

# Genesee County Great Start Collaborative

A Great Start for Every  
Child in Genesee County

*Healthy, Happy and  
Ready to Succeed!*



Give Michigan's Kids a  
**Great**  
**Start**  
Genesee County



# The Genesee County Great Start Collaborative

The Genesee County Great Start Collaborative is the planning and decision making body for Michigan's Great Start system at the local level. Convened by the Genesee Intermediate School District, the collaborative includes: parents, business leaders, ministers, health care professionals, child care providers, preschool educators and other community leaders.

The purpose of the collaborative is to assist all Genesee County families in providing a great start for children from prenatal through kindergarten entry. Partners in the collaborative are committed to establishing and maintaining a comprehensive early childhood system that ensures links and collaboration among all early childhood initiatives and programs in the community. Core responsibilities of the collaborative include:

- Coordinating existing early childhood programs
- Expanding high-quality child care capacity
- Engaging stakeholders in the planning, implementation and coordination of services for families
- Promoting community awareness and support campaigns for early childhood issues
- Advocating for early childhood programs, policies and services
- Learning about issues affecting early childhood development

The Great Start Collaborative works to fulfill its core responsibilities and supports the community working together to accomplish better outcomes for children and families.

## Components of a Comprehensive Early Childhood System

**Physical Health Care** - A system to deliver comprehensive physical health and child development services, including screening, assessment and intervention, as well as timely and appropriate referral for specialized developmental, behavioral and social-emotional assessments and interventions.

**Social-Emotional Health Care** - A system to provide specialized screening, assessment and intervention services designed to promote the social-emotional well-being of all infants and young children, including those at risk of developing, or those diagnosed with, emotional disturbances.

**Parent Education & Family Support** - A system to provide services and support for parents in the critical role they play in the healthy development of their infants and young children, and to address the stressors impairing the ability of families to nurture the well-being, safety and overall healthy development of their infants and young children.

**Early Care and Education** - A system to connect parents to early care (child care) and education services that support the early learning, health and social-emotional well-being of infants and young children.

**Basic Needs, Economic Security & Child Safety** - A system to connect parents to services and support that addresses the basic, daily living needs of families, as well as child and family safety.



## How to Participate in the Genesee County Great Start Collaborative

Join the Great Start Collaborative by calling Beth Hackett, Genesee Intermediate School District at (810) 591-5588. Parents can participate by joining the Great Start Parent Coalition to learn how to advocate for children's services and be a voice that helps guide decision making on the Great Start Collaborative. Participation is also encouraged at any of the Great Start Collaborative community forums and events.

Learn more about how you can participate by visiting "Great Start" on the web at: [www.greatstartgenesee.org](http://www.greatstartgenesee.org).

## For More Information

For more information about the Genesee County  
Great Start Collaborative, please contact:

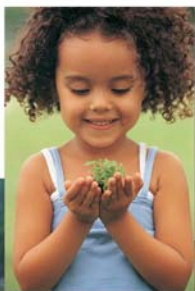
### **Genesee Intermediate School District Health, Safety and Nutrition Services**

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# The Great Start Collaborative: Vital to Genesee County's Future

- Each year, too many Genesee County children enter kindergarten with previously unidentified health, social-emotional or learning problems.
- Parents lack easy access to information and resources in the community that can help them in their role as their child's first and most important teacher.
- Research studies have demonstrated that necessary investment in the first five years of life pays high dividends both to the public and the individual.
- For each dollar spent before age five, there is a \$17.00 rate of return that is realized through increased success in high school, higher earning employment opportunities and a decreased likelihood of incarceration.
- To revitalize job opportunities in Genesee County, we must have future workers who have high educational achievement that will help attract new companies and spur innovation.

## The future of Genesee County children depends on our investment in them today.

When Genesee County kids get a Great Start, we all see a great return on our investment. Research shows that investing in the first five years of life pays high dividends both to the public and to individuals. It takes parents, community leaders, business, the legislature, state and local government, faith-based organizations and philanthropy all working together to give Genesee County children a Great Start.





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