

BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORT
Department of Early Childhood Education
February 7th, 2018

The Great Start Readiness Program Quality Assessment-Part B was completed and submitted by our Early Childhood Specialist prior to the January 31st due date.

The Department of Early Childhood received guidance from the Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (LARA) regarding changes in the law covering Michigan's childcare organizations. The most significant change will require all childcare staff, contracted staff and unsupervised volunteers to have a comprehensive background check including fingerprinting through the MorphoTrust system. LARA has secured funding to offset the cost of 16 MorphoTrust scans at each licensed center. All individuals that are required to undergo this background check must have all elements completed by September 30th, 2018.

We have received a Program Instruction (PI) from the Administration for Children and Families regarding 45CFR 1302.21(c)(2)(iii) of the Head Start Standards (attached in BoardBook). This rule states that all programs must provide 1020 annual hours of planned class operations (full-day programming) to 50 percent of center-based funded enrollment by August 2019. This PI notifies programs that the Secretary has exercised his authority to waive the center-based full-day requirements eliminating the need to be at 50% full-day by August of 2019.

The North Dickinson Head Start Center childcare license was successfully renewed in January. The center is now licensed through January of 2020.

The 2018-2019 Early Head Start/Head Start grant application is due April 1st. The funding guidance letter from the Administration for Children and Families indicates base funding of \$2,241,793 for the 2018-2019 program year.

A total of 50 pregnant women/children were enrolled in Early Head Start in the month of January and 195 children were enrolled in Head Start. We currently have 35 slots filled in Great Start Readiness Program for the 2017-2018 program year. We continue to accept and review applications. A total of 1667 breakfasts and 2154 lunches and 858 snacks were served in the month of December.