Established in 1985, the Michigan School Readiness Program (MSRP) was developed to provide 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 to serving the majority of children in school-day programs to better suit the needs of families.

Intermediate School Districts (ISDs) receive financial support directly, 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. GSRP has both a community needs assessment and a formula component that contribute to the final grantee allocation.

All GSRP providers must attain a three-star or higher rating in Michigan’s Great Start to Quality (tiered rating and improvement system). 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 with some exception for up to 300% 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 school year was also the first in a three-year transition to roll back the age-eligibility date, from December 1 to September 1 to align with a change in the kindergarten entry date. In the 2015-2016 school year, the new age eligibility date changed to September 1, however, parents are allowed to request exception through December 1. In the 2016-2017 school year, the September 1 cut-off date will have no exceptions.

In fiscal year 2013-2014, Michigan invested an additional $65 million in GSRP, increasing the number of slots available and increasing the per-slot funding by $225. In fiscal year 2014-2015, Michigan invested another $65 million 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, two percent of funding was specifically earmarked for recruiting and increasing public awareness of GSRP. In fiscal year 2015-2016, an additional $4.3 million was invested. An additional $300,000 was allocated for ongoing statewide evaluation activities. 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.
**ACCESS**

Total state pre-K enrollment .................................................. 38,771
School districts that offer state program ........................................... 66%
Income requirement ............................................................... 250% FPL
Minimum hours of operation ................................................. 3 hours/day; 4 days/week
Operating schedule ................................................................. Determined locally
Special education enrollment, ages 3 and 4 ......................... 11,815
Federally funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4 ...... 25,052
State-funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4 ............ 54

**QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>POLICY</th>
<th>MI PRE-K REQUIREMENT</th>
<th>CURRENT BENCHMARK</th>
<th>MEETS CURRENT BENCHMARK?</th>
<th>NEW BENCHMARK</th>
<th>MEETS NEW BENCHMARK?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Early learning &amp; development standards</td>
<td>Comprehensive, aligned, supported, culturally sensitive</td>
<td>Comprehensive</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>Comprehensive, aligned, supported, culturally sensitive</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Curriculum supports</td>
<td>Approval process &amp; supports</td>
<td>New in 2015-2016</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>Approval process &amp; supports</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher degree</td>
<td>BA</td>
<td>BA</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>BA</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher specialized training</td>
<td>ECE, CD, ECE SpEd</td>
<td>Specializing in pre-K</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>Specializing in pre-K</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assistant teacher degree</td>
<td>CDA</td>
<td>CDA or equivalent</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>CDA or equivalent</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff professional development</td>
<td>16 clock hours/year; coaching17</td>
<td>For teachers:</td>
<td></td>
<td>For teachers &amp; assistants: At least 15 hours/year; individual PD plans; coaching</td>
<td>□</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maximum class size</td>
<td>18 (4-year-olds)</td>
<td>20 or lower</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>20 or lower</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff-child ratio</td>
<td>1.8 (4-year-olds)</td>
<td>1:10 or better</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>1:10 or better</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Screening &amp; referral</td>
<td>Vision, hearing, health &amp; more; Support services</td>
<td>Vision, hearing, health &amp; at least one support service</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>Vision, hearing &amp; health screenings; &amp; referral</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meals</td>
<td>Snack (part-day); Breakfast, lunch, snack (school-day)11</td>
<td>At least one meal/day</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>Discontinued</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monitoring/ Continuous quality improvement system</td>
<td>Structured classroom observations (more than once/year); Improvement plan</td>
<td>Site visits</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>Structured classroom observation; program improvement plan</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**RESOURCES**

Total state pre-K spending .................................................. $243,900,000
Local match required? .......................................................... No
State Head Start spending .................................................... Not reported
State spending per child enrolled ........................................... $6,291
All reported spending per child enrolled* ...................................... $6,291

* Pre-K programs may receive additional funds from federal or local sources that are not included in this figure.
** Head Start per-child spending includes funding only for 3- and 4-year-olds.
*** K-12 expenditures include capital spending as well as current operating expenditures.

**SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED**

- **PRE-K**: $6,291
- **HDST**: $8,820
- **K-12**: $15,641

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

- 3-YEAR-OLD: 86%
- 4-YEAR-OLD: 60%

1 Estimates children in Head Start not also enrolled in state pre-K.
11 Estimates children in special education not also enrolled in state pre-K or Head Start.

Data are for the 2015-2016 school year, unless otherwise noted.