MICHIGAN’S GREAT START READINESS PROGRAM (GSRP): REPlicating evidence of impact in rural Michigan

✓ GSRP in rural Michigan replicates results in urban Michigan; reduces the achievement gap in early literacy and math between higher and lower risk preschool children.

![Figure 1: GSRP Reduces Achievement Gaps in Early Literacy and Math for Higher Risk Children](image)

GSRP children in rural Michigan whose parents had lower educational attainment (GSRP risk 6) scored lower at program entry and gained more by the end of the program year in both early literacy and math, compared to their peers with parents who had higher educational attainment. About 75% of the initial gap in early literacy scores and 40% in math scores were reduced. Peabody Picture Vocabulary Test (PPVT-IV), which assesses receptive vocabulary knowledge, was used to assess early literacy. Significant gains in PPVT-IV for higher risk children are especially noteworthy given vocabulary is a strong predictor for later reading. In the context of the growing body of research indicating math is a strong predictor for later school success, the results for math are also promising. The positive findings for GSRP children in rural Michigan replicates the impact observed in an urban setting.

✓ While learning happened at a faster rate for higher risk children in rural GSRP, the rate slowed down significantly during the summer, leading to re-widening of the gap at kindergarten entry.

GSRP children continue to learn during the summer; however, the rate of learning seems to slow down significantly more for children at higher risks, thus re-widening the gap reduced by GSRP.

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1 349 children were assessed. The vast majority were low-income (below 250% FPL) and White (95%). Hence analysis comparing across those two factors, found to strongly correlate with achievements, was not performed.
2 Percent of reduction is based on comparable longitudinal scores and not the standard scores.