

OVERVIEW

Introduction

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 and Michigan Department of Lifelong Education, Advancement, and Potential (MiLEAP) expectations for GSRP require adherence to this manual and all standards in the [Early Childhood Standards of Quality for Birth to Kindergarten](#) (ECSQ). GSRP must comply with Public Act 116 of the Public Acts of 1973, as amended, as well as the [Licensing Rules](#) for Child Care Centers.

MiLEAP requires grantees to address program quality. All programs must participate in [Great Start to Quality](#) and maintain at least the Enhancing Quality level. In addition, programs must utilize both the applicable program evaluation tool and an approved ongoing and authentic child assessment tool to gather and analyze outcome data for continuous quality improvement (see the [Program Evaluation](#) and [Child Assessment](#) sections of this manual for more information).

Details on the above tools as well as other resources critical to implementing high-quality PreK programs, such as an approved comprehensive curriculum and an approved developmental screener, can be found in subsequent sections of this manual.

Purpose

GSRP is Michigan's state-funded PreK program for four-year-old children administered by MiLEAP, Office of Early Education. Research on PreK programs and specific research on GSRP indicates that children provided with a high-quality PreK experience show significant positive developmental differences when compared to children from the same backgrounds who did not attend a high-quality PreK program.

To strengthen learning at home and strengthen positive child outcomes, programs must provide for active and continuous partnership with families in the learning process. Families are never charged fees for program elements such as transportation or meal service. Through advisory committees, families assist to evaluate and make recommendations about the program.

History

The Department of Education Appropriation Act, in fiscal year 1986, designated one million dollars to identify appropriate program models for the operation of PreK pilot projects. Fifty-three projects were funded and served 694 four-year-old children. In fiscal year 1987, Section 36 of the State School Aid Act, and the Department of Education Appropriation Act provided funds for targeted early childhood programs. Programs began operating after September 1, 1988.

The GSRP History of Funding with annual appropriations can be found on the program website under [Allocations](#).

Funding

GSRP is described in Sections 32d and 39 of the current State School Aid Act. GSRP grants are allocated by MiLEAP to intermediate school districts (ISDs). ISDs are the grantees for GSRP.

ISDs receive state funding via eleven State Aid Payments for each fiscal year, beginning in October. Information pertaining to State Aid Payments may be found under Section 32d "Great Start Readiness Program" in the State Aid Financial Status Report sent monthly to each ISD. GSRP funds are appropriated annually based on an October 1 to September 30 fiscal year. Revenue is not allowed to be earned on any GSRP funds.

Expansion

Michigan has a goal to provide every four-year-old with access to free Prekindergarten (PreK) by 2027. The [PreK for All](#) initiative includes expansion of GSRP. Funding within the School Aid budget is allocated to Intermediate School Districts (ISDs) who serve as the fiscal agent for GSRP, and are responsible for the selection, support, and monitoring of grantees, which include both public schools and community-based organizations (CBOs).