Michigan

OVERVIEW

WHAT'S NEW
The Michigan Department of Education was awarded a Preschool Development Grant Birth through Five award in 2018 for almost $5.06 million to support communities in universal developmental and behavioral screening and no wrong door frameworks. Michigan will maximize parental knowledge and develop culturally and linguistically appropriate materials for DLLs and add EL supports to the system.

An updated funding formula, informed by a stakeholder group, was used in 2017-2018 to allocate Great Start Readiness Program (GSRP) funding. During 2018-2019, $1 million was allocated to support programs wishing to change curricula, reducing the number of available slots. A supplemental funding bill in December of 2018 added an additional $1 million available for supporting programs wishing to change the comprehensive curriculum in use. Additionally, during 2018-2019, the GSRP sought submissions from curricula publishers to be included on their approved curriculum list.

BACKGROUND
Established in 1985, the GSRP, formerly known as Michigan School Readiness Program, provides preschool education for at-risk 4-year-olds, and is associated with the state’s early childhood initiative. Starting in 2013-2014, 90% of families had to be at or below 250% FPL with some exceptions for up to 300% FPL. Any family over-income for the remaining 10% must pay a fee on a locally determined sliding scale unless they are homeless, in foster care, or have an IEP recommending placement in an inclusive preschool setting. GSRP serves 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. GSRP providers must attain a three-star or higher rating in Michigan’s Great Start to Quality tiered rating and improvement system.

Overall ISD funding is determined by the level of poverty in each ISD and a funding formula, with final grantee awards based on both a community needs assessment and a formula component. State funding includes a transportation fund, as well as funding specifically earmarked for recruiting families and increasing public awareness of GSRP, and $300,000 allocated for ongoing statewide evaluation activities. Funding for GSRP has remained flat since 2015-2016.
MICHIGAN GREAT START READINESS PROGRAM

ACCESS
Total state pre-K enrollment ................................................... 37,325
School districts that offer state program ..................................... 60%
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 .................. 12,173
Federally funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4 ........... 24,216
State-funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4 ................. 48

QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

POLICY | MI PRE-K REQUIREMENT | BENCHMARK | REQUIREMENT MEETS BENCHMARK?
---|---|---|---
Early learning & development standards | Comprehensive, aligned, supported, culturally sensitive | Comprehensive, aligned, supported, culturally sensitive | ✓
Curriculum supports | Approval process & supports | Approval process & supports | ✓
Teacher degree | BA | BA | ✓
Teacher specialized training | ECE, CD, ECE SpEd | Specializing in pre-K | ✓
Assistant teacher degree | CDA | CDA or equivalent | ✓
Staff professional development | 16 hours/year; PD plans; Coaching | For teachers & assistants: At least 15 hours/year; individual PD plans; coaching | ✓
Maximum class size | 18 (4-year-olds) | 20 or lower | ✓
Staff-child ratio | 1.8 (4-year-olds) | 1:10 or better | ✓
Screening & referral | Vision, hearing, health & more | Vision, hearing & health screenings; & referral | ✓
Continuous quality improvement system | Structured classroom observations; Data used for program improvement | Structured classroom observations; data used for program improvement | ✓

For more information about the benchmarks, see the Executive Summary and Roadmap to State Profile Pages.

RESOURCES
Total state pre-K spending ................................................... $243,900,000
Local match required? ........................................................... No
State Head Start spending ................................................... Not reported
State spending per child enrolled ................................................... $6,534
All reported spending per child enrolled* ................................... $6,534

For more information about this figure:
* 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.

Data are for the 2017-2018 school year, unless otherwise noted.