
BOARD AGENDA ITEM

Information/Discussion _____
Future Action _____
Action X

Item: Bright Beginnings Funding Shortfall

Submitted by: Dave Rodgers

Date: October 13, 2025

Recommended by: Dr. Jenny Fee

Board Meeting Date: October 20, 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, state level grants (32p and 32p4), and a number of smaller grants. For the 2025-26 school year, Kent ISD is receiving Rb5, 32p and 32p4 allocations that are \$535,690 less than requested and anticipated.

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 for 2026-2027.

The current Bright Beginnings staffing consists of 28 FTE. As recently communicated to the Board and staff, it was initially anticipated that a reduction of 4.0 FTE in 2026-27 would be sufficient. However, with the recent passage of the State budget, we find that the actual reduction needed now reflects 6.0 FTE instead of 4.0 FTE. It is both timely and noteworthy that 2.0 FTE have already been reduced by attrition due to recent voluntary resignations; thereby only necessitating 4.0 FTE. It is therefore recommended that the Board of Education authorize administration to carry out a reduction of 4.0 FTEs for the 2026-27 school year. 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.