

**House File 461 - Introduced**

HOUSE FILE 461

BY MASCHER

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act establishing a full-day preschool program as part of the  
2 statewide preschool program.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 256C.3, subsection 3, paragraph f, Code  
2 2015, is amended to read as follows:

3 f. (1) A For school budget years beginning before July 1,  
4 2025, for school districts that are not participating in the  
5 full-day preschool program under subsection 6, a minimum of  
6 ten hours per week of instruction delivered on the skills and  
7 knowledge included in the student learning standards developed  
8 for the preschool program. This subparagraph is repealed July  
9 1, 2025.

10 (2) For school budget years beginning on or after July  
11 1, 2016, but before July 1, 2025, for school districts that  
12 are participating in the full-day preschool program under  
13 subsection 6, a minimum of thirty hours per week of instruction  
14 delivered on the skills and knowledge included in the student  
15 learning standards developed for the preschool program.  
16 However, for a school district measuring instructional time in  
17 hours pursuant to section 279.10, subsection 1, the minimum  
18 number of hours per week of instruction delivered on the skills  
19 and knowledge included in the student learning standards  
20 developed for the preschool program shall be equal to the  
21 number of instructional hours per week established by the  
22 school district in the school calendar under section 279.10,  
23 subsection 1, for the same school year. This subparagraph is  
24 repealed July 1, 2025.

25 (3) For school budget years beginning on or after July  
26 1, 2025, a minimum of thirty hours per week of instruction  
27 delivered on the skills and knowledge included in the student  
28 learning standards developed for the preschool program.  
29 However, for a school district measuring instructional time in  
30 hours pursuant to section 279.10, subsection 1, the minimum  
31 number of hours per week of instruction delivered on the skills  
32 and knowledge included in the student learning standards  
33 developed for the preschool program shall be equal to the  
34 number of instructional hours per week established by the  
35 school district in the school calendar under section 279.10,

1 subsection 1, for the same school year.

2 Sec. 2. Section 256C.3, subsection 5, paragraph a, Code  
3 2015, is amended to read as follows:

4 a. (1) The department shall implement an application and  
5 selection process for school district participation in the  
6 preschool program that includes but is not limited to the  
7 enrollment requirements provided under section 256C.4.

8 (2) The department shall implement an application and  
9 selection process for school district participation in the  
10 full-day preschool program under subsection 6 that also  
11 includes but is not limited to the requirements for the  
12 application and selection process under subparagraph (1). This  
13 subparagraph is repealed July 1, 2025.

14 Sec. 3. Section 256C.3, Code 2015, is amended by adding the  
15 following new subsection:

16 NEW SUBSECTION. 6. *Full-day preschool program — phase-in.*

17 a. For school budget years beginning on or after July 1,  
18 2016, but before July 1, 2025, the department of education  
19 shall administer and select school districts for participation  
20 in the full-day preschool program. Each school district  
21 that applies and is selected to participate in the full-day  
22 preschool program shall, in addition to other requirements  
23 established by the department by rule, comply with the  
24 instructional hours requirement of subsection 3, paragraph "f",  
25 subparagraph (2). Utilizing all of the following selection  
26 criteria and subject to the limitations of paragraph "b", the  
27 department of education shall review applications and select  
28 school districts for participation in the full-day preschool  
29 program:

30 (1) Priority shall be given to school districts that do not  
31 have existing preschool programming within the school district  
32 boundaries.

33 (2) Priority shall be given to school districts that have a  
34 high percentage of children in poverty, and such children shall  
35 receive first priority for the programs.

1 (3) Consideration shall be given to the size of school  
2 districts in order for there to be equitable statewide  
3 distribution of preschool program services.

4 (4) Consideration shall be given to school districts with  
5 established, high-quality community partnerships for the  
6 delivery of preschool programming that are seeking to expand  
7 access.

8 *b.* The number of school districts selected by the department  
9 to participate in the full-day preschool program shall be  
10 limited as follows:

11 (1) For the budget year beginning July 1, 2016, not more  
12 than ten percent of all school districts in the state.

13 (2) For the budget year beginning July 1, 2017, not more  
14 than twenty percent of all school districts in the state.

15 (3) For the budget year beginning July 1, 2018, not more  
16 than thirty percent of all school districts in the state.

17 (4) For the budget year beginning July 1, 2019, not more  
18 than forty percent of all school districts in the state.

19 (5) For the budget year beginning July 1, 2020, not more  
20 than fifty percent of all school districts in the state.

21 (6) For the budget year beginning July 1, 2021, not more  
22 than sixty percent of all school districts in the state.

23 (7) For the budget year beginning July 1, 2022, not more  
24 than seventy percent of all school districts in the state.

25 (8) For the budget year beginning July 1, 2023, not more  
26 than eighty percent of all school districts in the state.

27 (9) For the budget year beginning July 1, 2024, not more  
28 than ninety percent of all school districts in the state.

29 *c.* This subsection is repealed July 1, 2025.

30 Sec. 4. Section 256C.5, subsection 1, paragraph c, Code  
31 2015, is amended to read as follows:

32 *c.* (1) ~~"Preschool budget enrollment"~~ For school budget  
33 years beginning before July 1, 2025, for school districts that  
34 are not participating in the full-day preschool program under  
35 subsection 6, "preschool budget enrollment" means the figure

1 that is equal to fifty percent of the actual enrollment of  
2 eligible students in the preschool programming provided by  
3 a school district approved to participate in the preschool  
4 program on October 1 of the base year, or the first Monday  
5 in October if October 1 falls on a Saturday or Sunday. This  
6 subparagraph is repealed July 1, 2025.

