

# Great Start Readiness Program Overview

## Presentation to House Appropriations Subcommittee for Education

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# What is the Great Start Readiness Program (GSRP)?

- GSRP is Michigan's state-funded preschool program for four-year-old children with factors which may place them at risk of educational failure.
- GSRP is administered by the Michigan Department of Education, Office of Great Start.
- GSRP funding is allocated to each intermediate school district (ISD) to administer the program locally and in combination with LEAs/PSAs and community-based organizations (CBOs), including faith-based.

# GSRP Funding History

- ▶ GSRP began in 1985, funded at \$1M, and served 694 children
- ▶ In FY 2015-16, GSRP is funded at \$243M and is projected to serve 37,500 children
- ▶ GSRP is funded at \$3,625 per slot per child for a part-day program; two slots can be used for one child to achieve a school-day program

# GSRP Program Options

- ▶ GSRP has three program options:
  - ▶ Part-day (minimum 3 hours per day, 4 days per week, 30 weeks per year)
  - ▶ School-day (minimum time is equivalent to the number of hours as a first grade session-typically 6.5-7 hours, 4 days per week, 30 weeks per year)
  - ▶ GSRP/Head Start Blend (same parameters as school-day AND all Head Start and GSRP policies and regulations are applied to GSRP/Head Start blended slots, with the highest standard from either program adhered to)



# GSRP Child and Family Eligibility Factors

## ➤ Income

- 90% of participants must be at or below 250% of the federal poverty level (e.g., family of 3 = \$50,225 in FY 2015-16)
- Some exceptions for up to 300%
- Quintile prioritization
  - 0-50%
  - 51-100%
  - 101-150%
  - 151-200%
  - 201-250%

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- ▶ Other Eligibility Factors adopted by Michigan State Board of Education
    - ▶ Diagnosed disability or identified developmental delay
    - ▶ Severe or challenging behavior
    - ▶ Primary home language other than English
    - ▶ Parent(s) with low educational attainment
    - ▶ Abuse/neglect of child or parent
    - ▶ Environmental risk

