



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING



JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL P. FLANAGAN
SUPERINTENDENT OF
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

May 8, 2009

MEMORANDUM

TO: State Board of Education

FROM: Michael P. Flanagan, Chairman 

SUBJECT: Approval of Criteria for Great Start Readiness Program Eligibility

On April 5, 1988 the Michigan State Board of Education adopted a report entitled *CHILDREN AT RISK: An Examination of Causes; An Exploration of Alternatives*, which identified 25 factors that put children at risk of educational disadvantage (Attachment A). These factors continue to be used to determine which children are eligible for the state's prekindergarten program, the Great Start Readiness Program (GSRP), and to prioritize the recruitment and enrollment of those most at risk.

With new research on factors contributing to child development and learning and factors that put them at risk of failure, it is time to consolidate, refine, and simplify the factors.

The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) convened a stakeholder group to recommend an updated set of risk factors (Attachment B). The group concluded that factors contributing to a child being at risk include those related to the child's own health and development; the child's family and personal living situation; and the community in which the child lives, learns, plays, and grows. MDE staff, in collaboration with the Early Childhood Investment Corporation, further delineated priorities for local programs to use in enrolling children in the GSRP (Attachment C).

It is recommended that the State Board of Education approve the criteria for Great Start Readiness Program Eligibility as described in Attachment B of the Superintendent's memorandum dated May 8, 2009.

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

KATHLEEN N. STRAUS – PRESIDENT • JOHN C. AUSTIN – VICE PRESIDENT
CAROLYN L. CURTIN – SECRETARY • MARIANNE YARED MCGUIRE – TREASURER
NANCY DANHOF – NASBE DELEGATE • ELIZABETH W. BAUER
REGINALD M. TURNER • CASANDRA E. ULBRICH

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

Michigan State Board of Education, *Children at Risk: An Examination of Causes; An Exploration of Alternatives, Revised*

FACTORS WHICH PLACE CHILDREN "AT RISK"

The Michigan State Board of Education adopted a report *Children at Risk: Examination of Causes and Exploration of Alternatives* at its April 5, 1988 meeting. This report highlighted factors which place children "at risk" of becoming educationally disadvantaged and who may have extraordinary need of special assistance. This list is by no means exhaustive, but is offered to assist in defining, identifying and selecting eligible participants for the Great Start Readiness Program for four-year-olds. The list of "risk" factors includes:

RISK FACTORS

1. LOW BIRTH WEIGHT
2. DEVELOPMENTALLY IMMATURE*
3. PHYSICAL AND/OR SEXUAL ABUSE AND NEGLECT
4. NUTRITIONALLY DEFICIENT
5. LONG-TERM OR CHRONIC ILLNESS
6. DIAGNOSED HANDICAPPING CONDITION (main streamed)
7. LACK OF STABLE SUPPORT SYSTEM OF RESIDENCE
8. DESTRUCTIVE OR VIOLENT TEMPERAMENT
9. SUBSTANCE ABUSE OR ADDICTION
10. LANGUAGE DEFICIENCY OR IMMATURITY
11. NON-ENGLISH OR LIMITED ENGLISH SPEAKING HOUSEHOLD
12. FAMILY HISTORY OF LOW SCHOOL ACHIEVEMENT OR DROPOUT
13. FAMILY HISTORY OF DELINQUENCY
14. FAMILY HISTORY OF DIAGNOSED FAMILY PROBLEMS
15. LOW PARENT/SIBLING EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT OR ILLITERACY
16. SINGLE PARENT
17. UNEMPLOYED PARENT/PARENTS
18. LOW FAMILY INCOME
19. FAMILY DENSITY
20. PARENTAL/SIBLING LOSS BY DEATH OR PARENTAL LOSS BY DIVORCE
21. TEENAGE PARENT
22. CHRONICALLY ILL PARENT/SIBLING (physical, mental or emotional)
23. INCARCERATED PARENT
24. HOUSING IN RURAL OR SEGREGATED AREA
25. OTHER - A child may be eligible for services in the GSRP program with documentation of one risk factor and the informed clinical opinion of a multi-disciplinary team of professionals and parent(s)/primary caregiver(s) that the child has a factor placing him or her at risk of school failure not included in the "Children at Risk" report. This can only apply to 10 percent of the enrolled children.

*This risk factor must be used in conjunction with another factor if a standardized test score is being used as the sole factor in meeting Risk Factor #2.

