

Child Eligibility - Age

Authorizing Language

Section 32d(1) *For a child to be eligible to participate in a program under this section, the child shall be at least 4, but less than 5 years of age as of September 1 of the school year in which the program is offered and shall meet those eligibility and prioritization guidelines.*

Guidance

2016-2017 legislation removes the connection to section 1147 of the revised school code, MCL 380.1147 with regard to age eligibility for GSRP. This eliminates the provision for a child turning 4 between September 2 and December 1 of a given school year to enroll in GSRP and specifies that a child must turn 4 by September 1 to be age eligible for GSRP.

Given that local recruitment efforts for 2016-2017 GSRP necessarily began in early spring, and as this change to legislation did not take effect until June 27, 2016, applications for children who will turn 4 between September 2, 2016 and December 1, 2016 may still be considered for enrollment in GSRP for 2016-2017 per local prioritization procedures. This allowance is provided for 2016-2017 only; full implementation of the change to September 1 will be required for the FY 2018 grant year (2017-2018 school year).

For parents opting to enroll their child in GSRP early in the 2016-2017 school year, the expectation remains that the intent is to also use the provision for parent choice under section 1147 to enroll their child early in kindergarten for 2017-2018. If there is a change to the plan to enroll in kindergarten early, a second year of GSRP will be permissible in 2017-2018 specifically for children born between September 2 and December 1, 2012 to avoid a break in educational programming for the child. This will require that the parent apply for a second year of GSRP and, if still eligible, the child may be accepted based on the ISD's prioritization process and available space.

This guidance will be used to update the Eligibility section of the GSRP Implementation Manual.