

Ingham School Readiness Committee 9-30-14

Members of the Kindergarten Transition and Quality Initiatives workgroups, as well as the GSRP Advisory Council, were invited to participate in the School Readiness Committee.

Michelle Nicholson, Co-Coordinator for the Ingham Great Start Collaborative (GSC), shared information on the requirements for the School Readiness Committee. It is required to be a workgroup of the GSC. The following information was shared by Corrie Mervyn, Early Childhood Supervisor and Early Childhood Contact for Ingham ISD:

Committees and Advisory Structure

The Early Childhood Contact (ECC) is the early childhood leader at the Intermediate School District (ISD), facilitating an ISD-wide plan with a vision to improve child outcomes, to minimize achievement gaps and help all stakeholders to see the “big picture” of how the Great Start Readiness Program (GSRP) strategically fits into the local Great Start Collaborative (GSC) early childhood efforts. The GSRP Advisory Council is a workgroup of the Great Start Collaborative.

GSRP Data Analysis Team

The Early Childhood Specialist (ECS) assembles and leads a data analysis team made up of lead and associate teachers (or representatives of those groups in a large program), the program supervisor, parents, and other relevant personnel such as specialists and stakeholders. A systematic approach brings the team together three times each program year. The team analyzes program data including Online PQA reports and ongoing child assessment results. The team sets and monitors goals for the continuous quality improvement of the program.

GSRP Parent Advisory Committee

The ISD ensures that programs have a local GSRP parent advisory committee with a focus on local considerations, including recruitment/enrollment, PQA results and child outcome data. This committee minimally meets twice each program year.

School Readiness Advisory Committee

The ECC is a leader in the ISD-wide school readiness advisory committee, established annually and which operates as a workgroup of the local GSC. One of the tasks of the school readiness advisory committee is to annually review and make recommendations about:

Collaboration with and involvement of community volunteer and/or social service organizations in addressing all aspects of educational disadvantage;

Partnership v

GSC, Regional Resource Center, and others to build the capacity of local community agencies to take part in GSRP;

Collaborative recruitment

is enrolled in the program most appropriate to his or her needs and to maximize the use of

federal, state, and local funds; The choice of an approved curriculum; Nutritional

services utilizing federal, state and local food program support as applicable;
developmental screening process;
appropriate;
improvement efforts, and

- Health and
- Referrals to commun
- Parent involvement;
- Transition into kindergarten.

Michelle shared the following information related to the Great Start Collaborative requirements under the 32p Block grant:

32p Block Grant

Beginning in October of 2013 the GSC, under section 32p of State School Aid, PA 60 of 2013, were required to convene a workgroup to serve as a school readiness advisory committee as required under section 32d and discuss the structure and strategies as part of their work plan and application. For FY15, the language regarding the school readiness advisory committee has changed slightly, but continues as a work group of the GSC, as presented under sections 32d and 32p of PA 196 of 2014.

Section 32p provides funding to ISDs or a consortium of ISDs to convene a local Great Start Collaborative and Great Start Parent Coalition. The goal of the local GSC and GSPC is to ensure the coordination and expansion of local early childhood infrastructure and programs that allow every child in the community to achieve the four Office of Great Start early childhood outcomes. Each GSC is to convene workgroups to make recommendations about community services designed to achieve the early childhood outcomes and to ensure its local Great Start System includes supports for children birth through age 8. Section 32p also outlines the supports for children birth through age 8 included in each local Great Start system: (a) Physical Health, (b) Social- emotional health, (c) Family Supports and basic needs, (d) Parent Education and child advocacy, and (e) Early education and care.

The school readiness advisory committee is expected to be focused on school readiness in a broad sense throughout the local Great Start system, not overwhelmingly focused on GSRP. It should use and build upon the school readiness advisory committee structure that already exists. As long as an existing advisory committee includes the required members and addresses the required components, there is no need to make changes. Some existing advisory committees may need to reformulate membership, or convene a sub-workgroup to address the topics required for GSRP as part of the school readiness committee requirement.

A Work Plan was submitted by Ingham GSC for 32p funding. The following is a required Outcome of the Work Plan:

REQUIRED Outcome Children are developmentally ready to succeed in school at the time of 3: school entry

Goal Convene a workgroup focused on making recommendations of community services that support all children's school readiness, also serving as an advisory to the Great Start Readiness Program.

