

**House File 2261 - Introduced**

HOUSE FILE 2261

BY NUNN

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act expanding the statewide preschool program to include  
2 five-year-old children and including applicability  
3 provisions.

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

1 Section 1. Section 135.173A, subsection 4, paragraph p,  
2 Code 2018, is amended to read as follows:

3 *p.* One person who is part of a local program implementing  
4 the statewide preschool program for ~~four-year-old~~ young  
5 children under chapter 256C.

6 Sec. 2. Section 135.173A, subsection 6, paragraph f, Code  
7 2018, is amended to read as follows:

8 *f.* Make recommendations for improving collaborations  
9 between the child care programs involving the department of  
10 human services and programs supporting the education and  
11 development of young children including but not limited to the  
12 federal head start program; the statewide preschool program  
13 for ~~four-year-old~~ young children; and the early childhood,  
14 at-risk, and other early education programs administered by the  
15 department of education.

16 Sec. 3. Section 256C.1, subsections 1 and 4, Code 2018, are  
17 amended to read as follows:

18 1. "*Approved local program*" means a school district's  
19 program for ~~four-year-old~~ young children approved by the  
20 department of education to provide high quality preschool  
21 instruction.

22 4. "*Preschool program*" means the statewide preschool program  
23 for ~~four-year-old~~ young children created in accordance with  
24 this chapter.

25 Sec. 4. Section 256C.1, Code 2018, is amended by adding the  
26 following new subsection:

27 NEW SUBSECTION. 7. "*Young children*" means children who are  
28 four years of age or who are five years of age.

29 Sec. 5. Section 256C.2, Code 2018, is amended to read as  
30 follows:

31 **256C.2 Statewide preschool program for ~~four-year-old~~ young**  
32 **children — purpose.**

33 1. A statewide preschool program for ~~four-year-old~~ young  
34 children is established. The purpose of the preschool program  
35 is to provide an opportunity for all young children in the

1 state to enter school ready to learn by expanding voluntary  
2 access to quality preschool curricula for all children who are  
3 four years old or who are five years old.

4 2. The state board shall adopt rules in accordance with  
5 chapter 17A as necessary to implement the preschool program as  
6 provided in [this chapter](#).

7 Sec. 6. Section 256C.3, subsection 1, paragraph a, Code  
8 2018, is amended to read as follows:

9 a. A child who is a resident of Iowa and is four years of  
10 age on or before September 15 of a school year or who is five  
11 years of age on or before September 15 of a school year shall be  
12 eligible to enroll in the preschool program under [this chapter](#).  
13 If such a child is enrolled under [this chapter](#), the child shall  
14 be considered to be of compulsory attendance age as provided in  
15 section 299.1A, subsection 3.

16 Sec. 7. Section 256C.3, subsection 4, paragraph b, Code  
17 2018, is amended to read as follows:

18 b. Subject to implementation of [chapter 28E](#) agreements  
19 between a school district and community-based providers of  
20 services to four-year-old children and five-year-old children,  
21 a four-year-old child or eligible five-year-old child who is  
22 enrolled in a child care center or child development home  
23 licensed or registered under [chapter 237A](#), or in an existing  
24 public or private preschool program, shall be eligible for  
25 services provided by the school district's local preschool  
26 program.

27 Sec. 8. Section 256C.4, subsection 2, Code 2018, is amended  
28 to read as follows:

29 2. *Eligible student enrollment.*

30 a. To be included as an eligible student in the enrollment  
31 count of the preschool programming provided by a school  
32 district approved to participate in the preschool program, a  
33 child must be four years of age by September 15 or be five  
34 years of age by September 15 in the base year and attending the  
35 school district's approved local program.

1     *b.* The enrollment count of eligible students shall not  
 2 include a child who is included in the enrollment count  
 3 determined under [section 257.6](#) or a child who is served by  
 4 a program already receiving state or federal funds for the  
 5 purpose of the provision of four-year-old or five-year-old  
 6 preschool programming while the child is being served by the  
 7 program. Such preschool programming includes but is not  
 8 limited to child development assistance programs provided under  
 9 chapter 256A, special education programs provided under section  
 10 256B.9, school ready children grant programs and other programs  
 11 provided under [chapter 256I](#), and federal head start programs  
 12 and the services funded by Tit. I of the federal Elementary and  
 13 Secondary Education Act of 1965.

14     Sec. 9. Section 298A.2, subsection 2, paragraph a,  
 15 subparagraph (1), Code 2018, is amended to read as follows:

16     (1) An approved local program under the statewide preschool  
 17 program for ~~four-year-old~~ young children under [chapter 256C](#).

18     Sec. 10. Section 298A.2, subsection 2, paragraph c,  
 19 subparagraph (1), Code 2018, is amended to read as follows:

20     (1) Start-up costs for an approved local program under the  
 21 statewide preschool program for ~~four-year-old~~ young children  
 22 under [chapter 256C](#).

23     Sec. 11. Section 299.1A, subsection 3, Code 2018, is amended  
 24 to read as follows:

25     3. A child who has reached the age of four by September 15  
 26 or who has reached the age of five by September 15 and who is  
 27 enrolled in the statewide preschool program under [chapter 256C](#)  
 28 shall be considered to be of compulsory attendance age unless  
 29 the parent or guardian of the child submits written notice to  
 30 the school district implementing the program of the parent's or  
 31 guardian's intent to remove the child from enrollment in the  
 32 preschool program.

33     Sec. 12. APPLICABILITY. This Act applies to school budget  
 34 years beginning on or after July 1, 2018.

35                     EXPLANATION

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

3       This bill expands the statewide preschool program for  
4 four-year-old children under Code chapter 256C to also include  
5 five-year-old children. The program is administered by local  
6 school districts subject to rules adopted by the state board of  
7 education and receives funding through the school aid formula.

8       References to four-year-old children in the program named in  
9 Code chapter 256C and in related Code provisions are changed  
10 to "young children" or expanded to also refer to five-year-old  
11 children.

12       The bill applies to school budget years beginning on or after  
13 July 1, 2018.