

HOUSE BILL No. 5151

October 19, 2017, Introduced by Reps. Zemke, Camilleri, Clemente, Brinks, Faris, Pagan, Hoadley, Sowerby, Hammoud, Schor, Chang, Wittenberg, Lasinski and Geiss and referred to the Committee on Appropriations.

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 2017 PA 108.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

1 Sec. 32d. (1) From the funds appropriated in section 11, there
2 is allocated to eligible intermediate districts and consortia of
3 intermediate districts for great start readiness programs an amount
4 not to exceed \$243,600,000.00 for 2017-2018. Funds allocated under
5 this section for great start readiness programs shall be used to
6 provide part-day, school-day, or GSRP/Head Start blended
7 comprehensive free compensatory classroom programs designed to
8 improve the readiness and subsequent achievement of educationally
9 disadvantaged children who meet the participant eligibility and
10 prioritization guidelines as defined by the department. For a child
11 to be eligible to participate in a program under this section, the

1 child shall be at least 4, but less than 5, years of age as of
2 September 1 of the school year in which the program is offered and
3 shall meet those eligibility and prioritization guidelines.

4 **BEGINNING IN 2018-2019, FOR A CHILD TO BE ELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE**
5 **IN A PROGRAM UNDER THIS SECTION, THE CHILD SHALL BE AT LEAST 3, BUT**
6 **LESS THAN 5, YEARS OF AGE AS OF SEPTEMBER 1 OF THE SCHOOL YEAR IN**
7 **WHICH THE PROGRAM IS OFFERED AND SHALL MEET THOSE ELIGIBILITY AND**
8 **PRIORITIZATION GUIDELINES.**

9 (2) Funds allocated under subsection (1) shall be allocated to
10 intermediate districts or consortia of intermediate districts based
11 on the formula in section 39. An intermediate district or
12 consortium of intermediate districts receiving funding under this
13 section shall act as the fiduciary for the great start readiness
14 programs. In order to be eligible to receive funds allocated under
15 this subsection from an intermediate district or consortium of
16 intermediate districts, a district, a consortium of districts, or a
17 public or private for-profit or nonprofit legal entity or agency
18 shall comply with this section and section 39.

19 (3) In addition to the allocation under subsection (1), from
20 the general fund money appropriated under section 11, there is
21 allocated an amount not to exceed \$300,000.00 for 2017-2018 for a
22 competitive grant to continue a longitudinal evaluation of children
23 who have participated in great start readiness programs.

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

1 the department:

2 (a) Participation in a collaborative recruitment and
3 enrollment process 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, including, at
9 least, the Connect4Learning curriculum.

10 (c) Nutritional services for all program participants
11 supported by federal, state, and local resources as applicable.

12 (d) Physical and dental health and developmental screening
13 services for all program participants.

14 (e) Referral services for families of program participants to
15 community social service agencies, including mental health
16 services, as appropriate.

17 (f) Active and continuous involvement of the parents or
18 guardians of the program participants.

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

22 (h) Participation in a school readiness advisory committee
23 convened as a workgroup of the great start collaborative that
24 provides for the involvement of classroom teachers, parents or
25 guardians of program participants, and community, volunteer, and
26 social service agencies and organizations, as appropriate. The
27 advisory committee annually shall review and make recommendations

1 regarding the program components listed in this subsection. The
2 advisory committee also shall make recommendations to the great
3 start collaborative regarding other community services designed to
4 improve all children's school readiness.

5 (i) The ongoing articulation of the kindergarten and first
6 grade programs offered by the program provider.

7 (j) Participation in this state's great start to quality
8 process with a rating of at least 3 stars.

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

12 (a) Ensure compliance with all program components described in
13 subsection (4).

14 (b) Except as otherwise provided in this subdivision, ensure
15 that at least 90% of the children participating in an eligible
16 great start readiness program for whom the intermediate district is
17 receiving funds under this section are children who live with
18 families with a household income that is equal to or less than 250%
19 of the federal poverty level. If the intermediate district
20 determines that all eligible children are being served and that
21 there are no children on the waiting list who live with families
22 with a household income that is equal to or less than 250% of the
23 federal poverty level, the intermediate district may then enroll
24 children who live with families with a household income that is
25 equal to or less than 300% of the federal poverty level. The
26 enrollment process shall consider income and risk factors, such
27 that children determined with higher need are enrolled before

1 children with lesser need. For purposes of this subdivision, all
2 age-eligible children served in foster care or who are experiencing
3 homelessness or who have individualized education plans
4 recommending placement in an inclusive preschool setting shall be
5 considered to live with families with household income equal to or
6 less than 250% of the federal poverty level regardless of actual
7 family income and shall be prioritized for enrollment within the
8 lowest quintile.

