

Special Education Center Programs

2021-2022 Impact Report



**Special Education
Center Programs
Kent ISD**



A Message from Center Program Leadership

Kent ISD Center Programs is excited to share this inaugural Impact Report covering the 2021-22 school year. Our programs serve students across Kent ISD's member districts who have complex needs that require highly specialized services every day. We are privileged to witness and take part in the success our students achieve in the face of unique challenges.

We hope this report demonstrates just a small piece of the positive impact that our programs have on our students, their families, and the communities we serve and partner with. Inside, you will find both quantitative data and testimonials that speak to student skill attainment, family and staff satisfaction with our programs, and students' exit outcomes.

Most importantly, we are using the information presented within to improve the student experience and overall quality of our programs. As we begin publishing this report on an annual basis we hope to showcase our strengths as well as areas for improvement. We are also in the process of implementing more data-driven measures of student achievement that will appear in future reports.

Ultimately, we hope to be more accountable to our stakeholders and make decisions based on the needs of our students and community. With that in mind, if you have questions or concerns about the contents of this report, please don't hesitate to contact us by phone at 616.363.8102 or email at PaulDymowski@kentisd.org.

Sincerely,

Paul Dymowski
Director of Kent ISD Center Programs

Debra Burkhardt, DHH Oral Deaf
Ann Thompson, DHH Total Communication
Lisa Merritt, KEC Oakleigh
Kevin Zaschak, KEC Beltline
Todd Jones, Pine Grove Learning Center
Keith Hutchins, Lincoln School

Dorothy Meier, Lincoln School
Steve Kadau, Lincoln Developmental Center
John Kleff, Empower U
Nic Bond, Empower U
Bill Behrendt, Empower U

About Center Programs

Kent ISD Center Programs provide specialized services to meet the needs of students with an Individual Education Program (IEP) who have complex needs. There are nine Center Programs for students from birth through age 26, who reside within the boundaries of Kent ISD's districts. Placement in programs is determined through the IEP process when the IEP team determines highly specialized services are needed to meet a student's needs.

Kent ISD assumed operation of Center Programs in 2019. Total Communication joined Center Programs in fall of 2020, and Region 1 Transition Services (R1TS) joined in 2022 combining with our existing transition program and becoming Empower U.

Vision: Kent ISD Center Programs will empower and equip students with the strategies and skills needed to maximize their participation and independence and to ensure equitable access in school, community, career, and life.



Center Program Locations

KentISD.org/CenterProgramsMap

About the Impact Report

This report for the 2021-22 school year contains data from our programs that serve students from kindergarten through age 26. Early childhood programs administered by Center Programs are not included in this report. Some metrics are consistent across programs, such as our staff and family survey data. The specialized nature of each program and the range of individual student needs means that metrics and outcomes for student learning vary by program.

Each program reports the following data where available:

- **Exit outcomes:** Exit outcomes vary by program based on age and student need but may include re-entering school in their home district, pursuing employment, earning a diploma or connecting with a community agency.
- **Core Skills Achievement:** Each program focuses on several core skills to prepare learners for their next step. Achievement may be reported by the proportion of students who are able to demonstrate core skills or have shown improvement over the school year. Several programs are developing metrics for the 2022-23 school year and do not yet have data to report.
- **Family and Staff Survey Data:** Items from 2022's staff and family surveys regarding perceived quality of student learning, community agency partnerships and school safety provide a snapshot of how some of our key stakeholders see our strengths and areas for improvement.



Deaf & Hard of Hearing Oral Deaf Program

KentISD.org/DHHOralDeaf
4300 Costa NE
Grand Rapids, MI 49525
616.365.6170

The Oral Deaf program serves students from birth through grade 12 who are deaf or hard of hearing (DHH). Students learn the speech, listening and literacy skills to communicate independently, whether at home, in school or in social settings. Audiological services are also provided so that students have the resources or devices they need to best access sound, setting them up for greater success.

MISSION



The Oral Deaf Program provides specialized instruction, in order to develop skills in listening and spoken language, so that every student may fully participate in academic and social opportunities within their school and community.



