



## **For Immediate Release**

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### **Ingham Great Parents, Great Start Receives National Recognition as a Blue Ribbon Affiliate**

Ingham Great Parents, Great Start (GPGS) has received a prestigious endorsement from the Parents as Teachers National Center, Inc. (PATNC) as a Blue Ribbon Affiliate, making it one of the top-performing home visiting affiliates within the PATNC's international network. The official designation was made on October 1, 2019.

Being named a Blue Ribbon Affiliate affirms that Ingham GPGS is a high-quality member of the home visiting field, implementing the evidence-based Parents as Teachers model with fidelity. Families in the Ingham County community are positively impacted by the services delivered by this program such as:

- Home visits focused on age-appropriate learning activities, child development and family support, with a current focus primarily on age three
- Developmental screenings for all children birth to kindergarten entry
- Developmental learning activities, through Ingham Play & Learn Groups, for families with children birth to kindergarten entry
- Connections to community resources, early childhood programs and services

Because of the availability of these services, expected outcomes include: improve school readiness for all young children, foster maintenance of stable families, reduce enrollment in special education and decrease the retention of pupils in grade three.

“Achieving the Blue Ribbon Affiliate status after going through the rigorous six-month long Self-Study and Quality Endorsement process affirms that Great Parents, Great Start is among the highest quality members of home visitation and parent education field, using the Parents as Teachers model,” states Michelle Nicholson, Executive Director of Early Childhood Services for Ingham ISD. “Only six other programs in the state of Michigan have achieved this status this year,” Nicholson also noted.

Ingham Intermediate School District (Ingham ISD) supports twelve local school districts and ten public school academies in its service area which reaches into seven counties in mid-Michigan. Local public school districts include: Dansville, East Lansing, Haslett, Holt, Lansing, Leslie, Mason, Okemos, Stockbridge, Waverly, Webberville and Williamston. For more information, visit [Ingham ISD](http://www.inghamisd.org) ([www.inghamisd.org](http://www.inghamisd.org)).



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