

21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers  
BHK Great Explorations (GE) Local Evaluation Report  
2024-2025 Program Year  
Baraga and L'Anse Elementary Programs

Program Overview

The 21st CCLC program provides high-quality out-of-school time learning opportunities designed to support academic achievement, youth development, and family engagement. Operating four days per week for a total of 570 program hours between July 1, 2024, and June 30, 2025, the program served 157 students in grades K-5.

Students engaged in a wide variety of fun, hands-on enrichment activities including:

- STEAM clubs
- Health and wellness
- Academic enrichment in reading and mathematics
- Youth leadership
- Crafting
- Family Engagement Events

Program Evaluation

A local evaluation of the BHK Great Explorations program was conducted with program staff at the end of the program year. Local Evaluator discussed program successes and challenges, reviewed data reports (Leading Indicators Report, Data Tables, and Program Quality Assessments (PQA)), and engaged in systemic problem solving to make lasting quality program improvements.

Program Assessments

A review of SEL PQA data conducted during the fall of 2024 found that both programs produced mostly positive observations. Some items that received low numbers might be due to when the PQA observation occurred or the longevity of staff at each site. This year, one of the sites had a brand new staff team so it was anticipated that scores would reflect this.

Among the four domains “safe space” received the highest mean summary scores. According to the “Pyramid of Program Quality,” a safe environment establishes the foundation from which all other domains rest. Safe space received a mean score of 4.00 for the two sites combined, “supportive environment” 3.70, “interactive environment” 3.45,

and “engaging environment” 2.88. Scores for each item are given a 1, 3, or 5 and averaged over each domain.

Based on program scores, individual site professional development is recommended to provide the necessary skills for continuous improvement and increased PQA scores.

#### Leading Indicators (2023-2024 Data)

For many years, BHK has had more GE sites. This allowed for a useful comparative analysis between sites and statewide results. With only two sites, data must be more carefully interpreted. For example, 14 out of 26 youths in grades 4 and 5 completed surveys. Only 4 surveys were completed at the Baraga site, resulting in not enough data to provide results (at least 5 student surveys must be completed for data to be compiled). With small samples, small score variances can skew the results. This does not invalidate results but does raise the flag of caution in interpreting results. Secondly, surveys are a point in time and do not reflect the totality of the school year. Surveys were completed by 4 of 12 Baraga 4-5<sup>th</sup> graders and 11 of 17 at L’Anse. All staff at both sites submitted surveys.

A detailed analysis of the leading indicators provides valuable data on how the sites compare to state averages. There are some areas where the GE sites achieved averages higher than the state such as enrollment and continuous participation, academic content, enrichment content, and school connection. There are other areas where BHK GE is below state averages such as providing enrichment activities in the focus area of youth development and staff reporting the importance of improving the social and emotional development of youth vs increasing academic achievement of youth. The results provide valuable input on how to improve and restructure the staff focus of the program.

The local evaluator will continue to consult with BHK GE staff about leading indicators with the focus on items that received “low” or “very low” ratings. Effective ways to increase these ratings will be explored.

#### Conclusion

BHK GE continues to be a high-quality program serving children and families in the most northern-western counties of the Upper Peninsula. The local evaluator has analyzed PQA and Leading Indicator data and discussed findings with the GE Project Director. The local evaluator will continue working with GE to enhance program quality and efficiency.