



stablished in 1985, the Michigan School Readiness Program (MSRP) was developed to ensure preschool education for at-risk 4-year-olds, and is associated with the state's early childhood initiative, Project Great Start. MSRP is now called the Great Start Readiness Program (GSRP). The program has moved from half-day programs toward school-day programs to better suit the needs of families. Public school districts receive direct financial support, but they may distribute funds to local providers in other settings to offer GSRP. Other preschool providers, such as social service and mental health agencies, private child care centers, and Head Start agencies, may apply for competitive preschool education funds. The level of need in each district and a school funding formula determine overall district funding. The state-level competitive process for Community-based Organizations (CBO)s was removed and made a responsibility of the Intermediate School Districts (ISDs). At least 30 percent of total slots by ISDs must go to CBOs. All GSRP providers must attain a 3 star or higher rating in Michigan's Great Start to Quality (tiered rating system). Prior legislative language to transfer GSRP to an Early Childhood Block Grant was removed as well as a legislative option for GSRP funding to fund parent education programs.

In previous years, 70 percent of families in the program have had to be at or below 300 percent FPL. Starting in 2013-2014, 90 percent of families must be at or below 300 percent FPL. Any family over income for the remaining 10 percent must pay a fee on a locally determined sliding scale. A new legislated prioritization process was put in place for ranking each family's household income into quartiles.

The 2013-2014 year also the first in a three-year transition to roll back the age-eligibility date for GSRP, aligning it with a change in the kindergarten entry date. For 2013-2014 GSRP eligibility, a child had to be at least 4, but less than 5, years old by November 1. However, there was also an exception provision allowing (by parent request) any child with a birthday through December 1 to have early entry into kindergarten. Any GSRP child who did not go to kindergarten was allowed to attend GSRP for a second year. The eligibility date moved to October 1 for the 2014-2015 school year, with an exception again allowed through December 1.

In FY 2013-2014, Michigan invested an additional \$65M in GSRP, increasing the half-day slot funding by \$225. In FY 2014-2015, Michigan again invested another \$65M in GSRP though per-child funding was kept level. A \$10 million special transportation fund for GSRP has been set aside. In both budget increases, 2 percent of funding has been specifically earmarked for recruiting and increasing public awareness of GSRP. Cross-ISD boundary enrollment has always been permitted via GSRP policy, but this will be legislatively allowed beginning in the 2014-2015 school year.

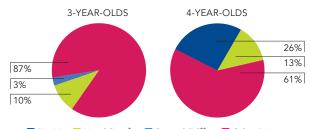


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## MICHIGAN GREAT START READINESS PROGRAM

Total state program enrollment	30,5521
School districts that offer state program	61%
Income requirement	250% FPL
Hours of operation	ay, 4 days/week
Operating schedule	.30 weeks/year
Special education enrollment, ages 3 and 4	11,671
Federally funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4 $$ .	27,344
State-funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4	0

## STATE PRE-K AND HEAD START ENROLLMENT AS PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL POPULATION



■ Pre-K Head Start<sup>†</sup> Special Ed<sup>††</sup> Other/None

 $^\dagger$  Some Head Start children may also be counted in state pre-K.  $^{\dagger\dagger}$  Estimates children in special education not also enrolled in state pre-K or Head Start.

## QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

Teacher degree Teacher specialized training	STATE PRE-K REQUIREMENT 	ВА	 QUIREMENT NCHMARK?
Assistant teacher degree Teacher in-service Maximum class size 3-year-olds		At least 15 hours/year	TOTAL BENCHMARKS MET
3-year-olds	NA 	1:10 or better	
	Vision, hearing, health, developmental; and support services <sup>6</sup>		
	Depends on length of program day <sup>7</sup> Site visits and other monitoring <sup>8</sup>		

## RESOURCES

4,275,000
Yes <sup>9</sup>
\$5,704
\$5,704

\* Pre-K programs may receive additional funds from federal or local sources that are not included in this figure.

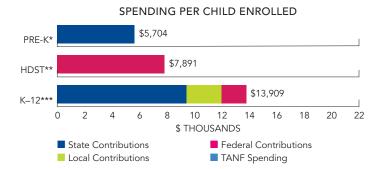
\*\* Head Start per-child spending for the 2013-2014 year includes funding only for 3- and 4-year-olds served. Past years figured have unintentionally included funds for Early Head Start.

\*\*\* K-12 expenditures include capital spending as well as current operating expenditures. Data are for the '13-'14 school year, unless otherwise noted.

<sup>1</sup> Children served in the full-day programs using two half-day slots are only counted once in the enrollment; an additional 42 children were also served in a home-based option but are not included in the enrollment count.

<sup>2</sup> Teachers whose training is incomplete may be considered "out of compliance," but must be enrolled in a training program and reach compliance within four years.

- <sup>3</sup> An associate degree in early childhood education/child development or equivalent training approved by the State Board of Education is also permissible. If a suitable candidate cannot be hired, an assistant teacher may start "out of compliance," but must have completed one course in child development and have a plan to complete the requirements within two years.
- All classroom staff must complete 12 clock hours per year plus current CPR, first aid, and blood-borne pathogen training to keep required child care licenses current. This generally adds up to more than 15 hours per year. Lead teachers who are certified teachers in public school settings must complete six credit hours or an equivalent number of State Board CEUs every five years to keep their teaching certification current. New lead teachers who are in nonpublic school settings may not have certificate the first time. Lead teachers who are in nonpublic school settings may not have certification and therefore may not need additional hours or equivalent time.
- <sup>5</sup> A qualified teacher and associate teacher must be present in classes of 9-16 children. If more than 16 children are in a class, a third adult must be present.



<sup>6</sup> Programs must assure that children have health screenings, including vision and hearing, but they do not have to provide the screening. Screenings are often provided in the program by the local health department. Programs are required to make referrals; behavioral and dental screenings and referrals are determined locally. Support services include parent conferences or home visits, parent involvement activities, health services for children, information about nutrition, referral to social services, and transition to kindergarten activities.

- <sup>7</sup> Part-day programs must provide at least a snack, and school-day programs must provide one meal and two snacks or two meals and one snack.
- 6 Beginning in the 2013-14 grant year, MDE created a new monitoring tool and 3-4 cycle for the ISDs as GSRP grantees. The ISD is responsible for monitoring its subrecipients for compliance with policies and guidelines for fiscal and programmatic issues, as well as program quality. An MDE auditor, consultant, or combined team will conduct on-site monitoring visits to the ISD. This now meet the NIEER benchmark for site visits.
- <sup>9</sup> GSRP cannot operate solely on the state funding, but the state does not collect local spending data. Grantees must include in-kind space for GSRP, because GSRP does not allow funding to cover the cost of facilities. Data are not collected on the total in-kind funding contribution.