



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING

RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL P. FLANAGAN
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

July 22, 2013

MEMORANDUM

TO: State Board of Education

FROM: Michael P. Flanagan, Chairman 

SUBJECT: Approval of Criteria for Early Childhood Block Grant

In Fiscal Year 2012-2013, Section 32p of the State School Aid Act combined two former programs for which intermediate school districts (ISDs) or consortia of intermediate school districts provided fiscal oversight and programming: the Great Start Collaboratives and Great Start Parent Coalitions, as well as Great Parents, Great Start. The two funding streams and activities were combined into a single block grant to ISDs as the fiscal agents for both initiatives, with the intent of ensuring that coordination occurs across early childhood programs and services, driven by the voices of parents.

The Office of Great Start (OGS) provides oversight for the Early Childhood Block Grant. Public Act 60 of 2013 further refines legislative direction, providing the Department with the ability to propose a more equitable distribution of the funds, and aligns the expected outcomes for these funds with those assigned to the OGS:

- Children born healthy;
- Children healthy, thriving, and developmentally on track from birth to third grade;
- Children developmentally ready to succeed in school at the time of school entry; and
- Children prepared to succeed in fourth grade and beyond by reading proficiently by the end of third grade.

It is recommended that the State Board of Education approve the Criteria for Early Childhood Block Grant as attached to the Superintendent's memorandum dated July 22, 2013.

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MICHIGAN STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Criteria for Early Childhood Block Grant

The State Board of Education has adopted as its mission "All students graduate ready for careers, college, and community."

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 Early Childhood Block Grant provides funding to operate the Great Start Collaboratives (GSCs) and Great Start Parent Coalitions (GSPCs), as well as funding to implement some of the services identified by the GSCs in their strategic plans. This grant supports the SBE Mission to assure that all students graduate ready for careers, college, and community by focusing resources and building capacity at the community level to create systems of support for Michigan's youngest children.

PURPOSE / BACKGROUND OF GRANT

Competitive Formula New Continuation

The purpose of the Early Childhood Block Grant is to ensure local coordination and expansion of infrastructure and programming to support high-quality early childhood and child care programs. The ultimate purpose is to ensure that children are born healthy; that they are healthy, thriving, and developmentally on track from birth to third grade; that they are developmentally ready to succeed in school at the time of school entry; and, that they are prepared to succeed in fourth grade and beyond by reading proficiently by the end of third grade.

Highly effective GSCs and GSPCs work together to build and reform the local early childhood system to achieve better outcomes for young children and their families, ultimately ensuring the outcomes that were anticipated when the Office of Great Start (OGS) was developed, and building the local system that can address the implementation of recommendations provided in the OGS boilerplate report, *Great Start, Great Investment, Great Future*.

CRITERIA

Date criteria were last approved:

State School Aid, section 32p: August 14, 2012

Child Care and Development Block Grant: Waiver effective August 2012, expires October 18, 2015

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

Criteria for Formula Distribution of Funds for Early Childhood Block Grant

Public Act 60 of 2013 directs the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) to determine the formula for the equitable distribution of the funds for the Early Childhood Block Grant. Use of the federal Child Care and Development Block Grant funds for purposes outlined in federal statute and the state's application to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services supports coordinating activities of the GSCs/GSPCs.

The proposed formula:

- incorporates funds identified from sources appropriated at the state level;
- applies a base amount for each of the eligible intermediate school district fiduciaries of the Great Start Collaboratives;
- identifies an amount of the remaining funds for programming, distributed by factoring a percentage of the overall state and the GSC area population of birth through age 5 to the funds designated; and
- calibrates the distribution over time to compensate for changes for districts due to the outdated former distribution tied to State School Aid section 81 payments.

Criteria for Use of Funds for Early Childhood Block Grants

Great Start Collaboratives and Great Start Parent Coalitions have been operating statewide since 2006, with oversight established in 2012-2013 with the MDE, OGS. In 2013, funding for GSCs and GSPCs was combined with long-standing funding for early childhood services into the Early Childhood Block Grant. Each intermediate school district or consortium of intermediate school districts that receives funding must:

- convene a local Great Start Collaborative and a Parent Coalition to ensure the coordination and expansion of local early childhood infrastructure and programs that allow every child in the community to achieve the OGS outcomes;*
- convene a workgroup to serve as a school readiness advisory committee as also required under guiding legislation for the Great Start Readiness Program;*
- ensure that the local Great Start system includes supports for children birth through age 8 in physical health, social-emotional health, family supports and basic needs, parent education and child advocacy, and early education and care;*
- forward its approved multi-year strategic plan, including activities and initiatives to be accomplished over the course of the plan toward achieving the four OGS outcomes, including an annual strategy to assure that children are developmentally ready to succeed in school at the time of school entry;**
- support a Director for each GSC who is designated to the coordination of the GSC for at least three-fourths time, and provide for leadership in convening (by a parent or parents) for each GSPC, staffed at least one-half time;**

- provide additional supports necessary for local staff and supports for parents, such as reimbursement for travel, child care expenses and honoraria to ensure sufficient parent participation in each Great Start Collaborative’s planning and implementation efforts;**
- use funds to support projects identified by the Great Start Collaborative’s strategic plan to improve and reform the early childhood system to be more effective, efficient, and able to better serve families and young children;**
- annually report to the department on activities actually provided and children and families served;*
- intentionally transition from offering programs and supports that may be promising practices in achieving the outcomes to offering programs for children from birth through age 8 that are evidence-based, integrated into the GSC’s strategic plan, and implemented with fidelity to a research-based model;** and
- provide a cost-effective budget with no more than 10 percent administrative cost when budgeting state aid funds, and not exceeding the allowable indirect cost rate when budgeting federal funds.**

* Criteria Defined in Statute
 ** Criteria Proposed by Staff

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS / TARGET POPULATION TO BE SERVED BY GRANT

Intermediate school districts or consortia of intermediate school districts will be offered funding. The local needs assessment of each Great Start Collaborative will identify the population to be served with the portion of the funds designated for early childhood programming.

TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE

In 2013-2014, a total of \$12,300,000 will be distributed:

State School Aid (section 32p)	\$ 10,900,000
Child Care and Development Fund	\$ 1,400,000

STATUTE

Section 32p of the State School Aid Act, Public Act 60 of 2013, and Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990, as amended, Public Law 111-117

OFFICE ADMINISTERING GRANT / PROGRAM CONTACT

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