

FUNDING

The Great Start Readiness Program (GSRP) is described in Sections 32d and 39 of the current State School Aid Act. GSRP grants are allocated by the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) 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 1st to September 30th fiscal year. Revenue is not allowed to be earned on any GSRP funds.

Requesting and Awarding of the Allocation

The ISD must complete all applications and reports for GSRP in NexSys. Only the ISD can initiate or submit a GSRP application and the associated reports. An ISD's Authorized Official, one who is a Level 5 in NexSys, is the only person who performs high-level administrative activities within a grant application or gives others access to the application.

An ISD intending to implement GSRP submits the Funding Application in NexSys. The Funding Application is prepopulated with data on the number of children in its area from families living at 300% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) or less, and the number it is estimated Head Start will serve the following year. After decisions are made with local partners on the documented need and how it will best be met, the Funding Application must go through a review and endorsement process with the local Great Start Collaborative.

After the State School Aid bill is signed into law by the Governor identifying the total statewide appropriation and the funding level per program option, MDE calculates ISD allocations based on the specifications in legislation. The ISD may serve children in a school-day, part-day, GSRP/Head Start Blend, or extended program option. An email notification is sent to ISD staff with Level 5 authority in NexSys, application business officials, and early childhood contacts to inform them that the allocations have been posted on the GSRP website. The email announcement and allocation list serve as notification of funding for audit purposes. Email notification is sent to Level 5s, business officials and early childhood contacts when the Program Implementation Plan (PIP) is live in NexSys. Within this application, ISDs indicate the plan for serving children during the school year.

Funding

Initial Funding

The initial allocation to each ISD is the lesser of the total GSRP funding earned in the preceding year or the total GSRP funding requested by the ISD whichever is less.

Subsequent Funding

Annually MDE will determine a percentage of children served by each ISD by dividing the number of children served by the ISD and Head Start in the immediately preceding year by the total number of children within the ISD who meet the criteria of Section 32d as determined by the Department utilizing the most recently purchased American Community Survey data. The resulting percentage of eligible children served shall be compared to a statewide benchmark to determine if the ISD is eligible for additional funds, should there be any. Currently the statewide benchmark is 100 percent.

If funds remain after the initial allocation, MDE will distribute remaining funds to each ISD serving less than the state benchmark based upon each applicant's proportionate share of the remaining funds.

If the ISD or a subrecipient determines that it can serve additional eligible children in GSRP without additional funding, it may include additional eligible children in class, but will not receive additional funding under Section 32d for those children.

Funding Structure Review

MDE will review the program components under Section 32d and under Section 39 at least biennially. The department shall also convene a committee of internal and external stakeholders at least every five years to ensure that the funding structure under Section 39 reflects current system needs under Section 32d.

Counting Allocated Spaces as Filled/Not Filled

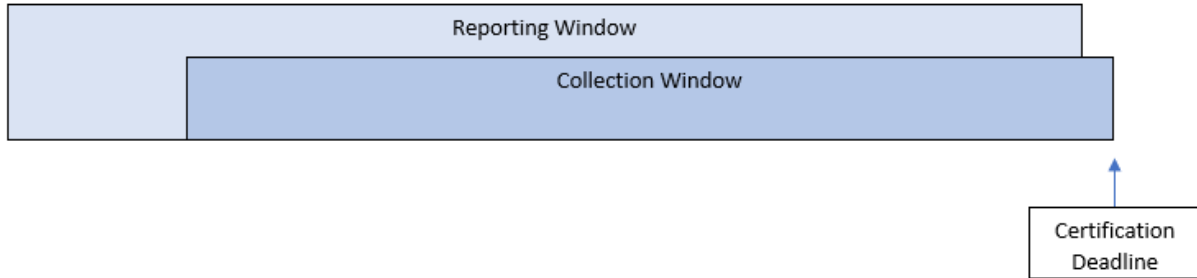
The total amount of funding earned each year by the ISD is determined by the number of children who have been entered during the MSDS Early Childhood Fall and Spring Collections (deduplicated) as enrolled in GSRP and the program option in which they attended. The total value of filled spaces from the accepted allocation will be the ISD's "Hold Harmless" amount to be used in the following year's allocation process.

Each child enrolled during the MSDS Early Childhood Fall and Spring Collections is considered to "fill" a discrete space. Children who leave the program must be exited with their accurate exit date entered in MSDS. Grantees may consider a space "filled" after a child completes participation in at least one preschool session during the MSDS Early Childhood Fall or Spring Collection.

The Early Childhood MSDS Collection windows can be found on the [CEPI calendar](#). The CEPI calendar provides the Early Childhood Spring Collection certification deadline which is one week after the reporting window closes.

- Reporting window = Service window (start of program through early- to mid-February) during which GSRP children have been enrolled and count for funding purposes
- Collection window = MSDS is available to allow for data entry

- Certification deadline = Date when all children enrolled during the reporting window must be entered into MSDS and certified



To support service to the highest number of eligible children, grantees are encouraged to use the waitlist to fill vacated spaces.

Funding for unfilled spaces is recaptured through the State Aid Payment process.

Requesting and Awarding of the Transportation Allocation

For FY24, GSRP is appropriated State Aid funding of \$28,000,000 for Transportation. Each year the ISDs will be asked to collect projected transportation budgets from subrecipients including community-based organizations (CBOs) seeking reimbursement for costs related to parent or guardian accompanied public transportation. A total transportation request will be forwarded to MDE from each ISD. If the total request from all ISDs is equal to or less than \$28,000,000, each ISD will receive the requested amount. If the total of the projected transportation budgets exceeds \$28,000,000, MDE will prorate the allocation. Transportation funds do not have to be distributed on a per FTE amount to subrecipients.

The ISD may accept all or only a portion of the transportation allocation. If a per FTE calculation determines the total transportation allocation to an ISD, the ISD may distribute transportation funds as needed across subrecipients for those children served within the ISD. The ISD must create a process to gather pertinent information that will guide decision-making on prioritization of transportation funds. Consider how collaborative child recruiting and public awareness activities, along with a dedicated transportation allocation, can support the goal to identify and serve children and families who may not otherwise be able to access the program. Other considerations include the number/location of GSRP subrecipients currently providing transportation, the number/residence of GSRP enrolled children receiving transportation, family need by programming option, how well existing transportation costs are met, and areas of unmet need for transportation services. The school readiness advisory committee is the appropriate venue for data-based decision-making on distribution of the transportation allocation.

ISDs will document use of the accepted state-funded transportation allocation for the ISD and/or subrecipients in the NexSys PIP.