

General Education Board Report

March 2026

Instructional Services

This past month focused on strengthening instructional practices, expanding professional development, and providing targeted coaching support across districts. A primary emphasis in February was coaching teachers in the New Teacher Network as they analyzed mid-year data to refine instruction, strengthen organization systems, and build classroom routines that promote reasoning, problem solving, and collaboration in elementary mathematics. Teachers also continued exploring effective Tier 2 and Tier 3 math interventions and saw positive student impact from prioritizing Number Corner. The network concluded its study of *The New Teacher Handbook* with a virtual Zoom session led by the author, Berit Gordon.

Ongoing support included facilitating a classroom learning lab for peer observation, providing one-on-one coaching on foundational reading skills to teachers and paraeducators, and delivering UFLI-focused professional development for paraprofessionals in rural schools. While visiting rural classrooms during UFLI lessons, time was also spent connecting with teachers and students. In Lakewood, teachers received enrichment resources aligned to specific UFLI steps to increase student success. Lower elementary teachers sought feedback on small-group interventions, leading to several meaningful and productive coaching conversations, while upper elementary teachers received guidance on fluency and vocabulary enrichment.

Personal professional development included participation in virtual LETRS training and full-day Early Literacy Network quarterly meetings, with a focus on Michigan's dyslexia law in collaboration with colleagues across the state. Overall, the month reflected a strong commitment to instructional growth, literacy development, and responsive support for teachers and students.

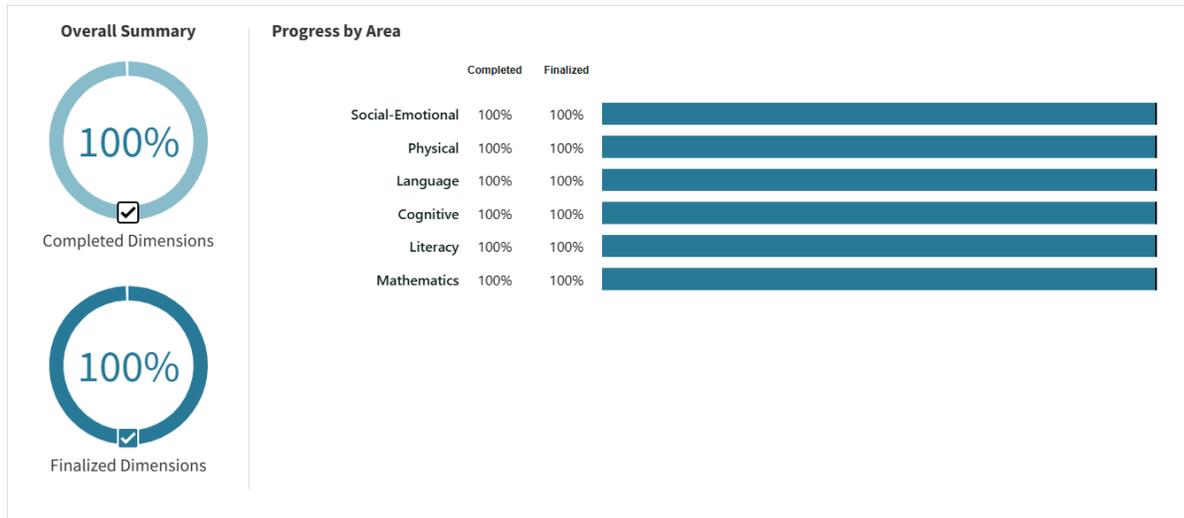
The Great Start Collaborative

The Great Start Collaborative partnered with the Ionia Community Library to host Open Gym/ Book Nooks the second and fourth Wednesday during these cold months. Attendance has been growing each week. At our recent Farm themed event, we had 18 families attend with 26 children. We have two more events in March to wrap this up. Tri-County Electric provided the GSC with a grant to purchase books and activities for our themed events.

In February, we also started our Parent Cafés with the help of the Ionia County Community Foundation Grant. At our first event, we exceeded expectations with 12 parents and 10 children who attended. Parents were very appreciative of this opportunity to have a supportive and nonjudgmental environment in which they could share the struggles and successes of raising a family in Ionia County. We are bringing Parent Cafés into two local elementary schools as well and working to come up with a way to host a Café at EightCap in Orleans.

GSRP Update

Teaching Strategies Gold (TSG): Assessment Status Report



Parent Teacher Conferences: GSRP completed parent teacher conferences throughout the month of February. Staff shared Teaching Strategies Gold Assessment reports with families, as well as information on K Round-Up for their local school district.

Kindergarten Readiness Meeting: GSRP held a School Readiness Meeting in February with local agencies, LEA principals and program directors. Local agencies shared information on their agency, as well as what services are available to students in the County, and how to access them. GSRP ECC, Head Start staff, local principals and program directors discussed demographic information for GSRP Transition to K activities, including Kindergarten Round-up, recruitment efforts, as well as data to support children transitioning to Kindergarten in the Fall.

Saranac GSRP: Children eating lunch family style. Children are encouraged to sit where they want, choose what they want to eat, serve themselves, as well as open items with adult or peer support. Adults and children sit together and interact as they are eating. Adults are seen as a model during this time.

