Established 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 part-day programs toward school-day programs to better suit the needs of families.

Intermediate School Districts (ISD) receive direct financial support, but they may distribute funds to local school districts and to providers in community-based settings to offer GSRP. The level of poverty in each ISD and a funding formula determine overall ISD funding. At least 30% of total slots awarded by ISDs must go to community-based organizations (CBOs). These include child-care centers and Head Start.

All GSRP providers must attain a 3-star or higher rating in Michigan’s Great Start to Quality (tiered rating and improvement system). Prior legislative language to allow GSRP to fund parent education programs was removed. In previous years, 75% of families in the program had to be at or below 300% FPL. Starting in 2013-2014, 90% of families had to be at or below 250% FPL. Any family over income for the remaining 10% 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 quintiles. The 2013-2014 year was also the first in a three-year transition to roll back the age-eligibility date, from December 1 to September 1, for GSRP, aligning it with a change in the kindergarten entry date.

In FY 2013-2014, Michigan invested an additional $65M in GSRP, increasing the number of slots available and increasing the per slot funding by $225. In FY 2014-2015, Michigan again invested another $65M in GSRP, though per-slot funding was kept level. Of the total funding allocated for GSRP, a $10 million special transportation fund for GSRP has been set aside. In both budget increases, 2% 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 was legislatively allowed beginning in the 2014-2015 school year, with slot funding following the child.

Michigan does count dual language learners attending preschool, and DLL status is one factor in eligibility for the program. Materials are provided to parents in the family’s home language. Professional development on best practices related to DLL is available to teachers.

For the workforce, there is no state salary parity requirement for teachers. There is paid time required for planning and professional development.

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MICHIGAN GREAT START READINESS PROGRAM

ACCESS

Total state program enrollment .........................................................37,112
School districts that offer state program........................................73% (school districts)
Income requirement .................................................................250% FPL
Hours of operation .................................................................6.5 hours/day, 4 days/week
Operating schedule .................................................................Determined locally
Special education enrollment, ages 3 and 4 ................................11,433
Federally funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4 ..........27,334
State-funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4 .................0

RESOURCES

Total state pre-K spending .........................................................$239,275,000
Local match required?.................................................................Yes
State spending per child enrolled ..............................................$6,447
All reported spending per child enrolled*.................................$6,447

* 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 2014-2015 year includes funding only for 3- and 4-year-olds served. Past years’ figures have unintentionally included funds for Early Head Start.

*** K-12 expenditures include capital spending as well as current operating expenditures. Data are for the ’14-’15 school year, unless otherwise noted.

QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

POLICY                                      STATE PRE-K REQUIREMENT                                      BENCHMARK

Early learning standards .................................................................Comprehensive. Comprehensive
Teacher degree ........................................................................BA BA
Teacher specialized training .............................................................Elementary Teaching Certificate Specializing in pre-K
with EC endorsement; BA in CD with focus on preschool teaching
Assistant teacher degree ....................................................................CDA CDA or equivalent
Teacher in-service ...........................................................16 clock hours/year At least 15 hours/year
Maximum class size ....................................................................20 or lower
3-year-olds ................................................................................NA
4-year-olds ..............................................................................18
Staff-child ratio ........................................................................1:10 or better
3-year-olds ................................................................................NA
4-year-olds ..............................................................................1:8
Screening/referral ...................................................................Vision, hearing, height/weight, blood Vision, hearing, health, and
and support services pressure, immunizations, developmental; full physical exam; and support services
Meals .........................................................................................Depends on length of program day At least 1/day
Monitoring ..................................................................................Site visits and other monitoring Site visits

RESOURCES

Total state pre-K spending .........................................................$239,275,000
Local match required?.................................................................Yes
State spending per child enrolled ..............................................$6,447
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TOTAL BENCHMARKS MET

1 All classroom staff must complete 16 clock hours per year, of which two can be CPR and first aid training, to keep required child care licenses current. 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 must complete even more training to renew the 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.

** Head Start per-child spending for the 2014-2015 year includes funding only for 3- and 4-year-olds served. Past years’ figures have unintentionally included funds for Early Head Start.

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