



Dear Perspective Parent:

On behalf of the Ionia County Great Start Collaborative (ICGSC), we want to thank you for taking the time to learn more about the Parent Coalition. We believe that our Parent Coalition can make a difference in Ionia County!

Membership consists of parents or those serving in the parenting role of any young child (under the age of 12) in the community who is interested in being involved in helping to assure that, "All children enter kindergarten safe, healthy and ready to succeed in school and life!"

The Coalition desires that each person understand how important their participation and involvement is in the advancement of Michigan's children, families, and the community as a whole.

The Early Childhood Investment Corporation (ECIC) handles the Great Start System at the state level and provides direction for the local Collaborative. The Ionia County Great Start Collaborative Parent Coalition's main purpose is the following:

- To serve as a referent and constituency group for parents on the Ionia County Great Start Collaborative, giving them a means to better understand the desires and needs of parents in the community;
- To assist in building public support and will for early childhood investment through advocacy and education activities at the local and state level;
- To support and be engaged in supporting the work of the Ionia County Great Start Collaborative;
- To strengthen the civic engagement of parents in the community, on behalf of young children;
- To educate policy-makers on the importance of investing in the first five years of life and the essential role that parents and families play in the lives of young children

Locally, the Ionia County Great Start Parent Coalition is a group of volunteers who are liaisons between the Ionia County Great Start Collaborative (ICGSC) board and the community through.....

- Advocating for early childhood issues and their importance
- Planning and coordinating community event
- Educating and offering tips to parents and care givers about the importance of school readiness
- Having fun

Remember, parents and families are our children's first teachers, role models, and actually the first vision of what the world looks like to our children. The future of this world is in our hands, let's take action!

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Jessica Rowland in black ink.

Jessica Rowland
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Handwritten signature of Heather Jackson in black ink.

Heather Jackson
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