



**DE Early Childhood Services Bureau**  
**Statewide Voluntary Preschool Programs for Four-Year-Old Children**  
**2010-2011**  
**Legislative Committee Presentation**

**Purpose of the Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program**

The Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program for Four-Year-Old Children was established May 10, 2007, with signing of HF877. The purpose of this preschool program legislation is to provide an opportunity for all four-year-old children in the state of Iowa to enter school ready to learn by expanding access to research-based preschool curricula and licensed teaching staff. The allocation of funds for the Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program is to improve access to high quality early childhood education with predictable, equitable and sustainable funding to increase the number of children participating in quality programs.

**Grant Application Data 2007-2008 through 2010-2011**

School districts, in collaboration with community partners, submitted grant applications for the Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program for Four-Year-Old Children. Successful applicants were allocated grant funding during the first year of implementation. In the application, districts must demonstrate collaborative involvement with multiple stakeholders in the planning and implementation of the preschool program. Years 1, 2 and 3 were awarded through a competitive grant process. In Year 4, all districts that applied received funding on a pro-rated basis (up to 48.95% of their kindergarten enrollment from 2009) as indicated in legislation.

District Application and Award Information	Academic Year			
	2007-2008	2008-2009	2009-2010	2010-2011
Number of District applications submitted	182	161	125	146
Number of Districts awarded grant funding	66	49	53	146

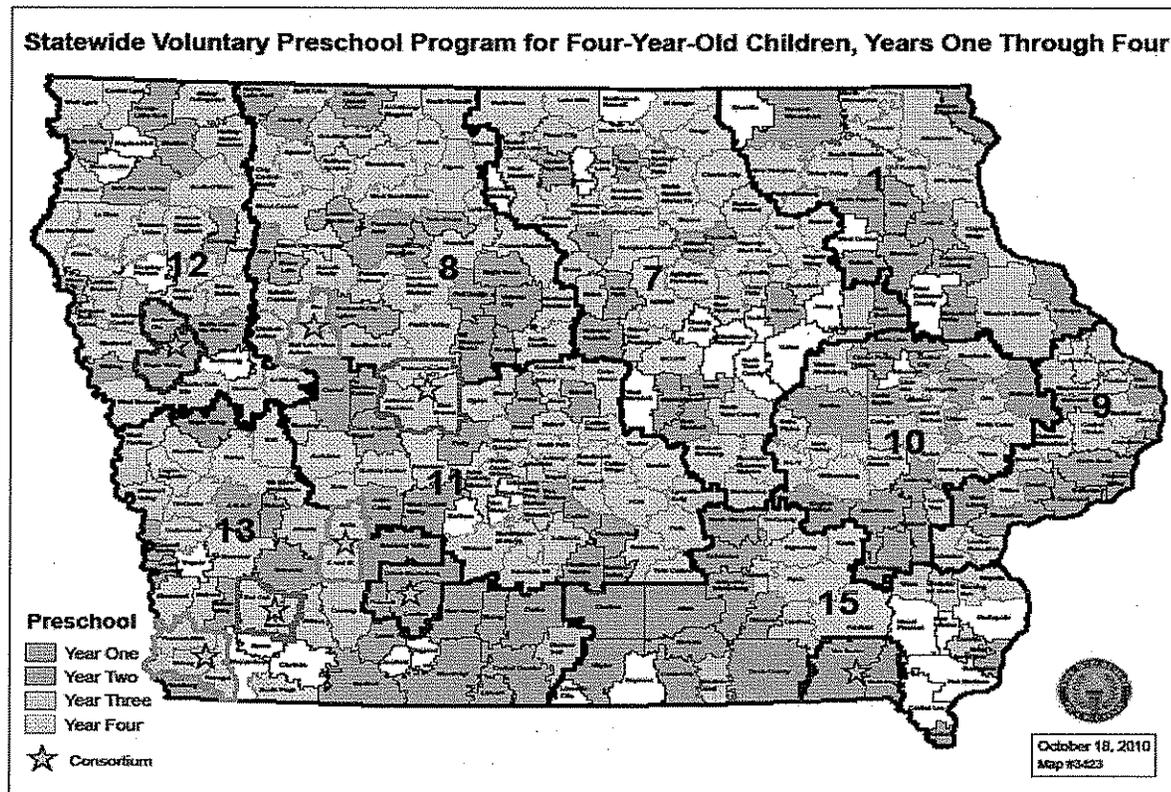
*Note: 325 out of 359 districts participate in the SWVPP.*

Preschool Funding	Academic Year			
	2007-2008	2008-2009	2009-2010	2010-2011
Grant Award Allocation	\$15,000,000	\$15,000,000	\$11,535,863	\$16,242,230
Funding Formula	N/A	\$16,803,438 (incl. 1.5% reduction)	\$30,131,064 (incl. 10% reduction)	\$48,238,247
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$15,000,000</b>	<b>\$31,803,438</b>	<b>\$41,666,927</b>	<b>\$64,480,477</b>

## Districts Awarded Grants – A Four Year Process

The following map depicts districts awarded the Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program for Four-Year-Old Children by year. In 2010-2011, 325 of Iowa's 359 school districts (91%) provide the Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program.