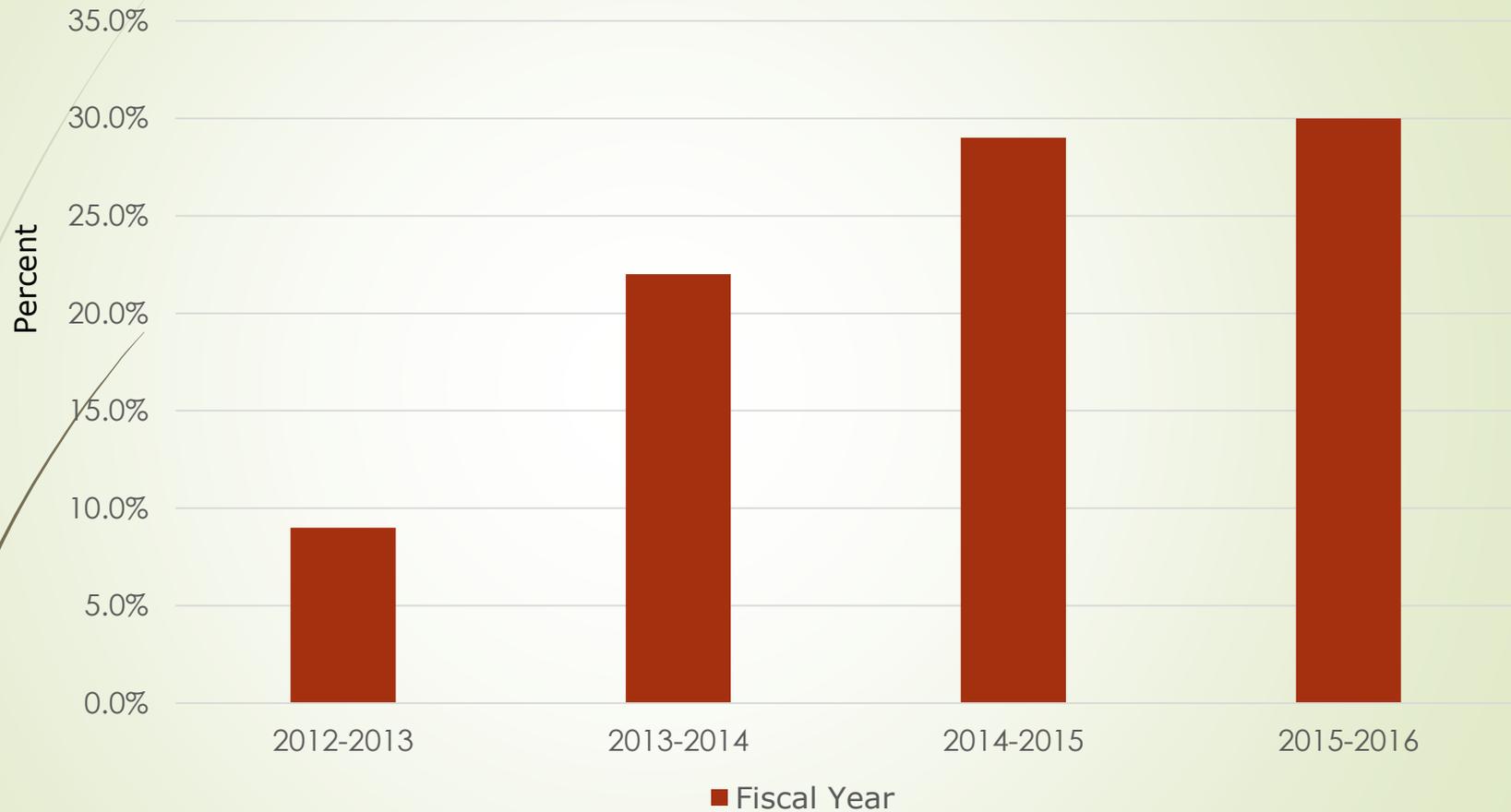
# GSRP Quality Model and Standards

- ▶ GSRP must comply with Public Act 116 of 1973, as amended, and the *Licensing Rules for Child Care Centers*.
- ▶ State School Aid Act requires adherence to all program quality and child outcomes standards in the State Board of Education adopted *Early Childhood Standards of Quality for Prekindergarten (ECSQ-PK)*.
- ▶ The Department requires ISDs to address GSRP program quality utilizing the *Preschool Program Quality Assessment (PQA)* tool
- ▶ All providers of GSRP must minimally be a 3 star level within Michigan's Great Start to Quality tiered rating and improvement system.

# GSRP Quality Factors

- ▶ Master's degree level Early Childhood Specialists (i.e., coaches)
- ▶ Child to adult ratio of 1:8
- ▶ Lead teachers with bachelor's degrees minimum/associate teachers with associate's degrees
- ▶ Authentic parent engagement
- ▶ Developmental screening using a standardized tool across core developmental domains
- ▶ Use of a research-validated comprehensive core curriculum that aligns with the ECSQ-PK
- ▶ Use of a research-validated comprehensive ongoing child assessment tool that aligns with the ECSQ-PK