9 (c) Ensure that the applicant only uses qualified personnel
10 for this program, as follows:

11 (i) Teachers possessing proper training. A lead teacher must
12 have a valid teaching certificate with an early childhood (ZA or
13 ZS) endorsement or a bachelor's or higher degree in child
14 development or early childhood education with specialization in
15 preschool teaching. However, if an applicant demonstrates to the
16 department that it is unable to fully comply with this subparagraph
17 after making reasonable efforts to comply, teachers who have
18 significant but incomplete training in early childhood education or
19 child development may be used if the applicant provides to the
20 department, and the department approves, a plan for each teacher to
21 come into compliance with the standards in this subparagraph. A
22 teacher's compliance plan must be completed within 2 years of the
23 date of employment. Progress toward completion of the compliance
24 plan shall consist of at least 2 courses per calendar year.

25 (ii) Paraprofessionals possessing proper training in early
26 childhood education, including an associate's degree in early
27 childhood education or child development or the equivalent, or a

1 child development associate (CDA) credential. However, if an
2 applicant demonstrates to the department that it is unable to fully
3 comply with this subparagraph after making reasonable efforts to
4 comply, the applicant may use paraprofessionals who have completed
5 at least 1 course that earns college credit in early childhood
6 education or child development if the applicant provides to the
7 department, and the department approves, a plan for each
8 paraprofessional to come into compliance with the standards in this
9 subparagraph. A paraprofessional's compliance plan must be
10 completed within 2 years of the date of employment. Progress toward
11 completion of the compliance plan shall consist of at least 2
12 courses or 60 clock hours of training per calendar year.

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

24 (6) For a grant recipient that enrolls pupils in a school-day
25 program funded under this section, each child enrolled in the
26 school-day program shall be counted as described in section 39 for
27 purposes of determining the amount of the grant award.

1 (7) For a grant recipient that enrolls pupils in a GSRP/Head
2 Start blended program, the grant recipient shall ensure that all
3 Head Start and GSRP policies and regulations are applied to the
4 blended slots, with adherence to the highest standard from either
5 program, to the extent allowable under federal law.

6 (8) An intermediate district or consortium of intermediate
7 districts receiving a grant under this section shall designate an
8 early childhood coordinator, and may provide services directly or
9 may contract with 1 or more districts or public or private for-
10 profit or nonprofit providers that meet all requirements of
11 subsections (4) and (5).

12 (9) An intermediate district or consortium of intermediate
13 districts may retain for administrative services provided by the
14 intermediate district or consortium of intermediate districts an
15 amount not to exceed 4% of the grant amount. Expenses incurred by
16 subrecipients engaged by the intermediate district or consortium of
17 intermediate districts for directly running portions of the program
18 shall be considered program costs or a contracted program fee for
19 service.

20 (10) An intermediate district or consortium of intermediate
21 districts may expend not more than 2% of the total grant amount for
22 outreach, recruiting, and public awareness of the program.

23 (11) Each grant recipient shall enroll children identified
24 under subsection (5)(b) according to how far the child's household
25 income is below 250% of the federal poverty level by ranking each
26 applicant child's household income from lowest to highest and
27 dividing the applicant children into quintiles based on how far the

1 child's household income is below 250% of the federal poverty
2 level, and then enrolling children in the quintile with the lowest
3 household income before enrolling children in the quintile with the
4 next lowest household income until slots are completely filled. If
5 the grant recipient determines that all eligible children are being
6 served and that there are no children on the waiting list who live
7 with families with a household income that is equal to or less than
8 250% of the federal poverty level, the grant recipient may then
9 enroll children who live with families with a household income that
10 is equal to or less than 300% of the federal poverty level. The
11 enrollment process shall consider income and risk factors, such
12 that children determined with higher need are enrolled before
13 children with lesser need. For purposes of this subdivision, all
14 age-eligible children served in foster care or who are experiencing
15 homelessness or who have individualized education plans
16 recommending placement in an inclusive preschool setting shall be
17 considered to live with families with household income equal to or
18 less than 250% of the federal poverty level regardless of actual
19 family income and shall be prioritized for enrollment within the
20 lowest quintile.

