



# OAG

Office of the Auditor General

## Report Summary

### Performance Audit

### Great Start Readiness Program (GSRP)

### Michigan Department of Education (MDE)

**Report Number:**  
313-0260-15

**Released:**  
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GSRP is Michigan's State-funded preschool program for four-year-old children who have factors which may place them at risk of educational failure. GSRP targets children whose families' annual incomes are equal to or less than 250% of the federal poverty level. MDE's Office of Great Start administers GSRP. MDE allocated \$631.9 million to intermediate school districts (ISDs) for GSRP providers in fiscal years 2014 through 2016.

Audit Objective			Conclusion
Objective #1: To assess MDE's compliance with selected GSRP application and allocation requirements.			Complied, with exceptions
Findings Related to This Audit Objective	Material Condition	Reportable Condition	Agency Preliminary Response
Improved guidance to ISDs and verification by MDE are needed to address inconsistent estimation methodologies among ISDs for determining GSRP qualifying students. Numerous adjustments and reallocations of funding occurred in fiscal years 2014 and 2015, and a potential overestimate of 13,014 children in part-day classrooms and \$47 million in funding occurred in fiscal year 2016 ( <a href="#">Finding #1</a> ).	X		Agrees

Audit Objective			Conclusion
Objective #2: To assess the adequacy of MDE's efforts to evaluate the effectiveness of GSRP.			Adequate, with exceptions
Findings Related to This Audit Objective	Material Condition	Reportable Condition	Agency Preliminary Response
A comprehensive process to evaluate the aggregate performance of GSRP students Statewide is needed. GSRP student assessment data gathered by ISDs was not fully used by MDE for Statewide evaluation of GSRP performance because of the lack of processes to capture, track, and store the data ( <a href="#">Finding #2</a> ).		X	Agrees
MDE needs to fully evaluate the results of the GSRP expansion. The breadth and timing of the expansion created significant challenges that, if not identified and addressed, could compromise future GSRP stability and performance ( <a href="#">Finding #3</a> ).		X	Agrees

Audit Objective		Conclusion	
Objective #3: To assess the effectiveness of MDE's oversight of GSRP to ensure that a quality preschool is provided to eligible children.		Effective	
Findings Related to This Audit Objective	Material Condition	Reportable Condition	Agency Preliminary Response
None reported.	Not applicable.		

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