CORE SKILLS



**LISTENING & SPOKEN
LANGUAGE**



LITERACY



SELF-ADVOCACY



SPEECH

Core Skills Achievement

New measures are being implemented in the 2022-23 school year to gather data on core skills achievement and progress. This data will be shared in future reports.



OUR STUDENTS

22 STUDENTS
BIRTH-5 YEARS

95 STUDENTS
K-12

OUR PARENTS SAY



My child is learning the necessary skills to reach their highest potential.



My child is safe at school.

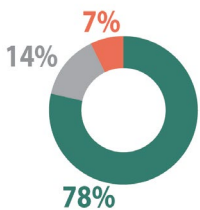


My child's school has strong partnerships with community agencies.

■ Agree ■ Disagree ■ Neutral

Results from Center Programs Family Survey,
5 Respondents

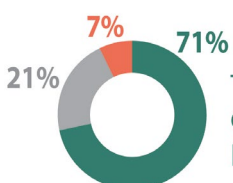
OUR STAFF SAY



Students are learning what they need to be successful and curriculum has established learning targets.



The school environment is safe for students.



There are strong community/agency partnerships.

■ Agree ■ Disagree ■ Neutral

Results from Center Programs Staff Survey,
14 Respondents

STUDENT SUCCESS

7
STUDENTS EXITED
THE PROGRAM

6/7 STUDENTS EARNED A DIPLOMA

4/7 STUDENTS ENROLLED IN POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION

2/7 STUDENTS GAINED INDEPENDENT EMPLOYMENT

7
STUDENTS TRANSITIONED
BACK TO LOCAL/REGIONAL
PROGRAMS

7
STUDENTS EXITED
SPECIAL EDUCATION



"I feel that the Oral Deaf Program creates a sense of community where you do not feel alone. Being deaf or hard of hearing is a low incidence for children. Most of the time the first deaf person you meet as a parent is your own child. Creating an environment where parents can be connected is really important and has been very helpful throughout this journey."

- Amanda Schneider, Jacob's Mom

Deaf & Hard of Hearing Total Communication

KentISD.org/DHHTotalCommunication
5461 Hunsberger Ave NE
Grand Rapids, MI 49525
616.361.3446

CORE SKILLS



COMMUNICATION

ASL, Spoken English or both



ACADEMICS



SELF-ADVOCACY



SELF IDENTITY

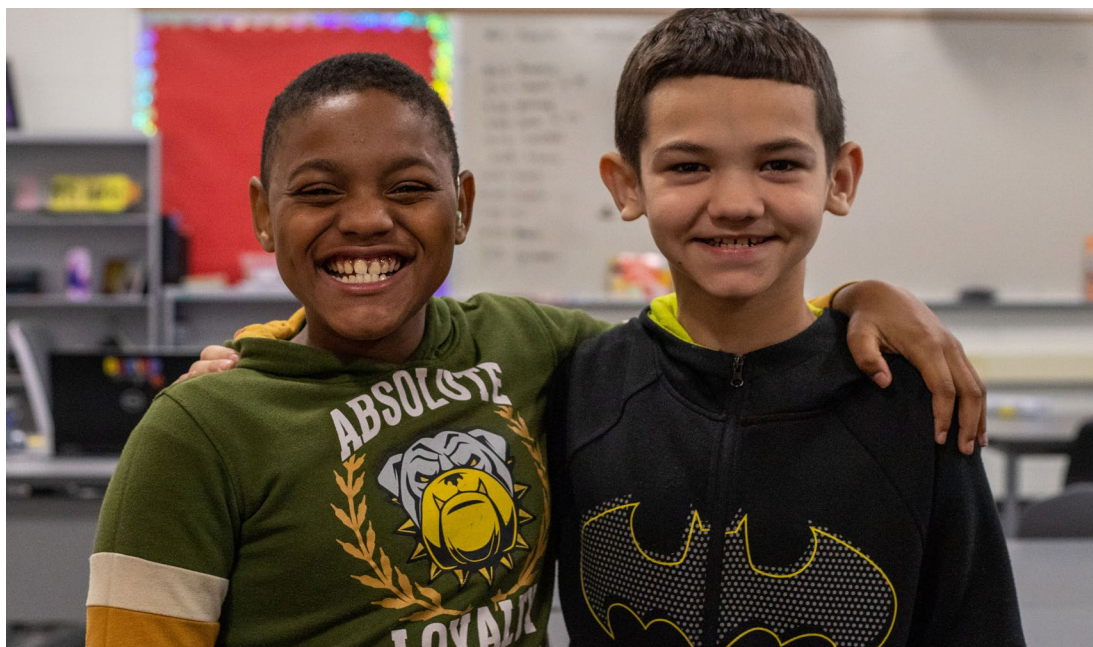
Connection with deaf culture;
Pride in oneself

