
BOARD AGENDA ITEM

Item: EPIC Research Contract

Submitted by: Mary Kay Murphy

Recommended by: Jenny Fee

Information/Discussion _____

Future Action _____ Board

Action X

Date: 3/6/2025

Board Meeting Date: 3/17/2025

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Kent ISD school board approve the contracting with Education Policy Innovation Collaborative (EPIC) to conduct a multi-year research and impact analysis of the Grow Your Own Funded West Michigan Teacher Collaborative (WMTC). Leveraging an outside independent evaluator of WMTC's work will help ensure that the program design and components are effective in achieving the intended change and impact.

This comprehensive research and program evaluation will be conducted over the course of 43 months. The full cost of this service contract is \$748,271.31. The full cost will be covered by grants received by WMTC, with no impact on Kent ISD's general fund. The [scope of work](#) and [budget](#) are attached.

BACKGROUND:

EPIC is uniquely positioned for this work as they are the only education policy research center dedicated to studying the most critical issues currently facing Michigan's preK-12 public education system. Based in the College of Education at Michigan State University, EPIC operates as the strategic research partner to the Michigan Department of Education (MDE), the Center for Educational Performance and Information (CEPI), and various ISDs, school districts, and agencies throughout the state. EPIC holds an unprecedented data-sharing agreement with MDE and CEPI, which grants access to all state administrative data for schools, students, and educators. This level of access includes confidential information, for which EPIC has developed advanced privacy and security measures. EPIC also possesses significant technical expertise in the data and subject areas most relevant to a study of the WMTC, including Michigan's educator pipeline and historic teacher workforce trends. EPIC offers a staff of experts and a network of affiliated researchers and applies advanced methods to efficiently develop the most accurate, timely, and relevant research and analysis for partners working on education policies and programs to inform decisions that best support schools, students, educators, and communities across the state.