

General Education Update for May 2020 Board Meeting

Great Start Collaborative Trusted Advisors Funding

- Hillsdale County has submitted another Trusted Advisor grant to further the Talking is Teaching work that has been in implementation since November 2019. This new funding is anticipated to be available beginning in July and must be expended by the end of November. This funding will provide additional training for parents but will also have an extension focused on community partnerships, including ideas of printing placemats to be used in local dining establishments, including fast food locations and printing Talking is Teaching one minute message cards on the backside of medical appointment reminder cards.

Great Start Collaborative Summer Events

- Efforts are in place with various planning teams to strategize on how best to offer summer PLAY (Parents Learning about Young Children), Literacy Pop-up and Story Walk events this year given the COVID-19 pandemic. Fully realizing that none of these events can be held in their typical fashion, Collaborative members are brainstorming the best way to share the content and achieve the outcomes that these events provide for children and families across the county.

GSRP Promotion

- Due to the Covid 19 situation, Preschool Connect was canceled for this spring. Therefore, additional yard signs were purchased. There are now 19 yard signs placed throughout Hillsdale County in yards of each participating school district and Community Based Organization as well as the WIC office and some community Family Dollar and Dollar General stores. The signs will remind parents to sign their children up for preschool.

Kindergarten Readiness Packets

- Through the assistance of Community Action Agency of JLH-Head Start program, every GSRP student in Hillsdale County moving on to kindergarten in the fall will receive a Kindergarten Readiness Packet with many materials to assist them in learning and developing skills needed for kindergarten. The packets include paper only scissors, drawing/writing paper, pencils, crayons, a whiteboard, teddy bear counters, and much more. The teachers have begun to deliver them to the children/families in their programs and they are also sharing ideas to assist parents in utilizing the packets with their children over the summer.