The Total Communication Program serves students from birth through grade 12 who are deaf or hard of hearing (DHH). Staff here tailor their teaching to the unique abilities and needs of each student. To set students up for academic success, they may practice skills including American Sign Language (ASL), spoken English and other forms of nonverbal communication.

MISSION



The Total Communication Program provides access and instruction in American Sign Language, spoken English, or a combination of both to ensure that every deaf and hard of hearing student develops a full language and can gain meaningful education.



Core Skills Achievement

New measures are being implemented in the 2022-23 school year to gather data on core skills achievement and progress. This data will be shared in future reports.



"My son is in the middle school DHH program for the first time and the reason this year has been his most successful year at school is because of his teacher. She is the best teacher who not only advocates for him and makes sure he is getting the support he needs, but listens to the parents and encourages their input. I hope the rest of his time in the DHH program is as awesome as this last year has been."

- Parent, Survey Response

STUDENT SUCCESS

9
STUDENTS EXITED
THE PROGRAM

3/9 STUDENTS EARNED A DIPLOMA

5/9 STUDENTS ENROLLED IN POST-
SECONDARY EDUCATION

1/9 STUDENTS GAINED
INDEPENDENT EMPLOYMENT

3
STUDENTS TRANSITIONED
BACK TO LOCAL/REGIONAL
PROGRAMS

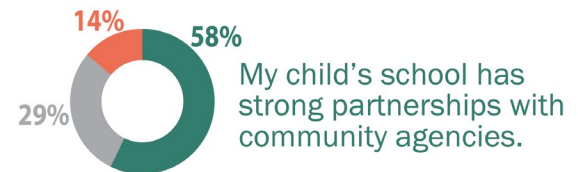
1
STUDENT EXITED SPECIAL
EDUCATION

OUR STUDENTS

18 STUDENTS
BIRTH-5 YEARS

54 STUDENTS
K-12

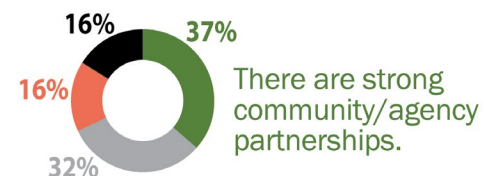
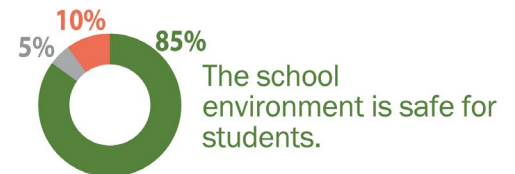
OUR PARENTS SAY



Agree **Disagree** **Neutral**

Results from Center Programs Family Survey,
7 Respondents

OUR STAFF SAY



Agree **Disagree** **Neutral** **Unsure**

Results from Center Programs Staff Survey,
19 Respondents



Empower U

KentISD.org/EmpowerU

Mayfield Building (Main)
225 Mayfield Ave NE
Grand Rapids, MI 49503
616.410.4860

Straight School
850 Chatham St. NW
Grand Rapids, MI 49504
616.410.4420

Empower U serves young adults ages 18-26 with a range of needs and prepares them for independent living, employment, and participation in their community. Thanks to many local partnerships, Empower U students have opportunities to practice the skills they learn and gain experience at real job sites throughout the area. Students are encouraged to advocate for themselves, plus they gain connections with community organizations which empower them to be as independent as possible.

