

The \$hort-Term Benefit\$ of Pre-K?

The Great Start Readiness Program

The Great Start Readiness Program (GSRP) is Michigan's primary preschool program. It receives enough funding to provide preschool for more than one-third of the state's 4-year-olds. Most GSRP programs run for a full school day, at least four days a week, for 30 weeks each year.

Benefits for Michigan Residents

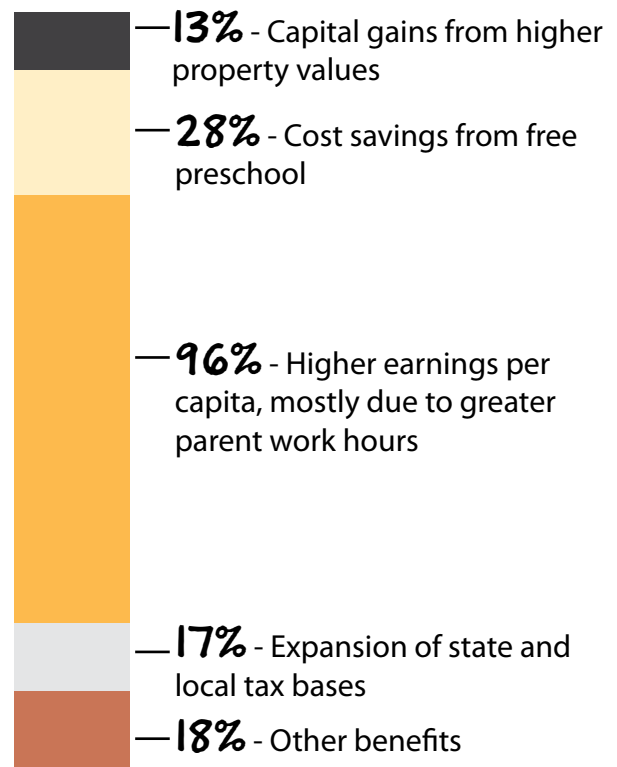
\$1.00:\$1.72

Over a 15-year period, for every dollar spent on GSRP, Michigan residents gain increased income per capita that is 172% of the program's costs.*

**This estimate comes from the Bartik Benefit-Cost Model of Incentives, a regional economic model that can be used to evaluate programs that create jobs and affect taxes or income transfers.*

GSRP does not pay for itself. But it does enlarge tax bases sufficiently that its **fiscal benefits cover about one-sixth (17%) of GSRP's budget costs.**

Short-Term Benefits Breakdown of 172%



Policy Recommendation

The preschool program should be designed to support more parents in joining the workforce.

One way to do this is by encouraging more providers to offer the Extended Program, which delivers 50% more preschool days than the minimum program. However, the Extended Program currently gets only 20% more funding per child, even though it requires significantly more resources. Increasing this funding to at least 40% more per child could make it more attractive for providers to offer this option.

Source: Bartik, Timothy J. 2025. "Short-Run Economic Effects of Michigan's State-Funded Preschool Program." Kalamazoo, MI: W.E. Upjohn Institute for Employment Research.