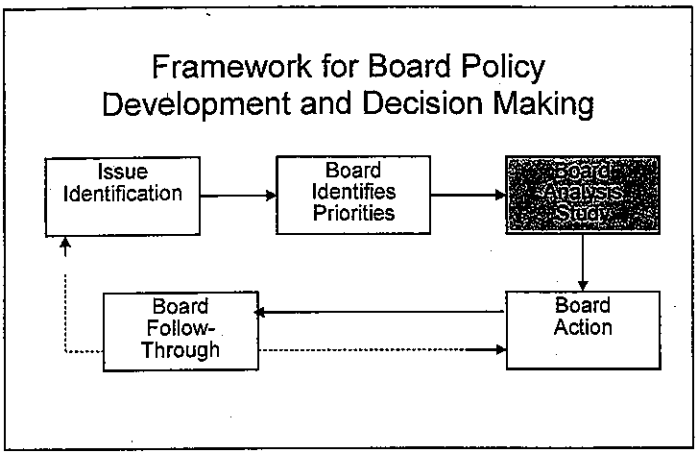
# Iowa State Board of Education

## Executive Summary

**July 30, 2009**




**Agenda Item:** Update on the Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program for Four-Year-Old Children

**Iowa Goal:** All children will enter school ready to learn.

**Equity Impact Statement:** All preschoolers must be ready to enter school.

**Presenter:** Kevin Fangman, Administrator
Division of PK-12 Education

Linda Brock, Superintendent
Fort Dodge Community School District

Melissa Ristau, Preschool Coordinator
Fort Dodge Community School District

**Attachments:** 1

**Recommendation:** The State Board will hear and discuss this information.

**Background:** This is the third year for implementation of the Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program for Four-Year-Old Children. An update will be provided on the status of reaching projected goals, program maintenance, and ongoing technical assistance.

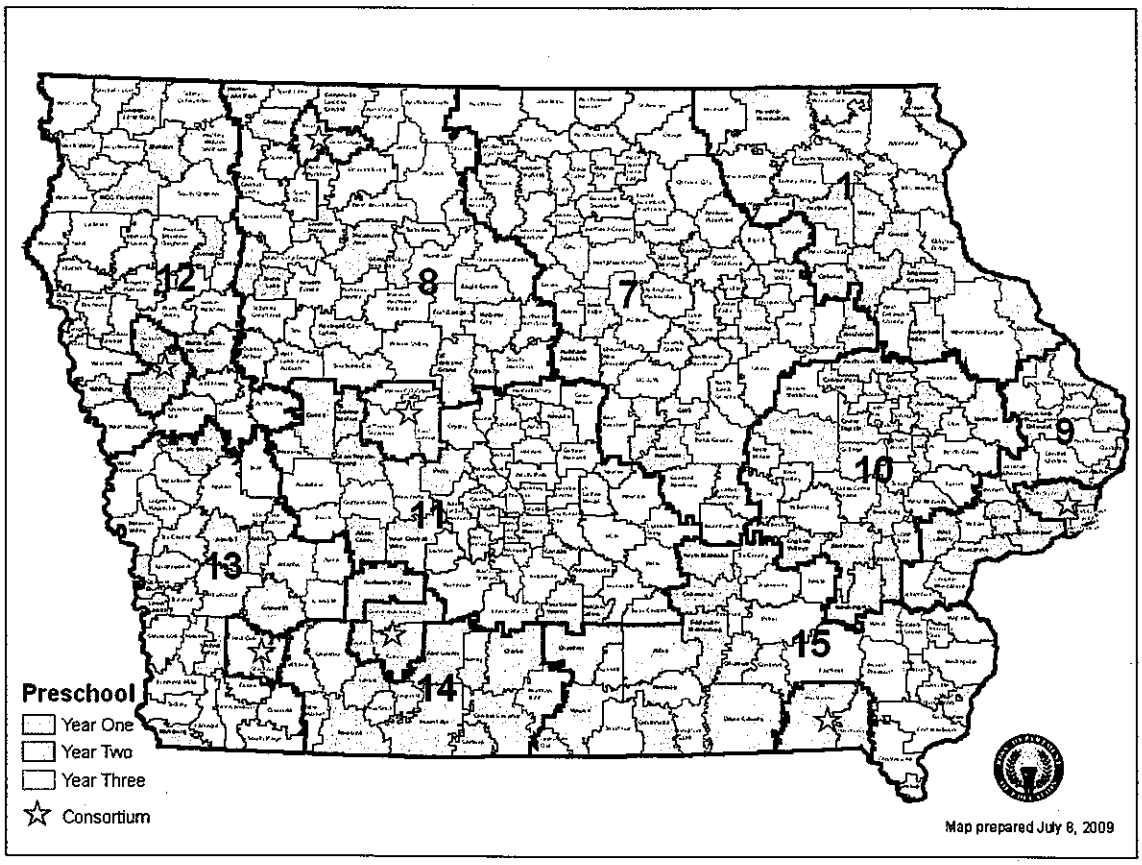
**Iowa Department of Education**
**Early Childhood Services Bureau**
**Statewide Voluntary Preschool Programs for Four-Year-Old Children**
**State Board of Education Presentation**
**July 30, 2009**

