



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING


GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

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INTERIM STATE SUPERINTENDENT

MEMORANDUM

DATE: April 11, 2019

TO: Local and Intermediate School District Superintendents
Public School Academy Directors

FROM: Dr. Scott M. Koenigs knecht, Deputy Superintendent 
P-20 System and Student Transitions

SUBJECT: New Requirement for Collecting Great Start Readiness Program (GSRP)
Waitlist Data in Michigan Student Data System (MSDS)

The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) is implementing a new legislative reporting requirement beginning with the MSDS Early Childhood End of Year Collection for the 2018/19 program year. Public Act (PA) 586 of 2018 was signed into law in December 2018, by former Governor Snyder, amending the State School Aid Act for 2018/19. [Section 32d\(16\)](#) applies to GSRP:

32d(16) A recipient of funds under this section shall report to the center in a form and manner prescribed by the center the information necessary to derive the number of children participating in the program who meet the program eligibility criteria under subsection (5)(b), the number of eligible children not participating in the program and on a waitlist, and the total number of children participating in the program by various demographic groups and eligibility factors necessary to analyze equitable and priority access to services for the purposes of subsection (3).

[Subsection \(5\)\(b\)](#) provides requirements for income eligibility and the consideration of additional risk factors in prioritizing enrollments in the program. These requirements are further detailed in the [GSRP Implementation Manual](#).

This statutory requirement and program guidance clarify that:

- Enrollments in the program are not to occur until after income and risk factors are verified to ensure the highest need children are enrolled before children with lesser need.

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- All children are only to be considered pre-eligible for GSRP for the following program year until the State Aid Act is signed by the Governor at the conclusion of a budget development cycle.
- At that time, official enrollment into programs by quintile may begin.
- When all spaces have been filled, remaining eligible children may be placed on the waitlist.
 - To comply with legislation, each Intermediate School District (ISD) will submit into [MSDS](#) the children who are participating in GSRP as well as those who have been found eligible and are on the waitlist. Data will include: date of birth, personal demographics, Federal Poverty Level Quintile (FPLQ), and each of the other factors that make the child eligible for the program. Each of these children will be issued a Unique Identification Code (UIC)

ISDs will submit as much of this data as possible in the [MSDS](#) Early Childhood End of Year Collection for the 2018/19 program year. Beginning with 2019/20 program year, GSRP waitlist children will be reported in the Early Childhood Spring Collection.

ISDs confirm their understanding of this required reporting in the GSRP Assurances in applications and reports by submitting in the Michigan Electronic Grants System (MEGS+). In part, the assurances include the responsibility of the ISD to collect and report data on the participants and the program.

The legislature and the governor's office asked MDE to report the number of children on a waitlist for the program. This request most often is requested during the budget process in order to determine how much additional funding may be required to meet unmet needs for GSRP services. While GSRP staff have tried to collect waitlist data when asked, it is very difficult to generate an unduplicated count and provide assurances that these children are in fact eligible for enrollment.

Additionally, MDE is required in [Section 32d\(3\)](#) to provide a competitive grant for the longitudinal evaluation of children who have participated in GSRP. The grantee, Michigan State University, will be looking at questions of equity and priority access in this evaluation to ensure that the program application and prioritization process is implemented with fidelity. The evaluator will also look more closely at how children who were eligible for services and whose parents sought out services fared over time if they were enrolled in or placed on a waitlist for the program.

This combined effort of districts, MDE, and the [Center for Educational Performance and Information \(CEPI\)](#) to implement this new reporting helps to support Michigan's Top 10 in 10 Goal 1, and specifically Strategy 1.2: Expand access to quality publicly-funded preschool for all four-year-olds by 2020; three-year-olds by 2025.

Any questions regarding this memo may be directed to Pat Sargent, GSRP Manager, at sargentp@michigan.gov.

cc: Michigan Education Alliance