

HOUSE BILL No. 5683

December 10, 2009, Introduced by Reps. Spade, Roy Schmidt, Polidori, Haase, Liss, Constan, Barnett, Kennedy, LeBlanc, Hammel, Gonzales, Bauer, Slezak, Huckleberry, Slavens, Melton and Tlaib and referred to the Committee on Education.

A bill to amend 1979 PA 94, entitled
"The state school aid act of 1979,"
by amending section 32d (MCL 388.1632d), as amended by 2009 PA 121.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

1 Sec. 32d. (1) For 2009-2010, from the state school aid fund
2 appropriation in section 11, there is allocated an amount not to
3 exceed \$88,100,000.00 to eligible districts for great start
4 readiness programs and from the general fund appropriation in
5 section 11, there is allocated an amount not to exceed
6 \$7,575,000.00 for competitive great start readiness program grants.
7 Funds allocated under this section shall be used to provide part-
8 day or full-day comprehensive free compensatory programs designed
9 to do 1 or both of the following:

1 (a) Improve the readiness and subsequent achievement of
2 educationally disadvantaged children as defined by the department
3 who will be at least 4, but less than 5 years of age, as of
4 December 1 of the school year in which the programs are offered,
5 and who show evidence of 2 or more risk factors as defined by the
6 state board.

7 (b) Provide preschool and parenting education programs similar
8 to those under former section 32b as in effect for 2001-2002.
9 Beginning in 2007-2008, funds spent by a district for programs
10 described in this subdivision shall not exceed the lesser of the
11 amount spent by the district under this subdivision for 2006-2007
12 or the amount spent under this subdivision in any subsequent fiscal
13 year.

14 (2) To be eligible to receive payments under this section, a
15 district shall comply with this section and section 39. To receive
16 competitive grant payments under this section, an eligible grant
17 recipient shall comply with this section and section 32/.

18 (3) In addition to the allocation under subsection (1), from
19 the general fund money appropriated under section 11, there is
20 allocated an amount not to exceed \$300,000.00 for 2009-2010 for a
21 competitive grant to continue a longitudinal evaluation of children
22 who have participated in great start readiness programs.

23 (4) To be eligible for funding under this section, a program
24 shall prepare children for success in school through comprehensive
25 part-day or full-day programs that contain all of the following
26 program components, as determined by the department:

27 (a) Participation in a collaborative recruitment and

1 enrollment process. At a minimum, the process shall include all
2 other funded preschool programs that may serve children in the same
3 geographic area, to assure that each child is enrolled in the
4 program most appropriate to his or her needs and to maximize the
5 use of federal, state, and local funds.

6 (b) An age-appropriate educational curriculum that is in
7 compliance with the early childhood standards of quality for
8 prekindergarten children adopted by the state board.

9 (c) Nutritional services for all program participants.

10 (d) Health screening services for all program participants.

11 (e) Referral services for families of program participants to
12 community social service agencies, as appropriate.

13 (f) Active and continuous involvement of the parents or
14 guardians of the program participants.

15 (g) A plan to conduct and report annual great start readiness
16 program evaluations and continuous improvement plans using criteria
17 approved by the department.

18 (h) Participation in a multidistrict, multiagency, school
19 readiness advisory committee that provides for the involvement of
20 classroom teachers, parents or guardians of program participants,
21 and community, volunteer, and social service agencies and
22 organizations, as appropriate. The advisory committee shall review
23 the program components listed in this subsection and make
24 recommendations for changes to the great start readiness program
25 for which it is an advisory committee.

26 (i) For great start readiness programs operated by a district
27 or consortium of districts, provide for the ongoing articulation of

1 the early childhood, kindergarten, and first grade programs offered
2 by the district or districts.

3 (J) ASSESSMENT OF ALL CHILDREN IN THE PROGRAM WHO WILL BE AT
4 LEAST 4 YEARS OF AGE AS OF DECEMBER 1 OF THE SCHOOL YEAR AT LEAST 3
5 TIMES DURING THE SCHOOL YEAR USING THE "GET IT, GOT IT, GO!"
6 SCREENING ASSESSMENT OF PRESCHOOL LITERACY BENCHMARKS DEVELOPED BY
7 THE CENTER FOR EARLY EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT AT THE UNIVERSITY OF
8 MINNESOTA. THE PROGRAM SHALL REPORT THE RESULTS OF THE ASSESSMENTS
9 TO THE DEPARTMENT. THE ASSESSMENTS SHALL BE CONDUCTED AT THE
10 BEGINNING, MIDDLE, AND END OF THE SCHOOL YEAR.

11 (5) An application for funding under this section shall
12 provide for the following, in a form and manner determined by the
13 department:

14 (a) Ensure compliance with all program components described in
15 subsection (4).

