

October 2025

## General Education Board Report

### Instructional Services Update:

To launch the school year, 16 new teachers from Ionia, Saranac, and Portland participated in a full-day *Bridges Getting Started* workshop. A brief overview of *Bridges Intervention* materials was also shared with staff at Twin Rivers and Jefferson elementary schools during district PD days, with plans for continued support throughout the year.

We continue to focus on relationship building through coaching and the New Teacher Network. New teachers began a book study using *The New Teacher Handbook* by Berit Gordon, which will culminate in an author presentation in October. Coaching support has addressed curriculum, classroom management, Tier 2 interventions, and behavior strategies.

A **Spanish Teacher Network** was launched, bringing together educators from Lakewood, Ionia, Saranac, and Portland to collaborate on foreign language instruction. New teachers across the county received welcome visits, and connections were renewed with 2nd- and 3rd-year teachers, as well as veterans. Ongoing conversations have focused on small group instruction and using data to guide teaching.

Additional professional development included:

- Attending the first **FLC meeting** to support student ownership of learning,
- Participating in **LETRS** virtual training,
- Providing **Hegerty** and **UFLI** PD for Portland's first grade and intervention staff.

### Great Start Readiness Program:

**GSRP Current Programming:** We are currently serving 290 students within 17 classrooms throughout the County. As of now, we are at capacity for the current program models.

**Professional Development:** The ISD provided County Wide Behavior training to all staff. Training focused on Tier 1, 2, 3 and 4 supports, along with Connect4Learning Solution Suitcase and Conscious Discipline training, and how all of these align together.



**Great Start Collaborative:**

We are very busy with fall planning and events in the Great Start Collaborative. We host weekly walks on Fridays through the end of October. Three evening themed walks are scheduled to be held at the ISD on September 26, October 10 and 24th. The themes for these walks are Around the World, Pumpkin Walk and the Halloween Walk. The rest of the walks are held at the Roeser Trail at the hospital. At themed walks, we are handing out books to each family and doing extra activities compared to our normal walks.

We are starting to put together our fall book bag with activities for families. These bags will focus on the book, "Bedtime Math: A Fun Excuse to Stay up Late". Parents have expressed to us that they would like resources to help them work with their child on Math.

The surveys to Kindergarten parents around the county have wrapped up. We put these surveys out there to determine the effectiveness and usefulness of the items we put in the Transition to Kindergarten bag. To offer an incentive, we put together a prize package of family activities and books to give away to each district. Winners and building administration have been notified and prizes have been delivered.