

House File 2048 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 2048

BY BRINK

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to the statewide preschool program by modifying
2 provisions relating to eligibility, funding, and compulsory
3 attendance and including applicability 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 2020, 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 2020, 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 2020, 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 2020, 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 on specified
29 dates as provided in section 256C.3, subsection 1, paragraph
30 "a".

31 Sec. 5. Section 256C.2, Code 2020, is amended to read as
32 follows:

33 **256C.2 Statewide preschool program for ~~four-year-old~~ young**
34 **children — purpose.**

35 1. A statewide preschool program for ~~four-year-old~~ young

1 children is established. The purpose of the preschool program
2 is to provide an opportunity for all young children in the
3 state to enter school ready to learn by expanding voluntary
4 access to quality preschool curricula ~~for all children who are~~
5 ~~four years old~~.

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

9 Sec. 6. Section 256C.3, subsection 1, paragraphs a and b,
10 Code 2020, are amended to read as follows:

11 a. A child who is a resident of Iowa and who is either four
12 years of age on or before September 15 of a school year or who
13 reaches five years of age on or after March 15 but on or before
14 September 15 of the calendar year during which the school year
15 begins shall be eligible to enroll in the preschool program
16 under [this chapter](#). If such a child is enrolled under this
17 chapter, the child shall be considered to be of compulsory
18 attendance age as provided in [section 299.1A, subsection 3](#).

19 b. If space and funding are available, including funding
20 from another school district account or fund from which
21 preschool program expenditures are authorized by law, a school
22 district approved to participate in the preschool program
23 may enroll and pay the cost of attendance for a ~~younger or~~
24 ~~older~~ child in the preschool program who does not satisfy the
25 requirements under paragraph "a"; however, the child shall not
26 be counted for state funding purposes.

27 Sec. 7. Section 256C.3, subsection 4, paragraph b, Code
28 2020, is amended to read as follows:

29 b. Subject to implementation of [chapter 28E](#) agreements
30 between a school district and community-based providers of
31 services to four-year-old children and eligible five-year-old
32 children, a four-year-old child or eligible five-year-old child
33 who is enrolled in a child care center or child development
34 home licensed or registered under [chapter 237A](#), or in an
35 existing public or private preschool program, shall be eligible

1 for services provided by the school district's local preschool
2 program.

3 Sec. 8. Section 256C.4, subsection 2, Code 2020, is amended
4 to read as follows:

5 2. *Eligible student enrollment.*

6 a. To be included as an eligible student in the enrollment
7 count of the preschool programming provided by a school
8 district approved to participate in the preschool program, a
9 child must ~~be four years of~~ satisfy the age by September 15
10 requirements of section 256C.3, subsection 1, paragraph "a" in
11 the base year and be attending the school district's approved
12 local program.

13 b. The enrollment count of eligible students shall not
14 include a child who is included in the enrollment count
15 determined under [section 257.6](#) or a child who is served by
16 a program already receiving state or federal funds for the
17 purpose of the provision of four-year-old or five-year-old
18 preschool programming while the child is being served by the
19 program. Such preschool programming includes but is not
20 limited to child development assistance programs provided under
21 chapter 256A, special education programs provided under section
22 256B.9, school ready children grant programs and other programs
23 provided under [chapter 256I](#), and federal head start programs
24 and the services funded by Tit. I of the federal Elementary and
25 Secondary Education Act of 1965.

26 Sec. 9. Section 298A.2, subsection 2, paragraph a,
27 subparagraph (1), Code 2020, is amended to read as follows:

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

30 Sec. 10. Section 298A.2, subsection 2, paragraph c,
31 subparagraph (1), Code 2020, is amended to read as follows:

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

35 Sec. 11. Section 299.1A, subsection 3, Code 2020, is amended

1 to read as follows:

2 3. A child who has reached the age of four ~~by September 15~~
3 or five and who is enrolled in the statewide preschool program
4 under [chapter 256C](#) shall be considered to be of compulsory
5 attendance age unless the parent or guardian of the child
6 submits written notice to the school district implementing the
7 program of the parent's or guardian's intent to remove the
8 child from enrollment in the preschool program.

9 Sec. 12. APPLICABILITY. This Act applies to school budget
10 years beginning on or after July 1, 2021.

11 EXPLANATION

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

14 The statewide preschool program for four-year-old children
15 under Code chapter 256C provides that a child who is a resident
16 of Iowa and is four years of age on or before September 15 of
17 a school year shall be eligible to enroll in the preschool
18 program. Additionally, to be included as an eligible student
19 in the enrollment count of the preschool programming for
20 state funding purposes, a child must be four years of age
21 by September 15 in the base year and attending the school
22 district's approved local program.

23 This bill expands the eligibility and state funding
24 provisions of the statewide preschool program for four-year-old
25 children under Code chapter 256C to also include five-year-old
26 children who reach the age of five on or after March 15 but on
27 or before September 15 of the calendar year during which the
28 school year begins.

29 References to four-year-old children in the program named in
30 Code chapter 256C and in related Code provisions are changed
31 to "young children" or expanded to also refer to eligible
32 five-year-old children and Code section 299.1A relating to
33 compulsory education is also modified to reflect changes made
34 in the bill.

35 The bill applies to school budget years beginning on or after

H.F. 2048

1 July 1, 2021.