

## **Benefits of Intermediate School District (ISD) & Community Partnerships in Great Start Readiness Programs**

### **Benefits to the Community Child Care Center**

#### **Enrollment and Funding**

- Increases enrollment in the center with the addition of families seeking to enroll children in GSRP.
- Families may also enroll siblings in need of care.
- GSRP stabilizes enrollment during the school year.
- Adds funds to the operating budget and helps offset some costs currently paid only by parent tuition.
- Children in GSRP may need wraparound care, summer care.
- Brings additional services to GSRP-eligible children currently enrolled in the center, reducing the possibility that parents, seeking free preschool, will disenroll children as they turn 4.
- Classrooms may be braided with children in GSRP and children supported by other sources of funding (parent tuition, child care subsidy).
- GSRP funds may be used to increase high-quality materials in the classroom used by all enrolled in the classroom.
- If ISD has provisions for sharing the ordering of supplies with its partners, (economy of scale) the center could stretch its budget further and increase its buying power for the whole center.
- ISD promotion of GSRP sites on website, flyers, etc. makes more of the community aware of the center's services and quality

#### **Professional Development and Quality Improvement**

- Introduces programs to the Michigan Early Childhood Standards of Quality for Pre Kindergarten (ECSQ-PK).
- Other center staff may benefit from additional professional development opportunities.
- Center director and staff become part of a bigger local network of early education and care professionals, with common professional development approaches and more opportunity for collaboration with K-3 teachers.
- GSRP classrooms benefit from the support of an Early Childhood Specialist (ECS) for program evaluation, goal setting and continuous quality improvement. This may be an approach that is adopted by the center as a whole.
- Introduces curriculum and child assessment tools that centers may choose to adopt for all classrooms.
- Establishes links between child care centers and mental health and early intervention specialists and critical resources to support child and family needs.
- Improves the overall quality of early education and care by the provider.

### **Benefits to the ISD**

- Better meet the needs of GSRP families as ISD offers sites with extended day/extended year care.
- Provides additional sites for GSRP expansion, especially important where public schools and Head Start programs have reached maximum capacity for their existing physical space.
- Uses existing facilities and classrooms, potentially saving time on licensing, costs, etc.
  - Buildings have already had all inspections.
  - Start-up costs could be less per classroom as existing classrooms may be enhanced rather than completely equipping a new classroom.
  - Helps alleviate space concerns for existing subrecipients (schools and community partners).
- Reduces the need of the ISD to plan transportation for some children, as families in full-day sites transport children themselves to meet varied scheduling needs.

### **Benefits for Families**

- Allows parents to choose the setting that best meets family needs in terms of location, operating hours and ages of children accepted.
- Provides more continuity of care for children as they may stay in one place for all education and care needs.
- Provides convenience of one drop off/pick up for the parent for all of the family's children who are enrolled at the site.
- Increases parent and child access to GSRP.

### **Benefits for the Great Start Collaborative**

- Strengthens the network of early education and care providers in the community.
- Advances the GSC strategic plan for early education and care by promoting consistent quality and accountability across settings.
- Results in a more seamless transition to kindergarten.