

## **General Education Update for meeting on 3/21/19:**

### **Literacy Coach and Principal Joint Meeting**

- Local literacy coaches and building principals continue to assess and reflect on school-wide systems of practice around early literacy in their buildings. In February, 2 LEAs shared out specific action steps they are taking to improve literacy outcomes within their building. The topics of study were ambitious summer reading initiatives to support reading growth and creating and sustaining an organizational climate that reflects a collective sense of responsibility for all children around literacy.

### **Kindergarten Readiness Assessment**

- We are working with the LEAs to determine a date for literacy coaches and building principals to analyze the 2018 MKEO KRA reports at the state and county level. Anticipated outcomes for this data analysis include impacts of K-12 systems and connection to preschool, student growth, areas of improvement, and implications of prior care data reporting.

### **Recent Great Start Collaborative Grant Applications**

- The Early Care/Learning & Literacy of the GSC has recently been awarded 2 grants from the Hillsdale County Community Foundation:
  - Love Your Community Grant Proposal - to support funding of the first ever Hillsdale County Community Story Walk, which blends literacy and nutrition efforts together via local Farmers Market efforts. Participating families are provided tokens to redeem for fresh produce, and can earn an additional token by visiting a local county library.
  - Healthy Seniors/Healthy Yough Grant Proposal - to support the start-up expenses of license-exempt child care providers in making a move to become a licensed provider. Proposal would allow a minimum of 6 providers to become licensed in Hillsdale County.

### **2019 Community Baby Shower**

- Efforts are in full swing in the planning for this year's Community Baby Shower. The event will be held on April 27th from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. The day allows for an opportunity for expecting and new parents to visit resource tables to learn about community supports. In addition, commitments have been received by 6 community presenters to address topics like: Healthy Pregnancy, Baby Signs, Traveling Safety Tips, Promoting Literacy, Social-Emotional Health of Newborn, and Finding Child Care. [2019 Community Baby Shower](#)

## **GSRP Update**

- Joint Recruitment for the 2019-2020 school year will kick off with Preschool Connect. This event will take place on Monday, March 25th from 3:30 to 7:00pm in the lower level of the Parke D. Hayes building. Please feel free to swing by and check it out if you are in the area. [Preschool Connect Flier](#)

## **March 11th County-wide PD Feedback**

- We had an outstanding Professional Learning day on 3/11. We had 120 educators from across the county engage in the various professional learning opportunities. The feedback was overwhelmingly positive and we look forward to building upon feedback to build upon for future learning. The learning sessions offered were on cooperative learning, echoes and reflections from the Holocaust, Stem Network Day 2, and Developing Academic Language and Literacy.

## **STEM Professional Learning**

- In conjunction with the Regional STEM Network, we presented Day 2 of our ongoing professional learning of the innovative practices behind the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math initiative. Mr. Scott Heister, regional director, and Monica Burger, HCISD science consultant, presented hands-on examples of STEM activities and their relationship to the K-12 Michigan Science Framework. Teachers from across the county were invited to participate as we explored the opportunities inherent in STEM while providing “take-back-to-the-classroom” experiences. Links to the standards and benchmarks of each activity were shared.
- Surveys will soon be going out to our new Hillsdale County STEM network to determine their needs for continued learning. Participation from all grade levels is encouraged.
- STEM Nights will be part of the planning for the 2019-2020 school year. Resources provided by the HCISD and JCISD will be presented while teachers and community members have a chance to see how these materials help fuel enthusiasm in our students relative to science, math, technology, and engineering.

## **School Improvement Update**

- Administrators will be brought current to the MDE expectations and changes of District and School Improvement plans during our county-wide meeting on March 27. Although minimal changes are expected, there will be a review of those components necessary to meet state requirements. The greater emphasis will be placed on how to begin preparing for the Comprehensive Needs Assessment that is expected to be rolled out soon to districts.

### **MMC Flexibility Presentation**

- On Friday March 8th, we welcomed representatives from the Michigan Department of Education to present to counselors, teachers, and local administrative teams on the Michigan Merit Curriculum expectations. It was very helpful to receive clarity on the expectations and the flexibility that exists within the requirements.