



Appeals Process for Childcare Centers Not Receiving GSRP Estimated Allocation

Community Child Care Centers that are denied a GSRP allocation have the right to appeal. They can only appeal, however, if they meet all legal requirements to receive an allocation such as obtaining a rating of at least Enhancing Quality on Great Start to Quality, all MAISD financial requirements, and agree to all assurances required by the Department of Lifelong Education, Advancement, and Potential. All of the following steps must be followed in an appeal:

During the fiscal year when the State of Michigan invokes the hold harmless policy for ISD-level allocations; the MAISD will provide the same hold harmless allocation policy if the sub-recipient is in agreement and compliant. Any additional allocation of funding returned or not utilized from the original MAISD level allocation will go through the following process: MAISD with the involvement of the MCGSC, the ECC will create a recommended slot distribution plan. Allocated funding is distributed to the existing GSRP providers in good standing within the ISD service area, based on capacity. The following funding distribution plan has been developed to ensure all eligible at-risk four-year-old children in Montcalm County have access to high-quality preschool.

- Utilize required needs assessment supporting data to identify the number of eligible children in local districts (need & capacity) (Kindergarten Report, Status of Young Child Report, Dolly Parton Imagination Library Report, Preschool Report).
- Funding Allocation Plan review and approval at the MCGSC board.
- Facilitate discussions with community-based partners, local districts, and MCGSC members to review the needs assessment and discuss current and potential GSRP program capacity. This process also includes identifying all preschool options (tuition and tuition-free) available, where they are located, and the number of children they serve. This data-based decision-making process will determine where gaps exist and discussions will include sharing of information regarding details of operating GSRP, including licensing and specific program requirements. All community partners that met the official, legislated requirements (list provided by Western Region Resource Center) will be contacted. Western Region Resource Center is taking the lead in working with existing providers to improve quality and expand potential partners through a variety of measures including local training opportunities.
- Publicly announce GSRP funding allocation for the county once MDE has released the allocations for 2024- 2025 Communication strategies include email to MCGSC members, all local school administrators and licensed providers, and newsprint media. MAISD staff created and shared with all partners a GSRP program handbook that lists requirements including but not limited to licensing, age eligibility, income eligibility, selection criteria,

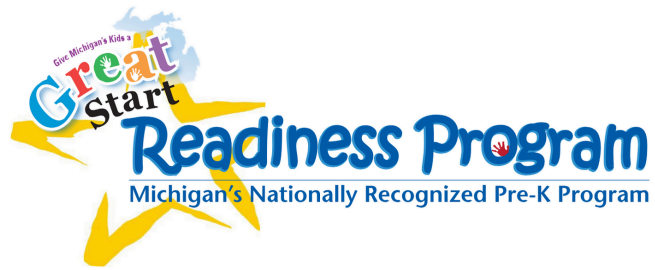


hours of operation, length of program, class capacity, adult-child ratio, services, curriculum, parent involvement, staffing qualifications, professional development, program consultant, and reporting. Also included is the website address to find the complete GSRP Implementation Manual, licensing requirements, and other program information.

- Community-based partners and local school districts who are interested in operating a GSRP program (sub-recipient) will submit a letter of intent to the MAISD after the Request for Proposal is posted (for 30 days) on the MAISD and MCGSC website. ECC will follow up with RFP and letter of intent responses to obtain pertinent information from potential partners. Completed applicants will outline how they would operate a program, provide transportation, maintain high quality, and meet GSRP program requirements. This sub-recipient questionnaire will be considered the GSRP application. The MCGSC Director is the contact person for potential sub-recipients and other parents who have questions regarding preschool expansion within the MAISD.
- Existing providers in good standing (met all contract and GSRP implementation manual requirements) with the MAISD need only to submit a letter of intent for the proposed school year and participate in the CNAA information process. The first order of allocation will occur with Community Partners to meet the 30% requirement. The second order of allocation will be to existing providers using the identified point system. If the 30% requirement is unable to be met, the remainder of the funding will be added to the pool (using the identified point system) to determine slot allocation for the remainder of funding to the existing providers this includes LEAs). The total MAISD allocation plan will be awarded to all community partnerships (LEAs and non-LEA) upon MCGSC review.
- There is a need to build partnerships with other providers to be able to fill GSRP funding to attempt to meet the 30% requirement. WRRC is taking the lead in this area. **If 30% allocation cannot be met non-LEA will be awarded their slot allocation "ask". Point/Priority system using capacity, poverty level, and need will still apply to the LEA provider's slot allocation process.
- Applications are reviewed by the ECC and scored. RFP scoring information is reviewed and approved by the MAISD Superintendent, Business Office Assistant Superintendent, and then the MCGSC Board.
- If there is a dispute in the scoring or allocation award process the MCGSC Executive Committee will review and make award recommendations to the MCGSC for final approval. An applicant must include in their application a description of how they will meet each GSRP implementation manual requirement, and GSQ improvement system to reflect on their practices, and must be willing to participate in the GSRP School Readiness Advisory Council quarterly meetings. In addition, the CNAA is used to identify where gaps in free preschool programs exist. These priorities will continue to be addressed in the slot allocation scoring process.



- Award Notifications are made via phone and /or email and followed up in writing. On-going communication occurs through the MCGSC meetings, written agreements with sub-recipients, and face-to-face orientation meetings. The ECC will complete the contract necessities.
- Priorities identified by the MCGSC will determine GSRP sub-recipients slot allocation: Ability to operate a quality program (child care licensing options, CLASS, and Great Start to Quality rating scores); capacity to serve children (house programs/as reported in local CNRA data); local investment; the opportunity to maximize the number of children accessing GSRP; Joint Recruitment participation; and poverty rates; will determine funding allocation. Great Start to Quality rating will be included in the review of each subrecipient questionnaire/application. The MAISD will require continuous quality improvement plans for all GSRP classrooms regardless of quality rating. Community-based organizations will receive the same opportunity and consideration as a local school district public entity.
- Thus, if there is more funding requested by sub-recipients than allocated for the MAISD area, funding will be distributed based on poverty rates: needs of children/families, Capacity: gaps of programs, and barriers to maintaining programs in each local district. Specific considerations will be given to the identified priorities and the favor will be given to meeting the overall goal: To ensure that every 4-year-old has a preschool opportunity.
- All GSRP sub-recipients will participate in a signed contract agreement with the MAISD outlining responsibilities for both parties; including but not limited to the GSRP implementation manual. Sub-recipients must be able to demonstrate the capacity to operate a program that adheres to the GSRP implementation manual related to the following: licensing, age eligibility, income eligibility, selection criteria, hours of operation, length of program, class capacity, adult-child ratio, services, curriculum, parent involvement, staffing qualifications, professional development, program consultant, and reporting.
- Extended school day and part-day GSRP options will be reviewed based on the capacity of serving all eligible children in MAISD; support needed to maintain a GSRP option in every fiscally responsible way; as well as providing increased support for the most identified at-risk students. This is all subject to funding allocation awards.
- Local Appeal Process for GSRP Community Partner conflicts (non-awarded or award funding allocations). Within 30 days of written notification from the MAISD applicant/sub-recipient can make a written appeal to the MAISD superintendent. Face-to-face meetings to resolve stated conflict will occur. If conflict resolution cannot be determined, a presentation by the complainant will be done for final resolution to the MCGSC. **MCGSC board will vote on conflict resolution and the decision will be binding for all parties.**



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