

Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program for Four-Year-Old Children



Fact Sheet



Iowa Department of Education
April 2012



About the Four-Year-Old Program

MORE OPPORTUNITIES FOR A QUALITY LEARNING EXPERIENCE

Iowa's Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program for Four-Year-Old Children (Preschool Program) is an important part of the state's comprehensive early childhood effort, providing more opportunities for young children to access quality preschool and enter school ready to learn.

The Preschool Program was established May 10, 2007, in House File 877.

In the fall of 2011, almost 24,000 Iowa preschoolers in 316 school districts will benefit from the Preschool Program by providing at least 10 hours per week of developmentally appropriate instruction.

The Preschool Program along with other state and federally funded preschool programs and community partners in Iowa—such as Head Start, Early Childhood Special Education, Title I, and Shared Visions—make up Iowa's comprehensive preschool.

ENROLLMENT

- 5,126 children in 2007-2008
- 9,676 children in 2008-2009
- 13,666 children in 2009-2010
- 19,799 children in 2010-2011
- 20,396 children in 2011-2012*

**These numbers indicate the four-year-old children funded through the Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program only. An additional 3,300 children participate in the Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program funded by other sources. More children are served through other state and federal programs.*

PARTICIPATING SCHOOL DISTRICTS

316 districts out of 351 statewide

- 21% of districts awarded grants in 2007-2008
- 16% of districts awarded grants in 2008-2009
- 17% of districts awarded grants in 2009-2010
- 46% of districts awarded grants in 2010-2011

After the final grant year in 2010-2011, all allocations flow through the school aid formula funding. Currently, 90% of school districts participate in the Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- The preschool programs are expected to serve four-year-old children with a range of abilities representing the social, linguistic, cultural, and economic diversity of families within the communities.

Quality Preschools Help Children, Communities

RESEARCH SHOWS THE BENEFITS ARE LONG TERM AND FAR REACHING

Young children exposed to high-quality settings exhibit better language and math skills, better cognitive and social skills, and better relationships with classmates than do children in lower-quality settings. Here is the research:

- Evaluations show that children in quality learning environments were less likely to drop out of school, repeat grades, need special education, or get into future trouble with the law than similar children who did not have such exposure. ("In Early-childhood Education and Care: Quality Counts," Education Week – Building Blocks for Success, 2002)
- A study of New Mexico's state-funded prekindergarten shows the program produced meaningful impacts on young children's language, literacy, and math development. In addition, there was an estimated \$5 benefit generated for every dollar invested. (Jason T. Hustedt, W. Steven Barnett, Kwanghee Jung, and Linda D. Goetze, November 2009)
- The "most practical and cost efficient way" of making an economic impact may be providing access for all children. (W. Steven Barnett, director of the National Institute for Early Education Research, at Rutgers University)
- A study of the High Scope Foundation's Perry Preschool showed that at age 27, former Perry Preschool students demonstrated positive differences from the control group in educational attainment, home ownership, incarceration, and employment. ("Investing in Preschool," American School Board Journal, January 2003)
- A similar study of former Chicago Child-Parent Center Program students showed similar results to the Perry study. Both studies also pointed out that a dollar invested in preschool saved the taxpayer \$7 in cost for later services such as jails and drug detoxification centers. ("Leaving Too Many Children Behind," Institute for Educational Leadership, April 2003)

FUNDING

- \$15 million in 2007-2008
- \$32 million* in 2008-2009
- \$45 million* in 2009-2010
- \$64 million* in 2010-2011
- \$58 million** in 2011-2012

*Both grant allocation and formula funding

**Formula funding only

The Iowa General Assembly allocated funding over four years to allow new school districts to participate in the Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program for Four-Year-Old Children through a grant application.

The grant amount was based on the number of four-year-old children enrolled and provided funding for the first year of operation.

After successfully operating for one year, the programs were funded through a state funding formula, based on the enrollment.

Allocation of state funds for the Preschool Program is intended to provide predictable, equitable, and sustainable funding.

RANKINGS

According to the National Institute for Early Education Research (NIEER), in 2010—2011, Iowa's national rank was:

- 7th for four-year-old access to quality preschool programming.
- 30th for state spending on access to quality preschool.



