

House File 422 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 422
BY BAGNIEWSKI

A BILL FOR

- 1 An Act relating to statewide voluntary preschool program quality
- 2 standards and renewals.
- 3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

unofficial

1 Section 1. Section 256C.1, Code 2025, is amended by adding
2 the following new subsection:

3 NEW SUBSECTION. 1A. "Collaboration" means ongoing
4 communication, coordination, and cooperation between an approved
5 local program and families, early care providers, and community
6 providers that leads to the provision of comprehensive services
7 and the progression toward the purposes of this chapter.

8 Sec. 2. Section 256C.3, subsection 3, Code 2025, is amended
9 to read as follows:

10 3. *Program requirements.*

11 a. The state board shall adopt rules to further define the
12 following preschool program requirements which shall be used to
13 determine whether or not a local program implemented by a school
14 district approved to implement the preschool program qualifies as
15 an approved local program:

16 ~~a.~~ (1) Maximum and minimum teacher-to-child ratios and class
17 sizes.

18 ~~b.~~ (2) Applicable state and federal program standards.

19 ~~c.~~ (3) Student learning standards.

20 ~~d.~~ (4) Provisions for the integration of children from other
21 state and federally funded preschools by ensuring, subject to
22 the approval of a child's parent, guardian, or custodian, that a
23 child integrated into an approved local program has uninterrupted
24 instruction and access to the services provided by the approved
25 local program.

26 ~~e.~~ (5) Collaboration with participating families, early
27 care providers, and community partners including but not
28 limited to early childhood Iowa area boards, head start
29 programs, shared visions and other programs provided under the
30 auspices of the child development coordinating council, licensed
31 child care centers, registered child development homes, area
32 education agencies, child care resource and referral services
33 provided under section 237A.26, early childhood special education
34 programs, services funded by Tit. I of the federal Elementary and
35 Secondary Education Act of 1965, and family support programs.

1 ~~f.~~ (6) A minimum of ten hours per week of instruction
2 delivered on the skills and knowledge included in the student
3 learning standards developed for the preschool program.

4 ~~g.~~ (7) Parental involvement in the local program.

5 ~~h.~~ (8) Provision for ensuring that children receiving
6 care from other child care arrangements can participate in the
7 preschool program with minimal disruption due to transportation
8 and movement from one site to another. The children participating
9 in the preschool program may be transported by the school
10 district to activities associated with the program along with
11 other children.

12 b. Approval of a preschool program under this section shall
13 be valid for five years from the date of approval.

14 Sec. 3. Section 256C.3, subsection 4, paragraph a, Code 2025,
15 is amended to read as follows:

16 a. Methods of demonstrating community readiness to implement
17 high-quality instruction in a local program shall be identified.
18 The potential provider shall submit a collaborative program
19 proposal that demonstrates the involvement of multiple community
20 stakeholders including but not limited to, and only as
21 applicable, parents, the school district, accredited nonpublic
22 schools and faith-based representatives, the area education
23 agency, the early childhood Iowa area board, representatives
24 of business, head start programs, shared visions and other
25 programs provided under the auspices of the child development
26 coordinating council, center-based and home-based providers of
27 child care services, human services, public health, and economic
28 development programs. The methods may include but are not
29 limited to a school district providing evidence of a public
30 hearing on the proposed programming and written documentation of
31 collaboration agreements between the school district, existing
32 community providers, and other community stakeholders addressing
33 operational procedures and other critical measures. At least
34 once every five school budget years, an approved local program
35 shall provide evidence to the state board that the approved

1 local program is sufficiently incorporating community readiness
2 and involving multiple community stakeholders as required by this
3 paragraph.

4 Sec. 4. Section 256C.3, subsection 5, paragraph c, Code 2025,
5 is amended to read as follows:

6 c. The department shall implement procedures to monitor the
7 quality of the programming provided under the preschool program
8 and revoke a preschool program's status as an approved local
9 program if the program fails to meet program quality standards
10 under this chapter.

