

# Do Michigan families have equitable access to publicly funded PreK?

Michigan's publicly funded PreK program for low-income four-year-olds (4YOs), Great Start Readiness Program (GSRP), is designed to help close the education gap created by socioeconomic disparities. GSRP site locations across the state in the 2020-21 school year were statistically examined to measure their accessibility.<sup>1</sup> The study follows three equity models developed by Crompton and Wicks.<sup>2</sup>

**The compensatory equity model** suggests that communities with lower resources, as measured by Child Opportunity Index scores,<sup>3</sup> should be compensated with greater access. The compensatory equity map shows that access aligns with resource levels, suggesting compensatory equity.

**The demand equity model** proposes that communities with higher demand (i.e., more preschool-age children) should have better access to GSRP. About 88% of zip codes reflect that, while 10% do not and 2% are missing data. Areas with insufficient access are shown in dark blue; areas with insufficient access but have less than 10 estimated 4YOs are in light blue. Most are in the Upper Peninsula, while a few are in the southwest Lower Peninsula.

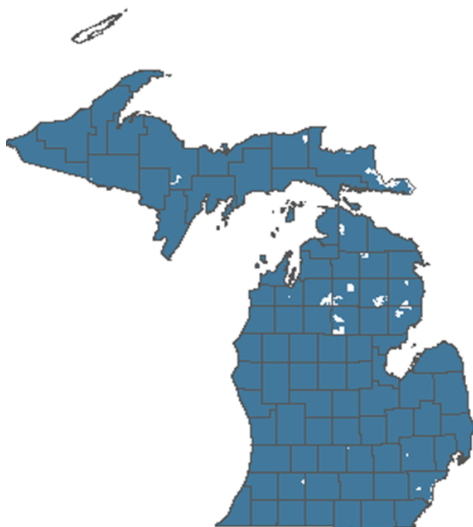
**The equality equity model** posits that all children, despite of their race and ethnicity, should have equal access to public PreK programs. The equality equity map illustrates communities' race/ethnicity makeup is not associated with GSRP locations.

While the compensatory and equality equity models are important indicators of equitable access, policymakers need to explore how to make GSRP more accessible to communities with unmet demands. Community characteristics, like zoning policies, available facilities, community interest, and partnering organizations, influence the placement of publicly funded PreKs.<sup>4</sup> **Increasing community resources, particularly in the western Upper Peninsula, is crucial to expanding access to GSRP. Connecting communities' demand for publicly funded PreKs with their population of preschool-age children will make GSRP more equitably distributed across the state.**

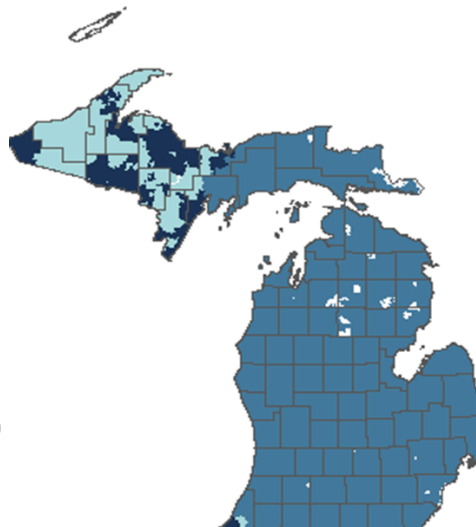


To learn more, visit [cep.msu.edu/GSRP](https://cep.msu.edu/GSRP)

