GSRP INVESTS OVER $720 MILLION INTO THE STATE ECONOMY
The Unexpected Benefits of Michigan’s State-Funded PreK

Michigan invests $456 million per year in the administration of its Great Start Readiness Program (GSRP) for 36,000+ at-risk four-year-olds. While the goal is to promote children’s positive developmental outcomes, participating families also gain secondary benefits like childcare savings and increased capacity to work. To find out how GSRP affects families’ economic well-being, the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) and Michigan State University (MSU) administered the 2021-22 GSRP Family Financial Impact Survey. An estimated $720.7 million is invested in Michigan’s economy through the collective financial impact of GSRP.

GSRP provides high quality preschool experience to 91% of participating families. Only 9% of GSRP families have an income above 250% of Federal Poverty Line and pay some tuition, often at a steeply discounted rates. Savings on childcare are an important economic benefit to the participating families. For many families, the time their children attend GSRP is also the time adults work. Based on the survey, MDE statistics, and U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics data, GSRP has produced $720.7 million in unintended economic benefits on top of its educational impact on low-income children.

FIGURE 1. GSRP SCHEDULES OF FAMILIES SURVEYED

- 4 full days (76%)
- 5 half days (3%)
- 5 full days (12%)
- 4 half days (9%)

FIGURE 2. ESTIMATED FINANCIAL BENEFITS

- $115.8 MILLION family earnings as a result of GSRP
- $148.4 MILLION family childcare savings
- $456.5 MILLION GSRP funding directed to local economies

FIGURE 3. GSRP’S IMPACT ON FAMILIES

- 90% of children attended GSRP for free because of low-income status.
- 87% of families were able to work because their child attended GSRP.
- 30% of families work additional hours if GSRP were offered for five full days.

FOR MORE INFO, VISIT: 2021-2022 GSRP ANNUAL REPORT AT CEP.MSU.EDU/PROJECTS/GSRP


1 The sample includes 5,212 valid responses from GSRP families from March to April 2022. The MSU team, school districts, and GSRP teachers administered the survey online in English, Spanish, and Arabic.
2 Enrollment was estimated at 37,000 children/36,000 families in a typical year. The GSRP child spends 25.2 hours per week under GSRP supervision. Average childcare cost for preschool-aged children in Michigan was set at $5.33/hour based on a 2021 survey of childcare providers by Public Policy Associate. Hours worked are assumed to be proportional to the ability indicated.
3 Number was calculated based on 30% of families who reported they would work more if their GSRP site offered more hours. This value was then multiplied by $14.09 an hour, which is 20th percentile of hourly earnings.