

Strong Beginnings

Quick Start Guide Section 5: Recruitment and Enrollment

What is the same?	What is new or different?
ISDs are the grantees of Strong Beginnings and may run classrooms themselves or may choose to contract with sub-recipients.	Children may not be enrolled in Strong Beginnings across ISD boundaries.
Strong Beginnings and Head Start collaborate in enrollment decisions when a child is Head Start eligible. A formal protocol is in place.	Children who are eligible for Head Start and attend Strong Beginnings after the referral process has been completed may attend GSRP without completing a second referral process.
Recruitment, Enrollment and Prioritization policies are mostly the same although children in Strong Beginnings must be under 250% FPL.	ISDs must request a waiver from the CCRESA Implementation Team before admitting any child over 250% FPL.
Careful consideration must be given to the placement of children with IEPs in Strong Beginnings Classrooms so that there is a successful experience for children with IEPs and well as for children without IEPs and staff. In general, guidelines oppose placing more than 25% of children with IEPs requiring Special Education Services (and not programs) in a Strong Beginnings Classroom. This is especially important as some of the children who begin the year in Strong Beginnings without an IEP may be evaluated, receive an IEP and remain in the Strong Beginnings classroom for the rest of the school year.	Strong Beginnings eligible and non-eligible children may not be combined in the same classroom. Blending and braiding program funds is not allowable for Strong Beginnings. This includes funds from programs such as tuition-based preschool, Head Start or Early Childhood Special Education Programs (Mich. Admin. Code R. 340.1754).
N/A	Strong Beginnings and Head Start funding cannot be used to fund children in a blended classroom.
N/A	Enrollment may begin once the contract for the appropriate school year has

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	<p>been signed by CCRESA and the ISD. Individual program profiles of SB sites should be used to make enrollment decisions. Children at levels of income that are always accepted into the program may be accepted at contract signing. Children in quintiles that are not always accepted may not be accepted until August 15. At this time, they may be accepted, leaving two spaces for children of greater need who enroll later. On September 1, all spaces may be filled and children who are early entrants may be admitted if space allows.</p>
N/A	<p>Recruitment for children in Strong Beginnings may be done in the area surrounding the site rather than the whole ISD when appropriate.</p>