

Senate File 2075 - Introduced

SENATE FILE 2075

BY EVANS

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to statewide voluntary preschool program
2 students whose household income is below a certain
3 amount, minimum hours required to be offered, and funding
4 calculations.

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

1 Section 1. Section 256C.3, subsection 3, paragraph f, Code
2 2024, is amended by striking the paragraph and inserting in
3 lieu thereof the following:

4 f. (1) Either of the following as chosen by the school
5 district at the beginning of each school year:

6 (a) A minimum of ten hours per week of instruction delivered
7 on the skills and knowledge included in the student learning
8 standards developed for the preschool program.

9 (b) (i) A minimum of ten hours per week of instruction
10 delivered on the skills and knowledge included in the student
11 learning standards developed for the preschool program to
12 students not described in subparagraph subdivision (ii).

13 (ii) For the school year beginning July 1, 2024, for
14 eligible students whose household income is less than one
15 hundred eighty-five percent of the federal poverty level
16 applicable to the family's size, a minimum of fifteen hours
17 per week of instruction delivered on the skills and knowledge
18 included in the student learning standards developed for the
19 preschool program. For the school year beginning July 1, 2025,
20 and each succeeding school year, for eligible students whose
21 household income is less than one hundred eighty-five percent
22 of the federal poverty level applicable to the family's size,
23 a minimum of twenty hours per week of instruction delivered
24 on the skills and knowledge included in the student learning
25 standards developed for the preschool program.

26 (2) If a school district chooses to satisfy the minimum
27 hour requirements for a school year under subparagraph (1),
28 subparagraph division (b), families of eligible children whose
29 household income is less than one hundred eighty-five percent
30 of the federal poverty level applicable to the family's size
31 may choose between ten hours of instruction per week or the
32 minimum hours of instruction established in subparagraph (1),
33 subparagraph division (b), subparagraph subdivision (ii), for
34 the eligible child.

35 Sec. 2. Section 256C.5, subsection 1, paragraph c, Code

1 2024, is amended by striking the paragraph and inserting in
2 lieu thereof the following:

3 *c. "Preschool budget enrollment"* means either of the
4 following figures as applicable to the school district based on
5 the numbers of eligible students approved to participate and
6 enrolled in the preschool programming provided by the school
7 district on October 1 of the base year, or the first Monday in
8 October if October 1 falls on a Saturday or Sunday:

9 (1) For a school district providing minimum required school
10 hours as set under section 256C.3, subsection 3, paragraph "f",
11 subparagraph (1), subparagraph division (a), fifty percent of
12 the actual enrollment of eligible students.

13 (2) (a) For a school district providing minimum required
14 school hours as set under section 256C.3, subsection 3,
15 paragraph "f", subparagraph (1), subparagraph division (b),
16 fifty percent of the actual enrollment of eligible students not
17 described in subparagraph division (b).

18 (b) For the school year beginning July 1, 2024, seventy-five
19 percent of the actual enrollment of eligible students who
20 receive a minimum of fifteen hours of instruction per week and
21 whose household income is less than one hundred eighty-five
22 percent of the federal poverty level applicable to the family's
23 size. For the school year beginning July 1, 2025, and each
24 succeeding school year, the actual enrollment of eligible
25 students who receive a minimum of twenty hours of instruction
26 per week and whose household income is less than one hundred
27 eighty-five percent of the federal poverty level applicable to
28 the family's size.

29

EXPLANATION

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

32 This bill relates to statewide voluntary preschool program
33 (SVPP) students whose household income is below a certain
34 amount, minimum hours required to be offered, and funding
35 calculations.

1 The bill allows each school district to choose at the
2 beginning of each school year between the currently required
3 minimum 10 hours of instruction per week for an enrolled child,
4 or a heightened required amount of hours for enrolled children
5 whose household family income is below 185 percent of the
6 federal poverty level (FPL) and a required 10 hours per week
7 of instruction for all other children. For FY 2024-2025, the
8 heightened requirement is a minimum of 15 hours per week of
9 instruction, and for FY 2025-2026, and each succeeding school
10 year, the heightened requirement is a minimum of 20 hours per
11 week of instruction.

12 The bill requires school districts to allow families of
13 children whose household income is below 185 percent of the
14 FPL applicable to the family's size to choose between 10 hours
15 of instruction per week or the minimum hours of instruction
16 established for children of families with income below 185
17 percent of the FPL applicable to the family's size for the
18 child.

19 A school district with an approved SVPP is funded in part by
20 preschool foundation aid payments. The preschool foundation
21 aid is calculated by multiplying the regular program state cost
22 per pupil by the school district's preschool budget enrollment.
23 Currently, the preschool budget enrollment for a given year
24 is calculated by multiplying the number of eligible students
25 enrolled in the preschool program by 50 percent.

26 The bill changes the calculation for preschool budget
27 enrollment for school districts that choose to follow the
28 heightened hours of instruction requirement for children whose
29 household income is below 185 percent of the FPL to the sum
30 of the following number of eligible students: (1) for the
31 school year beginning July 1, 2024, 75 percent of eligible
32 students who receive 15 hours per week of instruction and whose
33 household income is less than 185 percent of the FPL plus 50
34 percent of all other eligible students; and (2) for school
35 years beginning on or after July 1, 2025, the actual number of

S.F. 2075

1 eligible students who receive 20 hours per week of instruction
2 and whose household income is less than 185 percent of the FPL
3 plus 50 percent of all other eligible students. Calculations
4 for preschool budget enrollment for school districts that
5 continue to follow currently required minimum hours of
6 instruction remain unchanged.