

# HOUSE BILL No. 6052

May 11, 2006, Introduced by Reps. Moore, Nofs, Meyer, Caul and Casperson and referred to the Committee on Education.

A bill to amend 1979 PA 94, entitled "The state school aid act of 1979," by amending sections 32/ and 37 (MCL 388.1632/ and 388.1637), section 32/ as added and section 37 as amended by 2005 PA 155.

**THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:**

1           Sec. 32/. (1) From the general fund money appropriated in  
2 section 11, there is allocated for 2005-2006 an amount not to  
3 exceed \$12,250,000.00 for competitive school readiness program  
4 grants. These grants shall be made available through a competitive  
5 application process as follows:

6           (a) Any public or private nonprofit legal entity or agency may  
7 apply for a grant under this section. However, a district or  
8 intermediate district may not apply for a grant under this section

1 unless the district or intermediate district is acting as a fiscal  
2 agent for a child caring organization regulated under 1973 PA 116,  
3 MCL 722.111 to 722.128.

4 (b) An applicant shall submit an application in the form and  
5 manner prescribed by the department.

6 (c) The department shall establish a diverse interagency  
7 committee to review the applications. The committee shall be  
8 composed of representatives of the department, appropriate  
9 community, volunteer, and social service agencies and  
10 organizations, and parents.

11 (d) The superintendent shall award the grants and shall give  
12 priority for awarding the grants based upon the following criteria:

13 (i) Compliance with the state board-approved early childhood  
14 standards of quality for prekindergarten.

15 (ii) Active and continuous involvement of the parents or  
16 guardians of the children participating in the program.

17 (iii) Employment of teachers possessing proper training,  
18 including a valid Michigan teaching certificate with an early  
19 childhood (ZA) endorsement, a valid Michigan teaching certificate  
20 with a child development associate credential (CDA), or a  
21 bachelor's degree in child development with a specialization in  
22 preschool teaching. ~~—, and employment—~~ **IF AN APPLICANT DEMONSTRATES**  
23 **THAT IT IS UNABLE TO FULLY COMPLY WITH THIS SUBPARAGRAPH AFTER**  
24 **MAKING REASONABLE EFFORTS TO COMPLY, THE SUPERINTENDENT MAY STILL**  
25 **GIVE PRIORITY TO THE APPLICANT IF THE APPLICANT WILL EMPLOY**  
26 **TEACHERS WHO HAVE PROPER TRAINING IN EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT**  
27 **EQUIVALENT TO 4 YEARS OF FORMAL TRAINING IN EARLY**

1 CHILDHOOD/PRESCHOOL EDUCATION OR CHILD DEVELOPMENT. THIS MAY  
2 INCLUDE 1 OR MORE OF THE FOLLOWING:

3 (A) A VALID MICHIGAN TEACHING CERTIFICATE WITH AN EARLY  
4 CHILDHOOD (ZA) ENDORSEMENT OR A CHILD DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATE  
5 CREDENTIAL (CDA).

6 (B) A BACHELOR'S DEGREE IN CHILD CARE OR CHILD DEVELOPMENT.

7 (C) A CHILD DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATE CREDENTIAL (CDA) COMBINED  
8 WITH AN ASSOCIATE OF ARTS (AA) DEGREE IN EARLY CHILDHOOD/PRESCHOOL  
9 EDUCATION OR CHILD DEVELOPMENT.

10 (iv) **EMPLOYMENT** of paraprofessionals possessing proper training  
11 in early childhood development ~~—, including an associate's degree~~  
12 ~~in early childhood education or child development or the~~  
13 ~~equivalent, or a child development associate (CDA) credential, or~~  
14 ~~the equivalent, as approved by the state board. A paraprofessional~~  
15 ~~who does not meet these requirements may be employed for not more~~  
16 ~~than 2 years while obtaining proper credentials if he or she has~~  
17 ~~completed at least 1 course in an appropriate training program~~ OR  
18 WHO HAVE COMPLETED AT LEAST 1 COURSE IN AN APPROPRIATE TRAINING  
19 PROGRAM, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, A CHILD DEVELOPMENT  
20 ASSOCIATE CREDENTIAL (CDA) PROGRAM, AN ASSOCIATE DEGREE IN CHILD  
21 DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM, OR A SIMILAR PROGRAM, AS APPROVED BY THE  
22 DEPARTMENT.

23 (v) ~~(iv)~~ Evidence of collaboration with the community of  
24 providers in early childhood development programs including  
25 documentation of the total number of children in the community who  
26 would meet the criteria established in subparagraph (vi), and who  
27 are being served by other providers, and the number of children who

1 will remain unserved by other community early childhood programs if  
2 this program is funded.

3       **(vi)** ~~—(v)—~~ The extent to which these funds will supplement  
4 other federal, state, local, or private funds.

5       **(vii)** ~~—(vi)—~~ The extent to which these funds will be targeted to  
6 children who will be at least 4, but less than 5, years of age as  
7 of December 1 of the year in which the programs are offered and who  
8 show evidence of 2 or more "at-risk" factors as defined in the  
9 state board report entitled "children at risk" that was adopted by  
10 the state board on April 5, 1988.