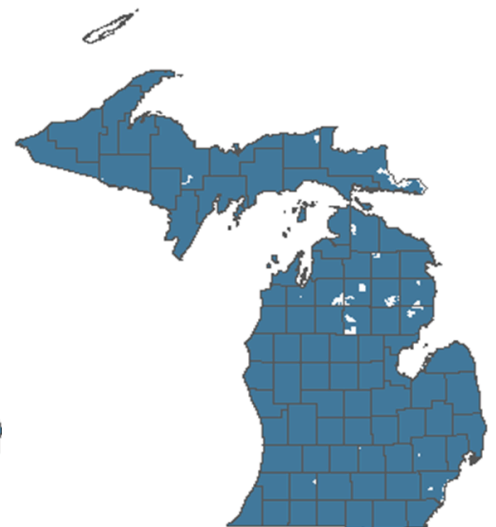
Compensation Equity



Demand Equity



Equality Equity



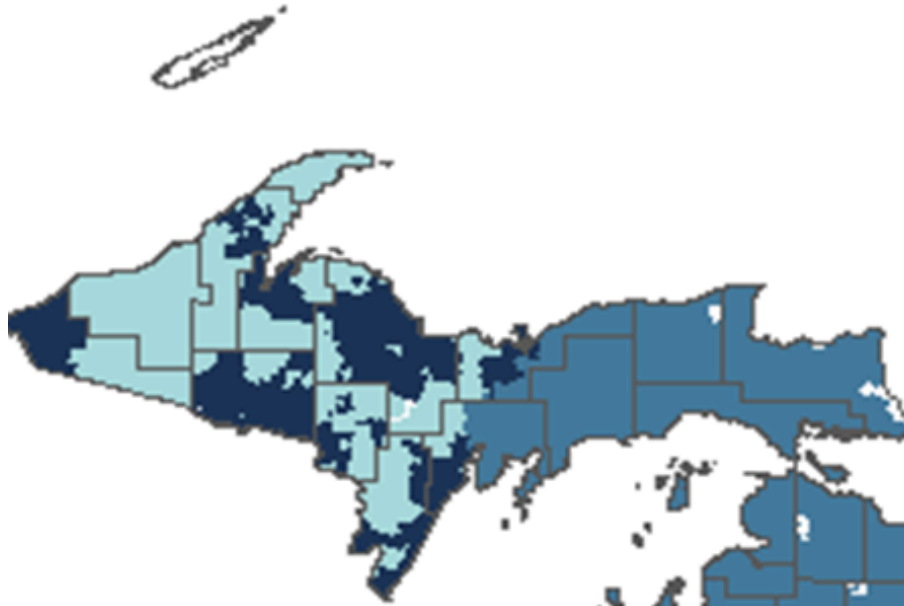
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## Zip Codes With an Insufficient Supply of GSRP Classrooms to 4YO Population

<b>Atlantic Mine:</b> 49905	<b>Escanaba:</b> 49829	<b>Ironwood:</b> 49938	<b>Norway:</b> 49870
<b>Baraga:</b> 49908	<b>Gaastra:</b> 49927	<b>Ishpeming:</b> 49849	<b>Sawyer:</b> 49125*
<b>Bark River:</b> 49807	<b>Galien:</b> 49113*	<b>Lanse:</b> 49946	<b>Skandia:</b> 49885
<b>Bessemer:</b> 49911	<b>Gladstone:</b> 49837	<b>Marquette:</b> 49855	<b>South Range:</b> 49963
<b>Champion:</b> 49814	<b>Gwinn:</b> 49841	<b>Menominee:</b> 49858	<b>Stephenson:</b> 49887
<b>Chassell:</b> 49916	<b>Hancock:</b> 49930	<b>Munising:</b> 49862	<b>Three Oaks:</b> 49128*
<b>Chatham:</b> 49816	<b>Hubbell:</b> 49934	<b>Negaunee:</b> 49866	<b>Wakefield:</b> 49968
<b>Crystal Falls:</b> 49920	<b>Iron Mountain:</b> 49801	<b>New Buffalo:</b> 49117*	<b>Wilson:</b> 49896
<b>Dollar Bay:</b> 49922	<b>Iron River:</b> 49935		

**Note:** Zip codes with an asterisk\* are in the Lower Peninsula. All other listed zip codes are in the Upper Peninsula.

## Upper Peninsula Zip Codes with an Insufficient Supply of GSRP Classrooms to Population Demand



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<sup>1</sup> Wu, J. H., Akaeze, H. O., Ressler, R. W., Miller, S. R., (In Press). Using the Child Opportunity Index to examine equity in access to a state-funded preschool program. *Early Childhood Research Quarterly Special Issue: Equitable Access to Early Care and Education in the United States*.

<sup>2</sup> Crompton, J. L., & Wicks, B. E. (1988). Implementing a preferred equity model for the delivery of leisure services in the US context. *Leisure Studies*, 7(3), 287-304. <https://doi.org/10.1080/02614368800390251>

<sup>3</sup> diversitydatakids.org (2024). Child Opportunity Index 3.0 database. *Institute for Child, Youth and Family Policy at the Heller School for Social Policy and Management at Brandeis University*. [data.diversitydatakids.org/dataset/coi30-2010-tracts-child-opportunity-index-3-0-database--2010-census-tracts?\\_external=True](https://data.diversitydatakids.org/dataset/coi30-2010-tracts-child-opportunity-index-3-0-database--2010-census-tracts?_external=True)

<sup>4</sup> Levin, K. (2021, Sept. 15). Michigan's free preschool program is expanding. Will community providers benefit? *Chalkbeat*. <https://detroit.chalkbeat.org/2021/9/15/22676451/michigan-free-preschool-expansion-gsrp-providers>