

Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program for Four-Year-Old Children



Fact Sheet



Iowa Department of Education
June 2018



MORE OPPORTUNITIES FOR QUALITY LEARNING

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 2017, approximately 26,120 Iowa preschoolers in 326 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

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 (Bartik, 2014).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 \$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).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
- 23,518 children in 2016-2017
- 24,610 children in 2017-2018*

*These numbers indicate only the children funded through the Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program. Amended code language for the SWVPP for 2017-2018 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 2017-2018 was 24,425. In addition to children funded through the SWVPP, children also attended with support from other funding sources.

PARTICIPATING SCHOOL DISTRICTS

In 2017-2018, the SWVPP was provided in:

- 326 districts out of 333 statewide
- 293 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.
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
- \$78 million** in 2017-2018

*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 2016—2017, 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 2017, the percentage proficient increased to 69 percent. This is indicative of quality literacy instruction in preschool being intentionally embedded into classroom curricula, routines, and activities.



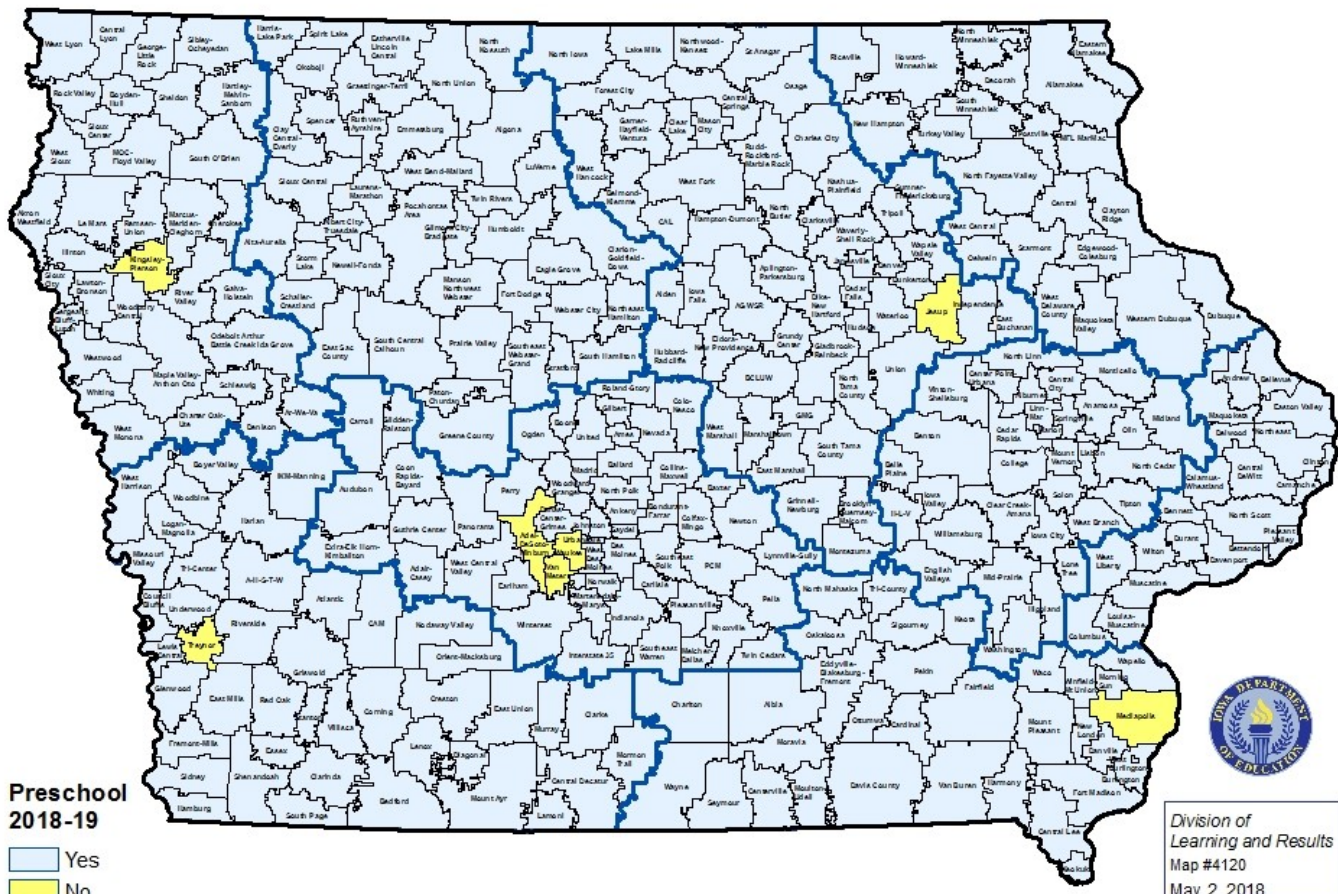
Iowa School Districts Participating in the SWVPP 2018-2019

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

Iowa School Districts Participating in the SWVPP 2018-2019, *cont.*

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