

# Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program for Four-Year-Old Children



## Fact Sheet



Iowa Department of Education  
August 2017



## 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 2016, approximately 24,961 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)<sup>1</sup> 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)<sup>2</sup>

- 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)<sup>3</sup>
- 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. (Bartik, 2014)<sup>4</sup>
- 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 \$7 and \$10 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 earnings and tax revenues from program participants later in life. (Phillips et al, 2017)<sup>5</sup>

## 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
- 23,518 children in 2016-2017

*\*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 2016-2017, the SWVPP was provided in:

- 322 districts out of 333 statewide
- 290 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. Bartik, T.J. (2014). *From preschool to prosperity: The economic payoff to early childhood education*. Kalamazoo, MI: W.E. Upjohn Institute for Employment Research. Retrieved from [www.upjohn.org/sites/default/WEfocus/FromPreschooltoProsperity.pdf](http://www.upjohn.org/sites/default/WEfocus/FromPreschooltoProsperity.pdf).
5. Phillips, D.A., Lipsey, M.W., Dodge, K.A., Haskins, R., Bassok, D., Burchinal, M.R., Duncan, G.J., Dynarski, M., Magnuson, K.A., & Weiland, C. (2017). *The Current State of Scientific Knowledge on Pre-Kindergarten Effects*. Brookings Institution and the Duke Center for Child and Family Policy.

## 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
- \$76 million\*\* in 2016-2017

\*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 2015—2016, Iowa's national rank was:

- 7th for four-year-old access to quality preschool programming.
- 36th for state spending on access to quality preschool.



## WHAT THE FOUR-YEAR-OLD PRESCHOOL PROGRAM OFFERS

- **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 2016, the percentage proficient increased to 68 percent. This is indicative of quality literacy instruction in preschool being intentionally embedded into classroom curricula, routines, and activities.



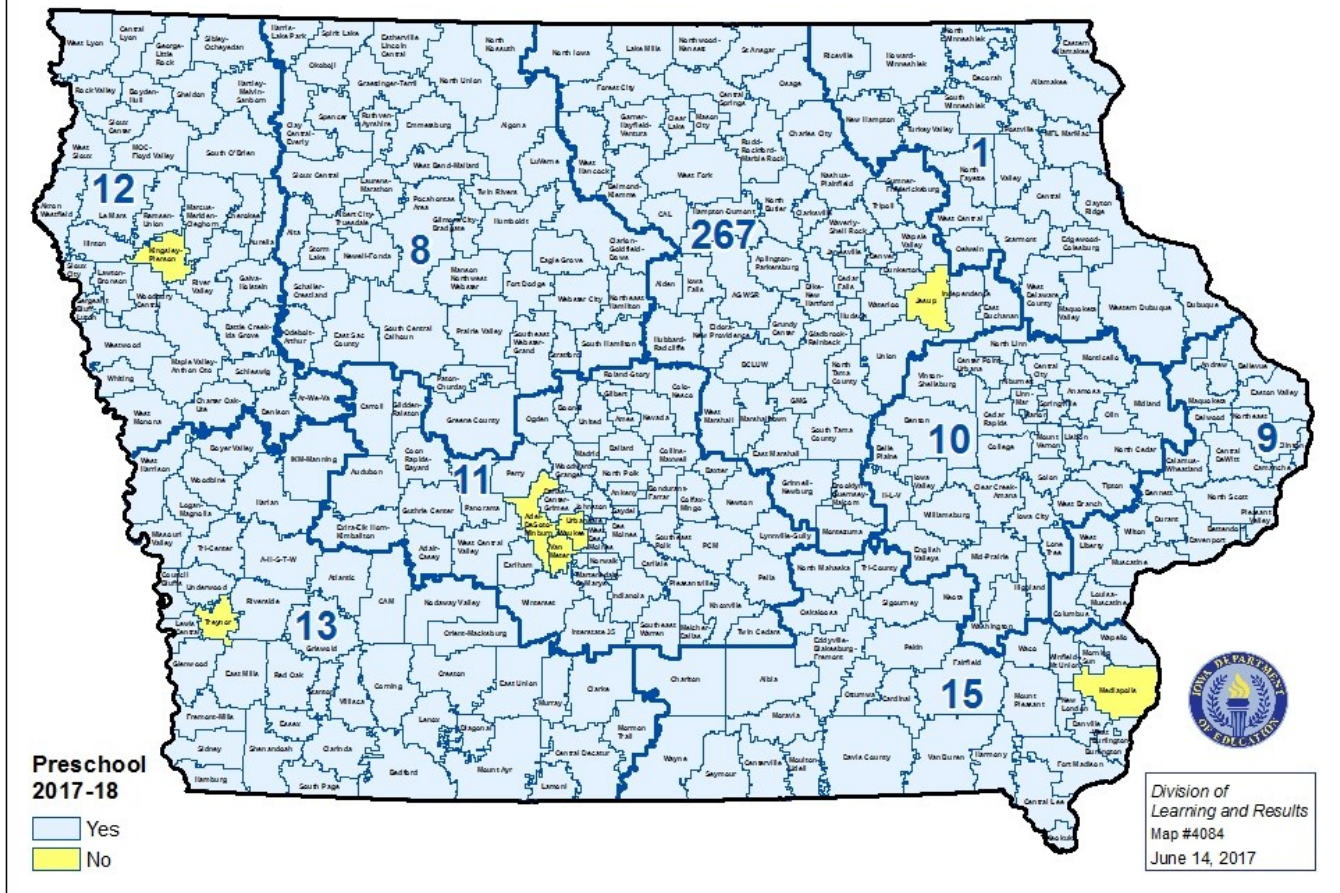
## Iowa School Districts Participating in the SWVPP 2017-2018

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

# Iowa School Districts Participating in the SWVPP 2017-2018, *cont.*

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

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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>