7 (2) For school budget years beginning on or after July  
8 1, 2016, but before July 1, 2025, for school districts that  
9 are participating in the full-day preschool program under  
10 subsection 6, "preschool budget enrollment" means the figure  
11 that is equal to the actual enrollment of eligible students  
12 in the preschool programming provided by a school district  
13 approved to participate in the preschool program on October 1  
14 of the base year, or the first Monday in October if October 1  
15 falls on a Saturday or Sunday. This subparagraph is repealed  
16 July 1, 2025.

17 (3) For school budget years beginning on or after July 1,  
18 2025, "preschool budget enrollment" means the figure that is  
19 equal to the actual enrollment of eligible students in the  
20 preschool programming provided by a school district approved to  
21 participate in the preschool program on October 1 of the base  
22 year, or the first Monday in October if October 1 falls on a  
23 Saturday or Sunday.

24 Sec. 5. Section 256C.5, subsection 2, paragraph a, Code  
25 2015, is amended to read as follows:

26 a. For the initial school year for which a school district  
27 approved to participate in the preschool program receives that  
28 approval and implements the preschool program, the funding for  
29 the preschool foundation aid payable to that school district  
30 shall be paid from the appropriation made for that school year  
31 in section 256C.6, Code 2011, or in another appropriation made  
32 for purposes of this chapter. For that initial school year,  
33 the preschool foundation aid payable to the school district is  
34 the product of the regular program state cost per pupil for the  
35 school budget year multiplied by ~~sixty percent~~ a percentage

1 of the school district's eligible student enrollment on the  
2 date in the school year determined by rule that is equal to the  
3 percentage for the budget year under subsection 1, paragraph  
4 "c".

5 EXPLANATION

6 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with  
7 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

8 This bill relates to the statewide preschool program by  
9 requiring the department of education to establish, administer,  
10 and phase-in a full-day preschool program as part of the  
11 statewide preschool program.

12 Code chapter 256C defines preschool program requirements  
13 that are used to determine whether or not a local program  
14 implemented by a school district approved to participate in  
15 the statewide preschool program for four-year-old children  
16 qualifies as an approved local program. Current law requires a  
17 minimum of 10 hours per week of instruction delivered on the  
18 skills and knowledge included in the student learning standards  
19 developed for the preschool program.

20 For school budget years beginning on or after July 1, 2016,  
21 but before July 1, 2025, the bill requires the department  
22 of education to administer and select school districts  
23 for participation in a full-day preschool program as part  
24 of the statewide preschool program. Each school district  
25 that applies and is selected to participate in the full-day  
26 preschool program shall provide a minimum of 30 hours per  
27 week of instruction delivered on the skills and knowledge  
28 included in the student learning standards developed for the  
29 preschool program. However, for a school district measuring  
30 instructional time in hours instead of days, the minimum number  
31 of hours per week of instruction shall be equal to the number  
32 of instructional hours per week established by the school  
33 district in the school calendar for the same school year.

34 Utilizing all of the following selection criteria, the  
35 department of education is required to review applications

1 and select school districts for participation in the full-day  
2 preschool program: (1) priority shall be given to school  
3 districts that do not have existing preschool programming  
4 within the school district boundaries; (2) priority shall  
5 be given to school districts that have a high percentage  
6 of children in poverty, and such children shall receive  
7 first priority for the programs; (3) consideration shall  
8 be given to the size of school districts in large, medium,  
9 and small categories in order for there to be equitable  
10 statewide distribution of preschool program services; and  
11 (4) consideration shall be given to school districts with  
12 established, high-quality community partnerships for the  
13 delivery of preschool programming that are seeking to expand  
14 access.

15 In addition to the specified selection criteria, the bill  
16 limits the number of school districts that may be selected  
17 by the department to participate in the full-day preschool  
18 program. For the budget year beginning July 1, 2016, the  
19 department may not select more than 10 percent of all school  
20 districts in the state. For each budget year thereafter the  
21 limit on the number of school districts that may be selected  
22 increases by 10 percentage points until the requirements of  
23 the full-day preschool program become applicable to all school  
24 districts participating in the statewide preschool program  
25 under Code chapter 256C in the budget year beginning July 1,  
26 2025.

27 Under Code chapter 256C, state funding is based upon the  
28 enrollment of eligible students in the preschool programming  
29 provided by a school district approved to participate in the  
30 preschool program. The amount of preschool foundation aid  
31 is the product of the regular program state cost per pupil  
32 for the budget year multiplied by the school district's  
33 preschool budget enrollment. Current law defines "preschool  
34 budget enrollment" to mean the figure that is equal to 50  
35 percent of the actual enrollment of eligible students in the

1 preschool programming provided by a school district approved  
2 to participate in the preschool program in the base year. The  
3 bill provides that for districts approved to participate in the  
4 full-day preschool program, the "preschool budget enrollment"  
5 is equal to the actual enrollment of eligible students in the  
6 preschool programming provided by a school district approved to  
7 participate in the preschool program in the base year.

8 Under the bill, for budget years beginning on or after July  
9 1, 2025, the requirement of 30 instructional hours and the  
10 change in the definition of "preschool budget enrollment" for  
11 funding purposes apply to all school districts approved to  
12 participate in the preschool program under Code chapter 256C.  
13 However, for a school district measuring instructional time in  
14 hours instead of days, the minimum number of hours per week  
15 of instruction shall be equal to the number of instructional  
16 hours per week established by the school district in the school  
17 calendar for the same school year.

18 The bill also amends provisions relating to the preschool  
19 foundation aid received by a school district for the initial  
20 school year for which a school district approved to participate  
21 in the preschool program to match the applicable percentage  
22 under the definition of "preschool budget enrollment" as  
23 modified in the bill.