## Grant Application Data 2007-2008 through 2009-2010

| District Information | 2007-2008 | Academic Year 2008-2009 | 2009-2010 | 2010-2011 | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Districts submitted applications | 182 | 161 | 125 | | 468 |
| Districts awarded funding | 64 | 49 | 49 | | 162 |
| Children enrolled statewide | 4,481 | 3,512 | TBD | | |

*Note: Due to district consortiums, a total of 171 districts actually participate in the Preschool Program.*

## Awarded Districts
## Year One (2007-2008), Year Two (2008-2009) and Year Three (2009-2010)



## Statewide Voluntary Preschool Enrollment Data

The **Preschool Grant Award** provides one-time funding during a district's first year of implementation of the preschool program. The Preschool Grant Award count is submitted *only* during a district's first year of implementation.

**Preschool Grant Award Enrollment Data**

| | 2007-2008 | 2008-2009 | 2009-2010 | 2010-2011 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Amount per Child** | $3,199 | $3,328 | $3,460 | |
| **Preschool Grant Award Count (Enrolled by September)** | 4,482 | 3,512 | TBD | |

The **Preschool Enrollment Count** provides funding for subsequent school years.

**Preschool Enrollment Count**

| 2007-2008 | 2008-2009 | 2009-2010 | 2010-2011 |
|---|---|---|---|
| 5,126 | 9,676 | 13,423 Projected | |

## Preschool Program Data

All districts must assure implementation of research-based preschool program standards. The type of quality preschool program standards implemented and number of classrooms/sessions are shown for each grant award year.

**Program Standards***

| | 2007-2008 | 2008-2009 | 2009-2010 | 2010-2011 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Iowa Quality Preschool Program Standards (IQPPS)** | 242 | 260 | 186 | |
| **Head Start Program Performance Standards** | 39 | 21 | 30 | |
| **National Association for the Education of Young Children Standards (NAEYC)** | 62 | 22 | 18 | |

*Source.* Iowa Department of Education, Bureau of Early Childhood Services, Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program Application Data, 2007-2008, 2008-2009, 2009-2010.
* Districts may implement more than one type of program standard based on partners.

**Number of Districts that Integrate with Other Federal and/or State Funded Programs to Expand Preschool Instructional Session***

| | 2007-2008 | 2008-2009 | 2009-2010 | 2010-2011 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Early Childhood Special Education** | 52 | 35 | 34 | |
| **Head Start** | 22 | 20 | 16 | |
| **Shared Visions Preschool Program** | 8 | 7 | 3 | |
| **Title I** | 2 | 1 | 3 | |

