



# Early Childhood Department

## Report to the EUPISD Board of Education

### December 2023

#### **Michigan Department of Lifelong Education, Advancement, and Potential (Mi-LEAP) Launches**

Mi-LEAP officially launched on December 1, 2023. More information about Mi-LEAP can be found in the links provided below.

- [MiLEAP website](#)
- [Executive Order establishing MiLEAP](#)
- [MiLEAP Witmer Press Release](#)
- [MDE - MiLEAP Press Release](#)
- [MiBridges Article re: MiLEAP](#)

#### **Family Engagement**

[Click here](#) to learn about Family Engagement events occurring this month and next.

#### **Professional Learning Guide**

[Click here](#) to view the professional learning opportunities our Northern Early Childhood Support Network team will be providing to our 36-county region throughout the year.

#### **Child Care Expansion**

Below are the latest monthly updates regarding the three main priority areas for child care expansion.

##### **Priority 1: Expand Access of Quality Early Learning Environments**

- Sault and Kincheloe Infant/Toddler Programs are up and running. There were some resignations in Cedarville and we are currently seeking an assistant instructor.

##### **Priority 2: Early Educator Workforce Development**

A competent and qualified workforce is crucial to providing safe, nurturing, and quality environments. There is a major shortage of qualified early educators. The following efforts are underway to build and retain workforce:

- The Early Childhood CTE program is off to a great success this year. The CTE program provides great hands-on learning experiences for junior and senior high-school students. The CTE program is an important piece in our overall recruitment and retention efforts. More information about the program will be provided at the meeting this month.

##### **Priority 3: Partnerships and Economic Development**

- We continue to explore partnerships and funding opportunities to create efficiencies and financial stability. Currently, we are exploring bulk purchasing and combined food services with CLMCAA and Sault Schools at Sault Early Learning Center.

#### **Staffing Update**

##### **Retirement**

- Genny Kaunisto, our department administrative assistant, will be retiring in February. The position is posted and we are hoping to have a replacement hired in January to provide a little transition time.

### **Needs**

- Assistant Caregivers (all sites)
- Sub Lead and Assistant Caregivers (all sites)

### **Board Agenda Items**

- Approval for additional staff days for Kaylynn Cairns (10 day) and Sabrina Neveu (20 days) to support additional program needs for the remainder of the program year (ending in September 2024).

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