

Michigan's "Race to the Top" Makes More Moves in Year Four

In the past year, the Michigan Department of Education's Office of Great Start and its Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge (RTT-ELC) partners have continued to make strides towards the goal of improving access to high quality early learning and development programs statewide. Here are some of the year's highlights from January through June 2017:

- As of June 5th, 774 [Great Start to Quality \(GSQ\)](#) Participation Bonuses have been awarded this year, bringing the total amount of Participation Bonuses awarded to 2,449. This means that more children with high needs, aged 0-5, will have access to high quality programs ensuring that Michigan's early learners are developmentally on track and prepared to succeed in school at the time of school entry.
- Through work lead by the [Early Childhood Investment Corporation \(ECIC\)](#) 226 unlicensed, subsidized providers have participated in training cohorts designed to meet their specific needs. Seventy providers completed Level 2 training and thirty-three completed Level 3 training during the first half of the year.
- Home based provider participation in GSQ increased 5.21 percentage points, bringing the statewide home based provider participation rate to 33.35%.
- Two hundred thirty-two GSQ Quality Improvement Grants were awarded to programs and providers from January to June 2017, bringing the total of Quality Improvement Grants awarded to 1,210.
- While four Michigan colleges are well into the process for pursuing accreditation, four more have started the process, and one college has been successfully reaccredited thanks to Early Childhood Associate Degree Accreditation grants from the [Michigan Association for the Education of Young Children](#).
- As the eligible population for T.E.A.C.H. Scholarships, available through [Michigan Association for the Education of Young Children](#), has expanded and original goals have been exceeded (by 444%), additional funds have been repurposed to support more scholarship opportunities to help Michigan's early educators acquire the knowledge and skills to provide the highest level of quality education to Michigan's children.
- The [Center for Educational Performance Information \(CEPI\)](#) held six Head Start grantee trainings to encourage inclusion into the [Michigan Statewide Longitudinal Data System](#) and to support grantees committed to helping reach the goal of a more complete early childhood data system.
- Thanks to CEPI, two more Early Childhood data Reports, "[Kindergarten Pathways](#)" and "[Early Childhood Impact on K-3 Absenteeism](#)" are now available on the [Early Childhood MI-School Data portal](#), along with the two previous early childhood reports developed last year.
- With help from partner, the [Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs](#), Child Care Key Licensing Indicators were piloted in two regions with a full rollout expected by the end of the year.
- A series of Child Care Business trainings aimed at strengthening the business skills of child care providers was piloted in four regions. Ninety-five percent of participating providers reported that they learned concepts in the training that they will apply to their work.

- All initial specialized consultants have been hired, and forty child care providers have been engaged in specialized consultation services in the areas of social and emotional health, child care health and safety, and family engagement.
- Michigan hosted a [Strengthening Families](#)™ training for key leaders in early child care, opening up opportunities to share the knowledge throughout the early childhood community in Michigan.

...and it just keeps going! Michigan will continue its race to the top to ensure that all of the state's youngest learners have greater access to high quality early learning and development.

Learn more about the Michigan Department of Education's Office of Great Start, its partners, and its mission to improve access to high quality early learning and development programs through the Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge grant by visiting the [grant website](#) or [liking us on Facebook](#).