

# Strong Beginnings

## Quick Start Guide: Program Options

This guide is intended to provide a quick overview of the new guidance for Strong Beginnings Program Options. It provides information on what is the same as for the corresponding GSRP Program Option and what is different in the Strong Beginnings option. The 4-day school day Strong Beginnings is still an option but there is no new guidance for that, so it is not included here. In addition to the guidance in this document, each Strong Beginnings Program Option will follow all other guidance applying to all Strong Beginnings programs that is found in the Strong Beginnings Implementation Manual.

More information regarding each point is available in the Implementation Section of the Strong Beginnings manual referenced after each point.

### Strong Beginnings 5-Day Extended Program

<b>What is the same as GSRP?</b>	<b>What is new or different?</b>
Programs will receive an additional 20% funding for the 5-day extended program. (Funding Section)	Programs will receive \$18,000 per child for the 26-27 school year. (Funding Section)
N/A	Programs may enroll no more than 15 students and will receive funding for those students regardless of enrollment. (Funding Section)
N/A	Programs receive \$20,000 in start-up funds. (Budget and Financial Guidelines)
N/A	The pool of transportation funds will include \$625 per child for each child enrolled in a Strong Beginnings 5-day extended program. Final transportation allocations will reflect the higher transportation funding for children in 5-day extended programs. (Budget and Financial Guidelines)

<b>What is the same as GSRP?</b>	<b>What is new or different?</b>
N/A	Program may enroll no more than 15 students and will receive funding for those students regardless of enrollment.
<p>5-day extended programs will operate for the same number of days and weeks as well as hours per day as GSRP programs. The same number of days may be scheduled for family engagement and professional learning or cancelled due to weather.</p> <p>(Program Administration Section)</p>	N/A
<p>5-day extended programs may consider the use of "specials" to facilitate team planning with the same considerations as used in GSRP.</p> <p>(Program Administration Section)</p>	N/A

## Strong Beginnings Part-Day Program

<b>What is the same as GSRP?</b>	<b>What is new or different?</b>
<p>Programs will receive half the per child funding that school day programs receive. (Funding Section)</p>	<p>Programs will receive \$7,500 per child or the 26-27 school year. (Funding Section)</p>
<p>N/A</p>	<p>Programs may enroll no more than 15 students and will receive funding for those students regardless of enrollment. (Funding Section)</p>
<p>N/A</p>	<p>The startup (\$20,000) and transportation allocation (based on \$500 per child) will be the same as for 4-day school-day Strong Beginnings classrooms. (Budget and Financial Guidelines Section)</p>
<p>Part-day programs will operate for the same number of days and weeks as well as hours per day as GSRP part-day programs. (Program Administration Section)</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>N/A</p>	<p>Special consideration must be given to scheduling PM part-day Strong Beginnings classrooms. Both most 3-year-old children's need for naps and the population of children eligible for Strong Beginnings surrounding a site must be considered. If both AM and PM sections of Strong Beginnings are scheduled, they must be at the same site. (Program Administration Section)</p>

## 4-Day Strong Beginnings/Head Start Blend Programs

<b>What is the same as GSRP?</b>	<b>What is new or different?</b>
<p>Programs will receive half the funding that a 4-day school day Strong Beginnings child receives. (Funding Section)</p>	<p>Programs will receive \$7,500 per child for the 26-27 School Year. (Funding Section)</p>
<p>N/A</p>	<p>Programs may enroll no more than 15 students and will receive funding for those students regardless of enrollment. (Funding Section)</p>
<p>N/A</p>	<p>The startup (\$20,000) and transportation allocation (based on \$500 per child) will be the same as for 4-day school day Strong Beginnings classrooms. (Budget and Financial Guidelines Section)</p>
<p>Head Start Program Performance Standards waivers for all or one performance standard are the same as for GSRP. (ISD Administration)</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>4-day Strong Beginnings/Head Start blend programs will operate for the same number of days and weeks as well as hours per day as 4-day GSRP/Head Start blend programs. (Program Administration Section)</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>Guidance for Strong Beginnings/Head Start blends within a classroom are the same as for GSRP/Head Start blends. This includes guidance on adhering to the highest standard from either program, collaboration when Head Start is not the subcontractor for the blended classroom and utilization of</p>	<p>N/A</p>

<b>What is the same as GSRP?</b>	<b>What is new or different?</b>
the Strong Beginnings ECS as the educational leader.	