21 (12) An intermediate district or consortium of intermediate
22 districts receiving a grant under this section shall allow parents
23 of eligible children who are residents of the intermediate district
24 or within the consortium to choose a program operated by or
25 contracted with another intermediate district or consortium of
26 intermediate districts and shall enter into a written agreement
27 regarding payment, in a manner prescribed by the department.

1 (13) An intermediate district or consortium of intermediate
2 districts receiving a grant under this section shall conduct a
3 local process to contract with interested and eligible public and
4 private for-profit and nonprofit community-based providers that
5 meet all requirements of subsection (4) for at least 30% of its
6 total allocation. For the purposes of this 30% allocation, an
7 intermediate district or consortium of intermediate districts may
8 count children served by a Head Start grantee or delegate in a
9 blended Head Start and great start readiness school-day program.
10 Children served in a program funded only through Head Start shall
11 not be counted toward this 30% allocation. The intermediate
12 district or consortium shall report to the department, in a manner
13 prescribed by the department, a detailed list of community-based
14 providers by provider type, including private for-profit, private
15 nonprofit, community college or university, Head Start grantee or
16 delegate, and district or intermediate district, and the number and
17 proportion of its total allocation allocated to each provider as
18 subrecipient. If the intermediate district or consortium is not
19 able to contract for at least 30% of its total allocation, the
20 grant recipient shall notify the department and, if the department
21 verifies that the intermediate district or consortium attempted to
22 contract for at least 30% of its total allocation and was not able
23 to do so, then the intermediate district or consortium may retain
24 and use all of its allocation as provided under this section. To be
25 able to use this exemption, the intermediate district or consortium
26 shall demonstrate to the department that the intermediate district
27 or consortium increased the percentage of its total allocation for

1 which it contracts with a community-based provider and the
2 intermediate district or consortium shall submit evidence
3 satisfactory to the department, and the department must be able to
4 verify this evidence, demonstrating that the intermediate district
5 or consortium took measures to contract for at least 30% of its
6 total allocation as required under this subsection, including, but
7 not limited to, at least all of the following measures:

8 (a) The intermediate district or consortium notified each
9 nonparticipating licensed child care center located in the service
10 area of the intermediate district or consortium regarding the
11 center's eligibility to participate, in a manner prescribed by the
12 department.

13 (b) The intermediate district or consortium provided to each
14 nonparticipating licensed child care center located in the service
15 area of the intermediate district or consortium information
16 regarding great start readiness program requirements and a
17 description of the application and selection process for community-
18 based providers.

19 (c) The intermediate district or consortium provided to the
20 public and to participating families a list of community-based
21 great start readiness program subrecipients with a great start to
22 quality rating of at least 3 stars.

23 (14) If an intermediate district or consortium of intermediate
24 districts receiving a grant under this section fails to submit
25 satisfactory evidence to demonstrate its effort to contract for at
26 least 30% of its total allocation, as required under subsection
27 ~~(1)~~, **(13)**, the department shall reduce the allocation to the

1 intermediate district or consortium by a percentage equal to the
2 difference between the percentage of an intermediate district's or
3 consortium's total allocation awarded to community-based providers
4 and 30% of its total allocation.

5 (15) In order to assist intermediate districts and consortia
6 in complying with the requirement to contract with community-based
7 providers for at least 30% of their total allocation, the
8 department shall do all of the following:

9 (a) Ensure that a great start resource center or the
10 department provides each intermediate district or consortium
11 receiving a grant under this section with the contact information
12 for each licensed child care center located in the service area of
13 the intermediate district or consortium by March 1 of each year.

14 (b) Provide, or ensure that an organization with which the
15 department contracts provides, a community-based provider with a
16 validated great start to quality rating within 90 days of the
17 provider's having submitted a request and self-assessment.

