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STATE OF MICHIGAN
96TH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2011
Introduced by Rep. Moss
ENROLLED HOUSE BILL No. 4325

Sec. 32j. (1) From the appropriations in section 11, there is allocated an amount not to exceed \$5,000,000.00 for 2011-2012 for great parents, great start grants to intermediate districts to provide programs for parents with young children. The purpose of these programs is to encourage early mathematics and reading literacy, improve school readiness, reduce the need for special education services, and foster the maintenance of stable families by encouraging positive parenting skills.

(2) To qualify for funding under this section, a program shall provide services to all families with children age 5 or younger residing within the intermediate district who choose to participate, including at least all of the following services:

(a) Providing parents with information on child development from birth to age 5.

(b) Providing parents with methods to enhance parent-child interaction that promote social and emotional development and age-appropriate language, mathematics, and early reading skills for young children; including, but not limited to, encouraging parents to read to their preschool children at least 1/2 hour per day.

(c) Providing parents with examples of learning opportunities to promote intellectual, physical, and social growth of young children, including the acquisition of age-appropriate language, mathematics, and early reading skills.

(d) Promoting access to needed community services through a community-school-home partnership.

(3) To receive a grant under this section, an intermediate district shall submit a plan to the department not later than October 15, 2011 in the form and manner prescribed by the department. The plan shall do all of the following in a manner prescribed by the department:

(a) Provide a plan for the delivery of the program components described in subsection (2) that targets resources based on family need and provides for educators trained in child development to help parents understand their role in their child's developmental process, thereby promoting school readiness and mitigating the need for special education services.

(b) Demonstrate an adequate collaboration of local entities involved in providing programs and services for preschool children and their parents and, where there is a great start collaborative, demonstrate that the planned services are part of the community's great start strategic plan.

(c) Provide a projected budget for the program to be funded. The intermediate district shall provide at least a 20% local match from local public or private resources for the funds received under this section. Not more than 1/2 of this matching requirement, up to a total of 10% of the total project budget, may be satisfied through in-kind services provided by participating providers of programs or services. In addition, not more than 10% of the grant may be used for program administration.

(4) Each intermediate district receiving a grant under this section shall agree to include a data collection system approved by the department. The data collection system shall provide a report by October 15 of each year on the number of children in families with income below 200% of the federal poverty level that received services under this program and the total number of children who received services under this program.

(5) The department or superintendent, as applicable, shall do all of the following:

(a) The superintendent shall approve or disapprove the plans and notify the intermediate district of that decision not later than November 15, 2011. The amount allocated to each intermediate district shall be at least an amount equal to 100% of the intermediate district's 2010-2011 payment under this section.

(b) The department shall ensure that all programs funded under this section utilize the most current validated research-based methods and curriculum for providing the program components described in subsection (2).

(6) An intermediate district receiving funds under this section shall use the funds only for the program funded under this section. An intermediate district receiving funds under this section may carry over any unexpended funds received under this section into the next fiscal year and may expend those unused funds in the next fiscal year. A recipient of a grant shall return any unexpended grant funds to the department in the manner prescribed by the department not later than September 30 of the next fiscal year after the fiscal year in which the funds are received.

(7) Beginning with 2012-2013, it is the intent of the legislature to transfer funding for great parents, great start programs under this section into an early childhood block grant program, along with funding for great start collaboratives under section 32b and funding for great start readiness programs under section 32d. The early childhood block grant program will allocate funds to intermediate districts and consortia of intermediate districts to act as fiduciaries and provide administration of regional early childhood programs in conjunction with their regional great start collaborative to improve program quality, evaluation, and efficiency for early childhood programs. The department shall work with intermediate districts, districts, great start collaboratives, and the early childhood investment corporation to establish a revised funding formula, application process, program criteria, and data reporting requirements for 2012-2013. Not later than January 1, 2012, the department shall report to the legislature its recommendations for the revisions required under this subsection.