What the Four-Year-Old Preschool Program Offers Children

- **A licensed teacher.** An early childhood licensed teacher is responsible for designing and implementing effective learning environments using instructional strategies to enhance children's learning.
- **A minimum of 10 hours per week of quality preschool instruction.** Providers may provide more hours and childcare through other federal, state, or local programming. There may be a charge for these services if not funded through state or federal sources.
- **Community collaboration.** Programs must provide family involvement opportunities such as home visits, family nights, and conferences. The delivery of quality preschool services are provided by an appropriately licensed teacher. These services could be provided in the public school setting, or the district could collaborate with community-based early childhood programs, nonpublic, faith-based, non-profit, or for profit centers.
- **High program standards.** School districts and partners select and implement at least one of three approved program standards: the Iowa Quality Preschool Program Standards, the National Association for the Education of Young Children Program Standards and Accreditation Criteria, or the Head Start Program Performance Standards.
- **High learning standards.** Programs must have rigorous and relevant curriculum and assessments to enhance children's strengths, interests, and knowledge (based on the Iowa Early Learning Standards); and alignment with K-12 standards and academic expectations.
- **Appropriate adult-child ratio of 1 to 10 and a maximum group size of 20.**



Early Indicators of Success

The Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program continues to have a positive effect on Iowa's incoming kindergarteners. The second study since the voluntary program began continues to show increased proficiencies in beginning reading skills among all children who attend the state's preschool program.

In particular, children of poverty especially benefit from the high-quality preschool program, not just in terms of increasing proficiency rates, but substantially reducing the need for intensive interventions.

Approximately half of the state's districts use Dynamic Indicators or Basic Early Literacy Skills (DIBELS) or DIBELS Next.

DIBELS Next shows that proficiencies among all kindergarteners who attended the state preschool were 8 percentage points higher than those who did not. Even more impressive, the DIBELS Next results showed that among students of poverty, those who attended the statewide program were 7 percent more proficient than their counterparts who did not attend preschool.

Perhaps the most noteworthy aspect of this is that far fewer students of poverty who attended the state preschool will require intensive intervention. Among those who did not attend the preschool program, 26 percent required intensive intervention.

Results were similar on the DIBELS evaluation.



