Fact Sheet

STATEWIDE
Voluntary Preschool Program
FOR FOUR-YEAR-OLD CHILDREN

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
21,629 children in 2012-2013
22,265 children in 2013-2014
22,695 children in 2014-2015
23,141 children in 2015-2016
23,518 children in 2016-2017
24,610 children in 2017-2018
25,215 children in 2018-2019*
25,330 children in 2019-2020*

*These numbers indicate only the children funded through the Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program. Amended code language for the SWVPP effective for FY2018 increased flexibility in the use of SWVPP funds, inclusive of paying the cost of attendance of a child older or younger than age 4 based on local school board decision. However, only 4-year-olds generate state funding. The number of 4-year-olds which were counted for state funding in 2019-2020 was 25,080. In addition to children funded through the SWVPP, children also attended with support from other funding sources.

Participating School Districts

In 2019-2020, the SWVPP was provided in:

321 districts
out of 327 statewide

293 community partners

More Opportunities for Qualtiy Learning Experience

Iowa's Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program for Four-Year-Old Children (SWVPP) 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 SWVPP was established May 10, 2007, in House File 877.

In the Fall of 2019, approximately 27,121 Iowa preschoolers in 321 school districts benefited from the SWVPP 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 SWVPP 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

The majority of brain development occurs well before the age of four.[1] Quality early childhood programming is the best way to prepare children for success in life.

Participants in high quality state-funded preschool programs are more likely to:

- Develop social/emotional skills and have reduced problem behaviors
- Have reduced likelihood of repeating grades
- Have reduced likelihood of school suspension, addiction, or arrest
- Graduate on-time, and to earn a high school diploma or gain some college experience
- Be employed full-time or be self-employed

Many SWVPP classrooms provide inclusive learning environments for children with and without disabilities. Studies have shown the tremendous benefits of inclusion for all children in multiple developmental areas including language acquisition and use, early literacy skills, and early numeracy concepts. There are also positive effects in social-emotional behavioral health development as children are provided access and support in building friendships and participating in learning with their peers.[2]

In an analysis of recent research, most state-funded preschool participants experienced both short-term and long-term effects previously listed, while 30% demonstrated converging effects. Short- and long-term gains were greatest for low-income children and dual language learners. "Spillover effects" occurred for non-participants, when they were placed in elementary classrooms with children who did attend state-funded preschool.[3]

Economists have shown that high-quality early childhood programs bring impressive returns on investment to the public. Long-term studies have found the return on investment could be as high as $17 for every dollar invested in early learning programs.[4] Program participants followed into adulthood benefit from increased earnings. Returns on investment to the public include reduced special education, welfare, and crime costs, and increased earnings and tax revenues from program participants later in life.[5]

1. Center on the Developing Child at Harvard University (2016)

2. Barton, E. E. & Smith, B. J. (2014). Brief fact sheet of research on preschool inclusion. Pyramid Plus: The Colorado Center for Social Emo- tional Competence and Inclusion. Denver, CO. http://www.pyramidplus.org/.

3. Education Commission of the States (2020). Exploring New Research on Pre-K Outcomes. https://www.ecs.org/exploring-new-research-on-pre-k-outcomes/

4. Meloy, B., Gardner, M., & Darling-Hammond, L. (2019). Untangling the evidence on preschool effectiveness: Insights for policymakers. Palo Alto, CA: Learning Policy Institute.

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. Brooking 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
$78 million** in 2017-2018
$82 million** in 2018-2019
$86 million** in 2019-2020

* 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.

Rankings

According to the National Institute for Early Education Research (NIEER), in 2018—2019, Iowa's national rank was:

6th for four-year-old access to quality preschool programming.

37th 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 quality 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 (NAEYC) Early Learning Program Accreditation Standards and Assessment Items, or the Head Start Program Performance Standards.

