

Enrollment Eligibility Factors

With the further expansion of the Great Start Readiness Program (GSRP) and the governor's goal of prekindergarten for all four-year-olds, attention to the GSRP enrollment process is warranted. GSRP consultants have recently noted there are some sections of the GSRP Implementation Manual that include language around the enrollment of over-income children that are not current.

GSRP statute requires the enrollment of children be primarily based on income level with additional eligibility factors considered to further prioritize enrollments when space is limited. Income and eligibility factors must be collected, used for prioritization, and reported for all children. When space remains after all other eligible children have been enrolled, children from families over the income threshold may be enrolled even when additional eligibility factors are not present.

This guidance supersedes the highlighted portions of the following statements from the GSRP Implementation Manual:

ISD Administration of GSRP, page 18:

In the event that an ISD is approved to serve children up to 400% FPL, all children enrolled with income up to 400% FPL are then considered to be income eligible in terms of the 15% cap. They do however pay tuition according to the established sliding tuition scale. That ISD would then be able to serve up to 15% of enrolled children **with identified program eligibility factors** from families having incomes above 400% FPL.

Recruitment and Enrollment, page 4:

5. Finally, if the ISD determines that all eligible children are being served and that there are no children on the waiting list who live with families at or below 300% of FPL, the ISD may then enroll up to 15% of children who live with families with a household income above 300% of FPL **with extreme risk for low educational achievement as determined by number or severity of existing GSRP program eligibility factors. Careful documentation of the program eligibility factors for these children must be kept in each child's file.**