

Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program for Four-Year-Old Children



Fact Sheet



Iowa Department of Education
August 2016



MORE OPPORTUNITIES FOR QUALITY LEARNING

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 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.

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

In the fall of 2015, approximately 24,793 Iowa preschoolers in 322 school districts benefited from the Preschool Program by providing at least 10 hours per week of developmentally appropriate instruction. More children than are reflected in the funded enrollment count have access to this preschool program through other funding sources.

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.

THE BENEFITS

A child's brain is 90% developed by age five. (Early Childhood Education Degrees, 2013)¹ Quality early childhood programming is the best way to prepare children for success in life.

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. (Barnett & Lamy, 2013)²

- A study of the Arkansas Better Chance (ABC) Program had meaningful long-term effects for children who participated including significant positive effects on children's receptive vocabulary and math through grade two and on literacy through grade three. Children who attended ABC pre-K were less likely to have been retained by the end of third grade than those who did not attend any pre-K. (Jung, Barnett, Hustedt & Francis, 2013)³
- Whatever you can do to ensure that more children receive a high quality, effective preschool education will pay substantial human and economic dividends far into the future. (Barnett, 2005)⁴
- Economists have shown that high-quality early childhood programs bring impressive returns on investment to the public. Three of the most rigorous long-term studies found a range of returns between \$4 and \$9 for every dollar invested in early learning programs. Program participants followed into adulthood benefited from increased earnings while the public saw returns in the form of reduced special education, welfare, and crime costs, and increased tax revenues from program participants later in life. (Masse, and Barnett, 2002; Karoly et al., 2005; Heckman et al., 2009)⁵

FUNDED 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
- 19,900 children in 2011-2012
- 21,4029 children in 2012-2013
- 22,265 children in 2013-2014
- 22,269 children in 2014-2015
- 23,141 children in 2015-2016

**These numbers indicate the four-year-old children funded through the Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program only. Additional children participated in the Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program funded by other sources. More children are served through other state and federal programs.*

PARTICIPATING SCHOOL DISTRICTS

In 2015-2016, the SWVPP was provided in:

- 322 districts out of 336 statewide
- 297 community partners

1. Early Childhood Education Degrees, *The Milestones of Your Little Rocket Scientist's Development*, 2013, available at <http://www.early-childhood-education-degrees.com/milestones/>.
2. Barnett, W.S. & Lamy, C. Achievement Gaps Start Early: Preschool Can Help. In P.L. Carter & K.G. Welner (Eds.), *Closing the Opportunity Gap: What American Must do to Give Every Child an Even Chance* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2013).
3. Jung, K., Barnett, W., Hustedt, J. T., & Francis, J. (2013). *Longitudinal effects of the Arkansas Better Chance program: Findings from first grade through fourth grade [Executive summary]*. New Brunswick, NJ: National Institute for Early Education Research.
4. Barnett, W. (2005). *Statement of Dr. W. Steven Barnett*. In Early childhood education: Improvement through integration: Hearing before the Subcommittee on Education Reform of the Committee on Education and the Workforce, U.S. House of Representatives, 109th Cong., 1st Sess
5. Masse, L. N., & Barnett, W. (2002). *A benefit-cost analysis of the Abecedarian early childhood intervention*. New Brunswick, NJ: National Institute for Early Education Research; Karoly, L. A., Kilburn, M., & Cannon, J. S. (2005). *Early childhood interventions: Proven results, future promise*. (Monograph No. MG-341-PNC).

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
- \$60 million** in 2012-2013
- \$66 million** in 2013-2014
- \$70 million** in 2014-2015
- \$73 million** in 2015-2016

* Both grant allocation and formula funding

**Formula funding only

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

State aid received for SWVPP children is equal to one-half of the state cost per pupil.

Enrolled children receive a minimum of 10 hours of instruction at no cost to families.

RANKINGS

According to the National Institute for Early Education Research (NIEER), in 2014—2015, Iowa's national rank was:

- 7th for four-year-old access to quality preschool programming.
- 35th 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 meet high standards that support positive effects on Iowa’s incoming kindergarteners. Participating school districts follow the Iowa Early Learning Standards. These standards identify the knowledge, skills, motivation, and attitudes needed by preschoolers that lead to success as students enter school and as adults. Additionally, participating programs must meet one of three program standards: Head Start Program Performance Standards, Iowa Quality Preschool Program Standards, or National Association for the Education of Young Children Accreditation Standards and Criteria. Each set of program standards is indicative of high quality programming efforts.

Studies continue to show increased proficiencies in beginning reading skills among all children who attend the state’s preschool program. All students in grades K-3 are required to be assessed three times per year with a universal literacy screening tool. The vast majority of districts use the Formative Assessment System for Teachers (FAST). The number of students proficient in early literacy skills upon kindergarten entry is increasing. In the Fall of 2014, 53 percent of kindergarteners were proficient on the FAST assessment. In the Fall of 2015, the percentage proficient increased to 64 percent. This is indicative of quality literacy instruction in preschool being intentionally embedded into classroom curricula, routines and activities.