## 5-Day Extended Strong Beginnings/Head Start Blend Programs

<b>What is the same as GSRP?</b>	<b>What is new or different?</b>
<p>Programs will receive half the funding that a 5-day extended Strong Beginnings child receives. (Funding Section)</p>	<p>Programs will receive \$9,000 per child for the 26-27 school year. (Funding Section)</p>
<p>N/A</p>	<p>Programs may enroll no more than 15 students and will receive funding for those students regardless of enrollment. (Funding Section)</p>
<p>N/A</p>	<p>The startup (\$20,000) and transportation allocation (based on \$625 per child) will be the same as for 5-day extended Strong Beginnings classrooms. (Budget and Financial Guidelines Section)</p>
<p>Head Start Program Performance Standards waivers for all or one performance standard are the same as for GSRP. (ISD Administration)</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>5-day extended Strong Beginnings/Head Start blend programs will operate for the same number of days and weeks as well as hours per day as 5-day extended GSRP/Head Start blend programs. (Program Administration Section)</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>Guidance for Strong Beginnings/Head Start blends within a classroom are the same as for GSRP/Head Start blends. This includes guidance on adhering to the highest standard from either program, collaboration when Head</p>	<p>N/A</p>

<p>Start is not the subcontractor for the blended classroom and utilization of the Strong Beginnings ECS as the educational leader.</p> <p>(Program Administration Section)</p>	
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## Multiage Strong Beginnings/GSRP 4 School-Day Program

<b>What is the same as GSRP?</b>	<b>What is new or different?</b>
Nothing is the same as GSRP since GSRP hasn't previously offered a Strong Beginnings/GSRP multiage classroom. A full reading of guidance for multiage programs in the Implementation Manual is strongly recommended as this is an entirely new option.	N/A
N/A	A maximum of 15 children is allowed in a Strong Beginnings multiage program.
N/A	Most multiage programs will be 4-day school day programs. All guidance for Strong Beginnings 4-school day programs will be followed unless other guidance specific to a multiage program is provided.  (Funding and Program Administration)
N/A	Four school-day programs will receive \$15,000 for each child age-eligible for Strong Beginnings as they do for other 4 school-day programs. Each child age-eligible for GSRP will receive the current allocation for GSRP children enrolled in a 4 school-day program. Each child receiving GSRP funding will also receive an additional allocation from Strong Beginnings that is the difference between the GSRP and the Strong Beginnings per child allocation. This additional funding covers proportional costs for the Family Liaison and other Strong Beginnings requirements. Strong Beginnings will also fund any unfilled slots in the classroom at the Strong Beginnings allocation level. This will result in

	<p>each Strong Beginnings/GSRP 4 school-day multiage classroom receiving the same funding as a Strong Beginnings 4 school-day classroom. (Funding)</p>
N/A	<p>The determination of numbers of Strong Beginnings age-eligible and GSRP age-eligible children in a classroom will be made on the basis of the MSDS Spring Early Childhood Collection. This collection will also be used to determine the number of unfilled slots in the classroom.</p> <p>(Funding)</p>
N/A	<p>Strong Beginnings will provide each Strong Beginnings/GSRP multiage classroom \$20,000 in startup funds. Additional startup funds may be provided by GSRP.</p> <p>Strong Beginnings will provide at least \$500 per child or the total cost of transporting all Strong Beginnings eligible children if it is less in a 4 school day Strong Beginnings/GSRP multiage classroom. The number of children eligible for Strong Beginnings transportation funding will be determined at the start of the school year. If the multiage classroom is not yet fully enrolled, the current percentage of Strong Beginnings students will be used to determine base transportation funding. (Budget and Financial Guidelines Section)</p>
N/A	<p>In multiage classrooms all children, regardless of age, receive the same child and family supports required for Strong Beginnings</p> <p>(Child and Family Supports)</p>

N/A	<p>Multiage programs will operate for the same number of days and weeks as well as hours per day as Strong Beginnings 4-day school day programs.</p> <p>(Program Administration Section)</p>
N/A	<p>Eligibility guidelines for Strong Beginnings or GSRP must be adhered to depending on the age of the child seeking enrollment.</p> <p>(Program Administration Section)</p>
N/A	<p>Enough children of each age group must be enrolled to encourage the development of meaningful peer relationships and deeper exploration of ideas.</p> <p>(Program Administration Section)</p>
N/A	<p>Information describing multiage classrooms and explaining how they meet the needs of children with a wide range of developmental levels should be included in the Family Handbook.</p> <p>(Program Administration Section)</p>
Multiage classrooms with braided funding that are other than Strong Beginnings/GSRP classrooms are fairly similar to those in GSRP.	<p>Multiage braided classrooms with some children funded by Strong Beginnings and some by tuition, Head Start etc., are also allowed. The multiage guidance in the Classroom Quality section of this manual as well as all other Strong Beginnings guidance must be followed in these classrooms. Please see also the additional guidance on classrooms with braided funding included in this section of the manual.</p> <p>(Program Administration Section)</p>
N/A	<p>When possible, children should return to the same multiage</p>

	<p>classroom as 4-year olds that they were in as 3-year olds.</p> <p>(Classroom Quality)</p>
N/A	<p>Each multiage classroom should incorporate a variety of teaching strategies and techniques to ensure that the needs of all children are met. Several of these strategies and techniques are spelled out in detail in the Implementation Manual.</p> <p>(Classroom Quality)</p>
N/A	<p>Multiage classrooms may not use Connect4Learning</p> <p>(Classroom Quality)</p>