High quality 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 quality 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 Early Learning Program Accreditation Standards and Assessment Items. Each set of program standards is indicative of high quality programming efforts.
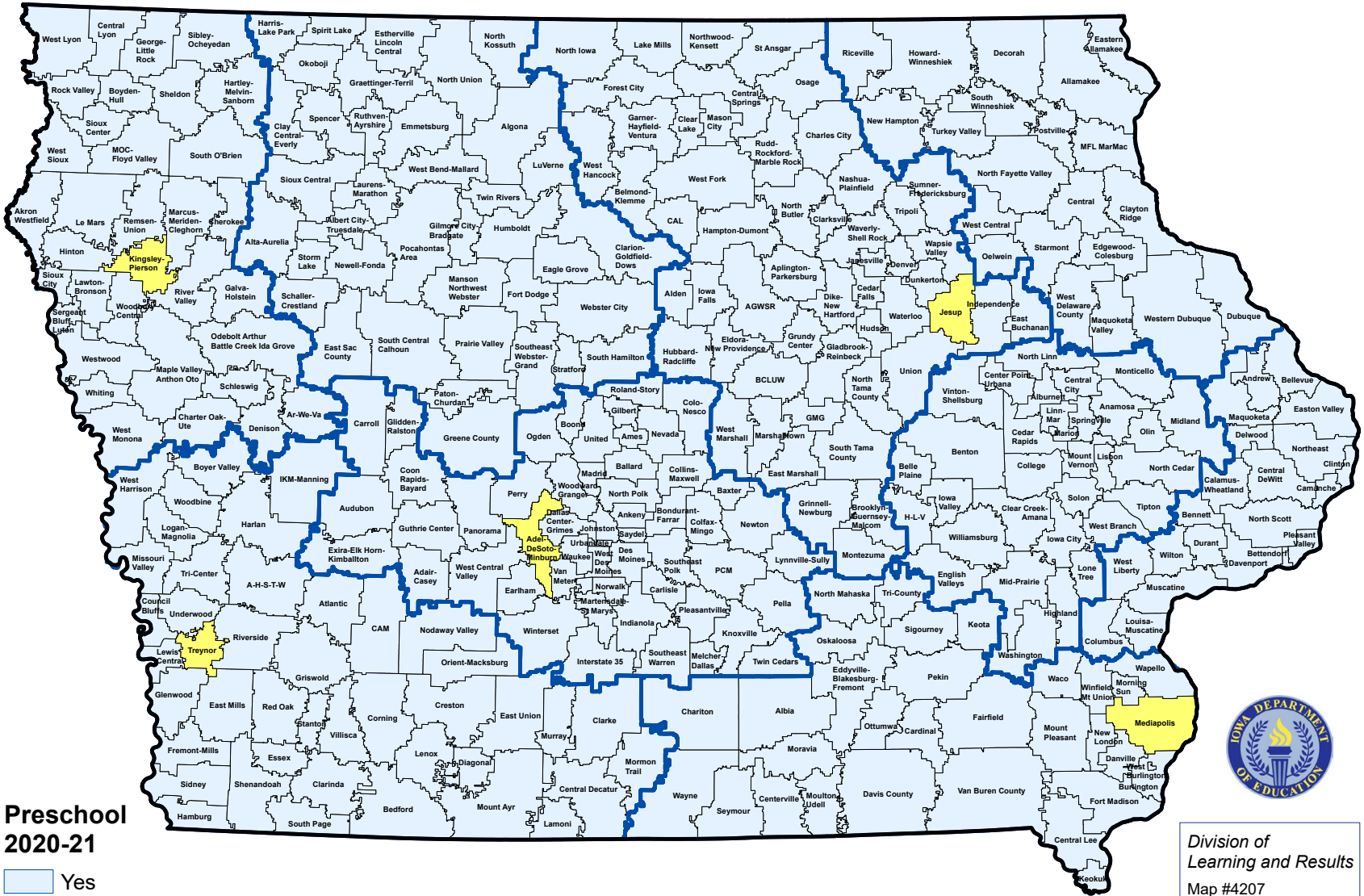
Studies continue to show increased proficiencies in beginning reading skills among all children who attend the state's preschool program. All students in grades K-3 are required to be assessed three times per year with a universal literacy screening tool. The vast majority of districts use the Formative Assessment System for Teachers (FAST). The number of students proficient in early literacy skills upon kindergarten entry is increasing overall. In the Fall of 2014, 53 percent of kindergarteners were proficient on the FAST assessment. In the Fall of 2019, 72 percent of kindergarten children were proficient. Continuing efforts to support quality literacy instruction, such as intentionally embedding literacy into classroom curricula, routines, and activities are recommended.

