

OVERVIEW

This [Great Start Readiness Program Implementation Manual](#) is designed to serve as a guide for Great Start Readiness Program (GSRP) administrators and staff. The Michigan State Board of Education criteria for GSRP requires adherence to this manual and all standards in the [Early Childhood Standards of Quality for Birth to Kindergarten](#) (ECSQ). Other resources critical to implementing high-quality preschool programs are an approved comprehensive curriculum, an approved ongoing and authentic child assessment tool, and an approved program evaluation tool. Additional information about these resources can be found in subsequent sections of this manual.

Purpose

The GSRP is Michigan's state-funded preschool program for four-year-old children with factors which may place them at risk for low educational attainment. The program is administered by the Michigan Department of Education, Office of Great Start. Research on preschool programs and specific research on GSRP indicates that children provided with a high-quality preschool experience show significant positive developmental differences when compared to children from the same backgrounds who did not attend a high-quality preschool program.

To strengthen learning at home and strengthen positive child outcomes, programs must provide for active and continuous partnership with families in the learning process. Depending on income level, families may be required to pay tuition but are never charged additional fees for program elements such as transportation or meal service. Through advisory committees, families assist to evaluate and make recommendations about the program.

History

The Department of Education Appropriation Act, in fiscal year 1986, designated one million dollars to identify appropriate program models for the operation of preschool pilot projects. Fifty-three projects were funded and served 694 four-year-old children. In fiscal year 1987, Section 36 of the State School Aid Act, and the Department of Education Appropriation Act provided funds for targeted early childhood programs. Programs began operating after September 1, 1988.

The GSRP History of Funding can be found on the program website under [Allocations](#).