## Multiage Strong Beginnings/GSRP 5 Day Extended Program

<b>What is the same as GSRP?</b>	<b>What is new or different?</b>
Nothing is the same as GSRP since GSRP hasn't previously offered a Strong Beginnings/GSRP multiage classrooms. A full reading of guidance for multiage programs in the Implementation Manual is strongly recommended as this is an entirely new option.	N/A
N/A	A maximum of 15 children is allowed in a Strong Beginnings multiage program.  (Funding)
N/A	Five-day extended Strong Beginnings/GSRP multiage programs will be allowed. All general guidance for Strong Beginnings programs and for Strong Beginnings 5 day extended programs will be followed unless other guidance specific to a multiage program is provided.  (Funding and Program Administration)
N/A	Five-day extended programs will receive \$18,000 for each child age-eligible for Strong Beginnings as they do for other 5-day extended programs. Each child age-eligible for GSRP will receive the current allocation for GSRP children enrolled in a 5 day extended program. Each child receiving GSRP funding will also receive an additional allocation from Strong Beginnings that is the difference between the GSRP and the Strong Beginnings per child allocation. This additional funding covers proportional costs for the Family Liaison and other Strong Beginnings requirements. Strong

	<p>Beginnings will also fund any unfilled slots in the classroom at the Strong Beginnings allocation level. This will result in each Strong Beginnings/GSRP 5-day extended multiage classroom receiving the same funding as a Strong Beginnings 5-day extended classroom. (Funding)</p>
N/A	<p>The determination of numbers of Strong Beginnings age-eligible and GSRP age-eligible children in a classroom will be made on the basis of the MSDS Spring Early Childhood Collection. This collection will also be used to determine the number of unfilled slots in the classroom. (Funding)</p>
N/A	<p>Strong Beginnings will provide each Strong Beginnings/GSRP multiage classroom \$20,000 in startup funds. Additional startup funds may be provided by GSRP.</p> <p>Strong Beginnings will provide at least \$625 per child or the total cost of transporting all Strong Beginnings eligible children if it is less in a 5 day extended Strong Beginnings/GSRP multiage classroom. The number of children eligible for Strong Beginnings transportation funding will be determined at the start of the school year. If the multiage classroom is not yet fully enrolled, the current percentage of Strong Beginnings students will be used to determine base transportation funding. (Budget and Financial Guidelines Section)</p>
N/A	<p>In multiage classrooms all children, regardless of age, receive the same</p>

	<p>child and family supports required for Strong Beginnings.</p> <p>(Child and Family Supports)</p>
N/A	<p>Multiage programs will operate for the same number of days and weeks as well as hours per day as Strong Beginnings 5-day extended programs.</p> <p>(Program Administration Section)</p>
N/A	<p>Eligibility guidelines for Strong Beginnings or GSRP must be adhered to depending on the age of the child seeking enrollment.</p> <p>(Program Administration Section)</p>
N/A	<p>Enough children of each age group must be enrolled to encourage the development of meaningful peer relationships and deeper exploration of ideas.</p> <p>(Program Administration Section)</p>
N/A	<p>Information describing multiage classrooms and explaining how they meet the needs of children with a wide range of developmental levels should be included in the Family Handbook.</p> <p>(Program Administration Section)</p>
Multiage classrooms with braided funding that are other than Strong Beginnings/GSRP classrooms are fairly similar to those in GSRP.	<p>Multiage braided classrooms with some children funded by Strong Beginnings and some by tuition, Head Start etc., are also allowed. The multiage guidance in the Classroom Quality section of this manual as well as all other Strong Beginnings guidance must be followed in these classrooms. Please see also the additional guidance on classrooms with braided funding</p>

	<p>included in this section of the manual.</p> <p>(Program Administration Section)</p>
N/A	<p>When possible, children should return to the same multiage classroom as 4-year olds that they were in as 3-year olds.</p> <p>(Classroom Quality)</p>
N/A	<p>Each multiage classroom should incorporate a variety of teaching strategies and techniques to ensure that needs of all children are met. Several of these strategies and techniques are spelled out in detail in the Implementation Manual.</p> <p>(Classroom Quality)</p>

## Strong Beginnings Classrooms with Braided Funding

<b>What is the same as GSRP?</b>	<b>What is new or different?</b>
<p>The definition of braided classrooms, guidance that any braided classroom with even one funded child must follow all program guidance, and cost allocation procedure is the same as for GSRP.</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>N/A</p>	<p>A maximum of 15 children is allowed in a Strong Beginnings multiage program. There is no guaranteed funding for children in a blended classroom.</p> <p>(Funding section )</p>
<p>N/A</p>	<p>When considering a braided classroom, it is important to remember that the reimbursement rate for Strong Beginnings is significantly higher than the fees charged by almost all Michigan tuition based programs for three-year olds. Because of this, even if all classroom expenses can be charged to Strong Beginnings, the aggregate funding received from Strong Beginnings and tuition will likely be far less than what is appropriated for a Strong Beginnings classroom. It will be very difficult to satisfy all the Strong Beginnings requirements in a classroom dependent only on some Strong Beginnings and some tuition funding.</p> <p>(Program Administration Sections)</p>