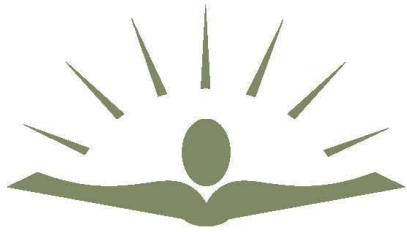


Kent County Grade-Level Reading Network

Lindsay McHolme

Director, Community Literacy Initiative

Kent County Partners



Literacy Center
of West Michigan
Community Literacy Initiative

- Schools
- Government
- Non-profits
- Research Institutes
- Foundations

Kent County Snap Shot

National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP)

- **Michigan** ranked **last** in **African American 4th grade reading**
- **Grand Rapids** ranked **last** in **African American 4th grade reading** and **next to last** in **Latino 4th grade reading**

Kent County Data Snap Shot

Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP)

- 5% overall MEAP reading score drop from 3rd (2009) to 4th grade (2010)
 - 14% drop by African American children
 - 15% drop by limited English proficient children

Attendance in Kent County

- % kids who did not meet 3rd grade reading proficiency
 - 24.3% with chronic absenteeism (missed 10-17 school days)
 - 8.5% with satisfactory absenteeism



Summer Learning in Kent County

- 31% of all kids at all grade levels **improved substantially in reading and math**



Grand C.I.T.Y. Sports/ Eric Tank Photography

Early Readiness in Kent County

- 69% of children in enrichment/center-based preschool were more proficient in reading
- 1,200+ children enter kindergarten with less than age appropriate oral language skills



Grandville Avenue Arts and Humanities/
Eric Tank Photography

Kent County Action Plan

- Awareness campaign
- Increased coordination
- Targeted focus, aligning with goals already in place and creating where necessary
- Data collection and distribution
- Advocacy

Successes and Challenges

Successes

- Connecting/sharing nationally
- Stronger awareness of the issue

Challenges

- Tracking and aligning data
- Advocacy work

Thank you. Questions?

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