



**C.O.O.R.**

INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL DISTRICT

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To: Shawn Petri, Superintendent

From: Katie Keith, Director of Early Childhood

Date: October 2025

Subject: Early Childhood Update

**Great Start to Quality:** September is always a month of wrapping up and reflection on how the fiscal year went, as we begin our new fiscal year Oct 1, 2025. Our team is doing a deeper dive into the [Process Communication Model](#) (PCM) to learn about our own personality as well as each of our colleagues'. We covered the basics last fiscal year, and this year, we are learning how to identify when we and others are in distress and strategies on how to best understand and connect. We are excited to learn about this so we can develop strategies for best connecting and communicating with our team, the audience we work with, and also in our personal lives.

🎉 **Some things to celebrate from this year:** 🎉

- Our team goal this year was to increase the number of licensed child care providers that had reached a level of quality higher than they had ever been. Our target was 25 and we hit 37! I am beyond proud of our Quality Improvement Coaches and the providers who are voluntarily working on providing the best experiences and environments for the kids and families in their programs.

- Our pilot grant, [Family Child Care Network](#) has been a huge success. 25 programs within Presque Isle and Otsego counties participated and they cannot get enough of the peer mentoring, training offered that they desire, and items that have been purchased for them including business items, Professional Development, Outdoor learning/Environment, and provider well-being. We are continuing in FY26 with these same providers as they only got a 6 month pilot. We have been hearing that there may be a pilot starting in a few months that will include Home Child Care Providers to try to participate in Pre-K for All. This is a brand new concept and we are happy parents will have a choice at the end of the pilot if programs are ready. This FCCN grant is the pathway for a program to be selected or eligible to participate in Pre-K for All. We are happy to coach these providers along to prepare them for this big step and opportunity.

- We are in conversation with MI Works folks, Child Care Back Office, and folks affiliated with ECIC about a possible Substitute Pool for child care providers so they can take a day off and not have to close. This would help child care providers immensely.
- We have a 70% participation rate in our NE Region. We currently have 199 total programs and 70% of them are participating in Great Start to Quality. In years past, we were striving for 50%. We have great relationships with our providers and truly feel they value our services.

We changed our CPR training cadence to offer the Education piece virtually in the evenings and a separate test-out site/date within a week. Providers are offered 3 sites to choose from. We held 12 events, and 72 participants were trained. They like this format. We always try to match our offerings with their needs.

- We hosted 115 training events for childcare providers within Miregistry (the state's professional development platform) and trained a total of 249 individuals.

### **Great Start Readiness Program:**

#### **[Enrollment dashboard](#)**

GSRP classrooms are implementing a new classroom assessment this year. The assessment is LAP B-K. The Learning Accomplishment Profile™: Birth to Kindergarten (LAP™ B-K) assessment is an online observation-based tool that guides educators and clinicians to observe and track the ongoing skill development of children ages birth to 72 months. We are excited for the change!