



Shooting suspect killed near White House

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BATTLE CREEK

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Rural hospitals close in increasing numbers



Activists protest cuts to Medicaid, in 2025 in Washington, DC. Federal Medicare and Medicaid reimbursements are a critical revenue source for rural hospitals, which tend to serve large numbers of Medicaid patients.

TASOS KATOPODIS/GETTY IMAGES FOR PEOPLE'S ACTION INSTITUTE

State reaches 55,000 kids and counting in free pre-K

Beki San Martin
Detroit Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

Michigan has hit new highs on pre-kindergarten enrollment, with more than 55,000 4-year-olds enrolled for the 2025-2026 school year, state officials announced at a press conference Thursday, May 21.

That's around 7,000 more kids enrolled in the state's Great Start for Readiness Program (GSRP) than last school year, representing the latest push toward Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's goal of reaching 75% of 4-year-olds enrolled in any state-funded pre-K program by 2027.

Why the fanfare? Because the state wants kids in seats (figuratively — GSRP curriculum is play-based, so it doesn't actually look like sitting at a desk all day). During her administration, Whitmer has made universal pre-K a tentpole policy, significantly expanding Michigan's program in 2024 to eliminate income eligibility caps.

"When children start strong, they stay on track," said Emily Laidlaw, deputy director at MiLEAP, the state's early childhood education agency, at the press conference in Grand Rapids. "That's what Pre-K for All is all about."

MiLEAP spokesperson Aundrea Jones-Poole said the agency has not yet calculated what percentage of the 75% goal Michigan has reached with these new numbers.

In addition to stressing the years of research and evidence supporting the benefits of early childhood education — including pre-K's long term impacts

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Closures have domino effect on communities, residents

Shayann Ramedani and Daniel R. George

Penn State
THE CONVERSATION

Some Pennsylvania hospitals are being pushed beyond the brink of closure.

Taylor Hospital in Ridley Park closed in April 2025, Crozer-Chester Medical Center in Upland closed in May 2025, and Heritage Valley Kennedy Hospital, formerly the Ohio Valley Hospital, in Kennedy Township closed in June 2025.

Rural hospitals are particularly vulnerable.

The UNC Sheps Center, which tracks rural hospital infrastructure in the United States, has documented 195 rural hospitals that have closed or converted to outpatient facilities since January 2005. Closures have far outpaced the opening of new rural hospitals during this period.

As a physician who has trained in rural communities and a researcher who studies community well-being and public health, we see that every rural hospital



A 2022 study found that when a rural hospital closes, hospitals nearby see a measurable spike in inpatient admissions and emergency room visits that can cause significant financial strain. GETTY IMAGES

closure exerts a domino effect on surrounding communities and residents. This can be difficult to quantify but manifests as lost jobs and economic

decline, poorer health and a pervasive sense of fraying community fabric.

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KELLOGG COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Student artists' work showcased at annual exhibit

Dave DeMille
Battle Creek Enquirer
USA TODAY NETWORK

Kellogg Community College honored dozens of student artists with nearly \$4,000 in awards and scholarships during

an April 17 ceremony recognizing work from the College's annual Student Art Exhibit, according to a community announcement.

The exhibit showcased 169 works by 66 student artists and was on display April 15 through May 1 at the Eleanor R.

and Robert A. DeVries Gallery inside the Davidson Visual and Performing Arts Center on the Battle Creek campus of Kellogg Community College. A digital version of the exhibit remains

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