

## FY14 GSRP Eligibility

Public Act 60 of 2013 (PA 60), signed by Governor Snyder of June 14, 2013, enacts several changes for GSRP eligibility. This document provides guidance to Intermediate School Districts (ISD) regarding these changes so each ISD can provide training to subrecipients to ensure compliance.

### Eligibility and Prioritization

PA 60 reinforces that GSRP is to serve children and families with the lowest poverty levels. It does not revoke the requirement to refer all Head Start eligible children to Head Start following local written protocols, in compliance with the Implementation Manual.

To ensure each ISD and subrecipient program is enrolling children appropriately, the following steps must be followed:

1. As GSRP preschool applications, including income level and other risk factors, are collected, each family's Federal Poverty Level (FPL) is calculated. Follow current guidelines in the Recruitment and Eligibility section of the GSRP Implementation Manual to calculate the family's income. Poverty level calculators are available online and may be helpful, such as <http://www.coalitionclinics.org/fpl.html> or [http://www.needymeds.org/indices/FPL\\_Calculator.html](http://www.needymeds.org/indices/FPL_Calculator.html).
2. Each child is then placed on a list of applicants from lowest to highest family poverty level. Children whose families are at the same poverty level should be ranked according to other collected risk factors.
3. Any child eligible for Head Start by income or other factors is referred to Head Start by GSRP following local written protocols, in compliance with the Implementation Manual. The process must be complete before enrolling any Head Start eligible child in GSRP.
4. Once final allocations are posted and subrecipients are notified regarding number of distributed slots programs may begin to fill slots in accordance with Section 32(d)(9) of PA 60. Enrollment must begin with children from families between zero and 50% of FPL (who have completed the Head Start referral process) and continue with children from families between 51 and 100% of FPL (who have completed the Head Start referral process), between 101 and 150%, between 151 to 200%, and between 201 and 250%.
5. Finally, up to 10% of total slots may be filled with children from families above 250% of FPL with extreme risk for low educational achievement as determined by number or severity of existing GSRP risk factors. Careful documentation of the risk factors for these children must be kept in each child's file. These families must also be charged tuition based on the ISD's adopted sliding fee scale. MDE is convening a workgroup to develop a sample sliding fee scale.

*\*Keep in mind that very late-enrolling families tend to benefit from the program the most, and that subrecipients do not need to meet full enrollment on the first day of school. A quality program will hold open a small number of slots through the first week of the GSRP year, in order to promptly enroll late-applying, needy families.*

## Age Eligibility

**Applications submitted under the following two age categories will be considered alongside all other applications when enrollment decisions are made. This includes referral to Head Start for any qualified child, regardless of age.**

1. **GSRP Age Eligibility** – In order to align GSRP age eligibility to kindergarten eligibility, the Act refers to the revised School Code, MCL 380.1147. This allows the parents of children who will be 5 by December 1 to notify the school that they will enroll their child in kindergarten early. For GSRP this means that the parents of children who will turn 4 after the age cut off for GSRP but before December 1, may inform the subrecipient by August 1 for 2013-14 and by June 1 for each subsequent year that they wish to apply for GSRP.
2. **Kindergarten Age Eligibility** – The adjustment of the kindergarten age cut off means that children who attended GSRP may still be too young for kindergarten enrollment unless the parents requested early enrollment. In this case, those children **may apply** for a second year of GSRP.