

# Michigan's Early Childhood Educational System

## *Prenatal through Kindergarten Entry*

*"Ensuring that children have positive experiences prior to entering school is likely to lead to better outcomes than remediation programs at a later age, and significant up-front costs can generate a strong return on investment."*

—Center on the Developing Child, Harvard University



- **Early Childhood Investment Corporation (ECIC)**  
Created to be the state's focal point for information and investment for early childhood care and education in Michigan so that all children have the developmental foundation they need to succeed in school and in life.
- **Early Childhood Programming**  
Funding from the Early Childhood Block grant (32p) provides research-based home visiting and/or early learning programming for families and their young children.
- **Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE)**  
Michigan ECSE services include preschool programs and related services for children ages 3-5 who qualify under IDEA.
- **Early Head Start (EHS)**  
Federally funded community-based comprehensive support program for low income families with pregnant women, infants, and toddlers up to age three.
- **Early On (EO)**  
A statewide early intervention program to support infants and toddlers from birth to three who have developmental delays or disabilities.
- **Great Start Collaborative (GSC)**  
Every county in Michigan is part of a Great Start Collaborative that includes parents, educators, service providers, and stakeholders, who work together to ensure the Governor's goals for the Office of Great Start are met.
- **Great Start Parent Coalition (GSPC)**  
Networks created in conjunction with the GSC to empower parents to strengthen their own families and to increase community awareness about the importance of early childhood.

- **Great Start Readiness Program (GSRP)**  
Michigan's state funded preschool program for eligible 4-year-old children. Families must meet income criteria established annually by the legislature. Family income and risk factors determine eligibility and the possibility of family contribution toward tuition.
- **Great Start Regional Resource Center**  
Regional Resource Centers help support providers and educators improve the quality of their programs and care.
- **Great Start to Quality (GSQ)**  
Great Start to Quality five star rating system helps parents find the best care and preschool for their child, and helps providers improve the care and education they provide to children. Standards set by Great Start to Quality are used to ensure that Michigan's youngest children have high quality learning experiences.
- **Head Start (HS)**  
Federally funded preschool program targeting low income children ages 3-5 and providing a variety of comprehensive services to families including health, nutrition, social services, and parent involvement.
- **Michigan Department of Education Office of Great Start (OGS)**  
Ensures that all children birth to age eight, especially those in highest need, have access to high-quality early learning and development programs and enter kindergarten prepared for success.

*"Children who participate in (high quality Early Childhood Education) programs are more likely to have the necessary skills—such as abstract reasoning, problem solving, and communication to meet the demands of tomorrow's workforce."*

—Robert Wood Johnson Foundation  
Commission to Build a Healthier America



**The goal of Michigan's early childhood system is to provide all families with young children access to comprehensive and coordinated community-based, high-quality early childhood programs, services and supports.**

Recognizing that all agencies, including health and social services have a role, this document is designed specifically to help school administrators understand the educational supports available to children and families.

The Governor outlined a single set of early childhood outcomes against which all public investments will be assessed:

- 1 Children born healthy.
- 2 Children healthy, thriving and developmentally on track from birth to third grade.
- 3 Children developmentally ready to succeed in school at the time of school entry.
- 4 Children are prepared to succeed in fourth grade and beyond by reading proficiently by the end of third grade.



### State and Federal Funded Programs for Children and Families

- Great Start Readiness Program (GSRP)
- Early Head Start (EHS)
- Head Start (HS)
- Early On (EO)
- Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE)
- Early Childhood Block Grant (32p)
  - Great Start Collaborative(GSC)/ Great Start Parent Coalition (GSPC)
  - Early Childhood Programming (home visiting, early learning groups)

### Key Great Start System Partners

- Michigan Department of Education Office of Great Start (OGS)
- Early Childhood Investment Corporation (ECIC)
- Intermediate School Districts/Regional Service Agencies

### ISDs always serve as the grantee for:

- Early Childhood Block Grant
- Early On (age 0-3) and Early Childhood Special Education (age 3-6)
- Great Start Readiness Program

### ISDs may serve as the grantee for:

- Head Start/Early Head Start
- Great Start Regional Resource Center

### There are a variety of ways that ISDs collaborate with local districts. They may:

- Operate programs directly
- Develop sub-recipient agreements or contractual relationships with LEAs/PSAs/ community partners
- Utilize both of the above options
- Provide program quality assurance, program monitoring and accountability and/ or technical assistance and professional development