18 (c) Ensure that all intermediate district, district, community
19 college or university, Head Start grantee or delegate, private for-
20 profit, and private nonprofit providers are subject to a single
21 great start to quality rating system. The rating system shall
22 ensure that regulators process all prospective providers at the
23 same pace on a first-come, first-served basis and shall not allow 1
24 type of provider to receive a great start to quality rating ahead
25 of any other type of provider.

26 (d) Not later than December 1 of each year, compile the
27 results of the information reported by each intermediate district

1 or consortium under subsection ~~(10)~~ **(13)** and report to the
2 legislature a list by intermediate district or consortium with the
3 number and percentage of each intermediate district's or
4 consortium's total allocation allocated to community-based
5 providers by provider type, including private for-profit, private
6 nonprofit, community college or university, Head Start grantee or
7 delegate, and district or intermediate district.

8 (16) A recipient of funds under this section shall report to
9 the department in a form and manner prescribed by the department
10 the number of children participating in the program who meet the
11 income eligibility criteria under subsection (5)(b) and the total
12 number of children participating in the program. For children
13 participating in the program who meet the income eligibility
14 criteria specified under subsection (5)(b), a recipient shall also
15 report whether or not a parent is available to provide care based
16 on employment status. For the purposes of this subsection,
17 "employment status" shall be defined by the department of health
18 and human services in a manner consistent with maximizing the
19 amount of spending that may be claimed for temporary assistance for
20 needy families maintenance of effort purposes.

21 (17) As used in this section:

22 (a) "GSRP/Head Start blended program" means a part-day program
23 funded under this section and a Head Start program, which are
24 combined for a school-day program.

25 (b) "Part-day program" means a program that operates at least
26 4 days per week, 30 weeks per year, for at least 3 hours of
27 teacher-child contact time per day but for fewer hours of teacher-

1 child contact time per day than a school-day program.

2 (c) "School-day program" means a program that operates for at
3 least the same length of day as a district's first grade program
4 for a minimum of 4 days per week, 30 weeks per year. A classroom
5 that offers a school-day program must enroll all children for the
6 school day to be considered a school-day program.

7 (18) An intermediate district or consortium of intermediate
8 districts receiving funds under this section shall establish and
9 charge tuition according to a sliding scale of tuition rates based
10 upon household income for children participating in an eligible
11 great start readiness program who live with families with a
12 household income that is more than 250% of the federal poverty
13 level to be used by all of its providers, as approved by the
14 department.

15 (19) From the amount appropriated in subsection (1), there is
16 allocated an amount not to exceed \$10,000,000.00 for reimbursement
17 of transportation costs for children attending great start
18 readiness programs funded under this section. To receive
19 reimbursement under this subsection, not later than November 1,
20 2017, a program funded under this section that provides
21 transportation shall submit to the intermediate district that is
22 the fiscal agent for the program a projected transportation budget.
23 The amount of the reimbursement for transportation under this
24 subsection shall be no more than the projected transportation
25 budget or \$300.00 multiplied by the number of children funded for
26 the program under this section. If the amount allocated under this
27 subsection is insufficient to fully reimburse the transportation

1 costs for all programs that provide transportation and submit the
2 required information, the reimbursement shall be prorated in an
3 equal amount per child funded. Payments shall be made to the
4 intermediate district that is the fiscal agent for each program,
5 and the intermediate district shall then reimburse the program
6 provider for transportation costs as prescribed under this
7 subsection.

8 (20) The department shall implement a process to review and
9 approve age-appropriate comprehensive classroom level quality
10 assessments for GSRP grantees that support the early childhood
11 standards of quality for prekindergarten children adopted by the
12 state board. The department shall complete the approval process and
13 make available to intermediate districts at least 2 approved
14 classroom level quality assessments no later than April 1, 2018.

15 (21) An intermediate district that is a GSRP grantee may
16 approve the use of a supplemental curriculum that aligns with and
17 enhances the age-appropriate educational curriculum in the
18 classroom. If the department objects to the use of a supplemental
19 curriculum approved by an intermediate district, the superintendent
20 of public instruction shall establish a review committee
21 independent of the department. The review committee shall meet
22 within 60 days of the department registering its objection in
23 writing and provide a final determination on the validity of the
24 objection within 60 days of the review committee's first meeting.