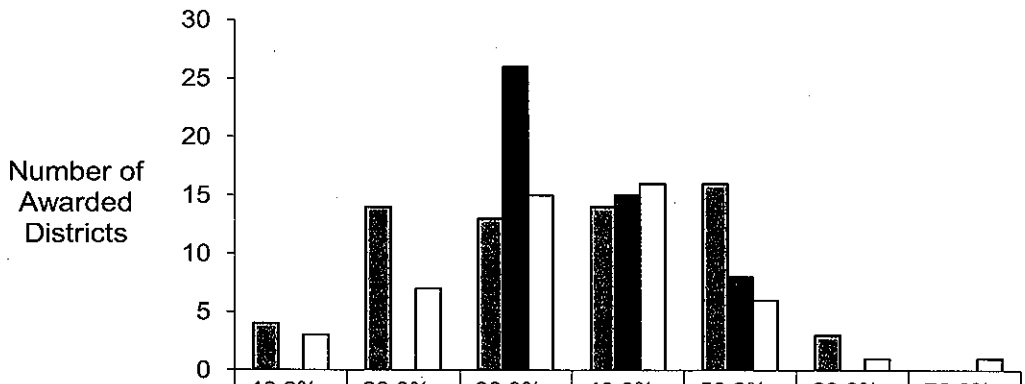
*Source.* Iowa Department of Education, Bureau of Early Childhood Services, Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program Application Data, 2007-2008, 2008-2009, 2009-2010.
*Some districts integrated with multiple partners.

## Number of Districts that Integrate with Community Partners*

| | 2007-2008 | 2008-2009 | 2009-2010 | 2010-2011 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Licensed Community-Based Child Care or Preschool** | Data Not Available | 19 | 17 | |
| **Faith-Based Preschool (Private, Community-Based Christian Preschool Program)** | Data Not Available | 7 | 15 | |
| **Faith-Based Accredited Schools** | Data Not Available | 10 | 9 | |
| **Non-Public Accredited Schools** | Data Not Available | 2 | 0 | |

*Source.* Iowa Department of Education, Bureau of Early Childhood Services, Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program Application Data, 2007-2008, 2008-2009, 2009-2010.
Note: Data Not Available; data was not collected specific to type of community partner for 2007-2008 Grantees. Data is preliminary for 2009-2010.
*Some districts integrated with multiple partners.

## Number of awarded school districts by percent of poverty based on free/reduced meals for grades 1-6*




| | 10.0% - 19.9% | 20.0% - 29.9% | 30.0% - 39.9% | 40.0% - 49.9% | 50.0% - 59.9% | 60.0% - 69.9% | 70.0% - 79.9% |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2007-08 Number of Districts | 4 | 14 | 13 | 14 | 16 | 3 | 0 |
| 2008-09 Number of Districts | 0 | 0 | 26 | 15 | 8 | 0 | 0 |
| 2009-10 Number of Districts | 3 | 7 | 15 | 16 | 6 | 1 | 1 |

*Source.* Iowa Department of Education, Bureau of Early Childhood Services, Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program Application Data, 2007-2008, 2008-2009, 2009-2010.
*Free/reduced meals are based on family income at or below 130% of poverty level.

## Number of District Applications Submitted and the Number of Districts with Existing Preschool Programs

| | 2007-2008 | | 2008-2009 | | 2009-2010 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Awarded Districts | Non-Awarded Districts | Awarded Districts | Non-Awarded Districts | Awarded Districts | Non-Awarded Districts |
| Number of Applicants | 64 | 112 | 49 | 102 | 49 | 76 |
| Number with Existing Preschool Programs | 59 | 108 | 46 | 99 | 47 | 76 |

*Source.* Iowa Department of Education, Bureau of Early Childhood Services, Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program Application Data, 2007-2008, 2008-2009, 2009-2010.

## Technical Assistance Provided by the DE for 2008-2009

- District teleconference to assist submission of Preschool Grant Award child count
- Administrative leadership training in two regions of the state (67 participants attended)
- Two ICN sessions to provide portfolio guidance to districts receiving verification visits during the 2008-2009 school year and others (298 participants attended)
- Five ICN sessions provided to guide implementation for the Iowa Quality Preschool Program Standards (33 out of 49 (67%) of 2008-2009 awarded districts participated)
- AEAs provided follow-up sessions to each IQPPS ICN session using consistent materials developed by a DE/AEA work group

  Note: State professional development funds from the Teacher Quality appropriation were allocated to AEAs in 2008-2009 for this purpose.
- Creative Curriculum training provided in each AEA by one trainer to foster statewide consistency in implementation
- Two ICN sessions regarding Application development for districts that planned to apply for 2009-2010 funding
- Two teleconferences regarding Application rules and requirements for districts that planned to apply for 2009-2010 funding

## Program Monitoring by the DE

- Iowa Quality Preschool Program Standards Verification Visits with 2007-2008 district grantees implementing IQPPS.
- Confirmation process developed to assure the implementation of other preschool program standards including National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) Accreditation and Head Start Program Performance Standards.
- School Improvement consultants monitored the program assurances/requirements during School Improvement Site Visits for districts awarded in 2008-2009.
- The IQPPS Verification Visit incorporated into the School Improvement Site Visit for those districts awarded in 2007-2008 that were scheduled for their accreditation visit. DE early childhood consultants participated on the accreditation team.
- Currently launching a data system to monitor the progress of district program implementation.