Iowa School Districts That Participate in the Preschool Program

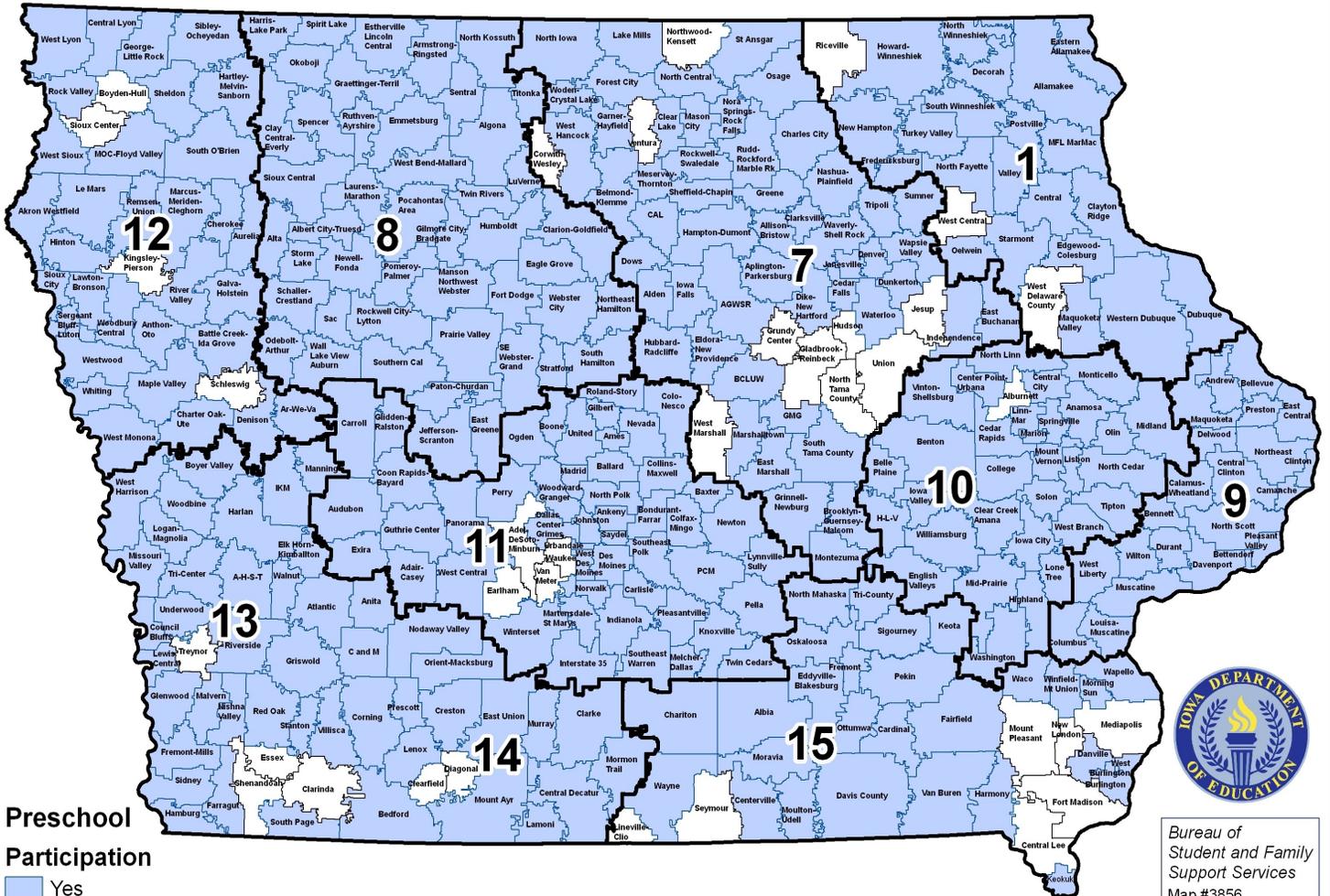
District Name	County	District Name	County	District Name	County
Adair-Casey	Guthrie	Calamus-Wheatland	Clinton	Davis County	Davis
AGWSR	Dallas	CAM	Cass	Decorah	Winneshiek
A-H-S-T	Pottawattamie	Camanche	Clinton	Delwood	Clinton
Akron Westfield	Plymouth	Cardinal	Wapello	Denison	Crawford
Albert City-Truesdale	Buena Vista	Carlisle	Warren	Denver	Bremer
Albia	Monroe	Carroll	Carroll	Des Moines	Polk
Alden	Hardin	Cedar Falls	Black Hawk	Dike-New Hartford	Grundy
Algona	Kossuth	Cedar Rapids	Linn	Dows	Wright
Allamakee	Allamakee	Center Point-Urbana	Linn	Dubuque	Dubuque
Alta	Buena Vista	Centerville	Appanoose	Dunkerton	Black Hawk
Ames	Story	Central City	Linn	Durant	Cedar
Anamosa	Jones	Central	Clayton	Eagle Grove	Wright
Andrew	Jackson	Central Clinton	Clinton	East Buchanan	Buchanan
Ankeny	Polk	Central Decatur	Decatur	East Central	Jackson
Aplington-Parkersburg	Butler	Central Lyon	Lyon	East Greene	Greene
Armstrong-Ringsted	Emmet	Central Springs	Floyd/Worth	East Marshall	Marshall
Ar-We-Va	Crawford	Chariton	Lucas	East Mills	Mills
Atlantic	Cass	Charles City	Floyd	East Sac	Sac
Audubon	Audubon	Charter Oak-Ute	Crawford	East Union	Union
