




STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL F. RICE, Ph.D.
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

MEMORANDUM

DATE: May 4, 2020

TO: Intermediate School District Superintendents 

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

SUBJECT: Inclusion of Section 32p and Section 32p(4) During Creation and
Implementation of Continuity of Learning and COVID-19 Response Plan

Executive Order 2020-65 states that in-person K–12 instruction, Great Start Readiness Program (GSRP) program delivery, and early childhood programs are suspended for the remainder of 2019–2020 school year and requires development and implementation of a plan for learning at a distance. The requirement in this executive order to suspend all in-person instruction applies also to in-person Great Start Collaboratives (GSC) and Great Start Parent Coalitions (GSPC) meetings, Section 32p funded early childhood programming, and Section 32p(4) funded home visiting services for the remainder of the grant year, or until Executive Order 2020-65 is lifted and in-person/face-to-face interactions may resume, whichever occurs earlier.

The requirement in the executive order is to develop and implement a plan for distance learning. **Programs and services funded by 32p and 32p(4) are expected to continue in a modified form.** Intermediate school districts (ISD) should coordinate and collaborate with the GSCs and GSPCs, while providing remote services for children and families in Section 32p funded early childhood programming and virtual home visits, funded through Section 32p and/or Section 32p(4) to the extent possible under the current circumstances within their Continuity of Learning and COVID-19 Response plan (“CoL plan”).

The provision of coordinating, collaborating, and providing remote services should be aligned with the beginning date specified in the ISD’s plan and needs to begin no later than May 7, 2020. This will typically depend on whether GSC/GSPC, Section 32p early childhood programming, and Section 32p(4) home visitation are all provided by the ISD, or whether some services are provided by outside organizations and/or contracts. Services provided through contracts with individual organizations or agencies will also need to be addressed in the CoL plan, including GSCs with home visitation programs contracted through outside entities.

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The attached guidance document has been developed and posted to the MDE website to clarify information related to implementation of the GSCs, GSPCs, Section 32p early childhood programming, and Section 32p(4) home visitation during this unprecedented situation. Each ISD, in coordination and collaboration with the GSC Director and applicable Section 32p early childhood programming and home visitation program administration, will need to make many local decisions based on local capacity, resources, and the extent of the impact of COVID-19 within the entire local service area and the local community. The guidance document will be updated as necessary, as the situation evolves.

For current and up-to-date information regarding COVID-19 visit <http://www.Michigan.gov/Coronavirus>, <http://www.michigan.gov/mde>, or <http://www.CDC.gov/Coronavirus>.

As additional situations and questions arise, districts and GSC/GSPC staff are encouraged to contact Rachel Pritchard at pritchardr@michigan.gov or Rita Trinklein at trinkleinr@michigan.gov.

Attachment

cc: Michigan Education Alliance

Guidance for Inclusion of Great Start Collaboratives (GSC) and Parent Coalitions (GSPC), Section 32p Early Childhood Programming, and Section 32p(4) Home Visitation During Creation and Implementation of Continuity of Learning and COVID-19 Response Plan

The purpose of this guidance document is to provide information on implementation of the Great Start Collaboratives (GSC) and Parent Coalitions (GSPC), Section 32p early childhood programming, and Section 32p(4) home visitation, during the response to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) within the intermediate school district's (ISD) Continuity of Learning and COVID-19 Response plan ("CoL plan").

Programs and services funded by 32p and 32p(4) are expected to continue in a modified form. There are varied states of readiness to provide continuity in learning or conducting virtual meetings among districts. It is recommended that programs provide family services and support at a distance using a variety of methods that meet local needs, including printed materials, phone contact, email, virtual visits, or a combination to meet child and family needs.

Key Elements

As ISDs complete their CoL plans for GSCs, GSPCs, Section 32p early childhood programming, and Section 32p(4) home visitation, the following elements are recommended to be considered in the strategy:

- **Keep Children and Families at the Center with Intentional Outreach:** Consider how to continue building relationships and maintaining connections in order to help children and families feel safe and valued.
 - **Child and Family Support:** Consider how to build on each child's and family's strengths, interests, and needs and use this knowledge to positively affect outcomes, supports, and services.
 - **Engaging Families:** Consider how providers and trusted messengers will communicate regularly with families to ensure health and safety techniques are being understood and implemented. Consider how to deliver supports and services in multiple ways so all children and families can access appropriate services, including translation supports if necessary.
- **Connecting with Community:** Consider how to work with school and community partners to support child and family outcomes through ongoing communication and collaboration. This will not look the same for every child and family—safety should remain the priority.
- **Delivering Flexible, Accessible, and Regular Supports:** Consider how to deliver content depending on tools and resources accessible to each child, family, and/or GSC/GSPC member, including translation services if necessary. Alternative modes of service delivery may include use of online visits/meetings, telephone communications, email, virtual meetings/visits, videos, slideshows, use of printed meeting/visit packets, or a combination to meet diverse child, family, and/or GSC/GSPC member needs.

Home Visiting

- **Home Visitation National Model Guidance:** ISDs and GSCs implementing a home visitation model should refer to the national model guidance for the appropriate local home visitation model:
 - **Parents as Teachers™:** www.parentsasteachers.org
 - **Healthy Families America®:** www.healthyfamiliesamerica.org
 - **Nurse-Family Partnership®:** www.nursefamilypartnership.org
 - **Early Head Start:** <https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/programs/article/early-head-start-programs>
 - **Play and Learning Strategies-Infant:** www.childrenslearninginstitute.org
- **Providing Appropriate Evaluation and Assessment:** Home visitation programs should refer to the national model guidance for evaluation modifications and appropriate methods of community referrals. Consider how to conduct evaluations and assessments as required to the extent possible under the circumstances, including translation services if necessary.
- **Required Elements of Home Visiting Models:** Consider how reflective supervision and group connections will continue within each program, aligned with the national model guidance.