

---

---

## BOARD AGENDA ITEM

Information/Discussion\_\_\_\_\_

Future Action\_\_\_\_\_

Action   X  

Item: Bright Beginnings Funding Shortfall

Submitted by: Dave Rodgers

Date: September 2, 2025

Recommended by: Dr. Jenny Fee

Board Meeting Date: September 15, 2025

---

---

### RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Kent ISD Board of Education authorize the Kent ISD Administration to reduce up to 4.0 FTE from the Bright Beginnings program effective at the conclusion of the 2025-26 school year. This action will follow established policies and procedures for non-union employees. Making this decision now provides for the appropriate program planning and notice to the staff who may be impacted by this future reduction.

### BACKGROUND:

The Bright Beginnings Home Visiting and Playgroup programs are partially supported annually through Ready by Five (Rb5) millage funds, a state level grant (32p4), and a number of smaller grants. For the 2025-26 school year, Kent ISD is receiving Rb5 and 32p4 allocations that are \$364,288 less than requested and anticipated. Unfortunately, notice of this reduction was provided in late July and August, leaving insufficient time to make timely staffing adjustments for the current school year. To sustain programming for 2025-26, with Board support, Kent ISD will use General Fund dollars for one year to temporarily bridge the funding gap. However, this level of General Fund support is not financially sustainable beyond the 2025-26 school year.

Therefore, to align program operations with grant funding, it will be necessary to reduce staffing by up to 4.0 FTE for the 2026-27 school year. The current Bright Beginnings staffing consists of 28 FTE. Reductions will be first addressed through attrition to the greatest extent possible, but may require layoffs of personnel next spring.

Thank you, and as always, please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.