## Iowa Quality Preschool Program Standards (IQPPS)

### Verification Information

- The IQPPS are comprised of all 10 NAEYC standards and approximately 45% of the criteria.
- The IQPPS is designed to be a continuous improvement process to culminate with accreditation from NAEYC.
- AEA Early Childhood Consultants are integrated in the Verification Visits that are not in their specific AEA. (Facilitates statewide training and professional development consistency statewide.)
- Elements of Verification Visits mirror School Improvement Visits including the overview, interview, document review, summary meeting, and report.

### Verification Visits

Verification Visits for the IQPPS began in October 2008 for districts awarded preschool funds in 2007-2008. Districts are required to meet Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program assurances and IQPPS the 23 required criteria within 30 days of the visit. Within one year of the visit, districts must meet 85% of the other remaining criteria in each standard.

### Assurances

Districts must adhere to the assurances of the Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program. In addition to following program standards, districts must assure that:

- All teachers are appropriately endorsed;
- A minimum of 10 hours of instruction is provided;
- Other programs are integrated into the Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program (Community Empowerment, Early Childhood Special Education, Head Start, Shared Visions);
- Collaboration occurs with community partners (private preschools, Community Empowerment, Head Start, faith-based preschools etc.); and
- Appropriate professional development provided to district staff.

### Results of IQPPS Verification Visits for districts awarded in 2007-2008

| | |
|---|---|
| • Number of districts that received IQPPS visits between October 2008 and May 2009 | 51 |
| • Number of districts that received the IQPPS Verification visit as part of their School Improvement Site Visit (included in the total number) | 13 |
| • Number of districts that have achieved IQPPS Fully-Verified Status | 21 |
| • Number of districts that have one year to complete action plan to achieve IQPPS Fully-Verified Status* | 30 |

*Fully-Verified Status is achieved when the District meets all 23 of the required criteria and 85% of the other remaining criteria in each of the ten standards.

*Strengths* – Districts demonstrated strengths in the following areas:

- Standard 1 Relationships – Teaching staff develop and demonstrate relationships that encourage emotional development in young children.
- Standard 7 Families – Families are very satisfied with their children's progress and the ongoing communication between home and school.
- Standard 8 Community Relationships – Districts partner with a variety of community preschools to provide programming and coordinate with agencies (AEA, Community Empowerment, Public Health, community-based preschools, etc.) to maximize funding and provide appropriate services for children.

*Challenges* - As districts implement the IQPPS, they have encountered challenges such as:

- Standard 4 Assessment of Child Progress – Meeting child assessment requirements.
  - Connecting ongoing child assessment to lesson planning and individualized teaching
  - Communicating child assessment and curriculum connection to parents
- Standard 9 Physical Environment – Meeting the requirements for the outdoor areas. Some specific areas of need include:
  - Fencing or natural barriers to ensure child safety.
  - Safe equipment developed specifically for the child ages 3-5.
  - Appropriate outdoor activities and materials to incorporate all aspects of experience (art, dramatic play, etc.).
- Standard 6 Teachers – Meeting requirements for teachers and staff due to the following:
  - Some areas of the state do not offer courses needed for associate teacher requirements;
  - Pay rate of associates does not support the additional education requirements;
  - Veteran associates do not always desire to continue their education; or
  - Limited availability of qualified teachers in some areas of the state.

## Department Revision of Application and Technical Assistance Guidance

The 2009-2010 Application and application process were revised to include:

- Information to assist districts to determine a more accurate estimated preschool child count by including a kindergarten enrollment analysis and a written justification for an estimated count over 70% of the three year average kindergarten enrollment.
- Additional weighting for the priority of poverty based on Free and Reduced Meals.
- Revised Application timeline to allow for earlier award announcement.
- A courtesy review to identify formatting issues for applications submitted by March 19 (all Applications were due March 30).
- Reader instructions to provide specific, constructive comments for all Applications.