Iowa School Districts Participating in the SWVPP 2020-2021

District Name	County	District Name	County	District Name	County
Adair-Casey	Guthrie	Fort Dodge	Webster	Okoboji	Dickinson
AGWSR	Hardin	Fort Madison	Lee	Olin Consolidated	Jones
A-H-S-T-W	Pottawattamie	Fremont-Mills	Fremont	Orient-Macksburg	Adair
Akron Westfield	Plymouth	Galva-Holstein	Ida	Osage	Mitchell
Albert City-Truesdale	Buena Vista	Garner-Hayfield-Ventura	Hancock	Oskaloosa	Mahaska
Albia	Monroe	George-Little Rock	Lyon	Ottumwa	Wapello
Alburnett	Linn	Gilbert	Story	Panorama	Guthrie
Alden	Hardin	Gilmore City-Bradgate	Humboldt	Paton-Churdan	Greene
Algona	Kossuth	Gladbrook-Reinbeck	Grundy	PCM	Jasper
Allamakee	Allamakee	Glenwood	Mills	Pekin	Jefferson
Alta-Aurelia	Buena Vista	Glidden-Ralston	Carroll	Pella	Marion
Ames	Story	GMG	Tama	Perry	Dallas
Anamosa	Jones	Graettinger-Terril	Palo Alto	Pleasant Valley	Scott
Andrew	Jackson	Greene County	Greene	Pleasantville	Marion
Ankeny	Polk	Grinnell-Newburg	Poweshiek	Pocahontas Area	Pocahontas
Aplington-Parkersburg	Butler	Griswold	Cass	Postville	Allamakee
Ar-We-Va	Crawford	Grundy Center	Grundy	Prairie Valley	Webster
Atlantic	Cass	Guthrie Center	Guthrie	Red Oak	Montgomery
Audubon	Audubon	Hamburg	Fremont	Remsen-Union	Plymouth
Ballard	Story	Hampton-Dumont	Franklin	Riceville	Howard
Baxter	Jasper	Harlan	Shelby	River Valley	Woodbury
BCLUW	Grundy	Harris-Lake Park	Dickinson	Riverside	Pottawattamie
Bedford	Taylor	Hartley-Melvin-Sanborn	O'Brien	Rock Valley	Sioux
Belle Plaine	Benton	Highland	Washington	Roland-Story	Story
Bellevue	Jackson	Hinton	Plymouth	Rudd-Rockford-Marble Rock	Floyd
Belmond-Klemme	Wright	H-L-V	Iowa	Ruthven-Ayrshire	Palo Alto
Bennett	Cedar	Howard-Winneshiek	Howard	Saydel	Polk
Benton	Benton	Hubbard-Radcliffe	Hardin	Schaller-Crestland	Sac
Bettendorf	Scott	Humboldt	Humbolt	Schleswig	Crawford
Bondurant-Farrar	Polk	Hudson	Black Hawk	Sergeant Bluff-Luton	Woodbury
Boone	Boone	IKM-Manning	Crawford	Seymour	Wayne
Boyden Hull	Sioux	Independence	Buchanan	Sheldon	O'Brien
Boyer Valley	Harrison	Indianola	Warren	Shenandoah	Page
Brooklyn-Guernsey-Malcom	Poweshiek	Interstate 35	Madison	Sibley-Ocheyedan	Osceola
Burlington	Des Moines	Iowa City	Johnson	Sidney	Fremont
CAL	Franklin	Iowa Falls	Hardin	Sigourney	Keokuk
Calamus-Wheatland	Clinton	Iowa Valley	Iowa	Sioux Center	Sioux
CAM	Cass	Janesville Consolidated	Bremer	Sioux Central	Buena Vista
Camanche	Clinton	Johnston	Polk	Sioux City	Woodbury
Cardinal	Wapello	Keokuk	Lee	Solon	Johnson
Carlisle	Warren	Keota	Keokuk	South Central Calhoun	Calhoun
Carroll	Carroll	Knoxville	Marion	South Hamilton	Hamilton
Cedar Falls	Black Hawk	Lake Mills	Winnebago	South O'Brien	O'Brien
Cedar Rapids	Linn	Lamoni	Decatur	South Page	Page
Center Point-Urbana	Linn	Laurens-Marathon	Pocahontas	South Tama County	Tama
Centerville	Appanoose	Lawton-Bronson	Woodbury	South Winneshiek	Winneshiek
Central	Clayton	Le Mars	Plymouth	Southeast Polk	Polk
Central City	Linn	Lenox	Taylor	Southeast Warren	Warren
Central Clinton	Clinton	Lewis Central	Pottawattamie	Southeast Webster Grand	Webster
Central Decatur	Decatur	Linn-Mar	Linn	Spencer	Clay
Central Lee	Lee	Lisbon	Linn	Spirit Lake	Dickinson
Central Lyon	Lyon	Logan-Magnolia	Harrison	Springville	Linn
Central Springs	Worth	Lone Tree	Johnson	St Ansgar	Mitchell
Chariton	Lucas	Louisa-Muscatine	Louisa	Stanton	Montgomery
Charles City	Floyd	LuVerne	Kossuth	Starmont	Fayette
Charter Oak-Ute	Crawford	Lynnville-Sull	Jasper	Storm Lake	Buena Vista
