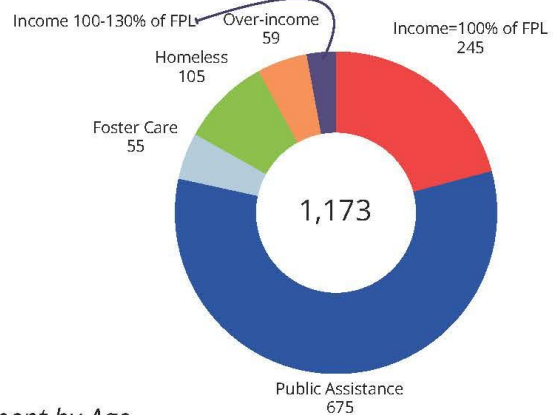
1,173

Children & Expectant Mothers Served – Across five counties.

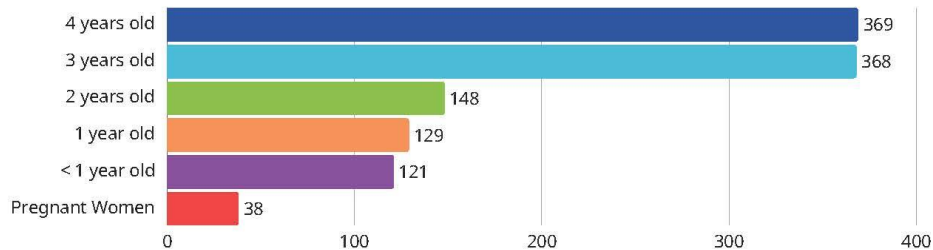
Enrollment by Program



Enrollment by Program



Enrollment by Age





Early Childhood Services

Head Start views school readiness as children possessing the skills, knowledge, and attitudes necessary for success in school and for later learning and life. Positive early learning environments that include relationships based on trust, encouragement, and appropriate expectations throughout the five central domains: Approaches to Learning; Social and Emotional Development; Language and Literacy; Cognition; and Perceptual, Motor, and Physical Development, are critical elements of school readiness.

EightCAP's school readiness goals are aligned with the Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework (HSELOF), the Michigan Early Childhood Standards for Quality Prekindergarten, Creative Curriculum for Preschool, and Creative Curriculum for Infants, Toddlers, and Twos. The following chart illustrates the percentage of Head Start and Early Head Start children that met or exceeded the program's school readiness goals in each of the five central domains in 2023-24.

Central Domains	EightCAP, Inc. School Readiness Goals	Early Head Start	Head Start
Approaches to Learning	Children and families will engage in learning to acquire knowledge, learn new skills and achieve goals.	97%	94%
Social and Emotional Development	Children and families will express, recognize, and manage their own emotions in order to create and sustain positive relationships with others.	96%	93%
Language and Literacy	Children will expand their receptive and expressive language to establish a foundation for reading and writing.	90%	94% (Language) 82% (Literacy)
Cognition	Children will experiment with the world around them to gain complex cognitive abilities, including mathematic strategies and emerging scientific reasoning skills.	97%	79%
Perceptual, Motor, and Physical Development	Children will enhance their well-being by exploring their environment and investigating objects in the world around them.	96%	98%

School Readiness



Early Childhood Services

Parent Involvement

The Positive Solutions for Families parenting curriculum utilizes the Pyramid Model for supporting social emotional competence in young children. The curriculum consists of a series of seven sessions, developed by the Center on the Social Emotional Foundations for Early Learning (CSEFEL), focused on promoting children's social and emotional skills, understanding problem behavior, and using positive approaches to help children learn appropriate behavior.

Benchmarks

1,332

Volunteers provided valuable services to the 0-5 Head Start program.

21

Parent events were planned using Family Partnership data including:
12 Parenting Skills Sessions
7 Life Skills Educations Events
2 Community Engagement Events

102

Families received parenting education services.

82%

of parents/guardians report a positive change in their relationship with their child(ren).

156

Fathers/father figures engaged in family goal setting.

73%

of parents/guardians report a positive change in their day-to-day stress.

Testimonials

“It has had a positive impact. I think about their and my own behavior and try to be more positive.”

“It's made it easier and less stressful to breathe in and exhale slowly to stay calm when my child is throwing a tantrum.”