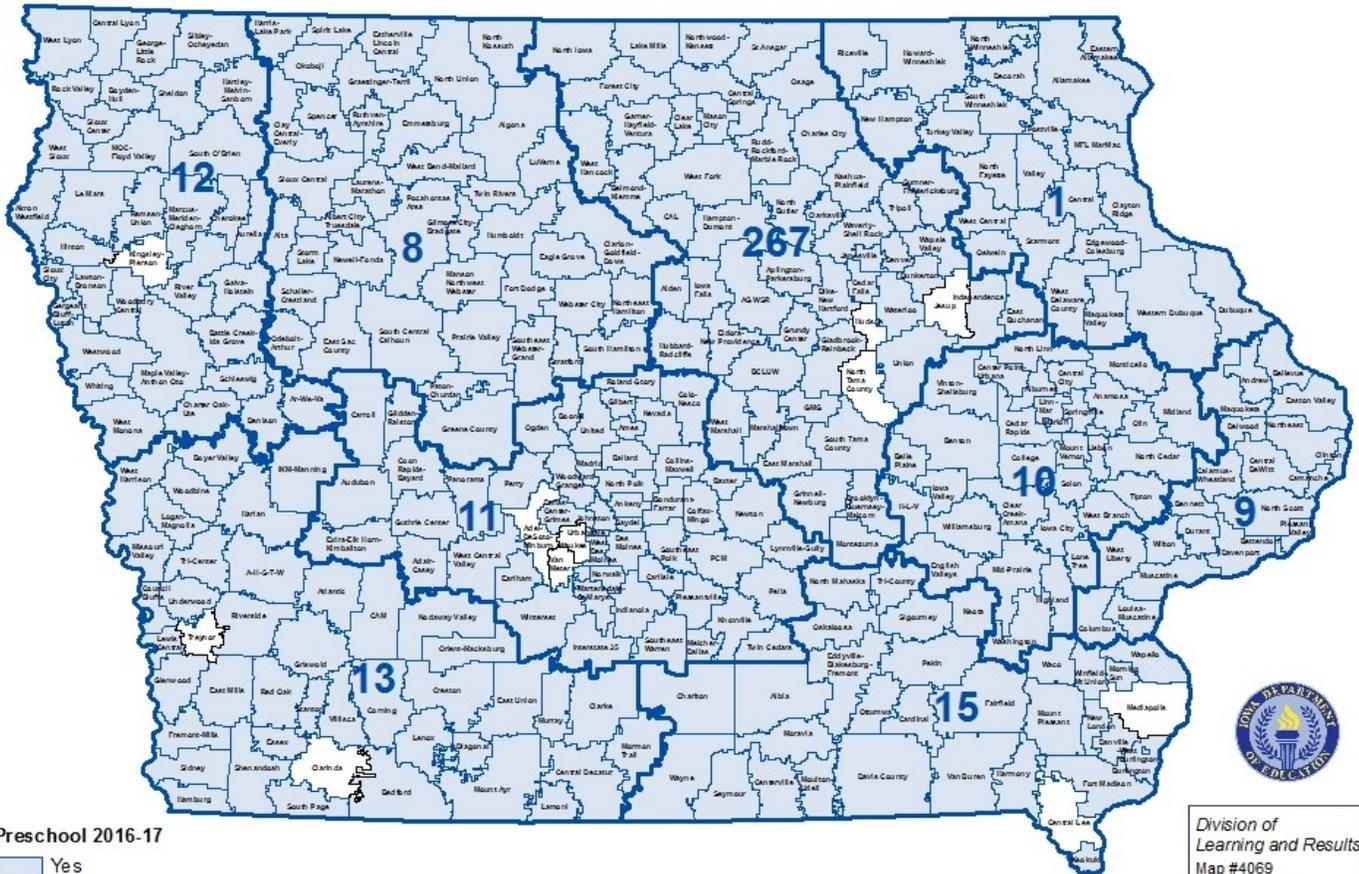
Iowa School Districts Participating in the SWVPP 2016-2017

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

Iowa School Districts Participating in the SWVPP 2016-2017, cont.

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

Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program for Four-Year-Old Children 2016-17



Division of Learning and Results
 Map #4069
 June 9, 2016

An electronic version of this map can be found at the [Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program website](https://www.educateiowa.gov/pk-12/early-childhood/statewide-voluntary-preschool-program-four-year-old-children):
<https://www.educateiowa.gov/pk-12/early-childhood/statewide-voluntary-preschool-program-four-year-old-children>