

# HOUSE BILL NO. 4667

May 24, 2019, Introduced by Reps. Pagan, Wittenberg, Camilleri, Manoogian, Stone, Sowerby, Kennedy, Koleszar, Love, Brixie, Brenda Carter, Hope, Gay-Dagnogo, Hoadley and Sabo 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 2018 PA 265.

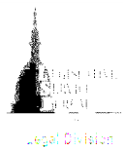
## **THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:**

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 2018-2019. Funds allocated under  
5       this section for great start readiness programs shall be used to



1 provide part-day, school-day, or GSRP/Head Start blended  
2 comprehensive free compensatory classroom programs designed to  
3 improve the readiness and subsequent achievement of educationally  
4 disadvantaged children who meet the participant eligibility and  
5 prioritization guidelines as defined by the department. For a child  
6 to be eligible to participate in a program under this section, the  
7 child shall be at least 4, but less than 5, years of age as of  
8 September 1 of the school year in which the program is offered and  
9 shall meet those eligibility and prioritization guidelines. A child  
10 who is not 4 years of age as of September 1, but who will be 4  
11 years of age not later than December 1, is eligible to participate  
12 if the child's parent or legal guardian seeks a waiver from the  
13 September 1 eligibility date by submitting a request for enrollment  
14 in a program to the responsible intermediate district, if the  
15 program has capacity on or after September 1 of the school year,  
16 and if the child meets eligibility and prioritization guidelines.  
17 **Beginning in 2019-2020, for a child to be eligible to participate**  
18 **in a program under this section, the child must be at least 3, but**  
19 **less than 5, years of age as of September 1 of the school year in**  
20 **which the program is offered and shall meet the eligibility and**  
21 **prioritization guidelines described in this subsection.**

22 (2) From the funds allocated under subsection (1), an amount  
23 not to exceed \$242,600,000.00 is allocated to intermediate  
24 districts or consortia of intermediate districts based on the  
25 formula in section 39. An intermediate district or consortium of  
26 intermediate districts receiving funding under this section shall  
27 act as the fiduciary for the great start readiness programs. In  
28 order to be eligible to receive funds allocated under this  
29 subsection from an intermediate district or consortium of



1 intermediate districts, a district, a consortium of districts, or a  
2 public or private for-profit or nonprofit legal entity or agency  
3 shall comply with this section and section 39.

4 (3) In addition to the allocation under subsection (1), from  
5 the general fund money appropriated under section 11, there is  
6 allocated an amount not to exceed \$300,000.00 for 2018-2019 for a  
7 competitive grant to continue a longitudinal evaluation of children  
8 who have participated in great start readiness programs.

9 (4) To be eligible for funding under this section, a program  
10 shall prepare children for success in school through comprehensive  
11 part-day, school-day, or GSRP/Head Start blended programs that  
12 contain all of the following program components, as determined by  
13 the department:

14 (a) Participation in a collaborative recruitment and  
15 enrollment process to assure that each child is enrolled in the  
16 program most appropriate to his or her needs and to maximize the  
17 use of federal, state, and local funds.

18 (b) An age-appropriate educational curriculum that is in  
19 compliance with the early childhood standards of quality for  
20 prekindergarten children adopted by the state board, including, at  
21 least, the Connect4Learning curriculum.

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

24 (d) Physical and dental health and developmental screening  
25 services for all program participants.

26 (e) Referral services for families of program participants to  
27 community social service agencies, including mental health  
28 services, as appropriate.

29 (f) Active and continuous involvement of the parents or



1 guardians of the program participants.

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

5 (h) Participation in a school readiness advisory committee  
6 convened as a workgroup of the great start collaborative that  
7 provides for the involvement of classroom teachers, parents or  
8 guardians of program participants, and community, volunteer, and  
9 social service agencies and organizations, as appropriate. The  
10 advisory committee annually shall review and make recommendations  
11 regarding the program components listed in this subsection. The  
12 advisory committee also shall make recommendations to the great  
13 start collaborative regarding other community services designed to  
14 improve all children's school readiness.

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

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

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

22 (a) Ensure compliance with all program components described in  
23 subsection (4).

24 (b) Except as otherwise provided in this subdivision, ensure  
25 that at least 90% of the children participating in an eligible  
26 great start readiness program for whom the intermediate district is  
27 receiving funds under this section are children who live with  
28 families with a household income that is equal to or less than 250%  
29 of the federal poverty level. If the intermediate district



determines that all eligible children are being served and that there are no children on the waiting list who live with families with a household income that is equal to or less than 250% of the federal poverty level, the intermediate district may then enroll children who live with families with a household income that is equal to or less than 300% of the federal poverty level. The enrollment process shall consider income and risk factors, such that children determined with higher need are enrolled before children with lesser need. For purposes of this subdivision, all age-eligible children served in foster care or who are experiencing homelessness or who have individualized education plans recommending placement in an inclusive preschool setting shall be considered to live with families with household income equal to or less than 250% of the federal poverty level regardless of actual family income and shall be prioritized for enrollment within the lowest quintile.

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

(i) Teachers possessing proper training. A lead teacher must have a valid teaching certificate with an early childhood (ZA or ZS) endorsement or a bachelor's or higher degree in child development or early childhood education with specialization in preschool teaching. However, if an applicant demonstrates to the department that it is unable to fully comply with this subparagraph after making reasonable efforts to comply, teachers who have significant but incomplete training in early childhood education or child development may be used if the applicant provides to the department, and the department approves, a plan for each teacher to come into compliance with the standards in this subparagraph. A



1 teacher's compliance plan must be completed within 2 years of the  
2 date of employment. Progress toward completion of the compliance  
3 plan shall consist of at least 2 courses per calendar year.

