



HEMLOCK

PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT

Frequently Asked Questions - Great Start Readiness Program (GSRP)

What is Free PreK for All?

Free PreK for All refers to the Great Start Readiness Program, or GSRP. This is a free preschool program for qualified four-year-olds in Michigan and is offered as part of the Hemlock Early Childhood Center Preschool Program.

Who qualifies for free PreK?

The majority of Michigan's 4-year-olds qualify based on household income, including many families who didn't think they would. You are encouraged to apply and see if your family is eligible. Children with a qualifying IEP, who are in foster care, or children who are experiencing homelessness are also eligible. There are other factors outside of income that may make children eligible.

How do I apply for free PreK?

- Follow these easy steps!
- go to: <https://www.miearlychildhood.org/>
- Search by county
- Select a program based on your needs (Saginaw County Preschool with Saginaw ISD- for GSRP)
- Click "Start an Application"

When should I apply for free PreK?

Applications are accepted on a rolling basis. Families can apply during the spring or summer for the fall school year start.



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When will I hear if my child is enrolled?

Programs enroll children based on the eligibility criteria and when they receive applications. Families that apply in the spring typically hear by May/June. Those that apply in the summer often hear within a few weeks. Free preschool programs prioritize the enrollment of children from households with lower incomes. Therefore, children from families with higher household income may be enrolled later or placed on a waiting list, depending on available space in classrooms. Enrollment for children turning 4 between September 2 and December 1, 2026 may also be delayed.

Do GSRP locations offer before and after school care?

Some locations offer before and after school care. Hemlock does offer wraparound care for preschool students.

What is the difference between free preschool and free PreK?

A free preschool program may serve children ages 3 to 5 years old. A free PreK program is PreKindergarten and is for children who turn 4 years old by December 1.

I'm not sure that my family would qualify. Will my child be accepted?

GSRP income guidelines have recently been expanded to meet the needs of more families in the community. For this reason, interested families are strongly encouraged to submit an application even if they are unsure they'd be eligible.

If I complete the application for GSRP is my child enrolled in preschool at Hemlock ECC?

No - the application for GSRP is separate from the application to the HECC Preschool Program. Space is limited, so interested parents must submit a Hemlock Preschool application online in order for their child to be in the running for a spot in preschool.