



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING

RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL P. FLANAGAN
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

June 14, 2013

MEMORANDUM

TO: State Board of Education

FROM: Michael P. Flanagan, Chairman

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Flanagan".

SUBJECT: Approval of Criteria for Great Start Readiness Program Grants

Substantial changes since the last approved criteria on August 10, 2010 warrant revised criteria.

Public Act 62 of 2011 changed the fiscal agent for the Great Start Readiness Program (GSRP) from Local Education Agencies (LEA) and Community-Based Agencies to Intermediate School Districts (ISD). During the 2011-2012 fiscal year, ISDs worked with established LEAs/agencies to implement the grant and concurrently established lead ISD personnel to learn about and oversee the grant.

Public Act 198 of 2012 further refined the grant, requiring ISD-wide recruitment and enrollment to serve children with the highest need and refinement of program options.

Public Act 60 of 2013 authorized a substantial increased investment in GSRP as well as included several other changes to program procedures and policies, including a change in eligibility factors and prioritization, replacing the current structure of state-level competitive GSRP grants with a local level process to include a greater number of public and private community-based agencies providing GSRP, linking GSRP to the State's Great Start to Quality rating system, establishing a sliding-scale fee for children with household incomes above 250 percent of the federal poverty level, and establishing a Great Start Readiness Reserve Fund.

It is recommended that the State Board of Education approve revised Criteria for Great Start Readiness Program Grants as described in the Superintendent's memorandum dated June 14, 2013.

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

JOHN C. AUSTIN – PRESIDENT • CASANDRA E. ULBRICH – VICE PRESIDENT
DANIEL VARNER – SECRETARY • RICHARD ZEILE – TREASURER
MICHELLE FECTEAU – NASBE DELEGATE • LUPE RAMOS-MONTIGNY
KATHLEEN N. STRAUS • EILEEN LAPPIN WEISER

608 WEST ALLEGAN STREET • P.O. BOX 30008 • LANSING, MICHIGAN 48909
www.michigan.gov/mde • (517) 373-3324

MICHIGAN STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Criteria for Great Start Readiness Program Grants

The State Board of Education has adopted as its goal "Continue developing an effective and equitable performance-based system that achieves academic growth and successful outcomes for all students."

To the extent possible, all grant criteria and grant awards will serve to further attain the above goal.

PRIORITIES, POLICIES, AND PROGRAMS THAT THESE CRITERIA SUPPORT

The Michigan State Board of Education has adopted four core reform priorities to ensure substantial and meaningful improvement in academic achievement with emphasis on high-priority schools and students. Specifically, Great Start Readiness Program (GSRP) grants support reform priority 4d (i.e., Early Childhood Education and Care/Increase access to high-quality early learning and development programs for those children with the highest needs prior to kindergarten entry).

PURPOSE / BACKGROUND OF GRANT

Competitive Formula New Continuation

GSRP grants enable eligible recipients to establish or expand high-quality preschool programs designed to improve the readiness and subsequent achievement of children at risk of school failure. GSRP is in its 29th year; the first two years were pilots with funding at \$1,000,000 per year. GSRP has served over 500,000 at-risk four year olds since its inception.

The programming provided through the GSRP grants has a considerable impact on future performance and success of the children who are served; in particular, research shows students attending this successful program did better throughout their academic careers, had lower dropout rates and higher high school graduation rates, had higher incomes as adults and were imprisoned less frequently than children who didn't attend preschool.

CRITERIA

Date criteria were last approved: August 10, 2010

Defined in Statute Defined in Department's Approved Grant Application to the Funder Proposed by Staff

Part-day, school-day, and GSRP/Head Start Blended classroom programs funded by GSRP State School Aid Act grants must comply with the following:

