

# OVERVIEW

This *Great Start Readiness Program Implementation Manual* is designed to serve as a guide for Great Start Readiness Program (GSRP) administrators and staff. The Michigan State Board of Education criteria for GSRP require adherence to this manual and all standards in the *Early Childhood Standards of Quality for Prekindergarten (ECSQ-PK)*. Both resources can be located at [www.michigan.gov/gsrp](http://www.michigan.gov/gsrp). Other resources critical to implementing a high-quality preschool program are an approved, comprehensive curriculum and the *Preschool Program Quality Assessment (PQA)*. Additional information about these resources can be found in subsequent sections of this document.

## Purpose

The GSRP is Michigan's state-funded preschool program for four-year-old children with factors which may place them at risk of educational failure. The program is administered by the Michigan Department of Education (MDE). \*Parents incur no cost for the program. Research on preschool programs and specific research on GSRP indicates that children provided with a high-quality preschool experience show significant positive developmental differences when compared to children from the same backgrounds who did not attend a high-quality preschool program.

A GSRP participating in a county or interagency advisory committee is required to also have a local GSRP Advisory Committee with parents having full representation and input in establishing and reviewing program policies. Through a local advisory committee, parents assist to evaluate and make recommendations. The committee annually reviews the collaborative recruitment and enrollment process, curriculum, nutritional services, the health screening process, referrals, and the transition into kindergarten.

## History

The Department of Education Appropriation Act, in fiscal year 1986, designated one million dollars to identify appropriate program models for the operation of preschool pilot projects. Fifty-three projects were funded and served 8,208 four-year-old children at risk of educational failure. In fiscal year 1987, Section 36 of the State School Aid Act, and the Department of Education Appropriation Act provided funds for early childhood programs for four-year-old children at risk of educational failure. Programs began operating after September 1, 1988. Current funding for GSRP includes Formula [e.g., school districts or public school academies (PSA)] and Competitive (e.g., agencies that offer child development programs).

The GSRP History of Funding can be found on the program website under *Eligibility & Allocations*.

\*Parent = legal guardian