

February 2025 General Education Report

Instructional Coaching Summary

In January, continued support was provided across Ionia's elementary and middle schools, focusing on several key areas of professional development. A significant portion of the month was dedicated to planning grade-level meetings, specifically addressing pacing in the *Bridges* math curriculum. Additionally, training continued for Responsibility-Centered Discipline, with individual coaching meetings also contributing to ongoing support for educators.

A major highlight of the month was the participation in a book study hosted by Kent ISD, centered around *Engaging Children* by Ellin Oliver Keene, aimed at enhancing instructional strategies.

In preparation for Professional Learning Labs, a focus was placed on Kindergarten through 2nd-grade teachers. These labs allowed teachers to engage in pre- and post-observation discussions around lessons in the UFLI Foundations program. These collaborative learning opportunities were a powerful way to foster teacher growth, build confidence, and strengthen professional connections.

Support was also given to Title One teachers and K-2 classroom teachers, helping them redesign their interventions following the Acadience winter benchmark. This effort aimed at improving the effectiveness of instructional support for struggling students.

Lastly, time was dedicated to mentoring new teachers who began their semester, with a focus on curriculum guidance and classroom management strategies to ensure their success as they begin their teaching careers.

Great Start Readiness Program:

Recruitment and Enrollment: The GSRP Application is live for the 2025-2026 school year. We are currently receiving applications and will start completing enrollments in March.

Professional Development: The ISD hosted a county wide training for all ISD operated GSRP classrooms, as well as three GSRP local operated classrooms. The training was provided by Kaplan on Connect4Learning Curriculum. The training focused on The Science of Reading, as well as Phonological Awareness.



Great Start Collaborative:

The Great Start Collaborative has been busy this past month making more connections and strengthening partnerships around the county. We held our second parent workshop titled: "Discipline in a Healthy Way" with presenter Chuck Hill. Saranac Clarksville District Library hosted this event at the Saranac location. We had 21 adults attend the workshop, and we supervised 18 children with books, activities and crafts all based on a farming theme. By offering child supervision and dinner, we are able to include more parents and families who otherwise wouldn't be able to attend.

We took advantage of the snow and cold weather, and hosted a sledding event at Bertha Brock Park on Sunday, January 19 for families. We had approximately 35 families show up to sled and play in the snow, have some hot cocoa, do crafts and make some snow volcanoes erupt.

We have also had weekly open gym events at the armory. The open gym on January 23 was focused on Social Emotional Learning and Feelings. The Right Door and Rave partnered with us at this event to do other activities with the children and families who attended.