
Allocating Great Start Readiness Program (GSRP) Slots to Community Partners: Responsibilities of the Intermediate School Districts (ISD) and the Michigan Department of Education (MDE)

PA 60 of 2013, the State School Aid Act includes the following:

Sec. 32d. (10) An Intermediate School District or Consortium of Intermediate School Districts receiving a grant under this section shall conduct a local process to contract with interested and eligible public and private for-profit and nonprofit community-based providers that meet all of the requirements of subsection (4) for at least 30% of its total slot allocation. If the Intermediate District or Consortium is not able to contract for at least 30% of its total slot allocation, the grant recipient shall notify the Department and, if the Department verifies that the Intermediate District or Consortium attempted to contract for at least 30% of its total slot allocation and was not able to do so, then the Intermediate District or Consortium may retain and use all of its allocated slots as provided under this section.

Those ISDs that have had Competitive GSRP grants or partnered with their local Head Start grantees or delegates to develop GSRP/Head Start Blend classrooms already know that these partnerships can create added value for children and families taking part in GSRP. It is the responsibility of the ISD to create a local process that is easy to understand and fair to all. Involving the local Great Start Collaborative (GSC) and Regional Resource Center in the creation of the plan would be advised; as the GSC already works with community partners and is called on annually to endorse the ISD's Community Needs and Resources Assessment (CNRA), the first step in the GSRP funding process. The ISD should also partner with the GSC and local Regional Resource Center to build capacity for community agencies to serve as GSRP sites in future years.

A plan for distributing the ISD's expected "Formula" slots was included in the 2013-14 CNRA. At the time consultants reviewed and approved the plan, it was not known that the Competitive funding process would be eliminated, or that there would be a requirement to distribute 30% of the total allocated slots to community partners. That plan may have to be updated in view of the requirements of PA 60, and if so, will have to be resubmitted for consultant approval.

Locally the ISD must have a written process that answers the following questions:

- Did the ISD access Great Start to Quality (GSQ)* ratings for all licensed centers?
- How will the ISD reach out to all potential community partners to make them aware of the opportunity to become a part of GSRP?
- How will the ISD share the requirements the potential partner would have to meet to apply and those that would have to be met if chosen? (An example would be staff credentialing requirements. Applicants would not have to have compliant staff to apply. They would however have to agree that, if chosen to receive slots, appropriate staff would be hired. See the Implementation Manual.)
- How does the ISD collect pertinent information from potential partners? Examples of this

are included in the technical assistance sent to Early Childhood Contacts on 6/19/13.

- Does the ISD give the potential partners contact information for someone who could answer questions during the process?
- How will the ISD inform potential community partners of the factors the ISD will consider in making its decisions to award slots?
- How will the ISD communicate to those being awarded slots?
- How will the ISD communicate with those applicants not being awarded slots for the 2013-14 grant year and give feedback as to why the decision was made?
- What process will an entity not awarded slots have to appeal the decision locally and how will they be informed of that process? The essential question for an appeal should be whether the ISD provided the process to award slots in writing and followed its process with fidelity.
- How will the ISD partner with the local GSC, Regional Resource Center, and others to build the capacity of local community agencies to take part in GSRP in future years?
- Has the ISD's Slot Distribution process changed since it was submitted to MDE with the 2014 CNRA? If so, please describe what has changed and why.

GSRP consultants will review the process created by each ISD to assure that it is appropriate and fair to all potential community partners. The written process must be submitted to the assigned consultant no later than **July 30, 2013**. The assigned consultant will provide technical assistance if the process needs modification and written approval if it is acceptable.

The actual percentage of slots awarded to community partners will be determined using the data provided in the 2013-14 GSRP Final Application.

*A rating of less than three stars prior to the submission of an updated profile and Self-Assessment Survey in the Great Start to Quality system should be rechecked after the center has updated their data in the system.