



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
LANSING

RICK SNYDER  
GOVERNOR

SHEILA A. ALLES  
INTERIM STATE SUPERINTENDENT

**MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** October 18, 2018

**TO:** Local and Intermediate School District Superintendents  
Public School Academy Directors

**FROM:** Dr. Scott M. Koenigsknecht, Deputy Superintendent  
P-20 System and Student Transitions 

**SUBJECT:** Great Start Readiness Program (GSRP) Expectations for Child Assessment

This memo is to clarify that program requirements and expectations have not changed and practices for child assessment in GSRP remain consistent regardless of which tool is in use. Ongoing, authentic child assessment is a requirement of GSRP. This aspect of the GSRP model contributes to and supports Michigan's Top 10 in 10 Goals for Goal 1: Strategy 1.2: Expand access to quality publicly-funded preschool for all four-year-olds by 2010 and three-year-olds by 2025 as well as Goal 2: Strategy 2.1.c.: Develop a coherent assessment system to support the personalization of learning for all students.

The main purposes for assessment should remain clear: to support learning and development for both individual children and classrooms of children; to identify children who may need additional services; and, to aid in effectively communicating progress or concerns to parents. The ongoing, authentic child assessment of young children enrolled in GSRP must provide information across all domains identified in the Michigan State Board of Education adopted [Early Childhood Standards of Quality for Prekindergarten \(ECSQ-PK\)](#). It is only through requiring and monitoring for the reliable use of a comprehensive child assessment tool that the intermediate school district (ISD) can provide assurance that children are benefitting from experiences in all domains of early learning and development.

The program currently allows for ISDs to choose among My Teaching Strategies (MTS); Child Observation Record (COR); Work Sampling; and Assessment, Evaluation and Programming System for Infants and Children (AEPS). During the 2017-18 program year there were multiple reports of problems with MTS, although all ISDs that used it did not experience the same level of issues. And, there appeared to be some progress improvement in the MTS platform performance from the prior year. For that reason, the Michigan Department of Education did not remove MTS as a child assessment tool from the list of allowable tools.

As a reminder, if your chosen tool is not delivering consistent and reliable data for your use, ISDs must be prepared to implement a back-up process for implementation of another approved tool to ensure that child assessment data is collected, documented and used for its intended purposes on a daily basis throughout the program year to meet the program requirement and expectations so that children can receive the maximum benefit from GSRP.

If you have questions, please contact Pat Sargent, GSRP Manager, at [sargentp@michigan.gov](mailto:sargentp@michigan.gov).

cc: Michigan Education Alliance

**STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

CASANDRA E. ULBRICH – CO-PRESIDENT • RICHARD ZEILE – CO-PRESIDENT  
MICHELLE FECTEAU – SECRETARY • TOM MCMILLIN – TREASURER  
LUPE RAMOS-MONTIGNY – NASBE DELEGATE • PAMELA PUGH  
NIKKI SNYDER • EILEEN LAPPIN WEISER

608 WEST ALLEGAN STREET • P.O. BOX 30008 • LANSING, MICHIGAN 48909  
[www.michigan.gov/mde](http://www.michigan.gov/mde) • 833-633-5788