MISSION



Empower U, in partnership with our community, provides specialized instruction and opportunities specific to employment and independent living skills necessary for young adults to live a purposeful and productive life.



"This program helped me achieve my goals. In three years I'm going to get my own duplex and it helped me with being a patient young gentleman. These teachers and everybody that I worked with are phenomenal. It's like having a third or second family. It's a wonderful place to be."

- Student Corey Jones

CORE SKILLS

Metrics below report the percentage of students who could practice, use, or demonstrate the following skills by the end of the 21-22 school year.



ADULT LIVING SKILLS
75%



COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION
80%



EMPLOYABILITY
77%

OUR STUDENTS

217 YOUNG ADULTS
AGE 18-26

STUDENT SUCCESS

40 STUDENTS EXITED
THE PROGRAM

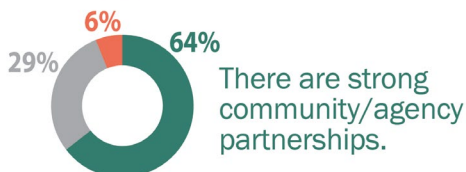
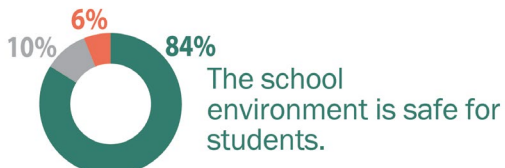
OUR PARENTS SAY



■ Agree ■ Disagree ■ Neutral

Results from Center Programs Family Survey,
41 Respondents

OUR STAFF SAY



■ Agree ■ Disagree ■ Neutral ■ Unsure

Results from Center Programs Staff Survey,
31 Respondents

70%
EMPLOYED OR ENGAGED
IN VOLUNTEER/
COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES
POST-EXIT

16 INDEPENDENT EMPLOYMENT
1 SUPPORTED EMPLOYMENT
11 VOLUNTEER/COMMUNITY
INVOLVEMENT
12 EMPLOYMENT UNDECIDED/
UNDETERMINED

85%
CONNECTED TO AN
AGENCY POST-EXIT

24 CONNECTED AND ACTIVELY
ENGAGED
10 CONNECTED BUT NOT ACTIVE
6 NOT CONNECTED



"She is learning how to do life skills, and just how to interact with her peers. And as her dad I've learned Maggie's an adult here."

- Jim Maring

KEC Beltline

KentISD.org/KECBeltline
1606 Leffingwell NE
Grand Rapids, MI 49525
616.410.4760

CORE SKILLS



SOCIAL/EMOTIONAL

- Coping Skills
- Self-Awareness
- Self-Management
- Social Awareness
- Relationship Skills
- Responsible Decision-Making



ACADEMIC COMPETENCY



EMPLOYABILITY



INDEPENDENT LIVING

KEC Beltline serves students in 9th grade through age 26 who have significant emotional impairments and persistent behavioral concerns. Along with academics, students learn coping, self-management, and other behavioral skills, as well as employability and independent living skills. All of these help students earn either a Certificate of Completion or high school diploma, and prepare them for adulthood and the world of work.

MISSION



KEC Beltline provides specialized instruction and services to students in order to educate and develop social-emotional and behavioral skills necessary to increase inclusion within their neighborhood schools and in the community.



Core Skills Achievement



New measures are being implemented in the 2022-23 school year to gather data on core skills achievement and progress. This data will be shared in future reports.

