

SENATE BILL No. 1095

April 25, 2012, Introduced by Senators BOOHER, HANSEN and PAVLOV 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 2011 PA 62.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

1 Sec. 32d. (1) For 2011-2012, there is allocated to eligible
2 intermediate districts and consortia of intermediate districts for
3 great start readiness programs an amount not to exceed
4 \$104,275,000.00 from the state school aid fund money appropriated
5 in section 11. Funds allocated under this section shall be used to
6 provide part-day or full-day comprehensive free compensatory
7 programs designed to do 1 or both of the following:

8 (a) Improve the readiness and subsequent achievement of
9 educationally disadvantaged children, as defined by the department,
10 ~~who will be at least 4, but less than 5 years of age, as of~~
11 ~~December 1 of the school year in which the programs are offered,~~

1 ~~and~~ who meet the participant eligibility and prioritization
2 guidelines as defined by the state board. **BEGINNING WITH THE 2012-**
3 **2013 SCHOOL YEAR, FOR A CHILD TO BE ELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE IN A**
4 **PROGRAM UNDER THIS SECTION, THE CHILD SHALL BE AT LEAST 4, BUT LESS**
5 **THAN 5, YEARS OF AGE, AS OF THE DATE SPECIFIED FOR DETERMINING A**
6 **CHILD'S ELIGIBILITY TO ATTEND SCHOOL UNDER SECTION 1147 OF THE**
7 **REVISED SCHOOL CODE, MCL 380.1147.**

8 (b) Provide preschool and parenting education programs similar
9 to those under former section 32b as in effect for 2001-2002.
10 Beginning in 2007-2008, funds spent by a district for programs
11 described in this subdivision shall not exceed the lesser of the
12 amount spent by the district under this subdivision for 2006-2007
13 or the amount spent under this subdivision in any subsequent fiscal
14 year.

15 (2) Funds allocated under this section shall be allocated to
16 intermediate districts or consortia of intermediate districts. An
17 intermediate district or consortium of intermediate districts
18 receiving funding under this section shall act as the fiduciary for
19 the great start readiness programs. For 2011-2012, the fiduciary
20 intermediate districts and consortia of intermediate districts
21 shall allocate the funding under this section as follows:

22 (a) An amount not to exceed \$95,400,000.00 allocated to
23 districts and consortia of districts as directed by the department
24 based on the formula in section 39. In order to be eligible to
25 receive funds allocated under this subdivision from an intermediate
26 district or consortium of intermediate districts, a district or
27 consortium of districts shall comply with this section and section

1 39.

2 (b) An amount not to exceed \$8,875,000.00 allocated in grants
3 to competitive great start readiness programs as directed by the
4 department based on the grant award process in section 32/. In order
5 to be eligible to receive funds allocated under this section from
6 an intermediate district or consortium of intermediate districts, a
7 competitive great start readiness program shall comply with this
8 section and section 32/.

9 (3) In addition to the allocation under subsection (1), from
10 the general fund money appropriated under section 11, there is
11 allocated an amount not to exceed \$300,000.00 for 2011-2012 for a
12 competitive grant to continue a longitudinal evaluation of children
13 who have participated in great start readiness programs.

14 (4) To be eligible for funding under this section, a program
15 shall prepare children for success in school through comprehensive
16 part-day or school-day programs that contain all of the following
17 program components, as determined by the department:

18 (a) Participation in a collaborative recruitment and
19 enrollment process. At a minimum, the process shall include all
20 other funded preschool programs that may serve children in the same
21 geographic area, to assure that each child is enrolled in the
22 program most appropriate to his or her needs and to maximize the
23 use of federal, state, and local funds.

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

27 (c) Nutritional services for all program participants.

1 (d) Health and developmental screening services for all
2 program participants.

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

5 (f) Active and continuous involvement of the parents or
6 guardians of the program participants.

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

10 (h) Participation in a multidistrict, multiagency, school
11 readiness advisory committee that provides for the involvement of
12 classroom teachers, parents or guardians of program participants,
13 and community, volunteer, and social service agencies and
14 organizations, as appropriate. The advisory committee shall review
15 the program components listed in this subsection and make
16 recommendations for changes to the great start readiness program
17 for which it is an advisory committee.

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

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

23 (a) Ensure compliance with all program components described in
24 subsection (4).

25 (b) Ensure that more than 75% of the children participating in
26 an eligible great start readiness program are children who live
27 with families with a household income that is equal to or less than

1 300% of the federal poverty level.

2 (c) Ensure that the applicant only employs qualified personnel
3 for this program, as follows:

4 (i) Teachers possessing proper training. For programs managed
5 directly by an intermediate district, a valid teaching certificate
6 and an early childhood (ZA or ZS) endorsement are required. This
7 provision does not apply to an intermediate district or competitive
8 program that subcontracts with an eligible child development
9 program. In that situation, a teacher must have a valid Michigan
10 teaching certificate with an early childhood (ZA or ZS)
11 endorsement, a valid Michigan elementary teaching certificate with
12 a child development associate credential, or a bachelor's degree in
13 child development with specialization in preschool teaching.
14 However, if an intermediate district demonstrates to the department
15 that it is unable to fully comply with this subparagraph after
16 making reasonable efforts to comply, teachers who have significant
17 but incomplete training in early childhood education or child
18 development may be employed by the intermediate district if the
19 intermediate district provides to the department, and the
20 department approves, a plan for each teacher to come into
21 compliance with the standards in this subparagraph. A teacher's
22 compliance plan must be completed within 2 years of the date of
23 employment. Progress toward completion of the compliance plan shall
24 consist of at least 2 courses per calendar year.

