



# Early Childhood Department

## Report to the EUPISD Board of Education

EASTERN UPPER PENINSULA  
INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL DISTRICT

January 2023

### **Northern Early Childhood Support Network (NECSN)**

The NECSN recently completed a 5-year Action Plan, focusing on maximizing resources and creating efficiencies in support of training and technical assistance for the early childhood network we serve, and systems building for internal, network, and external stakeholders that inform and influence the NECSN.

The NECSN Action Plan was developed to set regional priorities that contribute and align to Michigan's Collective Early Childhood Action Plan. The intent with our approach was to create strategies that identify top priorities and associated actions steps with a focus on the next 2 years but also an eye toward the future with broad priorities for years 3-5. The NECSN Action Plan is designed to fulfil the goals and strategies within the plan, while at the same time adapting to and evolving to include new evidence, best practices, lessons learned and improved data analysis. Ongoing evaluation of our efforts will continuously inform our implementation and improvement actions within all phases of our plan.

The [NECSN Action Plan can be found here](#) if you are interested in learning more about our efforts.

### **Early On – Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Steering Committee**

The Office of Great Start/ Early Childhood Development and Family Education awarded a grant to Wayne State University (WSU) to study the Early On system through the lens of diversity, equity, and inclusion. The project will conduct a data analysis, develop an action plan, and implement strategies statewide and locally with an overall focus on examining and strengthening Michigan's Part C system of IDEA from referral through transition/exit. I am participating in this project as a member of the state Core Planning Group (CPG).

### **Upper Peninsula Literacy Hub**

Beginning this month, the NECSN will take over the facilitation and project management of the Upper Peninsula Literacy Hub.

Birth to Five Literacy Support Network Hubs support communities across Michigan so that children, families, and educators have equitable access to materials, training, and other resources for literacy development.

Ten hubs were created statewide through a grant opportunity funded by the Office of Great Start within the Michigan Department of Education to enhance and connect centers of support for early literacy development. The hubs were established to connect the disparate programs, services, and supports for providers, children, and families to ensure equitable support for developing literacy practices for those working with children from birth through kindergarten entry, to help prepare children for success at kindergarten entry and to be on track and reading at grade level by fourth grade.

Because the early childhood mixed delivery system is community-driven and without an existing structure to ensure early literacy supports are provided to all children, families and providers, the Michigan Literacy Support Network Hubs seek to develop a network to unite the efforts at the community level and develop partnerships and strategies to address gaps and needs.

## Home Visiting

The current \$2.5 million in state funding for Section 32p(4) will be open for re-competition in early 2023. Our current *Parents as Teachers* home visiting program is funded under Section 32p(4). We intend to re-apply for the competitive funds.

## Staffing Update

### Filled

- Early On Speech Language Pathologist
- Child Care Assistant – Preschool Classroom (Soo Twp)
- \*Tentative\* Parents as Teachers Parent Educator

### Needs

- Site supervisor – Soo Twp.
- We will be posting for Lead and Assistants for Infant/Toddler Care in the coming months.

## Board Agenda Items

- None this month

## Family Engagement

**JOIN OUR VIRTUAL PLAYGROUP ON JANUARY 19TH @ 4:30**

**Topic: Materials**  
**Activity: Suncatcher Snowflakes**

Kit provided includes story and activity.  
Contact us on Facebook for more information or questions.  
**Playgroup runs about 30-45 minutes.**

Register before January 12th:  
<https://forms.gle/bRE76EqWxunzD2rf6>

The playgroup and associated materials are provided by the EUPISD and funded with grants from the Michigan Department of Education

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