
BOARD AGENDA ITEM

Information/Discussion _____

Future Action _____

Action X

Item: GSQ Program Staff Reduction

Submitted by: Dave Rodgers / Jenny Fee

Date: September 14, 2026

Recommended by: Ashley Karsten / Jenny Fee Board Meeting Date: September 21, 2026

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Board of Education authorize Kent ISD administration to phase out the Great Start to Quality (GSQ) program by reducing 7.0 FTE of the program's 8.0 FTE positions via layoffs with employment ending October 30, 2026. Although GSQ funding concludes September 30, 2026, we are recommending supporting impacted employees through the end of October. This recommendation is a result of changes to the state's GSQ funding structure and the resulting loss of grant funding for Kent ISD's GSQ program.

BACKGROUND:

Historically, Kent ISD has received Great Start to Quality (GSQ) funding to support a GSQ Director and seven staff positions, totaling 8.0 FTE.

For the 2026–27 school year, the State of Michigan restructured the GSQ funding model to establish a single GSQ Resource Center to serve a 13-county region, including Kent County. Additional background information regarding this restructuring is available [here](#).

Kent ISD submitted a competitive grant application to serve as the GSQ Resource Center for the region but was not selected. As a result, Kent ISD will no longer receive GSQ funding to support its current GSQ positions. Therefore, a reduction in GSQ staffing is necessary.

An FCCN grant will fund 1.0 FTE of the 8.0 FTE, resulting in the 7.0 FTE reduction. It is anticipated that up to 2.0 FTE may be supported through other funding sources, including Help Me Grow/32p funding. If those funding sources are available, up to 2.0 FTE may be recalled, resulting in a net reduction of approximately 5.0 FTE.

The proposed staffing reductions are necessary to align staffing levels with the loss of GSQ funding while preserving opportunities to retain or recall staff through other available funding sources.