

FY26 Head Start Program Performance Standards Waiver:

To expand access to great start readiness programs (GSRP), PA 120 of 2024 gives MiLEAP (the department) the authority to give Head Start subrecipients the ability to implement the Head Start Program Performance Standards for Quality as an alternative for existing great start readiness program policies, regulations, and procedures. To request this allowance from the department, Head Start must agree to the following assurances:

- a) The child care licenses of all centers operated by the subrecipient to serve GSRP and Head Start children are in good standing and no child care licenses are suspended or revoked.
- b) The subrecipient has not been suspended by the Office of Head Start or disbarred from any other federal or state agency or disqualification from the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP).
- c) The subrecipient will provide GSRP enrolled children with at least the minimum instructional time as required by the department.
- d) The subrecipient participates in the state's quality rating system at a level determined by the department.
- e) The subrecipient uses a developmentally appropriate curriculum.
- f) The subrecipient ensures that all enrolled children receive developmental screening and are referred for appropriate special education support and services.
- g) The subrecipient commits to allow the ISD access to GSRP Head Start classrooms following a mutually agreed upon plan.
- h) The subrecipient commits to participating in a program financial review and monitoring by MiLEAP, as needed.
- i) The subrecipient commits to conducting an annual independent financial audit and to provide a copy of the audit to the department upon request.
- j) The subrecipient commits to submitting all financial and program reporting requirements for GSRP as determined by the ISD. The ISD may accept the annual financial audit in lieu of requiring documentation for expenses.
- k) The subrecipient commits to submitting all financial and program reporting requirements for GSRP as determined by the department.
- l) The subrecipient commits to participating in the development and implementation of a collaborative recruitment and enrollment in partnership with their local intermediate school district(s).

For the subrecipient:

My organization commits to all the above assurances and will immediately notify both the department and the intermediate school district if the organization can no longer meet any of these assurances. I understand that I must submit the Head Start Waiver annually and can submit a waiver request as early as March 1st but no later than December 31st:

Signed (Authorized Official for the Subrecipient)

Email Address of Authorized Official

Printed Name

Name of Organization

of Classrooms

Date



Upon signing these assurances, the subrecipient must submit this form to the intermediate school district GSRP Early Childhood Contact for review and forwarding to the department.

For the intermediate school district:

Upon receipt of the request from the subrecipient, the ISD will review for acknowledgement of all commitments listed above. The ISD must forward the request to the department within **10 working days of receiving the request**. The ISD may include with the request any concerns they have that the subrecipient cannot satisfactorily meet the above assurances.

Check one box:

- ☐ I have reviewed the above acknowledgements, and I have no concerns that the subrecipient can meet these assurances.
- ☐ I have reviewed the above acknowledgements, and I have concerns that the subrecipient cannot satisfactorily meet these assurances (see accompanying documentation).

Signed (ISD Early Childhood Contact)

Dated

Printed Name

Name of ISD

For MiLEAP:

The above GSRP subrecipient is approved to implement the national Head Start Program Performance Standards for quality as an alternative to great start readiness program policies and regulations.

Signed for MiLEAP

Dated

Printed Name

The department will include the ISD Early Childhood Contact in the written response to the subrecipient.

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

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