“We use bits and pieces every day from different lessons. We have implemented them into our daily lives as a whole family.”





Early Childhood Services

Health & Wellness

Benchmarks

59

Participants were served by the Mental Health Coordinator (HS) or Mental Health Consultant (EHS)

99%

of participants have health insurance

98%

of participants have an ongoing source of continuous, accessible health care

86%

of participants have an ongoing source of continuous, accessible dental care.

44%

of participants received oral health preventative care

54%

of children are up to date on preventative health care

92%

of children are up to date on immunizations or have received all immunizations possible for their age.

94%

of children received developmental and behavioral screens within 45 days of enrollment

Participation in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) allowed for the provision of the following meals:

49,393 Breakfasts

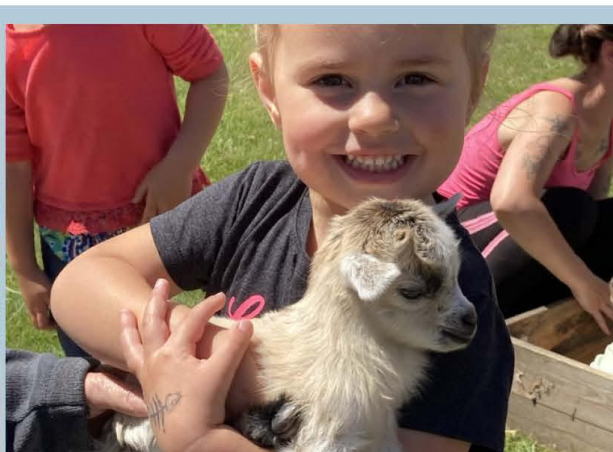
61,730 Lunches

48,697 Snacks

Testimonials

“My daughter’s knowledge for being healthy has grown immensely due to Regie and your classroom. We are working on getting her to try fruits and veggies as she now will help mom shop for them.”

“My son was more aware of healthy food choices, picking options other than candy for ‘treats’. He enjoyed looking for new color foods and having a variety of colors in meals/snacks.”





TALKING IS TEACHING.ORG



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TEACHING.

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Montcalm County Great Start Collaborative Meeting Schedule 2025-2026

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

Contact person: Cari O'Connor

- **October 1, 2025**, from 11:30-1:30 pm
- **December 3, 2025**, from 11:30-1:30 pm
- **February 4, 2026**, from 11:30-1:30 pm
- **June 3, 2026**, from 11:30-1:30 pm
- **August 5, 2026**, from 11:30-1:30 pm

Montcalm County GSC Committee Meetings:

Executive & Communications Committee (virtual through Zoom):

Contact person: Cari O'Connor

- **November 12, 2025**, from 11:30-1:00 pm
- **May 6, 2026**, from 11:30-1:00 pm
- **September 2, 2026**, from 11:30-1:00 pm

Family Leadership Committee - Family Coalition Meetings (meetings will be located at the Montcalm Area Career Center, 1550 W Sidney Rd, Sidney, dinner, and childcare provided)

Contact person: Monique Cooper

- **September 8, 2025**, from 5:30-7:00 pm – Setting Limits/Teaching Boundaries
- **October 13, 2025**, from 5:30-7:00 pm – Doing Things Outside of Electronics
- **November 10, 2025**, from 5:30-7:00 pm – Teaching Children Respect
- **December 8, 2025**, from 5:30-7:00 pm - Holiday Celebration with Santa
- **January 12, 2026**, from 5:30-7:00 pm – Anxiety for Children and Parents
- **February 9, 2026**, from 5:30-7:00 pm – Calm Parenting
- **March 9, 2026**, from 5:30-7:00 pm - Family Awareness Month, Special Event for the Whole Family
- **April 13, 2026**, from 5:30-7:00 pm – Quick Meal Prep for Families
- **May 11, 2026**, from 5:30-7:00 pm – Bed Time Routines
- **June 8, 2026**, from 5:30-7:00 pm – Summer Kick Off- Carson City Park and Splash Pad

Approved:

Montcalm County GSC Committee Meetings:

Family Wellness Committee (at the Montcalm Area Intermediate School District, Stanton):