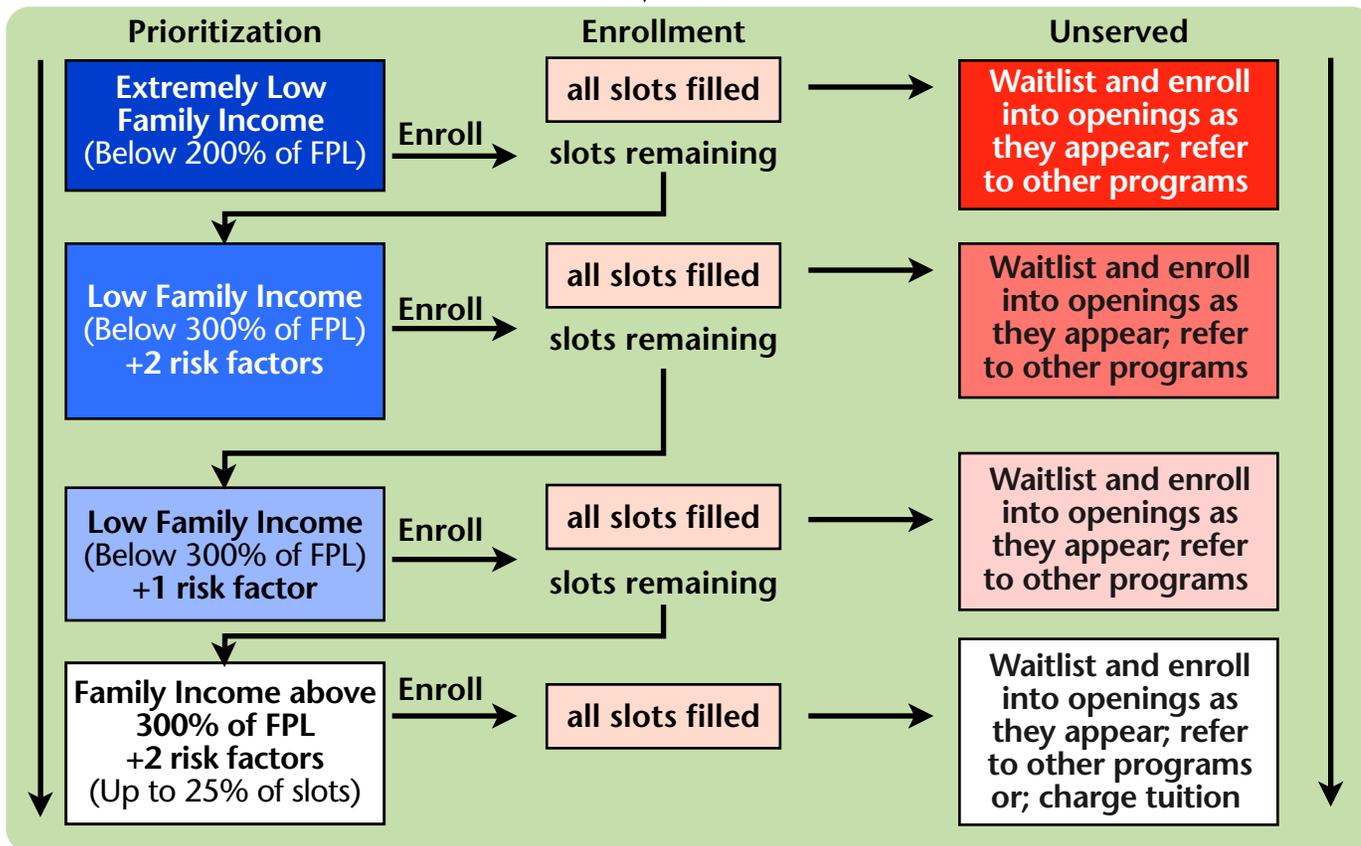
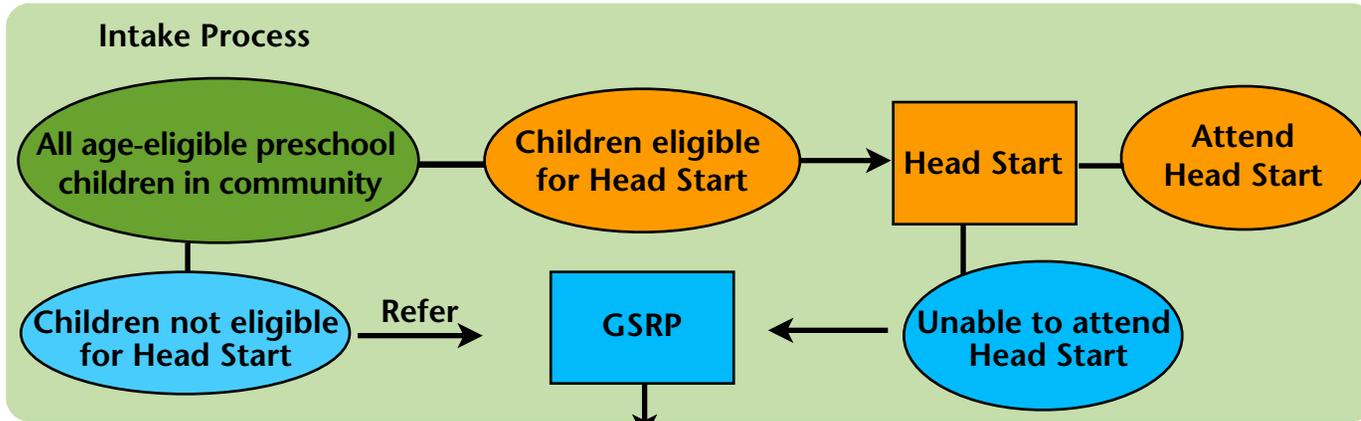
Attachment B

Factors Placing Children "At Risk" of Educational Disadvantage

| | Definition |
|--|---|
| Extremely low family income | Extremely low family income is below 200% of federal poverty level (FPL). |
| Low family income | Low family income is between 200% and 300% 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 and challenging behavior | Child has been expelled from preschool or child care center. |
| Primary 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



- Factors Contributing to Educational Risk**
- Extremely Low Family Income (Below 200% of FPL)
 - Low Family Income (200 - 300% of FPL)
 - Diagnosed Disability or Identified Developmental Delay
 - Severe or Challenging Behavior
 - Primary Home Language Other than English
 - Parent/s with Low Educational Attainment
 - Abuse/Neglect of Child or Parent
 - Environmental Risk