

General Education Update for meeting on 7/18/19:

Summer Story Walk

- The Great Start Collaborative Early Care/Learning & Literacy subcommittee held the first Hillsdale County Story Walk in ex with the downtown Farmers Market on Saturday July 13th. This event was partially funded through a “Love Your Community” grant through the Hillsdale County Community Foundation, and provided an opportunity for children and families to visit 4 reading stations to hear portions of the children’s book, “The Little Mouse, The Red Ripe Strawberry, and The Big Hungry Bear”. Volunteer readers were represented by MSU Extension, Jonesville District Library, North Adams Public Library, Will Carleton Academy and Highfields. Participants were able to stop at additional stations to pick up a take home seed planting activity, free book, snack/water and a token to redeem with one of the participating Farmers Market vendors in exchange for \$5 worth of fresh produce. In addition, all participating families were encouraged to visit a county library in order to receive another token for \$5 worth of fresh produce. All county libraries have agreed to participate with the token exchange. Thirty-four families (57 children and 37 adults) attended the event.



Great Start Readiness Program (GSRP) & Hillsdale County Preschool Joint Recruitment

- The first and second roll-out of GSRP eligible children has taken place. This includes families up to 250% poverty. We will continue to promote preschool opportunity, take applications for 3 & 4 year old children interested in preschool and accept eligible students into program from now through the start of school. Age-waiver kids (Turn 4 yrs old after Sept. 1st, but by Dec. 1st) and over income families with risk factors will be accepted into programs after Sept 1, 2019 as mandated.

