

PRESCHOOL: SUCCESS **STARTS** HERE

High-quality public preschool is one of the best investments the public can make in education. Iowa's public and private schools have dramatically expanded access to high-quality preschools, thanks to the commitment of Iowans to this effort. **We support providing full funding for the Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program for students at or below 180% of the federal poverty level.**

Why Preschool Matters

Learning gaps begin before kindergarten

A great preschool program can benefit any child. But early learning efforts are especially important to ensure the success of low-income students, who often start behind their more affluent peers.



90%

Before age five, 90% of a child's brain develops



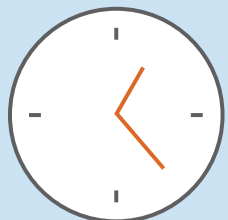
30 million

Low-income children hear up to 30 million fewer words than their more affluent peers before entering school



Nine vs. 22

By age five, a typical middle-class child recognizes 22 letters compared to nine for a child in a low-income family



975

A low-income child has 975 fewer hours of one-on-one picture book reading than their middle-class peers

Adapted from the Annie E. Casey Foundation

\$1 Spent = up to \$17 in Benefit

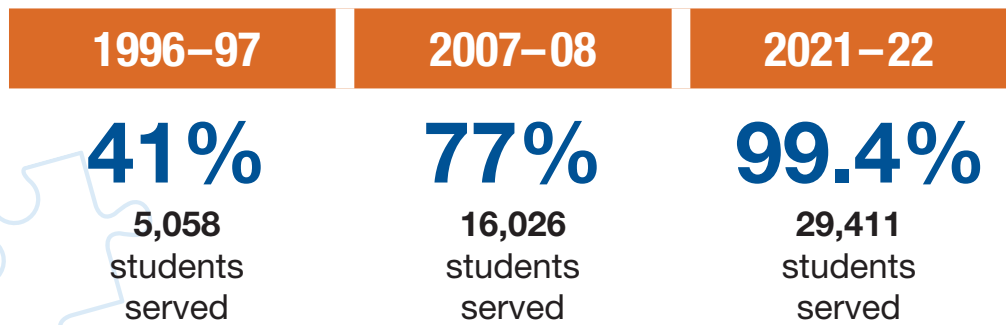
Children benefit from increased earnings in adulthood, while the public sees returns in the form of reduced special education, welfare, and crime costs, and increased tax revenues from participants later in life.

*Iowa Department of Education
Statewide Voluntary Preschool
Program for Four-Year-Old Children
Fact Sheet—Fall 2021*



Preschool in Iowa Schools: By the Numbers

Percent of Iowa Districts Offering Preschool



Annual Condition of Education Report, Iowa Department of Education, 2022

How Iowa Ranks Nationally

5th in providing access to preschool for 4-year-olds

39th in state spending on preschool

More than **64%** of the state's 4-year-olds are served through two pre-K programs: Shared Visions and the Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program

"The State of Preschool 2022," National Institute of Early Childhood Research



Community Support

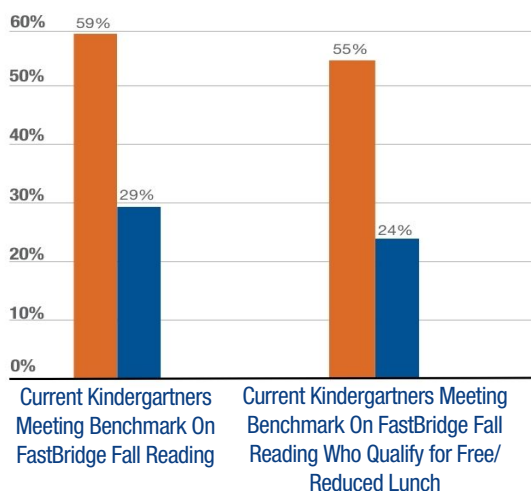
293

community partners work with public school districts on Iowa's statewide voluntary preschool program

Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program for Four-Year-Old Children Fact Sheet—Fall 2021, Iowa Department of Education

Preschool Prepares Students for School and Success in the Future

Reading Ready Kindergartners



● READING - DMPS
● READING - NO PRESCHOOL

Special thanks to Des Moines Public Schools (DMPS) for providing their comprehensive student data

Fifth Graders Without Preschool Don't Catch Up

Reading: DMPS

51%

Reading: No Preschool

33%

Reading Ready Fifth Graders