STUDENT SUCCESS

4

STUDENTS EXITED
THE PROGRAM

2/4

STUDENTS EXITED WITH
INDEPENDENT EMPLOYMENT

4/4

STUDENTS EXITED WITH
LOCAL AGENCY CONNECTION

OUR STUDENTS

54

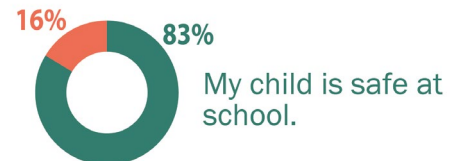
STUDENTS
GRADE 9-12

20

YOUNG ADULTS
AGE 18-26



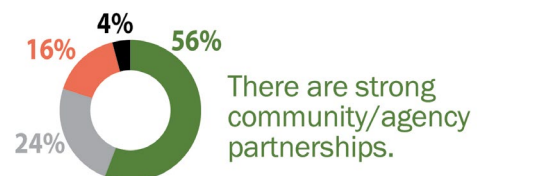
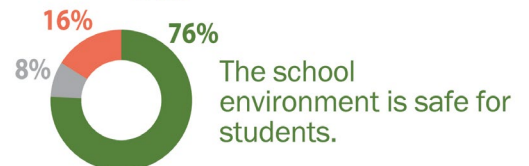
OUR PARENTS SAY



Agree Disagree Neutral

Results from Center Programs Family Survey,
12 Respondents

OUR STAFF SAY



Agree Disagree Neutral Unsure

Results from Center Programs Staff Survey,
25 Respondents

"The whole staff at KEC Beltline is great, dedicated, caring people. It's so lucky for my son to be in this school."

- Parent, Survey Response

KEC Oakleigh

KentISD.org/KECOakleigh
2223 Gordon NW
Grand Rapids, MI 49504
616.410.4670

KEC Oakleigh serves students in kindergarten through 8th grade who have significant emotional impairments and persistent behavioral concerns. Our expert staff ensure students continue academic learning while gaining coping skills, social awareness, and other behavior skills, all with the goal of helping students return to their local school.

MISSION



KEC Oakleigh provides specialized instruction and services to students in order to educate and develop social-emotional and behavioral skills necessary to increase inclusion within their neighborhood schools and in the community.



CORE SKILLS



SOCIAL/EMOTIONAL

- Coping Skills
- Self-Awareness
- Self-Management
- Social Awareness
- Relationship Skills
- Responsible Decision-Making



ACADEMIC COMPETENCY

Core Skills Achievement

New measures are being implemented in the 2022-23 school year to gather data on core skills achievement and progress. This data will be shared in future reports.



"I am extremely satisfied with KEC Oakleigh. The entire staff is excellent...As a parent, I am thankful that our child has a place like KEC Oakleigh. I do not take it for granted."

- Parent, Survey Response

OUR STUDENTS

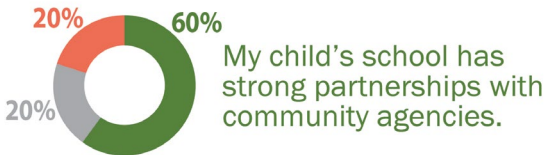
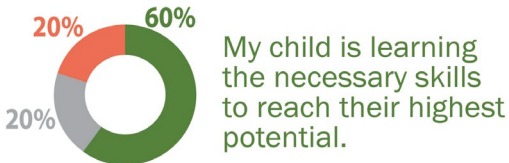
45 STUDENTS
K-8

STUDENT SUCCESS

8

STUDENTS TRANSITIONED
BACK TO LOCAL/REGIONAL
PROGRAM

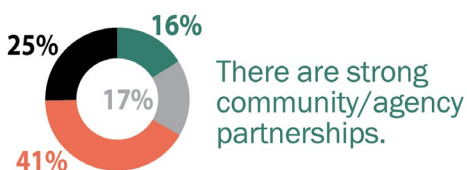
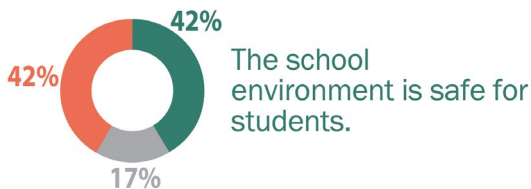
OUR PARENTS SAY



■ Agree ■ Disagree ■ Neutral

Results from Center Programs Family Survey,
5 Respondents

OUR STAFF SAY



■ Agree ■ Disagree ■ Neutral ■ Unsure

Results from Center Programs Staff Survey,
12 Respondents



"We feel very blessed to have our child in such a loving, supportive environment. The staff is welcoming, supportive, and goes above and beyond when helping students reach their full potential."

