



Ingham Great Start Family Coalition

- A network of parents/caregivers, parent groups, caring adults, and family members
- Willing to help plan and support the Ingham GSC's work toward achieving Michigan's 4 Early Childhood outcomes. Children are...
 1. born healthy.
 2. healthy, thriving and developmentally on track from birth to third grade.
 3. developmentally ready to succeed in school at time of school entry.
 4. prepared to succeed in fourth grade and beyond by reading proficiently by the end of third grade.
- Sharing resources and information so EVERY child ages 0 to 12 years old is ready to succeed in school and life!

There is a Coalition made of parents and families in every county in Michigan. The Ingham Coalition is connected to its "mother" group, the Ingham Great Start Collaborative (GSC), and has been operating since 2006. It is part of a system of support services for families with young children ages 0 to 12 (the MI Great Start Network). As part of that system, we hope to change the lives of children by involving those that influence them the most-YOU, the parents and caregivers of young children!

Is the Ingham Family Coalition the same as the Parent Coalition?

Yes! Around 2009, families with caregiving adults who were not birth parents of the children they were raising voiced concern. All involved agreed that Great Start Family Coalition was more inclusive, so Ingham changed our name in 2010. In 2023, the Michigan Department of Education formally changed the Great Start Parent Coalition to the Great Start Family Coalition.

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WHO is part of the Ingham Great Start Family Coalition?

- The short answer is YOU! Parents, caregivers, and families with young children and who reside anywhere in Ingham County!
- We have parents and families who have been part of the Coalition for several years and may be described as
 - ★ 'legacy-parents', with children older than 12 years old
 - ★ 'school-age-parents' with children 5-12 years old
 - ★ 'early-parents' with children 3-5 years old
 - ★ 'beginning-parents' with children 0-3

All parents are connected with a group, like their GRSP/Head Start/Preschool classroom, local MOPs groups, home visiting programs, playgroups, or their child's school PTO/PTA, etc. The Coalition helps them with their 'story' and use it to advocate for their kids and/or the services they need.

WHY is there a MANDATE for parent involvement with the Parent Coalition?

- In 2006 Gov. Granholm created Great Start with 20% parent participation required
- Parents are children's first teachers!
- Parent voice in the early childhood network is important to:
 - (1) **A "Customer" Perspective**--Provide constructive feedback to improve programs and services, and
 - (2) **Explain the importance of community programs and services**--Advocate for continued and increased funding of those programs and services

Does the Ingham Great Start Family Coalition have meetings?

YES! The Parent Liaison meets with every family member interested. Currently meetings are held virtually. (To see the meeting schedule and for more information, please contact the **Ingham Family Liaison (Jessica) at InghamGSCparents@gmail.com or (517) 899-4754.**)

What to expect at a Parent and Family Coalition meeting?

- **Meet** other parents, families, and caregivers.
- **Share** your parenting experiences at a Parent Café discussion.
- **Learn** about...
 - ★ resources for families, young children, and school-age children.
 - ★ community events and any and everything related to early childhood education.
- Have **Fun!** Make new friends and socialize with other parents in Ingham County

Families Making Meaningful Connections

