

Strong Beginnings

Quick Start Guide Section 6: Eligibility

Documenting eligibility, age and residency policies are mostly the same.

- A child who is eligible for Strong Beginnings and continues to live in Michigan is immediately eligible for GSRP, even if their income level changes during the year. They do not need to requalify based on income and are accepted before any child who was not in Strong Beginnings, regardless of income.

Early Entry policies for children born between September 2 and December 1 are the same.

- Children who turn three years of age on or before September 1 are eligible for Strong Beginnings.
- Children who have verification of age documentation from Strong Beginnings do not need to verify their age again for GSRP. Their age verification information from Strong Beginnings should be sent to the GSRP program they wish to attend. If no written record of age verification is available to the GSRP program, their age must be documented again.
- Only children with IEPs recommending inclusive placement and the need for ECSE services receive placement in the lowest quintile. Children with IEPs recommending ECSE classroom placement are not eligible for Strong Beginnings.

Income guidelines are different.

- Only children from families with incomes below 250% FPL are automatically eligible for Strong Beginnings. ISDs must request a waiver from the CCRESA Implementation Team before accepting any over income children.
- Only children with IEPs recommending inclusive placement and the need for ECSE services receive placement in the lowest quintile. Children with IEPs recommending ECSE classroom placement are not eligible for Strong Beginnings.
- Children who have verification of income documentation from Strong Beginnings do not need to verify their income again for GSRP. The income verification for children in Strong Beginnings should be sent to the GSRP program they wish to attend. If the form is not available, the family income needs to be re-documented but the child does not need to requalify based on current income. All children attending Strong Beginnings are immediately eligible to attend GSRP.

Policies for documenting program eligibility factors are mainly the same.

- The Family Liaison is well used to lead or assist with the sensitive interviewing process to determine eligibility factors and they, as well as others, should add information to the child’s file during the year as they become aware of new information.
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