- Year 1 (2007-2008)
- Year 2 (2008-2009)
- Year 3 (2009-2010)
- Year 4 (2010-2011)



Note. A total of 34 districts did not apply for grant funding due to various reasons. Some districts had established preschools; secured other federal or state funding support; or were not interested in seeking state funding. See attached addendum for information specific to each district.

## Statewide Voluntary Preschool Enrollment Data

The **Statewide Voluntary Preschool Grant Award** provides on-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
<b>Amount per child</b>	\$3,199	\$3,328	\$3,460	\$3,529
<b>Number of children funded (Enrolled by September)</b>	4,482	3,512	3,230	4,662

The **Preschool Enrollment Count** provides the funding for subsequent school years from the Certified Enrollment Count for awarded districts. This October 1<sup>st</sup> count provides the predictable equitable and sustainable funding to support the preschool program in subsequent years.

### Preschool Enrollment Count

	2007-2008	2008-2009	2009-2010	2010-2011
<b>Preschool Enrollment Count (Enrolled on October 1)</b>	5,126	9,676	13,666	19,799

Only eligible children, those who are four years of age by September 15, are included in the Preschool Certified Enrollment. Districts may serve children who are younger or older in the preschool program. In 2010-2011, a total of 24,116 preschool children were served in the quality preschool program. Districts are encouraged to utilize the SWVPP as inclusive settings for preschool children with disabilities to assist Iowa in meeting federal special education requirements.

## Preschool Program Data

All districts must assure implementation of research-based high quality preschool program standards. The type of quality preschool program standards implemented and number of classrooms/sessions are shown for each grant award year. Districts may implement more than one type of program standard based on partners.

### Program Standards

	2007-2008	2008-2009	2009-2010	2010-2011
<b>Iowa Quality Preschool Program Standards (IQPPS)</b>	242	260	190	414
<b>Head Start Program Performance Standards</b>	39	21	30	19
<b>National Association for the Education of Young Children Standards (NAEYC)</b>	62	22	38	38

*Source.* Iowa Department of Education, Bureau of Early Childhood Services, Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program Application Data, 2007-2008 to 2010-2011.

**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	38	108
Head Start	22	20	16	13
Shared Visions Preschool Program	8	7	4	7
Title I	2	1	3	0

Source. Iowa Department of Education, Bureau of Early Childhood Services, Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program Application Data, 2007-2008 to 2010-2011.

\*Some districts integrate with multiple partners.

In 2010-2011 124 districts (38%) partner with 344 community partner buildings to provide the Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program for Four-Year-Old Children.

**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	19	33
Faith-Based Preschool (Private, Community-Based Christian Preschool Program)	Data Not Available	7	15	15
Faith-Based Accredited Schools	Data Not Available	10	9	7
Non-Public Accredited Schools	Data Not Available	2	0	7

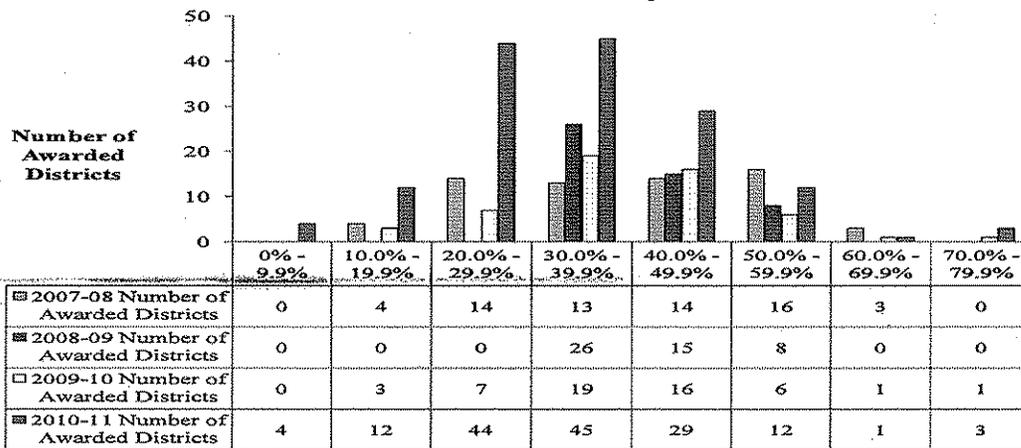
Source. Iowa Department of Education, Bureau of Early Childhood Services, Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program Application Data, 2007-2008 to 2010-2011.

