

FY27 Head Start Program Performance Standards Waiver Request

To expand access to Great Start Readiness Programs (GSRP), Public Act 120 of 2024 gives the Michigan Department of Lifelong Education, Advancement, and Potential (MiLEAP) the authority to give subrecipients the ability to implement the Head Start Program Performance Standards for Quality as an alternative for existing GSRP policies, regulations, and procedures. To request this allowance from MiLEAP, the subrecipient must agree to the following assurances:

Assurances Required of the Subrecipient:

- a) All childcare centers operated by the subrecipient to serve GSRP and Head Start children must hold an “original” or “regular” license.
- b) All classrooms must operate within a licensed center. If any site is placed on a provisional license, the ISD must be notified immediately, and that site may not be individually eligible for the waiver.
- c) The subrecipient must not be suspended by the Office of Head Start, disbarred by any other federal or state agency, or disqualified from the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP).
- d) The subrecipient must provide GSRP-enrolled children with at least the minimum instructional time as required by MiLEAP.
- e) The subrecipient must participate in the state's quality rating system and maintain at least an “enhancing quality” level.
- f) The subrecipient must utilize a curriculum and assessment approved for use by GSRP.
- g) The subrecipient must ensure that all enrolled children receive the Ages and Stages Questionnaire screening and are referred for appropriate special education support and services as outlined in the GSRP Policies and Procedures.
- h) The subrecipient must provide the ISD with classroom access as outlined in the *Shared Responsibilities Framework* requirements document.
- i) The subrecipient must participate in all program and financial reviews and monitoring processes as determined by MiLEAP.
- j) The subrecipient must conduct an annual independent single audit as described in Head Start Performance Standard 45 CFR 1302.102 and submit a copy of the most recent fiscal year audit to MiLEAP along with the waiver request.
- k) The subrecipient must provide a list of any Federal Monitoring Reports (CLASS, FA1, FA2, RAN) completed within the last year and identify any non-compliance findings or deficiencies, and the status of any corrective action plans to MiLEAP with the waiver request
- l) The subrecipient must comply with ISD Board policies regarding financial and program reporting.
- m) The subrecipient must submit all GSRP financial and program reporting requirements for GSRP as determined by MiLEAP.
- n) The subrecipient must participate in the joint development and implementation of a collaborative recruitment and enrollment process in partnership with the local intermediate school district(s).
- o) The subrecipient must participate in the regional Data Analysis Review and School Readiness Advisory Committee (SRAC) meetings.

For MiLEAP:

- Approved: The subrecipient is authorized to implement the national Head Start Program Performance Standards for Quality in place of GSRP policies and regulations.
- Partially Approved: The subrecipient is authorized to implement the national Head Start Program Performance Standards for Quality for specific sites as identified in the submitted site list.
- Not Approved: The subrecipient is not authorized to implement the national Head Start Program Performance Standards for Quality and must continue to implement GSRP policies and regulations.

Signed for MiLEAP

Dated

Printed Name

MiLEAP will include the ISD Early Childhood Contact in the written response to the subrecipient. If the Head Start agency wishes to pursue the waiver in future years, MiLEAP will support the ISD and the Head Start agency through a Shared Improvement Plan.

All parties must agree to the responsibilities outlined in the Shared Responsibilities Framework document.

***Waiver documentation should be submitted to Dawn Kalkman at
KalkmanD@michigan.gov***

Individuals with disabilities may contact the MiLEAP ADA Coordinator to request an alternative format to these materials. Please visit www.Michigan.gov/ADA for a list of state ADA Coordinators.