In 1985, Michigan began offering preschool education programs to at-risk 4-year-olds through the Michigan School Readiness Program (MSRP). At least 50 percent of the children enrolled in MSRP must come from families with an income under 250 percent of the federal poverty level. Children under the income threshold must additionally have at least one of 24 other risk factors for educational disadvantage. Children above the income threshold must have at least two of these risk factors.

Funding for MSRP is based on a school funding formula that calculates the level of need in each district. Public school districts receive funding directly and may subcontract with other local providers. Beginning in 2003-2004, public school districts can also use some MSRP funds for parent involvement and education programs. MSRP awards competitive grants to Head Start agencies, private child care centers, and mental health and social service agencies to provide preschool programs. During the 2006-2007 and 2007-2008 school years, there was an increase in the number of children served in full-day programs, resulting in a decrease in the total number of children that could have been served given the level of funding for MSRP.

The Early Childhood Investment Corporation (ECIC) was recently established by the state to integrate Michigan’s system of early childhood education and related family services. ECIC plans to establish standards and guidelines for early childhood development activities with the goal of promoting a high-quality statewide system. Recent early childhood proposals include increasing funding for MSRP and allocating funds for programs serving children prior to birth through age 3. Increasing MSRP funding would enable the state to tie the pre-K reimbursement rate to that of K–12, ultimately resulting in increases in pre-K funding as K–12 funding increases.
**ACCESS**

Total state program enrollment .................................................. 23,134
School districts that offer state program ........................................ 81%
Income requirement ................................................................. 50% of children must be below 250% FPL
Hours of operation ................................................................. At least 2.5 hours/day (half-day), 6-7 hours/day (full-day), 4 days/week
Operating schedule ................................................................. 30 weeks/year
Special education enrollment .................................................... 13,549
Federally funded Head Start enrollment ....................................... 32,828
State-funded Head Start enrollment ........................................... 0

**QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST**

**POLICY**

Early learning standards ......................................................... Comprehensive
Teacher degree ................................................................. BA, BA
Teacher specialized training ..................................................... EE teaching certificate, Specializing in pre-K
Assistant teacher degree ........................................................ CDA or equivalent
Teacher in-service ............................................................... 6 credit hours per 5 years
Maximum class size ............................................................. 20 or lower
Staff-child ratio ................................................................. 1:10 or better
Screening/referral .............................................................. Vision, hearing, health; Vision, hearing, health; and Support
Meals ................................................................. At least 1/day
Monitoring ................................................................. Other monitoring

**STATE PRE-K REQUIREMENT**

3-year-olds ........................................................................ NA
4-year-olds ........................................................................ 18
3-year-olds ........................................................................ NA
4-year-olds ........................................................................ 1:8

**BENCHMARK**

3-year-olds ........................................................................ NA
4-year-olds ........................................................................ 18

**DOES REQUIREMENT MEET BENCHMARK?**

Yes

**RESOURCES**

Total state pre-K spending ................................................. $97,850,000
Local match required? ............................................................ Yes
State spending per child enrolled ........................................... $4,230
All reported spending per child enrolled* ................................ $4,230

* Pre-K programs may receive additional funds from federal or local sources that are not included in this figure.
** K-12 expenditures include capital spending as well as current operating expenditures.

Data are for the '07-'08 school year, unless otherwise noted.

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1 This is the number of children planned to be served. Some children were served in full-day programs which use two half-day slots. They are only counted once in the enrollment.
2 The income requirement increased to 300 percent FPL beginning with the 2008-2009 school year.
3 The minimum teacher degree requirement in nonpublic settings changed from an AA plus a CDA in 2004-2005 to a BA in 2005-2006. Programs who cannot find a person who meets these requirements are considered “out of compliance.”
4 Assistant teachers are given two years to meet this requirement but must have one course in child development to start working. An associate degree in early childhood education/child development or equivalent training approved by the State Board of Education is also permissible.
5 All classroom staff must have 12 clock hours of in-service professional development per year, not including CPR, first aid, and blood pathogen training. Certified teachers need 6 credit hours of professional development every five years to renew their certificates.
6 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.
7 Programs must assure that children have a health screening, including vision and hearing, and have a medical form on file for each child regarding vision, hearing, and dental screenings. Screenings are often provided by the local health department. Programs are required to make referrals. Support services include four parent conferences or home visits, parent involvement activities, health services for children, referral to social services, and transition to kindergarten activities.
8 Part-day programs must provide at least a snack. They are encouraged to provide breakfast or lunch in lieu of or in addition to a snack, and to extend the day to 3 hours if providing a full meal. School-day programs must provide lunch and two snacks or breakfast, lunch and one snack.
9 The MSDP office protocol includes site visits to programs, but the visits are not written into state policy requirements. State administrators estimate that site visits occur for competitive grantee agencies once during each 3-year funding cycle. Site visits for school district programs are more limited.
10 There is not a monetary local match, but programs are not allowed to charge for space so local funds are used for program space.