

**MICHIGAN APPLICATION FOR  
PRESCHOOL DEVELOPMENT GRANT BIRTH THROUGH FIVE (PDG B-5)  
PROJECT SUMMARY/ABSTRACT**

Project Title: Strengthening the System, Better Connecting Families, and Improving Literacy  
Applicant Name: Michigan Department of Education, Office of Great Start  
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Michigan's vision is to be one of the best states to raise a child. To support this vision, Michigan has identified four goals for this grant: strengthening the overall system and improving the relationship between, state, regional, and local entities that support young children and their families; better identifying children in need of programs and services; better connecting families to programs and services; and improving transitions and connections between programs.

Michigan will use Activities One, Two, and Five to assess needs and develop strategies to support communities in implementing universal developmental and behavioral screening and no-wrong-door frameworks. Michigan will also improve transitions between home visiting programs and between child care and preschool. The state will improve recruitment and enrollment practices in early childhood care and education, and it will assess current early childhood care and education facilities and infrastructure. Michigan will also execute activities designed to strengthen regional and local partnerships.

Michigan's efforts to maximize parental knowledge and choice include developing materials to assist parents in identifying the best programs for their children at various ages and executing an outreach plan to assist families in learning about the availability of programs and services. The state will also develop culturally and linguistically appropriate materials and embed dual language and English language supports in the system to ensure that language and culture are not barriers to families accessing needed programs and services. Michigan will provide family engagement consultants and trusted advisors to help connect with the hardest to reach families.

Michigan's work to share best practices will focus on improving early literacy through professional development, building a structure to provide a regional support network, and developing a statewide marketing campaign around the importance of early literacy. The state will also provide professional development on cultural competence and teaching dual language learners to ensure that these families can fully participate in Michigan's early childhood system.

Michigan's logic model for this work rests on the assumption that strengthening the system and better connecting children and families to the programs and services they need, when they need them, will lead to improved outcomes.