

Eastern U.P. Great Start Collaborative

What will you do today that will impact a child's tomorrow?



What is the Collaborative?

A group of parents of young children, members of the faith and business communities, local philanthropic organizations, community leaders, educators, and leaders of the local public agencies that provide the majority of early childhood services in the community. All of these active voices drive our local initiatives to support early childhood investment.

To help drive our work, we seek parental input.

Parents of young children are the consumers of early

childhood services. At least 20% of our Collaborative is

comprised of parents members. To help support parent leadership locally, we have the

Great Start Parent Coalition.

"The Great Start Collaborative has provided an opportunity for organizations in the Eastern Upper Peninsula To work together with parents to look at our communities to make a difference in the lives of children and families. Time spent with the GSC is a great investment in the future."

-Reenie Butler CLMCAA Head Start Director & GSC Board Member



What is the Parent Coalition?

The parent coalition is present in every county in the EUP and is led by a Parent Liaison. They collaborate with all parents to understand what community specific early childhood needs are and how they can work together to fill those needs. They promote parents to be a leader for their child and for early childhood investment in their community. All of the Great Start Collaborative activities and initiatives are planned in collaboration with parents.

Photo Source: cdn.sheknows.com

OUR MISSION IS TO ENSURE THAT EVERY CHILD IN THE E.U.P. BEGINS KINDERGARTEN SAFE, HEALTHY, AND READY TO SUCCEED IN SCHOOL AND LIFE!

How do we support early childhood investment?

*Did you know that
by the age of 5,
the human brain is
85% developed?*

2014-2015 Board Members

Bay Mills Child Development Center
Central Savings Bank
Chippewa Co. Health Department
Department of Human Services
CLM Community Action Agency
Early On
EUP Intermediate School District
Great Start Readiness Preschool
Great Start to Quality
Hiawatha Behavioral Health
Immanuel Lutheran Church
Intertribal Council
Lake Superior State University
LMAS Health Department
Mackinac Co. Prosecutor, Stuart Spencer
Mackinac Straits Health System
Michigan Works!
Northeast Regional Resource Center
Sault Chamber of Commerce
Sault Co-Operative Preschool
Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians
Sault Tribe Early Childhood Programs
Therapy World



Every three years we devise a comprehensive road map that will support our young citizens in regards to quality early education/child care, social/emotional health, pediatric/health care, family support, and parent leadership.

Currently, we are focusing on the following initiatives:

- Social-Emotional Health
- Medical Home
- Smoke Free Environment
- Joint Recruitment/Enrollment for Preschools
- Preschool Scholarship
- Quality Child Care Scholarship
- Parent Leadership

Local efforts to support those initiatives include:

- Several family centered events that promote parent education and parent-child interaction
- Smoke Free Playground Signs
- Partnership efforts with UPHP to support Medical Homes
- Smoke Free Environment Conference
- Parent Leadership Training
- Green to Grow Scholarship
- Becky Davis Early Learning Scholarship
- Distribution of information of all initiatives to families with young children and child care providers
- Foster Care Necessity Bags
- Star of Tomorrow Project

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