

The Great Start System

The Great Start Parent Coalition is just one component of the Great Start System in Oakland County. We also have the Great Start Collaborative, comprised of community leaders, charitable and faith based organizations, health and human service agencies, educators and parents.



These individuals are actively involved in assuring a coordinated system of community resources and supports to help all Oakland County families provide a Great Start for their children from birth to age five.

The Great Start Collaborative was established through a grant from the Early Childhood Investment Corporation in 2006 and is part of a statewide system of communities working to ensure a bright future for all Michigan children.

For more information about the Collaborative or the Early Childhood Investment Corporation please visit:
www.greatstartforkids-oakland.org

These materials were developed under a grant awarded to Oakland Schools by the Early Childhood Investment Corporation.

Make a difference - Get involved!

Tell us about your experiences as a parent in Oakland County.

Visit our website:
www.greatstartforkids-oakland.org
to complete our survey.

Your experiences and comments will help us better understand the needs and desires of parents and families in the community.



For more information about the Parent Coalition and how you can become involved in ensuring that every Oakland County child gets a Great Start in life, please contact:

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Great Start Parent Coalition



A partner of the
Early Childhood Investment Corporation



Parents working together
to ensure a
Great Start for
Oakland County's children!

What is a parent coalition?



The Great Start Parent Coalition is a group of dedicated parents who:

- ★ **Assist in building support and awareness** about the importance of early childhood development through advocacy and education activities locally and at the state level
- ★ **Strengthen the civic and volunteer engagement** of parents in the community on behalf of young children
- ★ **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
- ★ **Support the work** of the Great Start Collaborative
- ★ **Serve as a referent and constituency group** for parent members of the Great Start Collaborative, giving them a means to better understand the needs and desires of parents in the community

www.greatstartforkids-oakland.org

What's in it for you?

Parents who choose to give their time and share the vision of the parent coalition are given opportunities to expand their **leadership** and **advocacy skills** through professional development and peer to peer **learning experiences**.

Parents also have the opportunity to build a **social network** with other parents of young children throughout Oakland County. It's simply a great way to work with other parents to make Oakland County a better place for all our children.

Parent Members **meet monthly** to plan and coordinate activities to support the work of the parent coalition.

Dinner and on-site child care are available **FREE** of charge. RSVP required.

We'd love to have you join us!

2010 Parent Coalition Meetings

Location: Oakland Family Services
114 Orchard Lake Road, Pontiac, MI 48341

Time: 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Tuesday, January 19

Wednesday, February 10

Thursday, March 18

Wednesday, April 21

Tuesday, June 1

Wednesday, September 8



You decide...

The Parent Coalition is made up of parents just like you.

We know you're busy; that's why a "one size fits all" approach will not work when it comes to participation.

Our parents have found many ways to become involved in making Oakland County better for their children.

Here are a few ways parents can stay connected:

- ★ **Electronic Members** - parents who stay in touch with what's going on through email
- ★ **Supportive Members** - parents who attend events and activities and actively flow information to and from their community circles but can't commit to attending meetings
- ★ **Participating Members** - parents and community members who attend meetings regularly, volunteer at parent coalition and Great Start Collaborative events and activities and actively flow information to and from their community circles
- ★ **GSC Parent Representatives** - parents who actively serve on both the Parent Coalition and the Great Start Collaborative

