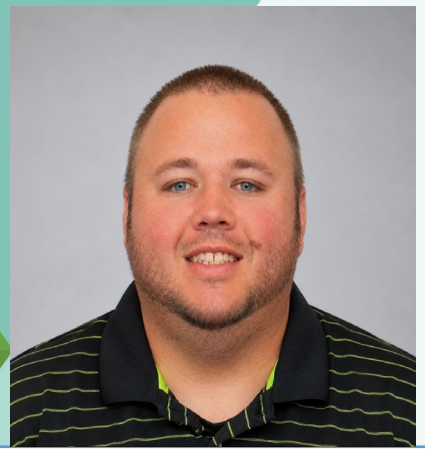
Leading Learning Award
November 2026

Tyler Sikkenga, Maddi Strodtbeck & Jill Turnquist Benefits Team, Business Office







The Kent ISD benefits team works hard each year to communicate with and support our employees as they make their annual benefits elections. The comprehensive support they provide is both significant and time-intensive.

This year, in preparation for the 2027 plan year, on top of the many ways they already made themselves available to staff, Maddi, Jill, and Tyler decided to take their efforts to the "next level." Over a series of weeks leading up to Open Enrollment, they designed and launched a game/trivia-like educational series that made important terms and information easier to understand in a fun format. The goal was to increase employees' overall knowledge and understanding of their benefit plan options, insurance vocabulary, and how to consider factors that best align with their personal circumstances when electing coverage.

Understanding that benefits are an important part of an employee's compensation package, Kent ISD strives to provide a range of plans that offer choices to our staff. By creatively adding this new layer of fun, engaging learning challenges, many staff who might not have ordinarily engaged in learning more about their options can do so in a fun, accessible way. Nobody asked them to do this, but they saw a need and ran with it.

We applaud their efforts and creativity, and appreciate their genuine care for our Kent ISD staff.