Aurelia	Cherokee	Cherokee	Cherokee	Eastern Allamakee	Allamakee
Ballard	Story	Clarion-Goldfield	Wright	Eddyville-Blakesburg	Wapello
Battle Creek-Ida Grove	Ida	Clarke	Clarke	Edgewood-Colesburg	Delaware
Baxter	Jasper	Clarksville	Butler	Eldora-New Providence	Hardin
BCLUW	Grundy	Clay Central-Everly	Clay	Elk Horn-Kimballton	Shelby
Bedford	Taylor	Clayton Ridge	Clayton	Emmetsburg	Palo Alto
Belle Plaine	Benton	Clear Creek Amana	Johnson	English Valleys	Iowa
Bellevue	Jackson	Clear Lake	Cerro Gordo	Estherville-Lincoln Central	Emmet
Belmond-Klemme	Wright	Clinton	Clinton	Exira	Audubon
Bennett	Cedar	Colfax-Mingo	Jasper	Fairfield	Jefferson
Benton	Benton	College	Linn	Farragut	Fremont
Bettendorf	Scott	Collins-Maxwell	Story	Forest City	Winnebago
Bondurant-Farrar	Polk	Colo-Nesco	Story	Fort Dodge	Webster
Boone	Boone	Columbus	Louisa	Fredericksburg	Chickasaw
Boyer Valley	Harrison	Coon Rapids-Bayard	Carroll	Fremont	Mahaska
Brooklyn-Guernsey-		Corning	Adams	Fremont-Mills	Fremont
Malcom	Poweshiek	Council Bluffs	Pottawattamie	Galva-Holstein	Ida
Burlington	Des Moines	Creston	Union	Garner-Hayfield	Hancock
Cal	Franklin	Dallas Center-Grimes	Dallas	George-Little Rock	Lyon
		Danville	Des Moines	Gilbert	Story
		Davenport	Scott	Gilmore City-Bradgate	Humboldt