11       **(viii)** ~~—(vii)—~~ The program offers supplementary day care and  
12 thereby offers full-day programs as part of its early childhood  
13 development program.

14       **(ix)** ~~—(viii)—~~ The application contains a plan approved by the  
15 department to conduct and report annual school readiness program  
16 evaluations and continuous improvement plans using criteria  
17 approved by the department. At a minimum, the evaluations shall  
18 include a self-assessment of program quality and assessment of the  
19 gains in educational readiness and progress of the children  
20 participating in the program.

21       (e) An application shall demonstrate that the program has  
22 established or has joined a multidistrict, multiagency school  
23 readiness advisory committee that is involved in the planning and  
24 evaluation of the program and that provides for the involvement of  
25 parents and appropriate community, volunteer, and social service  
26 agencies and organizations. The advisory committee shall include at  
27 least 1 parent or guardian of a program participant for every 18

1 children enrolled in the program, with a minimum of 2 parent or  
2 guardian representatives. The advisory committee shall do all of  
3 the following:

4 (i) Review the mechanisms and criteria used to determine  
5 referrals for participation in the school readiness program.

6 (ii) Review the health screening program for all participants.

7 (iii) Review the nutritional services provided to all  
8 participants.

9 (iv) Review the mechanisms in place for the referral of  
10 families to community social service agencies, as appropriate.

11 (v) Review the collaboration with and the involvement of  
12 appropriate community, volunteer, and social service agencies and  
13 organizations in addressing all aspects of education disadvantage.

14 (vi) Review, evaluate, and make recommendations for changes in  
15 the school readiness program.

16 (2) To be eligible for a grant under this section, a program  
17 shall demonstrate that more than 50% of the children participating  
18 in the program live with families with a household income that is  
19 less than or equal to 250% of the federal poverty level.

20 (3) The superintendent may award grants under this section at  
21 whatever level the superintendent determines appropriate. However,  
22 the amount of a grant under this section, when combined with other  
23 sources of state revenue for this program, shall not exceed  
24 \$3,300.00 per participating child or the cost of the program,  
25 whichever is less.

26 (4) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, an  
27 applicant that receives a grant under this section for 2005-2006

1 shall also receive priority for funding under this section for  
2 2006-2007 and 2007-2008. However, after 3 fiscal years of  
3 continuous funding, an applicant is required to compete openly with  
4 new programs and other programs completing their third year. All  
5 grant awards under this section are contingent on the availability  
6 of funds and documented evidence of grantee compliance with early  
7 childhood standards of quality for prekindergarten, as approved by  
8 the state board, and with all operational, fiscal, administrative,  
9 and other program requirements.

10 Sec. 37. (1) A district is eligible for an allocation under  
11 section 32d if the district meets all of the requirements in  
12 subsections (2), (3), and (4).

13 (2) The district shall submit a preapplication, in a manner  
14 and on forms prescribed by the department, by a date specified by  
15 the department in the immediately preceding state fiscal year. The  
16 preapplication shall include a comprehensive needs assessment and  
17 community collaboration plan, and shall identify all of the  
18 following:

19 (a) The estimated total number of children in the community  
20 who meet the criteria of section 32d and how that calculation was  
21 made.

22 (b) The estimated number of children in the community who meet  
23 the criteria of section 32d and are being served by other early  
24 childhood development programs operating in the community, and how  
25 that calculation was made.

26 (c) The number of children the district will be able to serve  
27 who meet the criteria of section 32d including a verification of

1 physical facility and staff resources capacity.

2 (d) The estimated number of children who meet the criteria of  
3 section 32d who will remain unserved after the district and  
4 community early childhood programs have met their funded  
5 enrollments. The school district shall maintain a waiting list of  
6 identified unserved eligible children who would be served when  
7 openings are available.

8 (3) The district shall submit a final application for  
9 approval, in a manner and on forms prescribed by the department, by  
10 a date specified by the department. The final application shall  
11 indicate all of the following that apply:

12 (a) The district complies with the state board approved early  
13 childhood standards of quality for prekindergarten.

14 (b) The district provides for the active and continuous  
15 participation of parents or guardians of the children in the  
16 program, and describes the district's participation plan as part of  
17 the application.

18 (c) The district only employs for this program the following:

19 (i) Teachers possessing proper training. For programs the  
20 district manages itself, a valid teaching certificate and an early  
21 childhood (ZA) endorsement are required. This provision does not  
22 apply to a district that subcontracts with an eligible child  
23 development program. In that situation a teacher must have a valid  
24 Michigan teaching certificate with an early childhood (ZA)  
25 endorsement, a valid Michigan teaching certificate with a child  
26 development associate credential (**CDA**), or a bachelor's degree in  
27 child development with specialization in preschool teaching.

