

General Education Update for December 2019 Board Meeting

Great Start Collaborative Talking is Teaching

- Talking is Teaching parent trainings are up and running in Hillsdale County. The first opportunity in November had 9 families participate. The December sessions are almost complete and have had 14 families participating. January dates are full with 11 families registered to attend. Additional funds have been announced so more trainings will be scheduled for February. A provider training educating on the premise and importance of Talking is Teaching messages will be provided in January.



TALKING IS TEACHING: TALK, READ, SING!

Come learn how you can make a difference for Hillsdale County Children.

Talking is Teaching: Talk, Read, Sing is the Community Campaign that has been built to increase everyone's knowledge about the importance of talking and interacting with young children beginning at birth. Reinforcing messaging, skill building, encouraging adults for what they are already doing and working together to help each of us do more are the critical elements of this Campaign.

**Date and time:**

Friday
January 31, 2020
9:00 am - 12:00 pm

Location:

Hillsdale ISD
310 Bacon St.
Hillsdale, MI 49242



Space is limited
RSVP at 517-689-1804 or
www.greatstarthillsdale.com

These materials were developed under a grant awarded by the Michigan Department of Education

Great Start Collaborative Child Care Forum

- The Great Start Collaborative and Child Care Network are partnering to host a Child Care Forum on February 6th at 8:30 a.m. at Perennial Park Senior Center. The intent of this meeting is to educate community stakeholders on the child care crisis facing Hillsdale County families and to begin a conversation about what can be done to begin to address this very important issue. More information to come, but please save the date!

Hillsdale County Early Childhood Collaboration:

- The Hillsdale County ISD Early Childhood Department in collaboration with the Great Start Collaborative and numerous local agencies and volunteers, hosted the annual Winterfest event on December 12th at Greenfield School. The event was a success providing food, fun and family engagement to 81 children and their family members. The night included an opportunity to meet Santa and take pictures and enjoy a family meal of hotdogs, mac-n-cheese (donated by Saucy dogs), salad (donated by Olivia's), Cookies (donated by Jonesville Bakery & Market House) and chips (provided by Community Action Agency). Activities included various holiday craft activities, an obstacle course and STEM project. A great time was had by all.



GSRP & Hillsdale County Preschool Joint Recruitment

- GSRP Subrecipient contracts have been released to programs. We currently have only one ½ day opening. All full day GSRP options are full.
- Planning is underway for the Preschool Connect recruitment event to take place in the spring. Details to come in January.
- Our School Readiness Advisory Committee will be holding a meeting on January 14, 2020, from 4:30 to 6:00 pm. The focus of the meeting will be to obtain information from key stakeholders (parents, teachers, community members, etc.) about needs to support the successful transition of Hillsdale County Preschool students to Kindergarten. The Meeting will take place in the Gym of Greenfield School. Flier located [here](#).

Literacy

- Seven districts in the county are participating in the Kids Read Now program for the 2019-20 school year. Kids Read Now is a summer reading program that aims to eliminate the reading loss that occurs over the summer month referred to as “summer slide”. In the program, students handpick nine books that are of interest to them to receive in the mail over the summer. Students are guaranteed six books with the potential to receive up to all nine that were selected. The program

follows these simple steps; students read the book, parents/guardians report that the book has been read, a new book is sent in the mail. Once a book is received in the mail it belongs to the student forever.