Continued

Iowa School Districts That Participate in the Preschool Program *cont.*

District Name	County	District Name	County	District Name	County
Glenwood	Mills	Northeast	Clinton	West Bend-Mallard	Palo Alto
Glidden-Ralston	Carroll	Northeast Hamilton	Hamilton	West Branch	Cedar
GMG	Tama	Norwalk	Warren	West Burlington	Des Moines
Graettinger-Terrill	Palo Alto	Odebolt-Arthur	Sac	West Central Valley	Guthrie
Grinnell-Newburg	Poweshiek	Oelwein	Fayette	West Des Moines	Polk
Griswold	Cass	Ogden	Boone	West Fork	Cerro Gordo/Franklin
Guthrie Center	Guthrie	Okobojo	Dickinson	West Hancock	Hancock
Hamburg	Fremont	Olin Consolidated	Jones	West Harrison	Harrison
Hampton-Dumont	Franklin	Orient-Macksburg	Adair	West Liberty	Muscatine
Harlan	Shelby	Osage	Mitchell	West Lyon	Lyon
Harmony	Van Buren	Oskaloosa	Mahaska	West Monona	Monona
Harris-Lake Park	Dickinson	Ottumwa	Wapello	West Sioux	Sioux
Hartley Melvin Sanborn	O'Brien	Panorama	Guthrie	Western Dubuque	Dubuque
Highland	Washington	Paton-Churdan	Greene	Westwood	Woodbury
Hinton	Plymouth	PCM	Jasper	Whiting	Monona
H-L-V	Iowa	Pekin	Keokuk	Williamsburg	Iowa
Howard-Winneshiek	Howard	Pella	Marion	Wilton	Muscatine
Hubbard-Radcliffe	Hardin	Perry	Dallas	Winfield-Mt Union	Henry
Humbolt	Humbolt	Pleasant Valley	Scott	Winterset	Madison
IKM-Manning	Carroll/Crawford	Pleasantville	Marion	Woden-Crystal Lake	Hancock
Independence	Buchanan	Pocahontas Area	Pocahontas	Woodbine	Harrison
Indianola	Warren	Pomeroy-Palmer	Calhoun	Woodbury Central	Woodbury
Interstate 35	Madison	Postville	Allamakee	Woodward-Granger	Dallas
Iowa City	Johnson	Prairie Valley	Webster		
Iowa Falls	Hardin	Prescott	Adams		
Iowa Valley	Iowa	Preston	Jackson		
Janesville Consolidated	Bremer	Red Oak	Montgomery		
Jefferson-Scranton	Greene	Remsen-Union	Plymouth		
Johnston	Polk	River Valley	Woodbury		
Keokuk	Lee	Riverside 78	Pottawattamie		
Keota	Keokuk	Rock Valley	Sioux		
Knoxville	Marion	Rockwell City-Lytton	Calhoun		
Lake Mills	Winnebago	Roland-Story	Story		
Lamoni	Decatur	Rudd-Rockford-Marble Rock	Floyd		
Laurens-Marathon	Pocahontas	Ruthven-Ayrshire	Palo Alto		
Lawton-Bronson	Woodbury	Saydel	Polk		
Le Mars	Plymouth	Schaller-Crestland	Sac		
Lenox	Taylor	Sentral	Kossuth		
Lewis Central	Pottawattamie	Sergeant Bluff-Luton	Woodbury		
Linn-Mar	Linn	Sheldon	O'Brien		
Lisbon	Linn	Sibley-Ocheyedan	Osceola		
Logan-Magnolia	Harrison	Sidney	Fremont		
Lone Tree	Johnson	Sigourney	Keokuk		
Louisa-Muscatine	Louisa	Sioux Central	Buena Vista		
LuVerne	Kossuth	Sioux City	Woodbury		
Lynnville-Sully	Jasper	Solon	Johnson		
Madrid	Boone	South Hamilton	Hamilton		
Manson Northwest Webster	Calhoun	South O'Brien	O'Brien		
Maple Valley-Anthon-Oto	Monona/Woodbury	South Page	Page		
Maquoketa	Jackson	South Tama	Tama		
Maquoketa Valley	Delaware	South Winneshiek	Winneshiek		
Marcus-Meriden-Cleghorn	Cherokee	Southeast Polk	Polk		
Marion	Linn	Southeast Warren	Warren		
Marshalltown	Marshall	Southeast Webster - Grand	Webster		
Martensdale-St Marys	Warren	Southern Cal	Calhoun		
Mason City	Cerro Gordo	Spencer	Clay		
Melcher-Dallas	Marion	Spirit Lake	Dickinson		
MFL MarMac	Clayton	Springville	Linn		
Midland	Jones	St Ansgar	Mitchell		
Mid-Prairie	Washington	Stanton	Montgomery		
Missouri Valley	Harrison	Starmont	Fayette		
Moc-Floyd Valley	Sioux	Storm Lake	Buena Vista		
Montezuma	Poweshiek	Stratford	Hamilton		
Monticello	Jones	Sumner	Bremer		
Moravia	Appanoose	Tipton	Cedar		
Mormon Trail	Wayne	Titonka Consolidated	Kossuth		
Morning Sun	Louisa	Tri-Center	Pottawattamie		
Moulton-Udell	Appanoose	Tri-County	Keokuk		
Mount Ayr	Ringgold	Tripoli	Bremer		
Mount Vernon	Linn	Turkey Valley	Winneshiek		
Murray	Clarke	Twin Cedars	Marion		
Muscatine	Muscatine	Twin Rivers	Humboldt		
Nashua-Plainfield	Chickasaw	Underwood	Pottawattamie		
Nevada	Story	United	Boone		
New Hampton	Chickasaw	Urbandale	Polk		
Newell-Fonda	Buena Vista	Valley	Fayette		
Newton	Jasper	Van Buren	Van Buren		
Nodaway Valley	Adair	Villisca	Montgomery		
North Butler	Butler	Vinton-Shellsburg	Benton		
North Cedar	Cedar	Waco	Henry		
North Fayette	Fayette	Walnut	Pottawattamie		
North Iowa	Winnebago	Wapello	Louisa		
North Kossuth	Kossuth	Wapsie Valley	Bremer		
North Linn	Linn	Washington	Washington		
North Mahaska	Mahaska	Waterloo	Black Hawk		
North Polk	Polk	Waverly-Shell Rock	Bremer		
North Scott	Scott	Wayne	Wayne		
North Winneshiek	Winneshiek	Webster City	Hamilton		

Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program for Four-Year-Old Children 2011-2012



Bureau of Student and Family Support Services
 Map #3856
 January 6, 2012

An electronic version of this map can be found at the Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program website:
http://www.educateiowa.gov/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=940&Itemid=1279
[option=com_content&task=view&id=940&Itemid=1279](http://www.educateiowa.gov/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=940&Itemid=1279)