1           (ii) IF A DISTRICT DETERMINES THAT IT IS UNABLE TO FULLY COMPLY  
2 WITH SUBPARAGRAPH (i) AFTER MAKING REASONABLE EFFORTS TO COMPLY,  
3 TEACHERS WHO HAVE PROPER TRAINING IN EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT  
4 EQUIVALENT TO 4 YEARS OF FORMAL TRAINING IN EARLY  
5 CHILDHOOD/PRESCHOOL EDUCATION OR CHILD DEVELOPMENT. THIS MAY  
6 INCLUDE 1 OR MORE OF THE FOLLOWING:

7           (A) A VALID MICHIGAN TEACHING CERTIFICATE WITH AN EARLY  
8 CHILDHOOD (ZA) ENDORSEMENT OR A CHILD DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATE  
9 CREDENTIAL (CDA).

10           (B) A BACHELOR'S DEGREE IN CHILD CARE OR CHILD DEVELOPMENT.

11           (C) A CHILD DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATE CREDENTIAL (CDA) COMBINED  
12 WITH AN ASSOCIATE OF ARTS (AA) DEGREE IN EARLY CHILDHOOD/PRESCHOOL  
13 EDUCATION OR CHILD DEVELOPMENT.

14           (iii) ~~-(ii)-~~ Paraprofessionals possessing proper training in  
15 early childhood development ~~-, including an associate's degree in~~  
16 ~~early childhood education or child development or the equivalent,~~  
17 ~~or a child development associate (CDA) credential, or the~~  
18 ~~equivalent as approved by the state board. A paraprofessional who~~  
19 ~~does not meet these requirements may be employed for not more than~~  
20 ~~2 years while obtaining proper credentials if he or she has~~  
21 ~~completed at least 1 course in an appropriate training program OR~~  
22 WHO HAVE COMPLETED AT LEAST 1 COURSE IN AN APPROPRIATE TRAINING  
23 PROGRAM, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, A CHILD DEVELOPMENT  
24 ASSOCIATE CREDENTIAL (CDA) PROGRAM, AN ASSOCIATE DEGREE IN CHILD  
25 DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM, OR A SIMILAR PROGRAM, AS APPROVED BY THE  
26 DEPARTMENT.

27           (d) The district has submitted for approval a program budget



1 that includes only those costs not reimbursed or reimbursable by  
2 federal funding, that are clearly and directly attributable to the  
3 early childhood readiness program, and that would not be incurred  
4 if the program were not being offered. If children other than those  
5 determined to be educationally disadvantaged participate in the  
6 program, state reimbursement under section 32d shall be limited to  
7 the portion of approved costs attributable to educationally  
8 disadvantaged children.

9 (e) The district has established a, or has joined a  
10 multidistrict, multiagency, school readiness advisory committee  
11 consisting of, at a minimum, classroom teachers for  
12 prekindergarten, kindergarten, and first grade; parents or  
13 guardians of program participants; representatives from appropriate  
14 community agencies and organizations; the district curriculum  
15 director or equivalent administrator; and, if feasible, a school  
16 psychologist, school social worker, or school counselor. In  
17 addition, there shall be on the committee at least 1 parent or  
18 guardian of a program participant for every 18 children enrolled in  
19 the program, with a minimum of 2 parent or guardian  
20 representatives. The committee shall do all of the following:

21 (i) Ensure the ongoing articulation of the early childhood,  
22 kindergarten, and first grade programs offered by the district or  
23 districts.

24 (ii) Review the mechanisms and criteria used to determine  
25 participation in the early childhood program.

26 (iii) Review the health screening program for all participants.

27 (iv) Review the nutritional services provided to program

1 participants.

2 (v) Review the mechanisms in place for the referral of  
3 families to community social service agencies, as appropriate.

4 (vi) Review the collaboration with and the involvement of  
5 appropriate community, volunteer, and social service agencies and  
6 organizations in addressing all aspects of educational  
7 disadvantage.

8 (vii) Review, evaluate, and make recommendations to a local  
9 school readiness program or programs for changes to the school  
10 readiness program.

11 (f) The district has submitted for departmental approval a  
12 plan to conduct and report annual school readiness program  
13 evaluations and continuous improvement plans using criteria  
14 approved by the department. At a minimum, the evaluations shall  
15 include a self-assessment of program quality and assessment of the  
16 gains in educational readiness and progress of the children  
17 participating in the program.

18 (g) More than 50% of the children participating in the program  
19 live with families with a household income that is equal to or less  
20 than 250% of the federal poverty level.

21 (4) A consortium of 2 or more districts shall be eligible for  
22 an allocation under section 32d if the districts designate a single  
23 fiscal agent for the allocation. A district or intermediate  
24 district may administer a consortium described in this subsection.  
25 A consortium shall submit a single preapplication and application  
26 for the children to be served, regardless of the number of  
27 districts participating in the consortium.

1           (5) With the final application, an applicant district shall  
2 submit to the department a resolution adopted by its board  
3 certifying the number of 4-year-old children who show evidence of  
4 risk factors as described in section 32d who live with families  
5 with a household income that is less than or equal to 250% of the  
6 federal poverty level.