Contact person: Monique Cooper

- **October 1, 2025**, from 1:30-2:30 pm
- **December 3, 2025**, from 1:30-2:30 pm
- **February 4, 2026**, from 1:30-2:30 pm
- **June 3, 2026**, from 1:30-2:30 pm
- **August 5, 2026**, from 1:30-2:30 pm

Early Care & Education Committee (at the Montcalm Transition Center, Stanton):

Contact person: Mindy Train

- **October 1, 2025**, from 9:30-10:30am
- **February 4, 2026**, from 9:30-10:30am
- **August 5, 2026**, from 9:30-10:30am

Montcalm County Great Start Collaborative Support Staff Contact Information

618 W Main St, Suite C
Stanton, MI 48888

Website: www.greatstartmontcalm.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/greatstartmontcalmcounty

Monique Cooper
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Drew Train
Family Liaison
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Mindy Train
Family Liaison
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Cari O'Connor
Director
coconnor@maisd.com

Approved:



MAISD Early On LICC Report: August 6, 2025

REFER today for any infant or toddler you have concerns about! ANYONE can refer.

Go to: www.1800Earlyon.org or call 1-800-EarlyOn

Comparison Referral Data

	2017-18 Referrals	2018-19 Referrals	2019-20 Referrals	2020-21 Referrals	2021-22 Referrals	2022-23 Referrals	2023-24 Referrals	2024-25 Referrals	2025-2026 Referrals
July	16	30	35	20	28	9	23	21	19*
August	27	40	33	16	26	38	28	28	
September	24	13	25	24	30	27	18	30	
October	17	24	19	32	24	19	27	26	
November	12	17	12	11	34	33	21	25	
December	8	17	21	18	14	20	18	23	
January	15	22	35	30	32	26	33	32	
February	29	35	34	23	28	23	32	28	
March	26	26	25	25	38	29	28	33	
April	31	34	14	31	26	28	28	24	
May	17	32	10	22	24	27	27	23	
June	24	25	16	24	33	23	22	21	
TOTAL	229	315	279	266	337	302	305	314	

*As of July 29, 2025

As of July 29, 2025 Montcalm Area ISD Early On has:

- 148 Students enrolled in Early On
- 27 students in referrals
- 39 students who are MMSE Eligible (26.3% of Early On Students)

Outreach and Early On Video: [Early On Video Link](#)



Montcalm Co. Playgroup

Private group



MAISD Early On



Check us out on Social Media

Follow us on Social Media to learn how to make a referral and get information about your child's development.

- Need more developmental wheels, Early On pamphlets or other materials? Email Elizabeth Buskirk at ebuskirk@maisd.com
- Interested in having an Early On staff member come speak to your organization? Email Cindy DeYoung at cdeyoung@maisd.com

Playgroup:

We've had 4 playgroups this summer so far. We have 2 more coming up in August and September. Please share with the community.

Playgroups will start on the Weekly schedule in October. The schedule will be coming soon.

New Staff:

Welcome Kristin Frasen as a new Early On Occupational Therapist. We have an opening for a Speech Language Pathologist.

Summer 2025 Playgroup

Any family with children from ages birth thru 4 years old living in Montcalm Area Intermediate School District is welcome to attend. Call (616) 225-6146 for more information.

Highlights

- *Try new activities with your child that will stimulate your child's development!
- *Learn songs and read books (receive a copy of each book to keep)
- *Interact with other parents and children!
- *Learn strategies to use at home and have access to Early Childhood professionals to ask questions.



Tuesdays 5:30pm-6:30pm	Thursdays 10:30am-11:30am
June 10	June 12
Farm Visit 7212 Kendaville Rd Lakeview, MI 48850	Eureka Township & Touch a Truck 9322 SW Greenville Rd. Greenville, MI 48838
July 8	July 10
Greenville Splash Pad 213 N Franklin St. Greenville, MI (park next to Museum)	Veteran's Park Stanton 710 N State St. Stanton, MI 48888
August 19	August 21
Sidney Township Park 2823 S Derby Rd. Sidney, MI 48885	Ensley Park 518 E. Shaw St. Howard City, MI 49329
September 16	September 18
B&B Trees 1476 Condensery Rd. Sheridan, MI 48884	Danish Kingdom 900 E Kent Rd. Greenville, MI 48838