



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING



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SUPERINTENDENT OF
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

January 17, 2008

MEMORANDUM

TO: Intermediate School District Superintendents; Deans and Directors of Institutions of Higher Education

FROM: Sally Vaughn, Deputy Superintendent

RE: Michigan School Readiness Program Evaluation Grant Competition

The Michigan Department of Education is pleased to announce the Michigan School Readiness Program Evaluation Grant Competition. The Michigan School Readiness Program for four-year-old children at risk of school failure has been operating in Michigan school districts and private agencies since 1985-86. From FY 1994 through FY 2007, the High/Scope Educational Research Foundation has conducted a longitudinal study of the effectiveness of the program, providing important data on the impact of the state-funded, prekindergarten program on children's development and academic success. In addition, the evaluation grantee has provided important technical assistance to local programs and the state for program improvement. Results of the evaluation have been publicized widely, indicating that the program is successful in helping at-risk children be prepared for success when they reach school. For FY 2008, \$300,000 is again available to continue the evaluation of the Michigan School Readiness Program. The grant will be awarded to one institution of higher learning, educational research organization, or intermediate school district with proven experience in the longitudinal evaluation of early childhood programs. An additional four years of funding are expected, pending continued appropriations and adequate progress of the grantee.

The grant application for the 2007-2008 Michigan School Readiness Program Evaluation Grant, containing the necessary forms and instructions for completing the application, is available on-line at <http://www.michigan.gov/ece>. Under "Grants and Programs," click on "Michigan School Readiness Program Evaluation Grant Announcement."

Completed applications must be documented by delivery agent for delivery on or before February 11, 2008. Questions concerning the 2007-2008 Michigan School Readiness Program Evaluation Grant should be forwarded to Lindy Buch, Office of Early Childhood Education and Family Services, at (517) 241-3592.

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