

## **General Education Update for meeting on 2/15:**

### **County-Wide Coaching Collaboration**

- Early Literacy coaches met on February 13th. Continued efforts were made to create resources and develop skills to help educators meet the needs of every child, in every classroom every day. Focus groups critiqued and created parent videos, developed a list of potential questions to survey K-3 teachers country-wide on literacy support and learning this year, and discussed and analyzed what systems are in place or still needed to ensure that all teachers are receiving a consistent message about the Essential Practices.

### **ISD Literacy Coach Grant Funding Received**

Section 35a(4) of the FY 2017 State School Aid Act provides funding for early literacy coaches at the ISD to assist teachers in developing and implementing instructional strategies for K-3 students so that children are reading at grade level by the end of third grade. We have received funding for \$150,000 (\$75,000 per coach) and HCISD will be responsible for a match of \$37,500 per coach.

### **EBLI Coaching Support**

- The EBLI coach, ISD literacy coach and special education supervisor visited local districts on February 6th to support local teachers trained earlier this year in Evidence Based Literacy Instruction (EBLI). On the spot feedback was provided to teachers to help support their instructional learning.

### **Countywide Professional Learning Day**

- On Monday, February, 19 we are making our first attempt at serving our districts with customized professional learning opportunities. Our academic counsel at the ISD surveyed each county superintendent as to how we could best meet their needs on this day and we have planned individual sessions catering to each and every one of those needs. We look forward to serving them through some high quality relevant learning.

### **Restorative Justice Practices**

- State law now requires that schools consider using restorative practices in addition to or in place of suspension or expulsion. On 2/6 & 2/7 an ISD 4 person team composed of special and general education participated in a two-day training on restorative justice practices. We are excited to help our local districts in this mandate. We will be starting our work with Reading schools in an effort to practice our learning and help build off the work they have already started there. Our hope is to use them as a model demonstration site as we train others in our county.

## **Great Start Collaborative (GSC) Receives Trusted Advisors Grant Funding**

- Hillsdale County Great Start Collaborative has been notified that their grant application for the second round of Trusted Advisors funding has been approved. This additional funding will allow for continuation of playgroup opportunities in the communities of Litchfield, Waldron, Camden and Reading. In an attempt to increase engagement in these events, efforts are in place to contract for a Playgroup Facilitator who will have dedicated hours focused at recruitment in each of the outlying communities. In addition, this second round of funding will allow for some expansion efforts of weekend nutrition programs in the school districts of Camden, Hillsdale, Pittsford, Waldron, Litchfield and North Adams. This funding needs to be used by the end of September 2018.
- The Great Start Parent Coalition will be going through a Strengthening Families Assessment in March. There are currently 10 active parents interested in participating in the process. The intent of this process is not about assessing the Parent Liaison or the Great Start Collaborative, but rather helps the Parent Coalition members identify things that they, as a group, can focus on to build a stronger Parent Coalition.
- Collaborative efforts continue in the planning of a Hillsdale County Community Baby Shower, tentatively planned for late April. About a dozen agencies make up the Pediatric & Family Health and Community Resources subcommittees of the GSC who are lead for this event. In addition, the GSC and Great Start Readiness Program are in the process of planning Preschool Connect, an event to be held in March to assist families in gathering information and beginning the process for preschool applications.