Goal I. Strategy (Objective) A. 1. Assist the Great Start to Quality Resource Centers with recruitment and engagement of licensed and registered providers to both enter into the Great Start to Quality, as well as achieve higher levels of quality.

Goal I. Strategy (Objective) A. 2. Review the components of the Great Start Readiness Program and make recommendations.

Objective 1. Survey 30% of families who participated in Systems Scans about their understanding of information on quality services and adapt messages based on the feedback.

1a. Recruit parents and providers who represent the diversity of the area and programs and services targeted, to ensure equal representation and engagement.

1b. Parent Coalition develops and implements strategies to increase parent awareness and choice of high quality settings.

Persons Responsible for this are: GSC Program Providers, Local Leadership Group, GSC Family Coalition

Objective 2: An active school readiness advisory committee, meeting regularly and addressing all required tasks.

2a. Advise in improvements to joint recruitment and enrollment.

2b. Increase awareness, use and success of joint recruitment and enrollment for publicly-funded programs.

Persons Responsible for this are: GSC Operations Committee, IISD GSRP Staff & Advisory Committee, Quality Initiatives Workgroup

Barb Monroe, Director of the Central Resource Center, shared the related requirements of their Scope of Work:

The Central Resource Center is to promote Great Start to Quality website to providers and families. The Resource Center will do this through distribution of materials, Facebook, newsletter and other media. Four events must be conducted this year to promote Great Start to Quality and must make four posts/week on Facebook.

Barb also shared that the Central Resource Center is to help engage centers in providing GSRP through helping them to complete the Self- Assessment Survey (SAS) and providing training to remove barriers centers see to doing GSRP.

The Ingham GSC recently completed writing their Strategic Plan and Action Agenda for the next 3 years. Areas of the Action Agenda that align and support all of the requirements stated above were shared:

I. Increase awareness, understanding, and implementation of quality standards in early childhood programs.

Michigan's Early Childhood Outcomes		Component Area(s)		Overall Strategy (Goal)	Objective(s):
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Born Healthy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Healthy, Thriving & Developmentally on Track <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ready to Succeed at School Entry <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reading Proficiently by end of 3 rd grade		<input type="checkbox"/> Pediatric and Family Health <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social and Emotional Health <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Early Care and Education <input type="checkbox"/> Parenting Leadership <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Family Support		I. Increase awareness, understanding, and implementation of quality standards in early childhood programs.	A. Promote understanding of roles and responsibilities for providers and parents.
Activities	Responsible Entities	Target Dates	Resources Needed	Progress Measures	
1. Disseminate information about Early Childhood Outcomes and quality standards through promotion of Great Start to Quality and increase understanding of definition of quality. Examples may be lunch and learn sessions for employees who are parents.	GSC Member Organizations, Central Resource Center, LCC, GSFC, NEON, Willow Tree, Early On	Year 1 - 3	Great Start To Quality materials and media	Post poster with 4 Early Childhood Outcomes in member organizations. GSC members will link to GSQ from their websites. GSQ materials will be shared with families on How to Look for Quality. Survey 30% of families who participated in Systems Scans about their understanding of information on quality services and adapt messages based on the feedback.	
2. Review and revise definition of school readiness and increase awareness of definition.	Kindergarten Transitions and Quality Initiatives Workgroups, School Readiness Committee, Central Resource Center	Year 1	Great Start Collaborative School Readiness Definition	GSC School Readiness definition will be posted by early childhood providers and included routinely in materials/messages to families. Central Resource Center will have representation on the School Readiness Committee. Survey families and providers about what they can do to help children acquire the skills needed to be successful in school.	

Members focused the conversation on ways we all could engage families over the next couple of months to learn what their understanding of school readiness and quality are. All agreed to share parts of the Family Survey used by the GSC during the Strategic planning process and some additional open-ended questions, to gather information that the School Readiness Committee could use for next steps. This information may be shared in a variety of ways that best fit the individual organization or program needs. Ideas that were discussed were group emails to parents, surveys at open houses or “Teacher Teas”, Head Start PAL meetings, etc. Attached are the questions from the Family Survey and some open-ended questions informed by this group, which can be used by programs to gather information from families. Any information collected

will be sent to Michelle Nicholson mnichols@inghamisd.org or Wendy Moncada wmoncada@inghamisd.org.

Members discussed meeting 3x/year: September, January and late April to share progress made on the GSRP, Resource Center and GSC required activities.