# GSRP Slots to CBOs

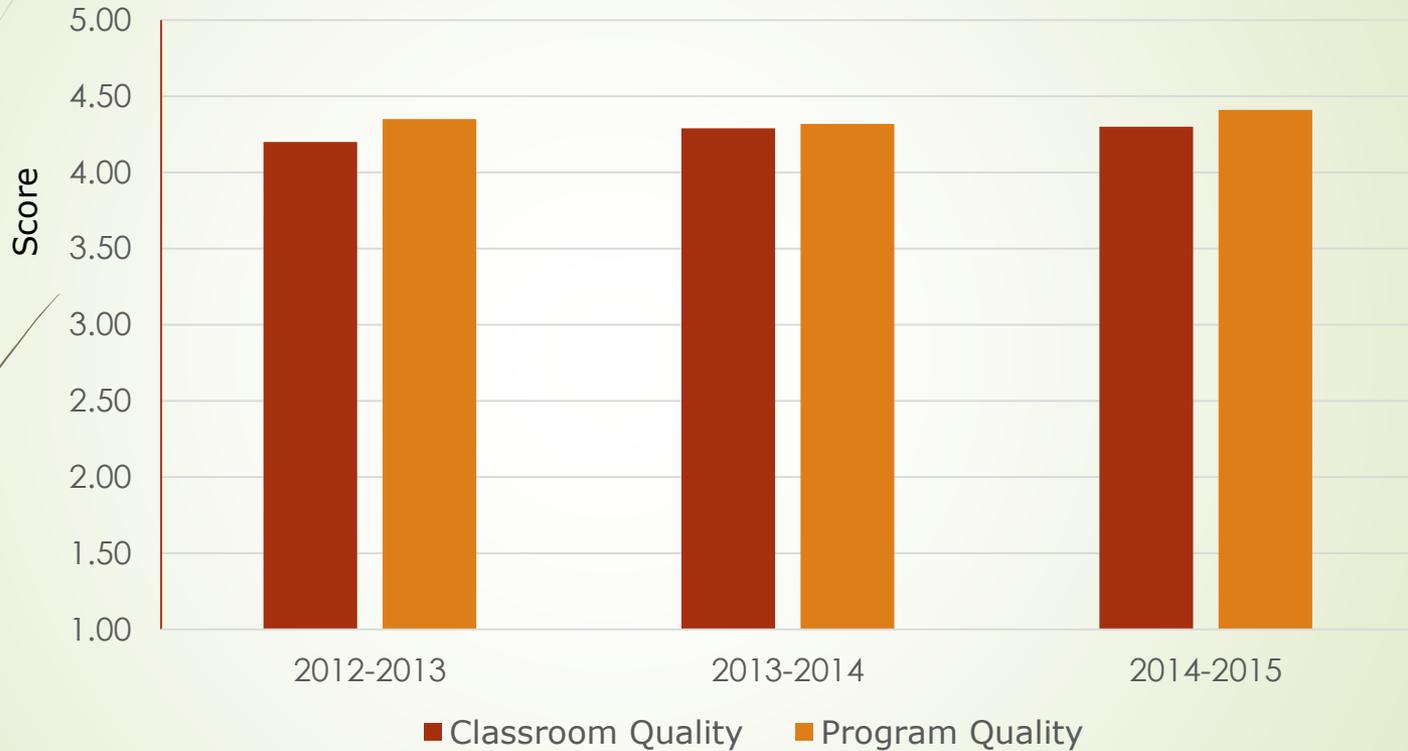


# GSRP Program Options Shifted Significantly During Expansion Years

Great Start Readiness Program Served/Slots Trend Comparison Data

Fiscal Year	Part-day Children Served	%	GSRP/Head Start Blend Served	%	School-day Children Served	%	Total Children Served	Equivalent Total Slots	\$ Per-Slot	% of FPL
2010-2011	15,704	71%	NA	NA	6,363	29%	22,067	24,701	\$3,400	300%
2011-2012	16,524	70%	NA	NA	7,055	30%	23,579	30,489	\$3,400	300%
2012-2013	15,319	64%	NA	NA	8,560	36%	23,879	32,439	\$3,400	300%
2013-2014	10,896	36%	3,187	10%	16,434	54%	30,517	46,951	\$3,625	250%
2014-2015	8,929	24%	4,999	13%	23,578	63%	37,506	61,082	\$3,625	250%
*2015-2016	6,673	18%	5,221	14%	25,677	68%	37,571	63,248	\$3,625	250%
*ESTIMATED pending MSDS Spring Count Final Numbers										

# GSRP = Quality Program



# GSRP Evaluation Results

- ▶ State School Aid Act funds an external evaluation of GSRP; HighScope Educational Research Foundation has won the competitive bid process since 1995
- ▶ Summary of Great Start Readiness Program Evaluation Findings 1995-2011
  - ▶ Kindergarten teachers consistently rated GSRP graduates as more advanced in imagination and creativity, demonstrating initiative, retaining learning, completing assignments (Florian, et al., 1997).

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- ▶ Second grade teachers rated GSRP graduates higher on being ready to learn, able to retain learning, maintaining good attendance and having an interest in school (Xiang & Schweinhart, 2002).
  - ▶ A higher percentage of 4th grade GSRP graduates passed the MEAP compared to non GSRP students (Xiang & Schweinhart, 2002).
  - ▶ GSRP boys took more 7th grade math courses than non-GSRP boys (Malofeeva et al., 2007).
  - ▶ GSRP children of color took more 8th grade math courses (Malofeeva et al., 2007).

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- Significantly fewer GSRP participants were retained in grade than non-GSRP students between 2nd and 12th grades (36.5% versus 49.2% in 12th grade) (HighScope, 2011).
  - Significantly fewer GSRP children of color were retained for two or more grades than their non-GSRP counterparts by the 12th grade (14.3% versus 28.1% in 12th grade) (HighScope, 2011).
  - More GSRP students graduated on time from high school than non-GSRP participants (58.3% versus 43.0%) (HighScope, 2011).
  - More GSRP children of color graduated on time from high school than non-GSRP participants (59.7% vs. 36.5%) (HighScope, 2011).

- ▶ New Evidence of GSRP Impact 2011-2014
  - ▶ GSRP showed significant impact on increasing at-risk preschool children's early literacy and math skills.
    - ▶ Children who participated in GSRP scored significantly higher on early literacy and math assessments than children in the comparison group.
  - ▶ GSRP reduced the achievement gap in early literacy between higher and lower risk preschool children.
    - ▶ Children who were identified as having higher risks scored lower at program entry and gained more in early literacy scores (i.e., in relative standings in comparison to national standards) than children who had lower risk.

# Estimated Waitlist for 4 Year Olds

<b>Estimated Number of 4-year olds at 250% or less of the FPL</b> <small>(Source: American City Survey of U.S. Census provided by state demographer, DTMB)1,200</small>	<b>63,350</b>
Children (at 250% of FPL) in GSRP FY15	- 35,000
Children (at 100% of FPL) in Head Start in FY15	- 16,150
Children receiving Special Education Preschool services	- 6,500
Estimated total children remaining	7,700
Assume 90% participation rate in programs (discount 10%)	- 6,500* (rounded)
Estimated children unserved	1,200