11 Sec. 5. Section 256C.3, subsection 5, Code 2025, is amended
12 by adding the following new paragraph:

13 NEW PARAGRAPH. e. The state board, in collaboration with
14 the department, shall encourage school districts to collaborate
15 with community partners to ensure comprehensive, integrated
16 early childhood services, including but not limited to the
17 delivery of preschool services outside of a school district in
18 community-based settings where other early childhood services are
19 being provided, are available to all eligible children.

20 Sec. 6. Section 256C.4, subsection 1, paragraph e, Code 2025,
21 is amended to read as follows:

22 e. Preschool foundation aid funding shall not be used for
23 the costs of constructing a facility in connection with an
24 approved local program. Preschool foundation aid funding may
25 be used by approved local programs and community providers
26 for any purpose determined by the board of directors of the
27 school district to meet standards for high-quality preschool
28 instruction and for purposes that directly or indirectly benefit
29 students enrolled in the approved local program, including
30 but not limited to professional development for preschool
31 teachers, instructional equipment and supplies, material and
32 equipment designed to develop pupils' large and small motor
33 skills, translation services, playground equipment and repair
34 costs, food and beverages used by children in the approved
35 local program, safety equipment, facility rental fees, and for

1 other direct costs that enhance the approved local program,
2 including by contracting with community partners for any such
3 services. Preschool foundation aid funding may be used by
4 approved local programs for the costs of transportation involving
5 children participating in the preschool program. The costs of
6 transporting other children associated with the preschool program
7 or transported as provided in section 256C.3, subsection 3,
8 paragraph "h" "a", subparagraph (8), may be prorated by the
9 school district. Preschool foundation aid funding received by
10 an approved local program that remains unexpended and unobligated
11 at the end of a fiscal year beginning on or after July 1, 2017,
12 shall be used to build the approved local program's preschool
13 program capacity in the next succeeding fiscal year excluding
14 that portion of such unexpended and unobligated funding that
15 the school district authorizes for transfer for deposit in the
16 school district's flexibility account established under section
17 298A.2, subsection 2, if the statutory requirements for the
18 use of such funding are met. For purposes of determining
19 whether a school district has authority to transfer preschool
20 foundation aid funding for deposit in the school district's
21 flexibility account established under section 298A.2, subsection
22 2, the school district must have provided preschool programming
23 during the fiscal year for which funding remains unexpended
24 and unobligated to all eligible students for whom a timely
25 application for enrollment was submitted.

26 EXPLANATION

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

29 This bill relates to statewide voluntary preschool program
30 (SVPP) quality standards.

31 The bill defines "collaboration" for purposes of the SVPP as
32 ongoing communication, coordination, and cooperation between an
33 approved local program and families, early care providers, and
34 community providers that leads to the provision of comprehensive
35 services and the progression toward the purposes of the SVPP.

1 The bill requires the state board of education (BOE) to adopt
2 rules that provide for the integration of children from other
3 state and federally funded preschools by ensuring, subject to
4 the approval of a child's parent, guardian, or custodian, that a
5 child integrated into an approved local program has uninterrupted
6 instruction and access to the services provided by the approved
7 local program.

8 The bill limits a preschool program's status as an approved
9 local program for a period of five years.

10 The bill requires, at least once every five years, for an
11 approved local program to provide evidence to the BOE that the
12 approved local program is sufficiently incorporating community
13 readiness and involving multiple community stakeholders.

14 The bill requires the department of education (DE) to
15 implement procedures for revoking a preschool program's status
16 as an approved local program if it fails to meet program quality
17 standards for the SVPP.

18 The bill requires the BOE, in collaboration with the DE, to
19 encourage school districts to collaborate with community partners
20 to ensure comprehensive, integrated early childhood services,
21 including but not limited to the delivery of preschool services
22 outside of a school district in community-based settings where
23 other early childhood services are being provided, are available
24 to all children for the SVPP.

25 The bill makes conforming changes.