Defined in Statute

- P.A. 60 of 2013 and any elements of authorizing legislation defined in statute under sections 32d and 39, including these requirements of grantees:
 - Participation in a multidistrict, multiagency, school readiness advisory committee convened as a workgroup of the Great Start Collaborative.
 - Participation in the state's Great Start to Quality Process, the Tiered Quality Rating Improvement System (TQRIS), with a rating of at least 3 stars.
 - Ensuring that at least 90 percent of the children participating in an eligible Great Start Readiness Program live in families with a household income that is equal to or less than 250 percent of the federal poverty level.
 - Allowing transportation costs as an eligible expenditure within the program budget.
 - An allowance for enrollment of children in a GSRP/Head Start blended program that ensures that all Head Start and GSRP policies and regulations are applied to the blended slots, with adherence to the highest standard from either program, to the extent allowable under federal law.
 - An allowance for administrative services equal to not more than 7 percent of the grant amount and not more than 2 percent of the total grant amount for recruiting and public awareness activities.
 - A new prioritization of risk based on household income. Each child's household income is ranked from lowest to highest and divided into quintiles based on how far the child's household income is below 250 percent of the federal poverty level, and then enrolling children in the quintile with the lowest household income before enrolling children in the quintile with the next lowest household income.
 - A local process to contract with interested and eligible public and private for-profit and nonprofit community-based providers that meet all requirements of the program for at least 30 percent of its total slot allocation. If not able to meet the requirement, the grant recipient shall notify the department and with department verification, the grantee may retain and use all of its allocated slots.
 - Establishing a sliding scale of tuition rates, approved by the department, based upon household income for children participating in an eligible program who live with families with a household income above 250 percent of the federal poverty level to be used by all of its providers.
- Section 1147 of the Revised School Code, MCL 380.1147
 - Alignment with new kindergarten age requirements, phased in over 3 years, to move the eligibility age cutoff date from December 1 to September 1.

- Michigan State Board of Education *Early Childhood Standards of Quality for Prekindergarten*; and
- All state and local licensing laws governing child care services for children (P.A. 116 of 1973, as amended).

Proposed by Staff

- *Great Start Readiness Program Implementation Manual*; and
- Michigan State Board of Education *GSRP Participant Eligibility and Prioritization Guidelines* (Attachments A and B).

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS / TARGET POPULATION TO BE SERVED BY GRANT

Eligible applicants are intermediate school districts (ISDs) and consortia of ISDs.

GSRP grants will serve four-year-old children with factors which may place them at risk of educational failure.

TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE

\$174,275,000 has been approved for the program to operate in the 2013-2014 school year.

Of this amount, \$25,000,000 is allocated to the Great Start Readiness Reserve Fund created under subsection (14) of the Statute for 2013-2014 if there is sufficient need for the slots. Expenditure of the \$25,000,000 would require further legislative action.

The Great Start Readiness Reserve Fund is created as a separate amount within the State School Aid Fund established by Section 11 of article IX of the State Constitution of 1963.

STATUTE

P.A. 60 of 2013, State School Aid Act.

OFFICE ADMINISTERING GRANT / PROGRAM CONTACT

Office of Great Start/Early Childhood Education and Family Services

Lindy Buch, Director	517-241-3592
Richard Lower, Supervisor	517-373-8512
Stacy Ann Sipes, Unit Secretary	517-241-7577

