OVERVIEW


WHAT'S NEW

In March 2020, state-funded preschool programs located in public schools closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Some programs housed in nonpublic schools remained open to provide services. Programs reopened based on the Governor's proclamation, local and state public health guidance, local COVID-19 transmission rates, and their locally required Return-to-Learn Plan.

BACKGROUND

Iowa has two state-funded preschool programs: Shared Visions and the Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program (SWVPP). The Shared Visions program has provided services to 3-, 4-, and 5-year-olds since 1989 through competitive grants to public schools, licensed non-profit child care centers, other public non-profit agencies, and Head Start. Shared Visions serves children in part-, school-, or extended-day programs, and all programs are required to meet NAEYC standards.

In 2007, Iowa began the SWVPP to increase 4-year-olds' access to preschool. All 4-year-olds in the state are eligible to attend SWVPP. Funding for the SWVPP is based on a school funding formula in which 4-year-olds are funded at 50% of the K–12 student aid amount. SWVPP classrooms operate at least 10 hours per week and programs may collaborate with Head Start, other preschool programs, or child care programs to provide the SWVPP and/or offer full-day services.

Both SWVPP and Shared Visions have undergone formal evaluations and an additional evaluation is currently underway for the SWVPP. Internal evaluations are completed annually for the SWVPP. Additionally, as part of the state longitudinal data system, all children enrolled in both programs receive a unique state identification number. Beginning in the 2016-2017 school year, the Differentiated Accountability Model was scaled statewide to offer universal, supplemental, or intensive supports. Supports for preschool were available to those interested, but not required.

An important difference between the two state-funded preschool programs concerns child eligibility. Shared Visions is a targeted program where at least 80% of children are required to meet income eligibility guidelines (family income at or below 130% FPL). Children can also qualify for the program based on other risk factors but may be required to pay a fee based on a sliding scale. Services within this program are provided in 31 locations (through 32 grants), representing less than 7% of school districts. In addition, services are provided in 34 other community-based locations, representing 16 organizations (through 35 grants). In contrast, SWVPP is available in 98% of school districts and all children in the state who turn 4 by September 15 are eligible to attend.

Shared Visions lead teachers are required to have at least a BA degree if they are employed by public schools. Lead teachers employed by nonpublic settings follow NAEYC standards which require at least 75% to have a BA in ECE or a related field. The other teachers are required to have at least an AA degree in ECE or CD. All SWVPP lead teachers must have at least a BA and an Iowa teaching license with an early childhood endorsement.

Iowa's overall support for state-funded preschool, including enrollment and funding for both Shared Visions and SWVPP, is depicted in the first two pages of this state profile. The third page focuses solely on Shared Visions and the fourth page provides information on SWVPP.
IOWA STATE OVERVIEW

ACCESS
Total state pre-K enrollment ................................................... 28,453
Special education enrollment, ages 3 and 4 ............................ 4,203
Federally funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4 5,477
State-funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4 ................. 0

RESOURCES
Total state pre-K spending ............................................ $93,970,519
State Head Start spending ............................................................ $0
State spending per child enrolled .......................................... $3,456
All reported spending per child enrolled* ............................. $3,692

PERCENT OF POPULATION ENROLLED IN PUBLIC ECE

SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED

ACCESS RANKINGS
4-YEAR-OLDS 3-YEAR-OLDS
7 21

RESOURCE RANKINGS
STATE SPENDING ALL REPORTED SPENDING
34 38

TOTAL BENCHMARKS MET
7.9

**  Head Start per-child spending includes funding only for 3- and 4-year-olds.
***  K–12 expenditures include capital spending as well as current operating expenditures.

* Pre-K programs may receive additional funds from federal or local sources that are not included in this figure.
† Estimates children in Head Start not also enrolled in state pre-K.
†† Estimates children in special education not also enrolled in state pre-K or Head Start.

