

Great Start Preschool Scholarship Program 2015/16

Family Application

Child's Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Parent's Name(s): _____

Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____ County: _____

How long have you lived at this address? _____

How did you hear about the Great Start Preschool Scholarship Program?

Household Members and Income: Be sure to include ALL income of the household, including any income received by the child. Use additional paper, if necessary. Please provide proof of income from each source; must be included with the application. Copies of pay stubs from the last 30 days, DHS assistance, and the most recently filed income tax also must be included with this application.

Name of Household Members (including all children)	Birth Date	Gross Annual Earnings (Before Deductions)	Are wages salary or hourly?	Avg. number of hours worked per week?	Employer/Occupation	Monthly Earnings From Any Other Sources (SSI, retirement, child support, unemployment etc.)

Is the child currently enrolled in a preschool program? Yes No

If yes, where? _____ Number of days a week? _____ Full or half days? _____

If no, which preschool program are you considering? _____

Have you applied for Head Start? Yes No

Have you applied for local school district Great Start Readiness Program? Yes No

To be eligible for scholarship, you must be a resident of Sanilac County and your child(ren) must not be enrolled in Head Start or Great Start Readiness Program

Please answer the following questions. Use additional paper if necessary.

Why would your child(ren) benefit from a preschool experience?

Why would you benefit from your child(ren) receiving the scholarship?

Are there any special reasons that make this scholarship necessary for your child(ren)?

Which of these factors exist in your family, circle / explain all that apply.

Low Income Family

Diagnosed Disability or Identified Developmental Delay

Severe or Challenging Behavior

Primary Home Language other than English

Parents have not completed high school

Parent loss due to death, divorce, incarceration, absence or military service, custody changes

Abuse or Neglect of Child or Parent

Parent is/was a "teen" parent

Unemployed parent

Sibling issues (illness, death, or absence)

Terms, Conditions, and Assurances: The parent/guardian acknowledges that any preschool scholarship awarded by the Great Start Preschool Scholarship Program committee is subject to the following terms, conditions and assurances:

o Attendance: The parent/guardian shall agree to provide notice to the preschool if the child will be absent for more than one (1) week, as described in the preschool handbook. Without this prior notice, the scholarship may be forfeited and reassigned to a child on the waiting list.

o Eligible Preschool Programs: Preschool scholarship awards may be used only with participating, licensed preschool programs within Sanilac County. A list of eligible providers is included with this application.

o Parent Responsibility: The parent agrees to take full responsibility for the selection of a particular educational program, from the list provided.

o Certification by Applicant: The parent/guardian certifies that all of the information in this application, and all information furnished in support of this application, is given for the purpose of obtaining pre-school tuition assistance through the Sanilac Preschool Scholarship. It is true and complete to the best of the parent/guardian's knowledge and belief.

o If a scholarship is awarded and the child has begun attending a GSPSP funded program and becomes eligible for a federally or state funded program, two options will be available. 1.) If they are accepted to a federally or state funded program prior to Winter Break, the child is expected to transfer to the funded program, or may remain in the current preschool program without the scholarship funding. The scholarship funding will be forfeited and provided to another child. 2.) If the acceptance is after Winter Break the child may remain at the current preschool with the current funding or choose to transfer to the federally or state funded program.

o If a scholarship is awarded the parent(s)/guardian(s) agrees to volunteer a minimum of ten (10) hours with the preschool during the school year, with a minimum of four (4) hours completed by Winter break, if the child(ren) is enrolled starting in September; after this time, volunteer hours will be prorated. Failure to do so will result in the forfeiture of the balance of the preschool scholarship. If a parent's work schedule conflicts with the preschool schedule and the parent cannot physically be in the school, another person that closely interacts with the child may fill in. Also, there are other acceptable volunteer opportunities available, see provider/volunteer list.

o Preschool Parade/Award ceremony: It is expected that the child and parent or parent representative, will attend the "Preschoolers on Parade" event or the Parent Coalition award ceremony. Our preschool children awardees, supporters and funders are invited.

I give permission to any source named herein to release information to the Great Start Preschool Scholarship Program Committee to verify any of the information contained in this application. Any false statements or omissions on this application are grounds for denial or revocation of the scholarship award.

My signature affirms agreement to all the terms, conditions, assurances and certifications specified in this application for the Great Start Preschool Scholarship Program.

