

March 2025: General Education Report

In the past month, significant time was dedicated to professional development, with a focus on LETRS training, both online and virtually. The literacy coaches network also facilitated development opportunities for coaches. Additionally, several teachers participated in UFLI learning labs, where after months of support, they were ready to model their teaching for observers. Observations took place across multiple K-2 classrooms, with teacher's eager for feedback and support, and they are now poised for further learning in the coming months. A mini UFLI professional development session was provided for district teachers, with a follow-up planned for the start of the 2025/2026 school year.

Throughout the month, ongoing work with individual teachers across the county continued, focusing on self-selected goals such as using data to drive instruction, implementing instructional strategies, increasing student motivation during whole-group instruction, modeling writing instruction, and incorporating new resources. District-level collaboration also took place with instructional coaches and leadership teams, particularly around data and curriculum decisions for summer school and the upcoming school year.

At the school level, the Responsibility-Centered Discipline PD was wrapped up at Twin Rivers Elementary. Instructional coaching continued in Portland, Lakewood, Saranac, and Ionia, addressing various topics including:

1. Curriculum alignment with standards for grades 5-8.
2. Navigating materials in a pilot program (grades 6-8).
3. Addressing pacing challenges in math due to skill gaps.
4. Planning for math interventions.
5. Organizing classroom libraries and Bridges materials.
6. Parent communication and test retake policies.
7. Exploring alternate assessment formats.
8. Classroom management, including routines, expectations, and responses to behavior.
9. Prioritizing assessment and grading strategies without overburdening students.
10. Addressing challenges with difficult colleagues.

Overall, the past month was a month focused on ongoing teacher development, curriculum alignment, and addressing key instructional challenges, with plans for continued support in the months ahead.

The Great Start Collaborative has been busy this past month with activities to keep the young population of Ionia from going stir crazy inside. Open gyms have been very busy. We have partnered with Early On to have ASQs available to give parents to complete on their children. If parents have questions or concerns, we are helping them connect with the correct people to answer those questions. The March 5th open gym is Bike Day. Children will bring their bikes and ride on toys around the gym and learn about bike safely. We have also expanded our "Grandfriends" activities and now have an intergenerational group that meets at Mission Point in Belding. The residents in Belding enjoyed meeting some new friends and are excited that we will be back in March for another event.

Our third parent workshop will be held at the ISD on March 19 with Chuck Hill presenting on "How to feed your marriage/ relationship to benefit you and your children". We are partnering with Lakewood High School NHS students to help in the child supervision room, where Lyons librarian, Mattie, will lead the children in youth mindfulness and yoga. We still have space available.

We are finalizing our “Transition to Kindergarten” bags and revamping them from the past to include more resources for parents and children. Those bags will be delivered to the districts before spring break.

GSRP

Teaching Strategies Gold (TSG): Winter Growth Report

Areas of Development: All Areas
 Compare to: Widely Held Expectations
 Checkpoint Periods : Fall 2024/2025, Winter 2024/2025
 Checkpoint Types: Finalized Checkpoint ratings
 Age or Class/Grade at Checkpoint Period: Pre-K 4 class/grade (Blue)
 Children to Compare: Only Children with Ratings in All Checkpoint Periods
 Report Level: Program and Sites

Growth Summary					
Area of Development	Number of Children	Number of Children Below Growth Range	Percentage of Children Below Growth Range	Number of Children Meeting or Above Growth Range	Percentage of Children Meeting or Above Growth Range
Social-Emotional	195	14	7%	181	93%
Physical	195	16	8%	179	92%
Language	195	10	5%	185	95%
Cognitive	194	11	6%	183	94%
Literacy	195	3	2%	192	98%
Mathematics	195	8	4%	187	96%

Parent Teacher Conferences: GSRP completed parent teacher conferences throughout the month of February. Staff shared Teaching Strategies Gold Assessment reports with families, as well as information on K Round Up for their local school district.

Kindergarten Transition Meetings: GSRP ECC, GSC Director, and HS Supervisor met with each local school district principal in the month of February. Student data, recruitment, K Round Up, and Kindergarten backpacks were discussed to support transition to Kindergarten.