\*Some districts integrated with multiple partners.

\*\* Data was not collected specific to type of community partner on the 2007-2008 grant application.

The following graph shows the number of awarded districts for each year and the percent of poverty based on free/reduced meals for grades 1-6.

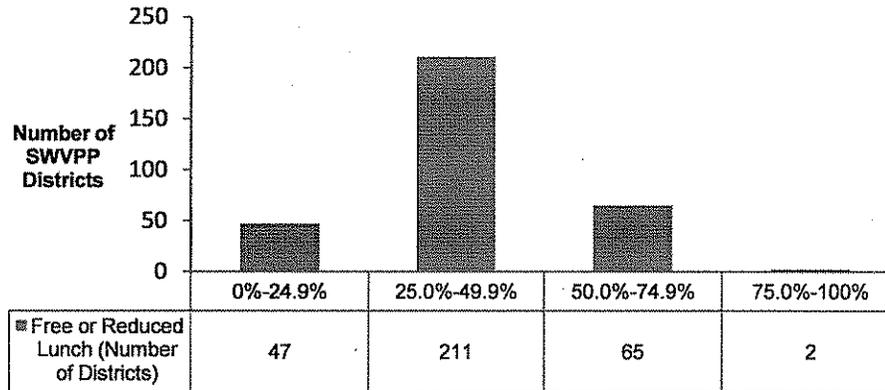
**Number of awarded school districts by percent of poverty based on free/reduced meals for grades 1-6\***



Source. Iowa Department of Education, Bureau of Early Childhood Services, Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program Application Data, 2007-2008 to 2010-2011.

\*Free/reduced meals are based on family income at or below 130% of poverty level.

**Number of awarded school districts by percent of poverty based on free/reduced meals for grades 1-6 for 2009-2010\***



Data Source. Project Easier, Iowa Department of Education, 2009-2010.

\*Free/reduced meals are based on family income at or below 130% of poverty level.

**Number of District Applications Submitted and Awarded with Existing Preschool Programs**

District Applicants with Preschools	2007-2008		2008-2009		2009-2010		2010-2011
	Awarded Districts	Non-Awarded Districts	Awarded Districts	Non-Awarded Districts	Awarded Districts	Non-Awarded Districts	Awarded Districts
Number of Applicants	66	112	49	102	53	72	146
Number with Existing Preschool Programs	59	108	46	99	53	72	146

Source. Iowa Department of Education, Bureau of Early Childhood Services, Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program Application Data, 2007-2008 to 2010-2011.

**Technical Assistance Provided by the Department of Education for 2010-2011**

The Department of Education Early Childhood Services Bureau provides ongoing technical assistance to districts each year for grant writing and preschool implementation. Activities include the following:

- ICNs to assist districts in the development of the 2010-2011 Application as well as the rules and requirements of the Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program.
- Webinars for newly awarded districts. Topics include:
  - Preschool Orientation – Overview and Requirements
  - Preschool Orientation – Data System Requirements
  - Preschool Orientation – Program Standards including Iowa Quality Preschool Program Standards Specifics.
- Webinars are recorded, scripted and posted on the Department website to provide guidance for all SWVPP districts.
- Implementation of Early Childhood web-based application to collect program data from all districts.

- Monthly updates for preschool programs in the School Leader Update.
- Professional development to build the capacity of AEA early childhood specialists to support the implementation of high quality program standards; as well as, integration of the Iowa Core Curriculum and research-based curriculum, instruction and assessment in preschool programs.

### **Program Monitoring**

**As required by IAC [281—16.14(82GA, HF877)], the DE provides monitoring to ensure district compliance with the Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program assurances.**

- A unique student identification number is assigned to all children participating in the preschool program.
- A confirmation process is used 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.
- The Early Childhood Application data system, a web-based software application, was expanded to enhance the DE's ability to collect data and track results of preschool programs in school districts and local preschool program partners.
- Districts enter data into the Early Childhood Data System to affirm that they are adhering to required Assurances.
- Assurances and classroom information are updated annually by all school districts through the Early Childhood Data System. This includes information on teacher endorsements, community partners, program standards, integration with other preschool programs, collaboration with community partner and professional development, as well as curriculum and assessment.
- Newly awarded districts enter child data into EASIER to ensure the accuracy of child data for Preschool Grant Award funding provided during the first year of implementation. In addition, to ensure accuracy, newly awarded districts only entered child data one time rather than twice as was required in previous years.