Cherokee	Cherokee	Madrid	Boone	Stratford	Hamilton
Clarinda	Page	Manson Northwest Webster	Calhoun	Sumner-Fredericksburg	Bremer
Clarion-Goldfield-Dows	Wright	Maple Valley-Anthon-Oto	Monona	Tipton	Cedar
Clarke	Clarke	Maquoketa	Jackson	Tri-Center	Pottawattamie
Clarksville	Butler	Maquoketa Valley	Delaware	Tri-County	Keokuk
Clay Central-Everly	Clay	Marcus-Meriden-Cleghorn	Cherokee	Tripoli	Bremer
Clayton Ridge	Clayton	Marion	Linn	Turkey Valley	Winneshiek
Clear Creek Amana	Johnson	Marshalltown	Marshall	Twin Cedars	Marion
Clear Lake	Cerro Gordo	Martensdale-St Marys	Warren	Twin Rivers	Humboldt
Clinton	Clinton	Mason City	Cerro Gordo	Underwood	Pottawattamie
Colfax-Mingo	Jasper	Melcher-Dallas	Marion	Union	Black Hawk
College	Linn	MFL MarMac	Clayton	United	Boone
Collins-Maxwell	Story	Midland	Jones	Urbandale	Polk
Colo-NESCO	Story	Mid-Prairie	Washington	Van Buren	Van Buren
Columbus	Louisa	Missouri Valley	Harrison	Van Meter	Dallas
Coon Rapids-Bayard	Carroll	MOC-Floyd Valley	Sioux	Villisca	Montgomery
Corning	Adams	Montezuma	Poweshiek	Vinton-Shellsburg	Benton
Council Bluffs	Pottawattamie	Monticello	Jones	Waco	Henry
Creston	Union	Moravia	Appanoose	Wapello	Louisa
Dallas Center-Grimes	Dallas	Mormon Trail	Wayne	Wapsie Valley	Bremer
Danville	Des Moines	Morning Sun	Louisa	Washington	Washington
Davenport	Scott	Moulton-Udell	Appanoose	Waterloo	Black Hawk
Davis County	Davis	Mount Ayr	Ringgold	Waukee	Dallas
Decorah	Winneshiek	Mount Pleasant	Henry	Waverly-Shell Rock	Bremer
Delwood	Clinton	Mount Vernon	Linn	Wayne	Wayne
Denison	Crawford	Murray	Clarke	Webster City	Hamilton
Denver	Bremer	Muscatine	Muscatine	West Bend-Mallard	Palo Alto
Des Moines	Polk	Nashua-Plainfield	Chickasaw	West Branch	Cedar
Diagonal	Ringgold	Nevada	Story	West Burlington Ind	Des Moines
Dike-New Hartford	Grundy	New Hampton	Chickasaw	West Central	Fayette
Dubuque	Dubuque	New London	Henry	West Central Valley	Guthrie
Dunkerton	Black Hawk	Newell-Fonda	Buena Vista	West Delaware County	Delaware
Durant	Cedar	Newton	Jasper	West Des Moines	Polk
Eagle Grove	Wright	Nodaway Valley	Adair	West Fork	Cerro Gordo
Earlham	Madison	North Butler	Butler	West Hancock	Hancock
East Buchanan	Buchanan	North Cedar	Cedar	West Harrison	Harrison
East Marshall	Marshall	North Fayette Valley	Fayette	West Liberty	Muscatine
East Mills	Mills	North Iowa	Winnebago	West Lyon	Lyon
East Sac County	Sac	North Kossuth	Kossuth	West Marshall	Marshall
East Union	Union	North Linn	Linn	West Monona	Monona
Eastern Allamakee	Allamakee	North Mahaska	Mahaska	West Sioux	Sioux
Easton Valley	Jackson	North Polk	Polk	Western Dubuque	Dubuque
Eddyville-Blakesburg-Fremont	Wapello	North Scott	Scott	Westwood	Woodbury
Edgewood-Colesburg	Delaware	North Tama County	Tama	Whiting	Monona
Eldora-New Providence	Hardin	North Union	Emmet	Williamsburg	Iowa
Emmetsburg	Palo Alto	Northeast	Clinton	Wilton	Muscatine
English Valleys	Iowa	Northwood-Kensett	Worth	Winfield-Mt Union	Henry
Essex	Page	Norwalk	Warren	Winterset	Madison
Estherville-Lincoln Central	Emmet	Odebolt Arthur Battle Creek	Crawford	Woodbine	Harrison
Exira-EHK	Shelby	Ida Grove	Sac	Woodbury Central	Woodbury
Fairfield	Jefferson	Oelwein	Fayette	Woodward-Granger	Dallas
Forest City	Winnebago	Ogden	Boone		

Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program for Four-Year-Old Children 2020-21

Preschool 2020-21

- Yes (light blue)
- No (yellow)

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