- Parent, Survey Response

2021-22 IMPACT REPORT

Pine Grove Learning Center
Lincoln Developmental Center
Lincoln School
Kent ISD



Lincoln Pines

Lincoln School
kentisd.org/LincolnSchool
860 Crahen Road NE
Grand Rapids, MI 49525
616.410.4700

Lincoln Developmental Center
kentisd.org/LincolnDevelopmentalCenter
862 Crahen Road NE
Grand Rapids, MI 49525
616.410.4800

Pine Grove Learning Center
kentisd.org/PineGrove
2101 52nd Street
Wyoming, MI 49519
616-410-4900

CORE SKILLS

Metrics below report percentage of students who improved in one or more domains associated with the core skill



COMMUNICATION
84%



FUNCTIONAL ACADEMICS
82%



ADAPTIVE BEHAVIOR
95%



MOBILITY
69%



ADULT LIVING SKILLS
90%

Collectively called “Lincoln Pines,” Lincoln School, Lincoln Developmental Center and Pine Grove Learning Center serve students with severe multiple impairments, cognitive impairments and autism spectrum disorder in kindergarten through age 26. Students from the southwestern area of Kent ISD attend Pine Grove, and those in the north, central and east attend Lincoln Campus. In each school, students receive support and services to meet their individual needs in academics, mobility and more.

MISSION



We educate students with complex needs by providing specialized instruction specific to the communication, academic, adaptive behavior, mobility, and adult living skills required to develop independence.



“Since starting here, Lucas has continued to get stronger. He is moving a lot more with a lot less support. The biggest thing is his communication. We were seeing some behaviors when he wasn’t able to express himself. When we were first starting it was a lot of yes or no questions. Now, he says, ‘I love you.’ He wishes people happy birthday. Him being more independent, learning a lot of those functional skills and also the communication has been huge, not just for Lucas, but for our family.”

- Jamie, Lucas’ Mom (Lincoln Developmental Center)

STUDENT SUCCESS

17
STUDENTS EXITED
THE PROGRAM

12/17 STUDENTS WITH AGENCY
CONNECTIONS

70.6%

STUDENTS CONNECTED TO
AN AGENCY UPON EXITING
THE PROGRAM

OUR STUDENTS

181 K-12 STUDENTS

86 STUDENTS
WITH AUTISM

148 YOUNG ADULTS
AGE 18-26

77 STUDENTS WITH
COGNITIVE
IMPAIRMENT (CI)

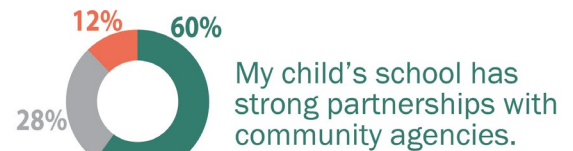
165 STUDENTS WITH
SEVERE MULTIPLE
IMPAIRMENTS (SXI)



"The staff here is amazing. They treat all the children as their own. They treat the families as their own. They go above and beyond for any child. They take care of them. I recommend this school to any child. They would thrive with these teachers."

- Amy Dehn, Gabe's Mom (Pine Grove)

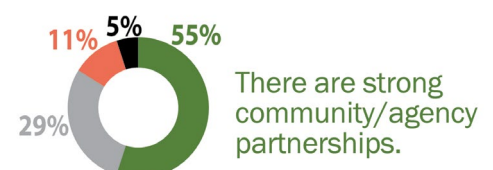
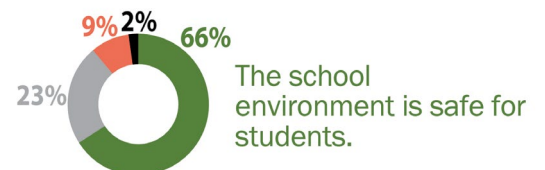
OUR PARENTS SAY



Agree Disagree Neutral

Results from Center Programs Family Survey,
76 Respondents

OUR STAFF SAY



Agree Disagree Neutral Unsure

Results from Center Programs Staff Survey,
56 Respondents

**Special Education
Center Programs
Kent ISD**



2930 Knapp St NE
Grand Rapids, MI 49525
616.364.1333

KentISD.org/CenterPrograms