### **Iowa Quality Preschool Program Verification Visits**

IQPPS Verification Visits occur when a district is in the second year of preschool implementation. The visit includes all Statewide Voluntary Preschool Programs, Early Childhood Special Education classrooms and early childhood sites (including community partners) serving a child on an IEP. Districts are required to meet Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program assurances and IQPPS "required criteria" within 45 days of the visit and 85% of other criteria for each standard within one year of the visit.

### Iowa Quality Preschool Program Standards Verification Visits

IQPPS Verification Visit Status	Year of Visit		
	2008-2009	2009-2010	2010-2011
Districts scheduled for IQPPS Verification Visits	51	46	48
Districts that have achieved IQPPS Fully-Verified Status*	51	46	4**

\*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.

\*\* Data as of December 15, 2010. IQPPS Verification Visits scheduled for 2010-2011 have not been completed.

### Preschool Program Overall Review

IQPPS Verification data from 2009-2010 were analyzed for a comprehensive review of Year One awarded districts. The data indicated common strengths and challenges.

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

- Standard 1 Relationships – Teaching staff developed and demonstrated relationships that encouraged emotional development in young children.
- Standard 7 Families – Families were very satisfied with their children’s progress and the ongoing communication between home and school.
- Standard 8 Community Relationships – Districts partnered with a variety of community preschools to provide programming and coordinated efforts with other agencies (AEA, Community Empowerment, Public Health, community-based preschools, etc.) to maximize funding and provide appropriate services for children.

*Challenges* - As districts implemented the IQPPS, challenges were noted:

- 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 included:
  - Fencing or natural barriers to ensure child safety.
  - Safe equipment developed specifically for children 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.

### Positive Impacts of the Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program

Districts, families and community partners report many positive impacts as a result of the Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program.

Impacts of the SWVPP include increased:

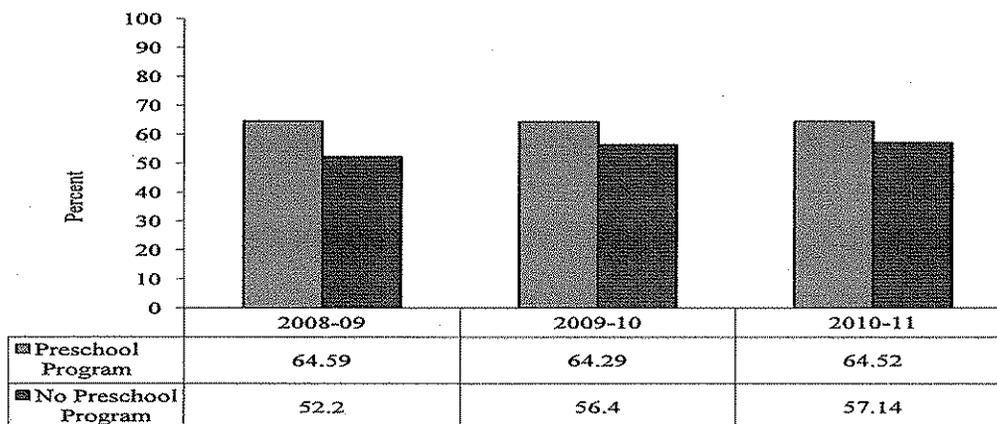
- Access to high quality preschools;
- Number of licensed teachers with expertise in early childhood education;
- Quality of programming, curriculum, instruction and assessment;
- Collaboration among teaching staff;
- Collaboration between public schools and community partners to provide preschool;
- Integration of children with disabilities;
- Family involvement, at a higher level of quality;
  - ~~Strengthen home to school and school to home communication~~
  - Assist families to generalize children's skills from school to home
  - Inform families of community programs/assistance such as health screenings and other services; and
- Opportunities for appropriate quality professional development.

### Kindergarten Literacy Assessment (KLA) Data

Dynamic Indicators for Basic Early Learning Skills (DIBELS) scores from children participating in the Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program were compared to children with no preschool experience. The DIBELS assessment measures children's literacy skills for identifying beginning sounds of words by pointing to the picture of the matching sound.

