

33500 Van Born Road
Annex Building
Wayne, Michigan 48184-2497
www.resa.net

Lena Montgomery
Director, Early Childhood and English Learner Services
(734) 334-1438
montgol@resa.net

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Re: Great Start Readiness Program (GSRP)

Dear Childcare Center Director:

Wayne County Regional Educational Service Agency (WRESA) serves as the grantee for the Great Start Readiness Program (GSRP), the State of Michigan's free pre-kindergarten program. We are reaching out to licensed childcare centers interested in operating 4 year old GSRP classrooms across Wayne County.

Childcare centers make great partners for multiple reasons. Families appreciate your extended hours, days and months of operation offered to enrolled children all year.

Attached documents share information about GSRP, criteria for children to be eligible, the application process and the benefits of becoming a GSRP provider.

Please contact our office with any questions at 734 334-1577 or Laura Franey at FraneyL@resa.net.



Lena Montgomery, WRESA Director

NOTE: If you elect not to respond to this letter, Wayne RESA will remove your center from future invitations to participate.

Attachments:

- *Benefits to You to Join the Great Start Readiness Program (GSRP) Consortium in Wayne County*
- *GSRP Fact Sheet*
- *Initial Information for Potential Great Start to Readiness Partner*

Benefits of Joining the Great Start Readiness Program (GSRP) Consortium in Wayne County

❖ Benefits to the Community Childcare Center

- Adds funds to the operating budget to improve program quality
- Coaching, mentoring, and support from a qualified early childhood consultant
- Professional development opportunities for staff
- Becoming part of a bigger local network of early education and care professionals
- Implementing researched curriculum and child assessment tools
- Improve the overall quality of early education and care in Wayne County

❖ Benefits to WCRESA Include:

- Opportunities for families to receive extended day/year care
- Using existing licensed facilities, classrooms ready to start up
- Opportunities for expanded collaboration among public schools, public school academies, and community based organizations

❖ Benefits for Families

- Allows families to choose the setting that best meets family needs in terms of location, hours of operations and ages of children accepted
- Provides continuity of care for children as it limits the number of daily transitions
- Provides convenience of one drop off/pick up for the family
- Receive high quality care with no out of pocket costs.

❖ Benefits for the Great Start Collaborative (GSC-Wayne)

- Advances the GSC strategic plan for early education and care by promoting school readiness goals
- Provides a leadership voice
- Ensures all families have access to services throughout the community

GSRP Requirements Fact Sheet

❖ **Staff**

- Lead Teacher
 - Bachelor Degree in Early Childhood or Child Development
- Associate Teacher
 - Associate Degree in Child Development, Early Childhood or Child Development Associate Certificate (CDA)

❖ **Recruitment & Enrollment (Eligibility)**

- Students are selected based on income
- Risk factors in their life placing them at risk for possible school failure

❖ **Classroom Environment**

- License: Without violations
- Great Start to Quality Rating: Minimum of  (3) star rating

❖ **Classroom Routine**

- Schedule: School day
 - 7 hours minimum daily
 - 4 days a week
 - 30 weeks a year
 - 120 days a year
- Family style meals

❖ **Curriculum**

- Developmentally appropriate anti-bias activities
- Research based MDE approved curriculum

❖ **Child Assessment**

- Online: COR (HighScope)
- Online: GOLD (Creative Curriculum)

(Additional information located at [Michigan Department of Education's GSRP Webpage](#)
(GSRP Implementation Manual updated annually by MDE)

Revised 2/2020

What is GSRP?

The Great Start Readiness Program (GSRP) is Michigan's state funded Pre-K program. Serves 4 year old children who meet income and other eligibility criteria. All classrooms use a research-based curriculum and comprehensive child assessment tool. Classrooms have credentialed lead and associate teachers. Parents are involved in the program in multiple ways.

Please see [Michigan Department of Education's GSRP Webpage](#) for additional information

Can I be a GSRP provider?

GSRP is provided in licensed childcare centers, with a regular license. Eligible centers need a minimum three star rating in Great Start to Quality (GSQ) system. We currently do not provide funding for family homes or non-center based childcare.

Would I have to meet all program requirements to be chosen as a GSRP provider? Yes, you will be expected to hire qualified staff, have staff trained in the curriculum and assessment tool, etc. You will have to operate in compliance with childcare licensing rules and GSRP statute, policies and procedures.

What do I have to do to apply?

- Complete the Funding Application form today:
<https://tinyurl.com/s2s6a4x7>
- Applying for GSRP funding does not imply or guarantee program funding. Funding is determined based on several factors such as licensing, virtual or in-person visit by RESA GSRP consultants, Great Start to Quality Star Rating of at least 3 stars, and the GSRP Funding Committee's prioritizing process.
- If you choose to apply, A Wayne RESA staff person will contact you regarding the status of your application.

After careful review of this information, please consider your capacity to become a GSRP center and apply. Thank you!

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