Hillsdale County Great Start Collaborative

Annual Report FY 2026

Important Funding Statement

In October 2025, Michigan's FY2026 state budget eliminated funding for Great Start Collaboratives (GSCs) and Family Coalitions statewide. Despite this loss, the Hillsdale County Intermediate School District (HCISD) prioritized continued local operations, programs, partnerships, and events.

Funding Sources

- Hillsdale County Intermediate School District (HCISD)
- Hillsdale County Community Foundation
  - General Grant
  - YOUTH Advisory Board
  - V.C.& Velma Knight Memorial Grant
- Region 9 Perinatal Quality Collaborative
- MiLEAP 35i Family Engagement Funds
- Sponsorships & Donations

Collaborative Work

450+ Community partners and stakeholders

77 Community meetings (subcommittees & workgroups led by the GSC)

Outreach

32 Community Events: Organized/Participated

5,000+ Parents & kids connected with in person

1,500+ Social media followers

1,900+ Newsletter recipients

BOOKS
PROVIDED TO CHILDREN

9,585+

EVENTS:

StoryWalk®
at the Farmers Market

203 children • **160** adults • **100** families

TALK READ SING
TALKING IS TEACHING.ORG

Talking is Teaching
Parent Education (2)
28 adults • **24** families

Community Baby Shower
45 children • **129** adults • **80** families

Free Family Safety Fair
284 children • **221** adults • **156** families

Themed Winter Activities (2)
106 children • **79** adults
57 families

Literacy Pop-Up (2)
130 children • **101** adults
70 families

Other Community Events (9)
980 books distributed

INITIATIVES:

Little Free Library®
Take a Book. Share a Book.

21 Little Free Libraries around the county
2,496 used children's books provided

Local Food Distributions (14)
1,766 books provided to Families

Hillsdale County Kids Read
620 books provided to
local businesses

Welcome Baby
32 home visits provided

Books for Babies
396 bags distributed through
Hillsdale Hospital Birthing Unit

Hillsdale County
Resource Guide
60+ pages

Book Donations
599 used children's
books collected