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**May 3<sup>rd</sup>**



**BUILDING TOMORROW, TODAY**  
 Port Huron Schools

## Early Childhood Education

Port Huron Area School District has operated its early childhood programs in a neighborhood school model. The focus has been on available space more than on the district's goals for early childhood education. Consolidation of programs into an early childhood facility would have the following advantages:

**EARLY INTERVENTION** With a state-wide focus on early intervention education, a new Early Childhood Center would put the district in a position to provide additional support to students early in their education. Currently, many of our students are behind when they start school. This focus would allow students early opportunities to grow and be ready to enter kindergarten.

**FOCUS ON 0-5 YR. OLDS** The facility would be designed for our youngest learners; it would house a gross motor area, with furniture, finishes and spaces geared to 0-5 year olds.



90%  
 of brain  
 development  
 occurs by  
 AGE 5

**CONSOLIDATION SUPPORTS COLLABORATION** Placing our early childhood educators in one building would allow for collaboration between professionals. Staff would have the opportunity to plan together, review data and address interventions in a structured and systematic manner. Professional development opportunities would be strategically developed to support this population and the curriculum.

**STRENGTH IN PROGRAMMING** With a single facility instead of fragmented programs across our district, our early childhood specialists can address the goals of increasing proficiency, accurate dissemination of information and consistency in program design and expectations. With a consolidated building, we would be able to place trained interventionists in early childhood development into one building. They would be focused on the areas of speech and language, social work, occupational therapy and physical therapy. Students would be assessed regularly and could access services earlier and in an informal manner.

**FREES UP MUCH NEEDED SPACE IN ELEMENTARY BUILDINGS** By moving the GSRP (Great Start Readiness Program), ECSE (Early Childhood Special Education) and Infant and Toddler Programs from elementary buildings, we increase designated space within those buildings for kindergarten, art, music, and collaborative learning environments.

**INCREASED EFFICIENCY** The consolidation of programs into one facility allows the district to maximize services by reducing their duplication. In addition, we would also be able to evaluate programs and services based on need, thus maintaining fiscal responsibility. This would include food services, licensing, maintenance and transportation, which are provided to many of these programs already.

**PARENT OUTREACH** The facility would allow us to provide educational programs for parents and engage our community partners in supporting them with resources.



**For More Information**

an entire life can get a head start in the first five years  
 .....so let's.....  
**MAKE EVERY SECOND COUNT**

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