

HOUSE BILL No. 5281

February 6, 2014, Introduced by Reps. Franz, Kelly, Genetski and Rogers 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 2013 PA 60.

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 \$149,275,000.00 for 2013-2014. In addition, from the
5 funds appropriated in section 11, there is allocated to the great
6 start readiness reserve fund created under subsection (14) an
7 amount not to exceed \$25,000,000.00 for 2013-2014. Funds allocated
8 under this section for great start readiness programs shall be used
9 to provide part-day, school-day, or GSRP/head start blended

1 comprehensive free compensatory classroom programs designed to
2 improve the readiness and subsequent achievement of educationally
3 disadvantaged children who meet the participant eligibility and
4 prioritization guidelines as defined by the department. Beginning
5 in 2013-2014, for a child to be eligible to participate in a
6 program under this section, the child shall be at least 4, but less
7 than 5, years of age as of the date specified for determining a
8 child's eligibility to attend school under section 1147 of the
9 revised school code, MCL 380.1147.

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

20 (3) In addition to the allocation under subsection (1), from
21 the general fund money appropriated under section 11, there is
22 allocated an amount not to exceed \$300,000.00 for 2013-2014 for a
23 competitive grant to continue a longitudinal evaluation of children
24 who have participated in great start readiness programs.

25 (4) To be eligible for funding under this section, a program
26 shall prepare children for success in school through comprehensive
27 part-day, school-day, or GSRP/head start blended programs that

1 contain all of the following program components, as determined by
2 the department:

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

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

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

12 (d) Health and developmental screening services for all
13 program participants.

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

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

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

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

1 make recommendations for changes to the great start readiness
2 program for which it is an advisory committee.

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

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

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

10 (a) Ensure compliance with all program components described in
11 subsection (4).

12 (b) Ensure that at least 90% of the children participating in
13 an eligible great start readiness program for whom the provider is
14 receiving funds under this section are children who live with
15 families with a household income that is equal to or less than 250%
16 of the federal poverty level.

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

19 (i) Teachers possessing proper training. For programs managed
20 directly by a district or intermediate district, a **TEACHER MUST**
21 **HAVE EITHER A** valid teaching certificate and an early childhood (ZA
22 or ZS) endorsement ~~are required.~~ **OR A BACHELOR'S DEGREE IN EARLY**
23 **CHILDHOOD EDUCATION.** This provision does not apply to an eligible
24 child development program. In that situation, a teacher must have a
25 valid Michigan teaching certificate with an early childhood (ZA or
26 ZS) endorsement, a valid Michigan elementary teaching certificate
27 with a child development associate credential, or a bachelor's

1 degree in child development with specialization in preschool
2 teaching. However, if an applicant demonstrates to the department
3 that it is unable to fully comply with this subparagraph after
4 making reasonable efforts to comply, teachers who have significant
5 but incomplete training in early childhood education or child
6 development may be used if the applicant provides to the
7 department, and the department approves, a plan for each teacher to
8 come into compliance with the standards in this subparagraph. A
9 teacher's compliance plan must be completed within 2 years of the
10 date of employment. Progress toward completion of the compliance
11 plan shall consist of at least 2 courses per calendar year.

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

27 (d) Include a program budget that contains only those costs

1 that are not reimbursed or reimbursable by federal funding, that
2 are clearly and directly attributable to the great start readiness
3 program, and that would not be incurred if the program were not
4 being offered. Eligible costs include transportation costs. The
5 program budget shall indicate the extent to which these funds will
6 supplement other federal, state, local, or private funds. Funds
7 received under this section shall not be used to supplant any
8 federal funds received by the applicant to serve children eligible
9 for a federally funded preschool program that has the capacity to
10 serve those children.

11 (6) For a grant recipient that enrolls pupils in a school-day
12 program funded under this section, each child enrolled in the
13 school-day program shall be counted as 2 children served by the
14 program for purposes of determining the number of children to be
15 served and for determining the amount of the grant award. A grant
16 award shall not be increased solely on the basis of providing a
17 school-day program.

18 (7) For a grant recipient that enrolls pupils in a GSRP/head
19 start blended program, the grant recipient shall ensure that all
20 head start and GSRP policies and regulations are applied to the
21 blended slots, with adherence to the highest standard from either
22 program, to the extent allowable under federal law.

23 (8) An intermediate district or consortium of intermediate
24 districts receiving a grant under this section may provide services
25 directly or may contract with 1 or more districts or public or
26 private for-profit or nonprofit providers that meet all
27 requirements of subsection (4) and retain for administrative

1 services an amount equal to not more than 7% of the grant amount.
2 In addition, an intermediate district or consortium of intermediate
3 districts may expend not more than 2% of the total grant amount for
4 recruiting and public awareness of the program.

5 (9) Each grant recipient shall enroll children identified
6 under subsection (5)(b) according to how far the child's household
7 income is below 250% of the federal poverty level by ranking each
8 applicant child's household income from lowest to highest and
9 dividing the applicant children into quintiles based on how far the
10 child's household income is below 250% of the federal poverty
11 level, and then enrolling children in the quintile with the lowest
12 household income before enrolling children in the quintile with the
13 next lowest household income until slots are completely filled.

14 (10) An intermediate district or consortium of intermediate
15 districts receiving a grant under this section shall conduct a
16 local process to contract with interested and eligible public and
17 private for-profit and nonprofit community-based providers that
18 meet all requirements of subsection (4) for at least 30% of its
19 total slot allocation. If the intermediate district or consortium
20 is not able to contract for at least 30% of its total slot
21 allocation, the grant recipient shall notify the department and, if
22 the department verifies that the intermediate district or
23 consortium attempted to contract for at least 30% of its total slot
24 allocation and was not able to do so, then the intermediate
25 district or consortium may retain and use all of its allocated
26 slots as provided under this section.

27 (11) A recipient of funds under this section shall report to

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

13 (12) As used in this section:

14 (a) "GSRP/head start blended program" means a part-day program
15 funded under this section and a head start program, which are
16 combined for a school-day program.

17 (b) "Part-day program" means a program that operates at least
18 4 days per week, 30 weeks per year, for at least 3 hours of
19 teacher-child contact time per day but for fewer hours of teacher-
20 child contact time per day than a school-day program.

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

26 (13) An intermediate district or consortium of intermediate
27 districts receiving funds under this section shall establish a

1 sliding scale of tuition rates based upon household income for
2 children participating in an eligible great start readiness program
3 who live with families with a household income that is more than
4 250% of the federal poverty level to be used by all of its
5 providers, as approved by the department. A grant recipient shall
6 charge tuition according to that sliding scale of tuition rates on
7 a uniform basis for any child who does not meet the income
8 eligibility requirements under this section.

9 (14) The great start readiness reserve fund is created as a
10 separate account within the state school aid fund established by
11 section 11 of article IX of the state constitution of 1963. Money
12 available in the great start readiness reserve fund may not be
13 expended for 2013-2014 unless transferred by the legislature not
14 later than January 31, 2014 to the allocation under subsection (1)
15 for great start readiness programs. Money in the great start
16 readiness reserve fund shall be expended only for purposes for
17 which state school aid fund money may be expended. The state
18 treasurer shall direct the investment of the great start readiness
19 reserve fund. The state treasurer shall credit to the great start
20 readiness reserve fund interest and earnings from fund investments.
21 Money in the great start readiness reserve fund at the close of a
22 fiscal year shall remain in the great start readiness reserve fund
23 and shall not lapse to the unreserved school aid fund balance or
24 the general fund.