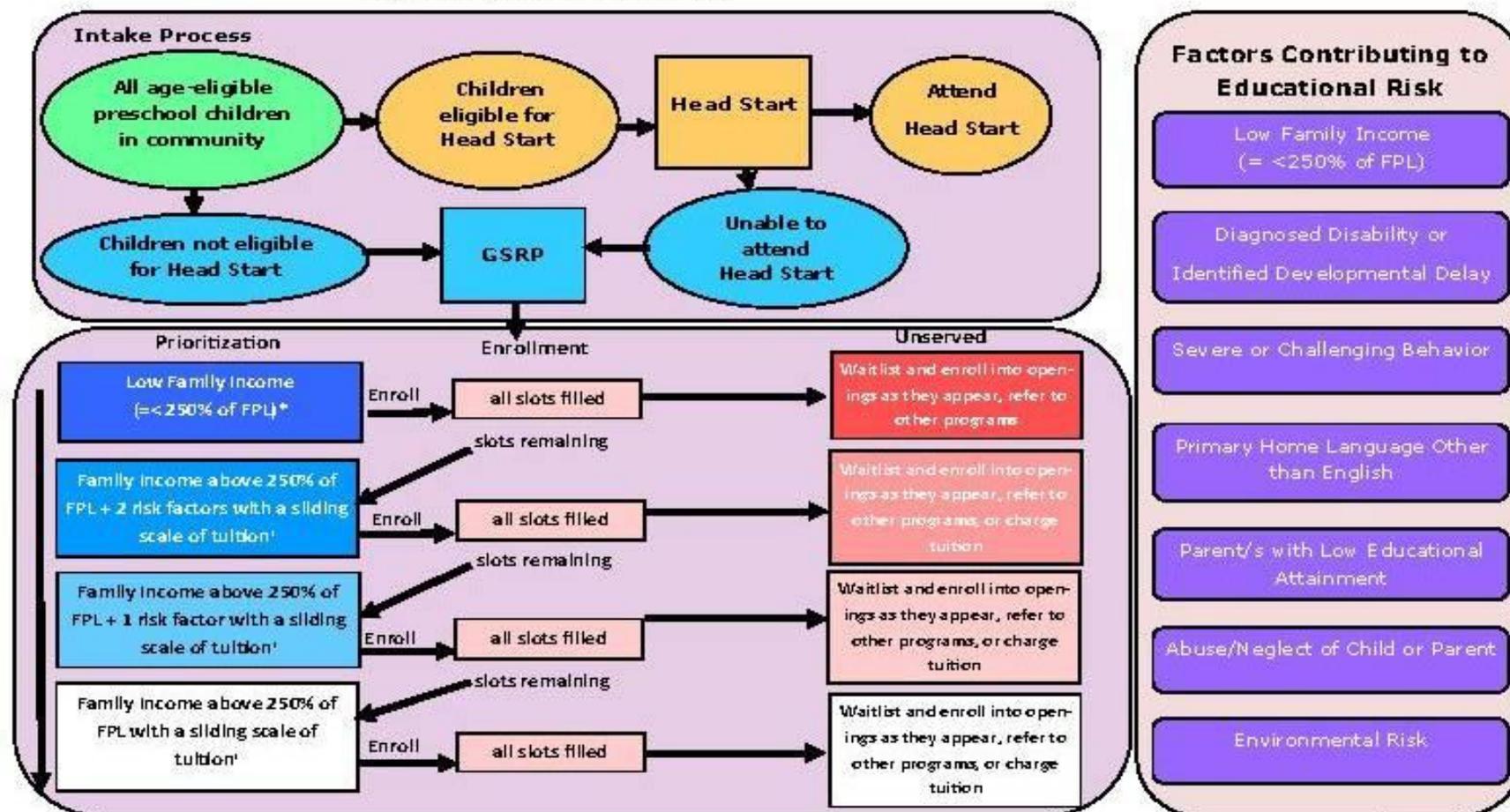
Factors Placing Children "At Risk" of Educational Disadvantage

Factor	Definition
Low family income	Low family income is equal to or less than 250% of federal poverty level (FPL)
Diagnosed disability or identified developmental delay	Child is eligible for special education services or child's developmental progress is less than that expected for his/her chronological age, or chronic health issues causing development or learning problems
Severe or challenging behavior	Child has been expelled from preschool or child care center
Primary home language other than English	English is not spoken in the child's home; English is not the child's first language.
Parent/s with low educational attainment	Parent has not graduated from high school or is illiterate
Abuse/neglect of child or parent	Domestic, sexual, or physical abuse of child or parent; child neglect issues; parent or caregiver substance abuse (e.g., alcohol, prescription or non-prescription drugs)
Environmental risk	Parental loss due to death, divorce, incarceration, military service, or absence; sibling issues (e.g., chronic illness or disability); teen parent (not yet age 20 when first child born); family is homeless or without stable housing; residence in a high-risk neighborhood (area of high poverty, high crime, with limited access to critical community services); prenatal or postnatal exposure to toxic substances known to cause learning or developmental delays



Great Start Readiness Program Participant Eligibility and Prioritization Guidelines

Eligibility and Enrollment



*Each child's household income is ranked from lowest to highest and divided into quintiles based on how far child's household income is below 250% of FPL, and then enrolling children in the quintile with lowest household income before enrolling children in the quintile with the next lowest household income.

*A maximum of 10% of enrolled children may be from families above 250% of FPL. These families must pay tuition calculated on a sliding scale based on family income.