25 (ii) Paraprofessionals possessing proper training in early
26 childhood development, including an associate's degree in early
27 childhood education or child development or the equivalent, or a

1 child development associate (CDA) credential. However, if an
2 intermediate district demonstrates to the department that it is
3 unable to fully comply with this subparagraph after making
4 reasonable efforts to comply, the intermediate district may employ
5 paraprofessionals who have completed at least 1 course that earns
6 college credit in early childhood education or child development if
7 the intermediate district provides to the department, and the
8 department approves, a plan for each paraprofessional to come into
9 compliance with the standards in this subparagraph. A
10 paraprofessional's compliance plan must be completed within 2 years
11 of the date of employment. Progress toward completion of the
12 compliance plan shall consist of at least 2 courses or 60 clock
13 hours of training per calendar year.

14 (d) Include a program budget that contains only those costs
15 that are not reimbursed or reimbursable by federal funding, that
16 are clearly and directly attributable to the great start readiness
17 program, and that would not be incurred if the program were not
18 being offered. The program budget shall indicate the extent to
19 which these funds will supplement other federal, state, local, or
20 private funds. Funds received under this section shall not be used
21 to supplant any federal funds by the applicant to serve children
22 eligible for a federally funded existing preschool program that has
23 the capacity to serve those children.

24 (6) For a grant recipient that enrolls pupils in a school-day
25 program funded under this section, each child enrolled in the
26 school-day program shall be counted as 2 children served by the
27 program for purposes of determining the number of children to be

1 served and for determining the amount of the grant award. A grant
2 award shall not be increased solely on the basis of providing a
3 school-day program.

4 (7) An intermediate district or consortium of intermediate
5 districts receiving a grant under this section may contract with
6 for-profit or nonprofit preschool center providers that meet all
7 requirements of subsection (4) and retain for administrative
8 services an amount equal to not more than 5% of the grant amount.
9 An intermediate district, consortium of intermediate districts, or
10 competitive grant program may expend not more than 10% of the total
11 grant amount for administration of the program.

12 (8) Any public or private for-profit or nonprofit legal entity
13 or agency may apply for a competitive grant under this section.
14 However, a district or intermediate district may not apply for a
15 competitive grant under this section unless the district,
16 intermediate district, or consortium of districts or intermediate
17 districts is acting as a local grantee for the federal head start
18 program operating under the head start act, 42 USC 9831 to 9852.

19 (9) A recipient of funds under this section shall report to
20 the department in a form and manner prescribed by the department
21 the number of children participating in the program who meet the
22 income or other eligibility criteria prescribed by the department
23 and the total number of children participating in the program. For
24 children participating in the program who meet the income or other
25 eligibility criteria specified under subsection (5) (b), a recipient
26 shall also report whether or not a parent is available to provide
27 care based on employment status. For the purposes of this

1 subsection, "employment status" shall be defined by the department
2 of human services in a manner consistent with maximizing the amount
3 of spending that may be claimed for temporary assistance for needy
4 families maintenance of effort purposes.

5 (10) As used in this section:

6 (a) "Part-day program" means a program that operates at least
7 4 days per week, 30 weeks per year, for at least 3 hours of
8 teacher-child contact time per day but for fewer hours of teacher-
9 child contact time per day than a school-day program.

10 (b) "School-day program" means a program that operates for at
11 least the same length of day as a district's first grade program
12 for a minimum of 4 days per week, 30 weeks per year. A classroom
13 that offers a school-day program must enroll all children for the
14 school day to be considered a school-day program.

15 (11) A grant recipient receiving funds under this section is
16 encouraged to establish a sliding scale of tuition rates based upon
17 a child's family income for the purpose of expanding eligible
18 programs under this section. A grant recipient may charge tuition
19 for programs provided under this section according to that sliding
20 scale of tuition rates on a uniform basis for any child who does
21 not meet the program eligibility requirements under this section.

22 (12) Beginning with 2012-2013, it is the intent of the
23 legislature to transfer funding for great start readiness programs
24 under this section into an early childhood block grant program,
25 along with funding for great start collaboratives under section 32b
26 and funding for great parents, great start programs under section
27 32j. The early childhood block grant program will allocate funds to

1 intermediate districts and consortia of intermediate districts to
2 act as fiduciaries and provide administration of regional early
3 childhood programs in conjunction with their regional great start
4 collaborative to improve program quality, evaluation, and
5 efficiency for early childhood programs. The department shall work
6 with intermediate districts, districts, great start collaboratives,
7 and the early childhood investment corporation to establish a
8 revised funding formula, application process, program criteria, and
9 data reporting requirements for 2012-2013. Not later than January
10 1, 2012, the department shall report to the legislature its
11 recommendations for the revisions required under this subsection.