## AEA Professional Development 2008-2009

- Education Appropriations bill (HF 2679) supported funds for professional development.
- DE developed an application process for AEAs to prioritize use of professional development funding.
- DE and AEA coordinated professional development training and follow-up.
- Funding focused on three priorities:
  1. Support professional development for Creative Curriculum and IQPPS;
  2. Build capacity of AEA staff to sustain a system of support; and
  3. Provide districts professional development and follow-up/technical assistance for preschool programs.

Note: Funding was eliminated in 2009-2010.

## Positive Impacts Reported by Districts, Families and Partners

The Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program creates a positive impact in the following areas:

- Access to quality preschools.
- Number of licensed teachers in early childhood.
- Quality of programming, curriculum and assessment.
- Collaboration among teaching staff.
- Collaboration between public schools and communities.
- Integration of children on IEPs.
- Family involvement, at a higher level of quality.
- Opportunities for appropriate quality professional development

## Appendix A

**Projected increases in the percentage of four-year-old children participating in a quality preschool program.**

The following table provides projections regarding the number of children served in quality preschool programs by setting. The information is based on several assumptions including:

- no substantial increase or decrease for the number of four-year-old children reported in the census data;
- the number of four-year-old children on the 2009 Certified Enrollment Count increase at the same rate as the October 2008 Certified Enrollment Count, and
- that the number of four-year-old children indicated on the 2009-2010 awarded district applications will match the number of four-year-old children reported by these districts in August.

According to census data for 2007, Iowa had 39,627 four-year-old children. In 2007-2008, there were 5,126 children that received preschool programming through the Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program for Four-Year-Olds. Four-year-olds also received programming in a number of other state and federally funded settings, including Head Start, Shared Visions Preschool Programs, Title I and Early Childhood Special Education. In 2007-2008, a total of 14,621 children or 37% of the four-year-old children participated in state and federally funded quality preschool programs.

Some children may attend more than one type of funded program, so there may be some duplication in these data.

**Projected Number and Percentage of Four-Year-Olds Attending State or Federally Funded Quality Preschool Programs 2007-2010**

| | Number Served 2007-2008 | Number Projected 2008-2009 | Number Projected 2009-2010 | Number Projected 2010-2011 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Program Name** | | | | |
| Head Start | 4,168 | 4,168 | 4,168 | 4,168 |
| Shared Visions Preschool Programs | 1,733 | 1,680 | 1,680 | 1,680 |
| Title I | 1,820 | 1,820 | 1,820 | 1,820 |
| Early Childhood Special Education | 1,774 | 1,774 | 1,774 | 1,774 |
| Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program for Four-Year-Olds | 5,126 | 9,676 | 13,483 | 17,853, |
| **Total Number** | **14,621** | **19,118** | **22,925** | **27,295** |
| **Percentage** | **37%** | **48%** | **58%** | **69%** |

Note: Estimates are based on Certified Enrollment Count growth of 500 four-year-old children in addition to the continuation of grant funds ($11,000,000) for additional district awards in 2010-2011.

Iowa continues to demonstrate a strong commitment to quality early childhood education. We are making progress each year toward the target that 90% of Iowa's four-year-old children will participate in a high quality learning environment. Due to higher costs of quality preschool and decreased or flat funded early childhood programs, the trajectory of progress is less than originally anticipated. In addition, the state

budget allocation decreased for two of the three years of grant funding. Thus, the number of districts and children served, given the allocated funding, is less than original target.

Flat funding for programs such as Head Start and Shared Visions coupled with the rising costs to meet required program standards have resulted in fewer children receiving preschool services. Programs must meet quality program standards such as National Association for the Education of Young Children Accreditation, Head Start Preschool Program Standards or Iowa Quality Preschool Program Standards. Achieving quality standards requires a commitment of increasing fiscal resources to provide licensed teachers, professional development, materials and equipment and, in some cases, the accreditation or verification process itself. In order to achieve quality programming, early childhood programs attempt to blend funds from other partners and projects. During the current economic environment, other sources of funding have diminished.