
BOARD AGENDA ITEM

Information/Discussion _____

Future Action _____

Action _____ x _____

Item: Three new Parent Educators and the Increase of 4 staff contracts with Bright Beginnings

Submitted by: Karen Lezan

Date: ___10/6/23_____

Recommended by: Ashley Karsten

Board Meeting Date: _10/16/23_____

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Kent ISD Board approves the creation of three new additional Parent Educator/ Coach positions created and funded by First Steps Kent Ready by Five Early Childhood Millage.

BACKGROUND:

These three new positions would work 1 FTE (260 days year-round) as Parent Educators in the northern, eastern and western parts of Kent County to now provide dedicated Ready by Five home visitors in every part of Kent County to serve families and build school readiness skills. Currently, these funds have focused on the Grand Rapids and surrounding areas with half of one staff in the northern part of the county. With the creation of these three new positions, Bright Beginnings would be serving high-risk, low-income families in the entire County where gaps in services from millage dollars have been found. Focusing on these areas that have historically underserved by the millage funding will ensure tax payers in the entire county have access to more services through Kent ISD Bright Beginnings.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Kent ISD Board approves the increase in days for 4 Bright Beginnings staff beginning on January 1, 2024. These positions were due to the expansion from the Kent County First Steps Ready by Five millage funding for FY24.

Kristy Elenbaas- increase from 1 FTE 200 days to 260 days year-round.

Erica Harris- increase from 1 FTE 200 days to 260 days year-round.

Sindi Aleman - increase from 1 FTE 200 days to 260 days year-round.

Nicole Burman – increase from 1 FTE 200 days to 260 days year-round.

BACKGROUND:

Through the new funding from the Ready by Five millage proposal, Bright Beginnings Parent Educators (Kristy Elenbaas, Sindi Aleman, Nicole Burman, and Erica Harris) will be able to home visit high-risk, low-income families in the county full year-round, instead of limited days by increasing from 1 FTE 200 days to 260 days year-round. This will support stronger family engagement and provide more opportunities for improved parenting practice and school readiness. This will begin on January 1, 2024