Signature

Date

GREAT START PRESCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Program Description

I. PURPOSE

The Great Start Preschool Scholarship Program was originally funded by a grant awarded from the Community Foundation's Youth Advisory Council, Gannett Foundation and Great Start Parent Coalition Fundraisers. It is designed to assist moderate to low income Sanilac County families with tuition expenses associated with preschool. A high quality preschool experience can better prepare children for success when they enter elementary school. In preschool, children acquire skills necessary for their social, emotional, physical, cognitive and language development. The GSPSP pays participating licensed preschool programs for part of the preschool tuition for eligible families. Families will be responsible for the balance of the tuition payments and all other costs associated with enrollment and attendance in any particular preschool program.

II. FAMILY ELIGIBILITY

In order for a family to be eligible for the Great Start Preschool Scholarship Program, they must meet the following eligibility requirements:

1. Must reside within the geographical boundaries of the Sanilac County and have a child(ren) of preschool age, 3 or 4 years old by September 1st of the application year, paralleling Head Start guidelines
2. Household gross income must be submitted with the application. Gross income includes, but is not limited to: employment income, child support payments, alimony, and unemployment insurance for all adult household members, not just the parent(s) of the child(ren) for whom a scholarship is requested. Proof of income from each source must be included with the application. All assistance from the Michigan Department of Human Services must be disclosed, including SSI, disability or child care assistance. Priority is given to households with the lowest income.
3. The family must not be eligible for or enrolled in any other free preschool program such as Head Start or the Great Start Readiness Program (GSRP).
4. Applications due by August 15th.

III. SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

Scholarships are awarded for a maximum of a forty (40) week period from September to May 31st. Families are limited to receiving one scholarship award per child. An award for multiple children in the same family will receive a maximum family award.

IV. THE AWARD PROCESS

Preschool scholarships are awarded by a priority rating system. The criteria for selection are primarily based on household income and size. Priority is given to the households with the lowest income. Additional consideration is given for single parent families, at risk children or parents, and documented social/emotional needs.

Applicants will be notified by mail if the scholarship is awarded and the amount to be disbursed. The GSPSP accepts applications and awards scholarships regardless of race, sex, religion, age, ancestry or national origin, color, marital status, political beliefs or disability.

If the child has begun attending a GSPSP funded program and becomes eligible for a federally or state funded program, two options will be available. 1.) If they are accepted to a federally or state funded program prior to Winter Break, the

child is expected to transfer to the funded program, or remain in the current preschool program without the scholarship funding. The scholarship funding is forfeited and provided to another child. 2.) If the acceptance is after Winter Break the child can remain at the current preschool with the current funding or choose to transfer to the funded program.

The GSPSP will not pay for preschool expenses that are eligible to be paid by other sources. GSPSP awards may be used only for licensed preschool programs within Sanilac County whom have agreed to participate in the scholarship program (see enclosed provider list). The Provider is required to sign the Preschool Provider Agreement and an Affidavit of Nondiscrimination.

Families awarded scholarships will be required to volunteer at their child's daycare a minimum of ten (10) hours during the course of the school year, with a minimum of four (4) hours completed by Winter break, if the child starts school in September; after this date, volunteer hours will be prorated. Participation in the "Preschoolers on Parade" event or the Parent Coalition award ceremony is also expected. Failure to do so will result in the forfeiture of the balance of the preschool scholarship.

Eligible/Participating Providers for 2014/15

The providers listed below are eligible providers in accordance to the regulations of the SPS. It is your responsibility to select a program and contract with them directly for preschool services.

Marlette Preschool Program
3197 Sterling St
Marlette, MI 48453
989-635-4938

Tots-N-Teens
175 E Aitken Rd
Peck, MI 48466
810-648-4700 ext 230

Brown City Preschool
4290 Second St
Brown City, MI 48416
810-346-2781 ext. 5340

Our Savior Lutheran School
6770 W. Marlette
Marlette, MI 48453
989-635-0115

CrosLex Pioneer Preschool
15 S Howard
Croswell, MI 48422
810-679-1340

The Great Start Preschool Scholarship Program committee does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, religion, color, national origin or ancestry, gender, age, marital status, political beliefs or disability.

The Great Start Preschool Scholarship Program committee deems that all of the information in this application, is given for the purpose of obtaining preschool tuition assistance through the Great Start Preschool Scholarship Program and the award of a preschool scholarship

Return the completed application with the backup documentation by **August 15th, 2015** to:

Great Start Preschool Scholarship Program Committee
Attn: Danielle Choate
Sanilac Intermediate School District
46 N. Jackson
Sandusky, MI 48471
810-648-2200 ext 4109