

# Leading Learning Award April 2026



**Chris Dart & Andrew Rosema,  
Technology Services**

"I am proud to nominate Andrew Rosema and Chris Dart for the "Leading Learning" Award in recognition of their exceptional leadership, expertise, and commitment to service. When Kent City's server array unexpectedly crashed on a Sunday evening, they responded immediately and worked tirelessly to assess the situation and begin restoring services. Their calm, solutions-focused approach brought focus and direction to a highly time-sensitive situation that had the potential to significantly disrupt district operations. They were also supported in this effort by Tim Lillis, Arthur Thompson, Eric VanDam, and Bill Holland, whose collaboration and assistance contributed meaningfully to the rapid response and recovery.

Upon determining that the damaged hardware needed to be sent out for repair, Andrew and Chris quickly assembled temporary hardware to restore all critical systems, successfully bringing Kent City back online by Monday afternoon. Their technical skill, teamwork, and proactive planning minimized downtime and demonstrated a deep commitment to supporting teaching and learning. Once the original equipment was repaired, they seamlessly transitioned services back to the production environment, completing the recovery with professionalism and precision. Together, this team's leadership under pressure exemplifies what it means to lead learning through reliability, innovation, and dedication."



**Mark Rottman,  
Technology Services**

"Mark developed the enrollment system used by the Great Start Readiness Program in Kent County. In a program that currently serves nearly 5,000 children (with significant growth projected next year) it is difficult to imagine operating without this shared intake system across all sites. Families can easily apply for programming, our team can efficiently place children in classrooms, and partner organizations have access to complete applications and enrollment documents.

As the Great Start Readiness Program expands statewide, the need for a shared intake system has grown. In fact, the state has modeled its system after the one Mark created for Kent County. Each year, Mark demonstrates a strong commitment to continuous improvement by implementing meaningful updates driven by both program expansion and team feedback.

This year, in particular, Mark was given a detailed, multi-page document in January outlining numerous requested changes. Despite the scope and complexity, he delivered a fully updated system ready for families by February. He consistently provides quick turnaround times, remains responsive and collaborative, and takes the time to understand both immediate needs and long-term goals. While he is careful not to over-promise, he consistently over-delivers.

We are deeply grateful for Mark's expertise and dedication in maintaining a system that helps ensure our community has access to free PreK."