Data are for the 2019-2020 school year, unless otherwise noted.
ACCESS

Total state pre-K enrollment................................. 1,316
School districts that offer state program................. 37% (counties)
Income requirement............................................. 130% FPL
Minimum hours of operation............................... Determined locally
Operating schedule............................................. Determined locally

QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>POLICY</th>
<th>IA SHARED VISIONS REQUIREMENT</th>
<th>BENCHMARK</th>
<th>REQUIREMENT MEETS BENCHMARK?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Early learning &amp; development standards</td>
<td>Comprehensive, aligned, supported, culturally sensitive</td>
<td>Comprehensive, aligned, supported, culturally sensitive</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Curriculum supports</td>
<td>Approval process &amp; supports</td>
<td>Approval process &amp; supports</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher degree</td>
<td>BA (public); AA (nonpublic)</td>
<td>BA</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher specialized training</td>
<td>ECE, CD, ECE SpEd</td>
<td>Specializing in pre-K</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assistant teacher degree</td>
<td>CDA, or 12 college hours (ECE, CD, Elem. Ed., ECE SpEd)</td>
<td>CDA or equivalent</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maximum class size</td>
<td>20 (3- &amp; 4-year-olds)</td>
<td>20 or lower</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff-child ratio</td>
<td>1.8 (3- &amp; 4-year-olds)</td>
<td>1:10 or better</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Screening &amp; referral</td>
<td>Vision, hearing, health &amp; more</td>
<td>Vision, hearing &amp; health screenings; &amp; referral</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Continuous quality improvement system</td>
<td>Structured classroom observations (every 5 years and determined locally); Data used for program improvement</td>
<td>Structured classroom observations; data used for program improvement</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For more information about the benchmarks, see the Executive Summary and Roadmap to State Profile Pages.

RESOURCES

Total state pre-K spending ........................................ $6,399,240
Local match required? ........................................... Yes
State spending per child enrolled................................ $4,863
All reported spending per child enrolled* ................................ $9,741

* Pre-K programs may receive additional funds from federal or local sources that are not included in this figure.

** Head Start per-child spending includes funding only for 3- and 4-year-olds.

*** K-12 expenditures include capital spending as well as current operating expenditures.

SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED

- **IA Shared Visions**: $9,741
- **HDST**: $9,950
- **K-12***: $14,151

Data are for the 2019-2020 school year, unless otherwise noted.
IOWA STATEWIDE VOLUNTARY PRESCHOOL PROGRAM

ACCESS

Total state pre-K enrollment ................................................... 27,137
School districts that offer state program .................................. 98%
Income requirement .............................................................. No income requirement
Minimum hours of operation .................................................. 10 hours/week
Operating schedule .............................................................. School or academic year

QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

POLICY | IA SWVPP REQUIREMENT | BENCHMARK | REQUIREMENT MEETS BENCHMARK?
--- | --- | --- | ---
Early learning & development standards | Comprehensive, aligned, supported, culturally sensitive | Comprehensive, aligned, supported, culturally sensitive | ✓
Curriculum supports | Approval process & supports | Approval process & supports | ✓
Teacher degree | BA | BA | ✓
Teacher specialized training | ECE | Specializing in pre-K | ✓
Assistant teacher degree | Depends on overseeing agency | CDA or equivalent | No
Staff professional development | 15 hours/year recommended (teachers only); PD plans; Coaching (public) | For teachers & assistants: At least 15 hours/year; individual PD plans; coaching | No
Maximum class size | 18 (3-year-olds); 20 (4-year-olds) | 20 or lower | ✓
Staff-child ratio | 1:9 (3-year-olds); 1:10 (4-year-olds) | 1:10 or better | ✓
Screening & referral | Vision, hearing, health & more | Vision, hearing & health screenings; & referral | ✓
Continuous quality improvement system | Structured classroom observations; Data used for program improvement | Structured classroom observations; data used for program improvement | ✓

For more information about the benchmarks, see the Executive Summary and Roadmap to State Profile Pages.

RESOURCES

Total state pre-K spending .................................................. $87,571,279
Local match required? .......................................................... No
State spending per child enrolled ........................................... $3,227
All reported spending per child enrolled* ................................. $3,227

* Pre-K programs may receive additional funds from federal or local sources that are not included in this figure.

SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED

PERCENT OF POPULATION ENROLLED IN PUBLIC ECE

For more information about the benchmarks, see the Executive Summary and Roadmap to State Profile Pages.

Data are for the 2019-2020 school year, unless otherwise noted.