In 2010-2011, 64% of the kindergarten children who participated in the Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program were proficient as compared to only 57% of the children who had no preschool experience prior to kindergarten enrollment. In 2006-2007, prior to the SWVPP, only 56% of all kindergarten students assessed were proficient. This represents a 7% increase in the percentage of children proficient.

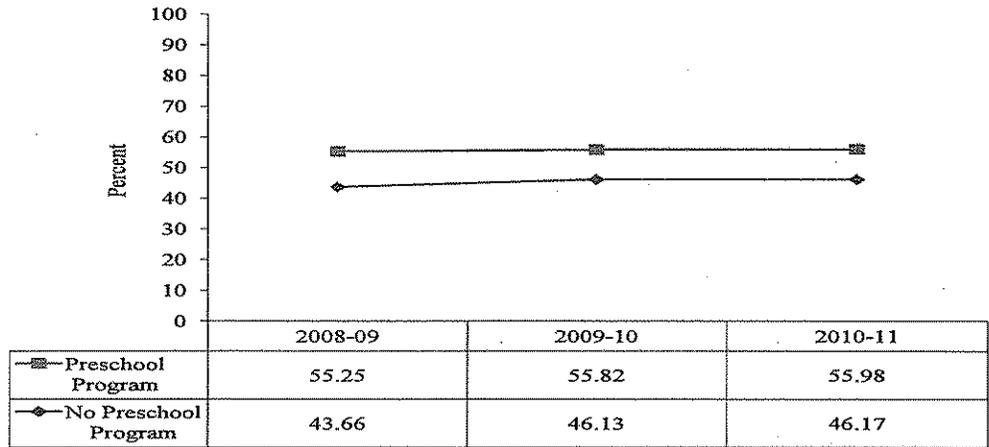
### Percent of Children Attending Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program Entering Kindergarten Proficient in Identifying Beginning Sounds Using DIBELS Assessment Measure



Data Source. Project Easier, Iowa Department of Education, 2010-2011

The impact of the Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program is greater for children in poverty (eligible for free or reduced meals). As seen in the chart below, fewer kindergarten students in poverty without a preschool experience were proficient in beginning sounds than students who attended the Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program. The percent of students of free or reduced meals has declined while the percent proficient for those attending the Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program has increased.

**Percent of Children in Poverty Entering Kindergarten Proficient in Identifying Beginning Sounds Using DIBELS Assessment Measure**



Data Source. Project Easier, Iowa Department of Education, 2010-2011

**Appendix**  
**Districts that Did Not Apply for the Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program Funding**

District	AEA	District Name	Kindergarten Enrollment 2009	Shared Visions Preschool in District	Head Start Program in City	District Offers a Preschool Program
0099	10	Alburnett	38			
0747	12	Boyden-Hull	62			
1079	15	Central Lee	90			Yes
1197	13	Clarinda	78		X	Yes
1224	14	Clearfield	3	X		Yes
1449	07	Corwith-Wesley (K-6 attend LuVerne, a SWVPP district)	0			N/A
1782	14	Diagonal	11	X		
1953	11	Earlham	60			Yes
2113	13	Essex	14			
2322	15	Fort Madison	189	X	X	Yes
2502	07	Gladbrook-Reinbeck	32			Yes
2727	07	Grundy Center	66		X	Yes
3042	07	Hudson	59			Yes
3204	07	Jesup	87		X	Yes
3348	12	Kingsley-Pierson	27			
3705	15	Lineville-Clio	3		X	
4203	15	Mediapolis	55			Yes
4536	15	Mount Pleasant	142	X	X	Yes
4689	15	New London	40			Yes
4785	07	North Tama County	37			
4788	07	Northwood-Kensett	40			
5508	01	Riceville	24		X	
5832	12	Schleswig	27		X	Yes
5895	15	Seymour	22		X	Yes
5976	13	Shenandoah	91		X	Yes
6030	12	Sioux Center	117		X	Yes
6453	13	Treynor	59			
6536	07	Union	96			
6615	11	Van Meter	37			
6633	07	Ventura	15			
6822	11	Waukee	586		X	Yes
6943	01	West Central	21			
6950	01	West Delaware County	129		X	Yes
6985	07	West Marshall	84			Yes

Total number of districts that did not apply = 34 (9.5% of Iowa districts)

**Summary of data for districts that did not seek state funding.**

<b>Districts that did not apply for the SWVPP with:</b>	<b>Number of Districts</b>	<b>Percent of districts</b>
A district run preschool program	19	56%
A Shared Vision classroom in the district boundaries	4	12%
A Head Start classroom in the district city	13	38%
A Head Start classroom in the district county.	34	100%
Less than 30 children in kindergarten enrollment (2009)	10	29%