16 (b) Ensure that more than 50% of the children participating in
17 an eligible great start readiness program are children who live
18 with families with a household income that is equal to or less than
19 300% of the federal poverty level.

20 (c) Ensure that the applicant only employs qualified personnel
21 for this program, as follows:

22 (i) Teachers possessing proper training. For programs the
23 district manages itself, a valid teaching certificate and an early
24 childhood (ZA) endorsement are required. This provision does not
25 apply to a district that subcontracts with an eligible child
26 development program. In that situation, a teacher must have a valid
27 Michigan teaching certificate with an early childhood (ZA)

1 endorsement, a valid Michigan teaching certificate with a child
2 development associate credential, or a bachelor's degree in child
3 development with specialization in preschool teaching. However,
4 both of the following apply to this subparagraph:

5 (A) If a district demonstrates to the department that it is
6 unable to fully comply with this subparagraph after making
7 reasonable efforts to comply, teachers who have significant but
8 incomplete training in early childhood education or child
9 development may be employed by the district if the district
10 provides to the department, and the department approves, a plan for
11 each teacher to come into compliance with the standards in this
12 subparagraph. A teacher's compliance plan must be completed within
13 4 years of the date of employment. Progress toward completion of
14 the compliance plan shall consist of at least 2 courses per
15 calendar year.

16 (B) For a subcontracted program, the department shall consider
17 a teacher with 90 credit hours and at least 4 years' teaching
18 experience in a qualified preschool program to meet the
19 requirements under this subparagraph.

20 (ii) Paraprofessionals possessing proper training in early
21 childhood development, including an associate's degree in early
22 childhood education or child development or the equivalent, or a
23 child development associate (CDA) credential, or the equivalent as
24 approved by the state board. However, if a district demonstrates to
25 the department that it is unable to fully comply with this
26 subparagraph after making reasonable efforts to comply, the
27 district may employ paraprofessionals who have completed at least 1

1 course in early childhood education or child development if the
2 district provides to the department, and the department approves, a
3 plan for each paraprofessional to come into compliance with the
4 standards in this subparagraph. A paraprofessional's compliance
5 plan must be completed within 2 years of the date of employment.
6 Progress toward completion of the compliance plan shall consist of
7 at least 2 courses or 60 clock hours of training per calendar year.

8 (d) Include a program budget that contains only those costs
9 that are not reimbursed or reimbursable by federal funding, that
10 are clearly and directly attributable to the great start readiness
11 program, and that would not be incurred if the program were not
12 being offered. The program budget shall indicate the extent to
13 which these funds will supplement other federal, state, local, or
14 private funds. Funds received under this section shall not be used
15 to supplant any federal funds by the applicant to serve children
16 eligible for a federally funded existing preschool program that has
17 the capacity to serve those children.

18 (6) For a grant recipient that enrolls pupils in a full-day
19 program funded under this section, each child enrolled in the full-
20 day program shall be counted as 2 children served by the program
21 for purposes of determining the number of children to be served and
22 for determining the amount of the grant award. A grant award shall
23 not be increased solely on the basis of providing a full-day
24 program. As used in this subsection, "full-day program" means a
25 program that operates for at least the same length of day as a
26 district's first grade program for a minimum of 4 days per week, 30
27 weeks per year. A classroom that offers a full-day program must

1 enroll all children for the full day to be considered a full-day
2 program.

3 (7) A district or consortium of districts receiving a grant
4 under this section may contract with for-profit or nonprofit
5 preschool center providers that meet all requirements of subsection
6 (4) and retain for administrative services an amount equal to not
7 more than 5% of the grant amount. A district or consortium of
8 districts may expend not more than 10% of the total grant amount
9 for administration of the program.

10 (8) Any public or private for-profit or nonprofit legal entity
11 or agency may apply for a competitive grant under this section.
12 However, a district or intermediate district may not apply for a
13 competitive grant under this section unless the district,
14 intermediate district, or consortium of districts or intermediate
15 districts is acting as a local grantee for the federal head start
16 program operating under the head start act, 42 USC 9831 to 9852.

17 (9) A recipient of funds under this section shall report to
18 the department on the midyear report the number of children
19 participating in the program who meet the income or other
20 eligibility criteria prescribed by the department and the total
21 number of children participating in the program. For children
22 participating in the program who meet the income or other
23 eligibility criteria specified under subsection (5)(b), a recipient
24 shall also report whether or not a parent is available to provide
25 care based on employment status. For the purposes of this
26 subsection, "employment status" shall be defined by the department
27 of human services in a manner consistent with maximizing the amount

1 of spending that may be claimed for temporary assistance for needy
2 families maintenance of effort purposes.