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

27 (11) Each grant recipient shall enroll children identified  
28 under subsection (5)(b) according to how far the child's household  
29 income is below 250% of the federal poverty level by ranking each



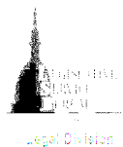
1 applicant child's household income from lowest to highest and  
2 dividing the applicant children into quintiles based on how far the  
3 child's household income is below 250% of the federal poverty  
4 level, and then enrolling children in the quintile with the lowest  
5 household income before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

23 (12) An intermediate district or consortium of intermediate  
24 districts receiving a grant under this section shall allow parents  
25 of eligible children who are residents of the intermediate district  
26 or within the consortium to choose a program operated by or  
27 contracted with another intermediate district or consortium of  
28 intermediate districts and shall enter into a written agreement  
29 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  
28 which it contracts with a community-based provider and the  
29 intermediate district or consortium shall submit evidence



1 satisfactory to the department, and the department must be able to  
2 verify this evidence, demonstrating that the intermediate district  
3 or consortium took measures to contract for at least 30% of its  
4 total allocation as required under this subsection, including, but  
5 not limited to, at least all of the following measures:

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

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

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

21 (14) If an intermediate district or consortium of intermediate  
22 districts receiving a grant under this section fails to submit  
23 satisfactory evidence to demonstrate its effort to contract for at  
24 least 30% of its total allocation, as required under subsection  
25 (13), the department shall reduce the allocation to the  
26 intermediate district or consortium by a percentage equal to the  
27 difference between the percentage of an intermediate district's or  
28 consortium's total allocation awarded to community-based providers  
29 and 30% of its total allocation.



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

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

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

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

22 (d) Not later than December 1 of each year, compile the  
23 results of the information reported by each intermediate district  
24 or consortium under subsection (13) and report to the legislature a  
25 list by intermediate district or consortium with the number and  
26 percentage of each intermediate district's or consortium's total  
27 allocation allocated to community-based providers by provider type,  
28 including private for-profit, private nonprofit, community college  
29 or university, Head Start grantee or delegate, and district or



1 intermediate district.

2 (16) A recipient of funds under this section shall report to  
3 the center in a form and manner prescribed by the center the number  
4 of children participating in the program who meet the income  
5 eligibility criteria under subsection (5)(b) and the total number  
6 of children participating in the program.

7 (17) As used in this section:

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

11 (b) "Part-day program" means a program that operates at least  
12 4 days per week, 30 weeks per year, for at least 3 hours of  
13 teacher-child contact time per day but for fewer hours of teacher-  
14 child contact time per day than a school-day program.

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

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

28 (19) From the amount appropriated in subsection (1), there is  
29 allocated an amount not to exceed \$10,000,000.00 for reimbursement



1 of transportation costs for children attending great start  
2 readiness programs funded under this section. To receive  
3 reimbursement under this subsection, not later than November 1,  
4 2018, a program funded under this section that provides  
5 transportation shall submit to the intermediate district that is  
6 the fiscal agent for the program a projected transportation budget.  
7 The amount of the reimbursement for transportation under this  
8 subsection shall be no more than the projected transportation  
9 budget or \$300.00 multiplied by the number of children funded for  
10 the program under this section. If the amount allocated under this  
11 subsection is insufficient to fully reimburse the transportation  
12 costs for all programs that provide transportation and submit the  
13 required information, the reimbursement shall be prorated in an  
14 equal amount per child funded. Payments shall be made to the  
15 intermediate district that is the fiscal agent for each program,  
16 and the intermediate district shall then reimburse the program  
17 provider for transportation costs as prescribed under this  
18 subsection.

19 (20) Subject to, and from the funds allocated under,  
20 subsection (19), the department shall reimburse a program for  
21 transportation costs related to parent- or guardian-accompanied  
22 transportation provided by transportation service companies, buses,  
23 or other public transportation services. To be eligible for  
24 reimbursement under this subsection, a program must be a community-  
25 based provider and must submit to the department all of the  
26 following:

27 (a) The names of families provided with transportation support  
28 along with a documented reason for the need for transportation  
29 support and the type of transportation provided.



1 (b) Financial documentation of actual transportation costs  
2 incurred by the program, including, but not limited to, receipts  
3 and mileage reports, as determined by the department.

4 (c) Any other documentation or information determined  
5 necessary by the department.

6 (21) The department shall implement a process to review and  
7 approve age-appropriate comprehensive classroom level quality  
8 assessments for GSRP grantees that support the early childhood  
9 standards of quality for prekindergarten children adopted by the  
10 state board. The department shall make available to intermediate  
11 districts at least 2 classroom level quality assessments that were  
12 approved in 2018.

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

23 (23) The department shall implement a process to evaluate and  
24 approve age-appropriate educational curricula that are in  
25 compliance with the early childhood standards of quality for  
26 prekindergarten children adopted by the state board.

27 (24) From the funds allocated under subsection (1), there is  
28 allocated an amount not to exceed \$1,000,000.00 for payments to  
29 intermediate districts or consortia of intermediate districts for



1 professional development for educators in programs implementing new  
2 curricula in 2019-2020.

3 (25) A great start readiness program or a GSRP/Head Start  
4 blended program funded under this section shall be permitted to  
5 utilize AmeriCorps Pre-K Reading Corps members in classrooms  
6 implementing research-based early literacy intervention strategies.

