



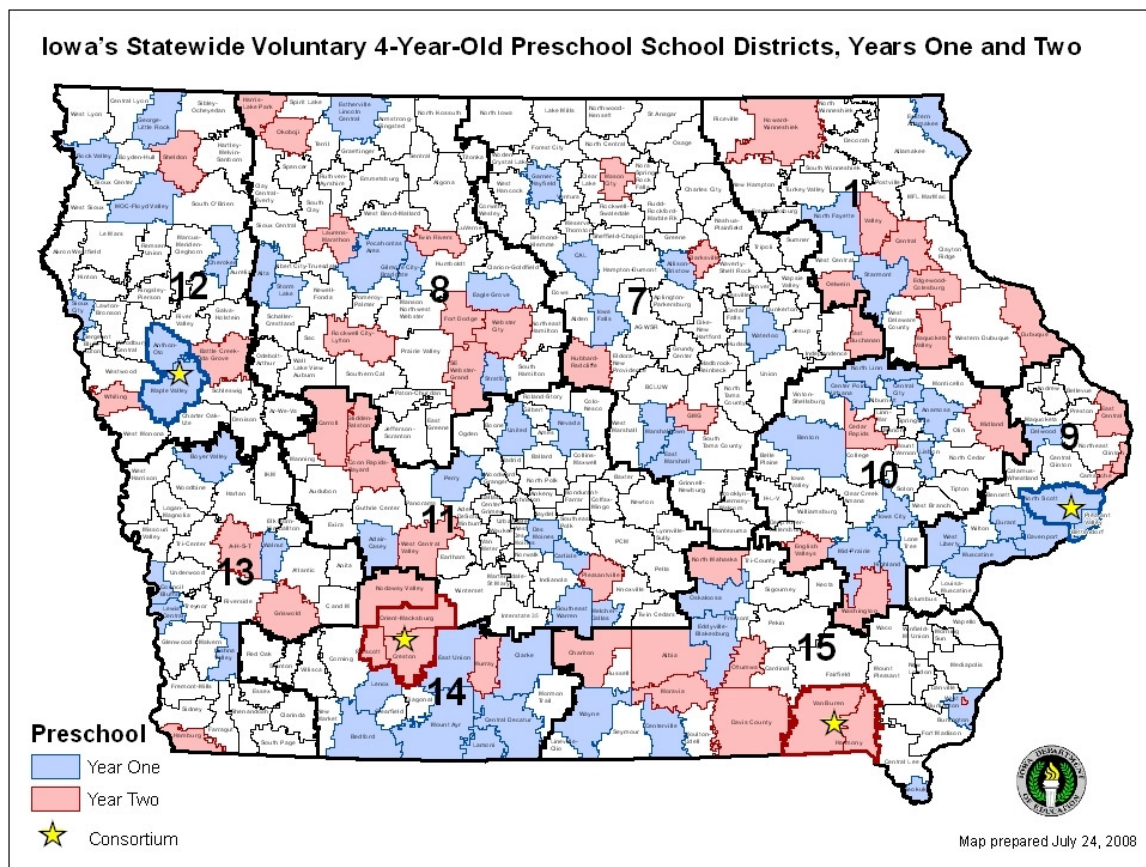
**DE Early Childhood Services Bureau  
Statewide Voluntary Preschool Programs for Four-Year-Olds  
2008-2009  
Legislative Committee Presentation**

**Application Data**

District Information	Academic Year				Total
	2007-2008	2008-2009	2009-2010	2010-2011	
Districts submitted applications	182	161			343
Districts awarded funding	64	49			113
Children enrolled statewide	4,481	3,512			7,993

*Note: Due to district consortiums, a total of 118 districts actually participate in the Preschool Program.*

**Awarded Districts**



## Two Types of Preschool Enrollment Data

- 1) The **Grant Award** provides on time funding during a district's first year of implementation of the preschool program. This grant enrollment count is submitted *only* during a district's first year of implementation.

<b>Grant Award Enrollment Data</b>	<b>2007-2008</b>	<b>2008-2009</b>	<b>2009-2010</b>	<b>2010-2011</b>
<b>Grant Award Count (Enrolled by September)</b>	4,482	3,512		
<b>Estimated Child Count on District Applications</b>	4,782	4,515		
<b>Difference between estimated and actual counts</b>	300	1003		
<b>Difference between estimated dollars requested and actual dollars funded</b>	\$959,940	\$3,337,984		

Note. Not all funds were allocated during 2008-2009 due to differences between estimated child count provided on Applications and actual child enrollment submitted in September of 2008. (Districts examined census data and kindergarten enrollment trends to estimate the child count included on the application.)

- 2) The **Preschool Certified Enrollment Count** provides funding for subsequent school years. (This is the enrollment count all districts submit annually to the Department of Education.)

	<b>2007-2008</b>	<b>2008-2009</b>	<b>2009-2010</b>	<b>2010-2011</b>
<b>Preschool Certified Enrollment Count</b>	5,126	9,676		

## Preschool Program Data

All districts must assure implementation of research-based preschool program standards. The type of quality preschool program standards implemented and number of classrooms are shown for the two years of grant awards.

<b>Program Standards*</b>	<b>2007-2008</b>	<b>2008-2009</b>	<b>2009-2010</b>	<b>2010-2011</b>
Iowa Quality Preschool Program Standards (IQPPS)	242	260		
Head Start Program Performance Standards	39	21		
National Association for the Education for Young Children Standards (NAEYC)	62	22		

\* **Districts may implement more than one type of program standard based on partners.**

**Type and number of other federal or state funded preschool programs districts integrated with to expand preschool instructional session.**

Federal and/or State Funded Program	2007-2008	2008-2009	2009-2010	2010-2011
Early Childhood Special Education	52	35		
Head Start	22	20		
Shared Visions Preschool Program	8	7		
Title I	2	1		

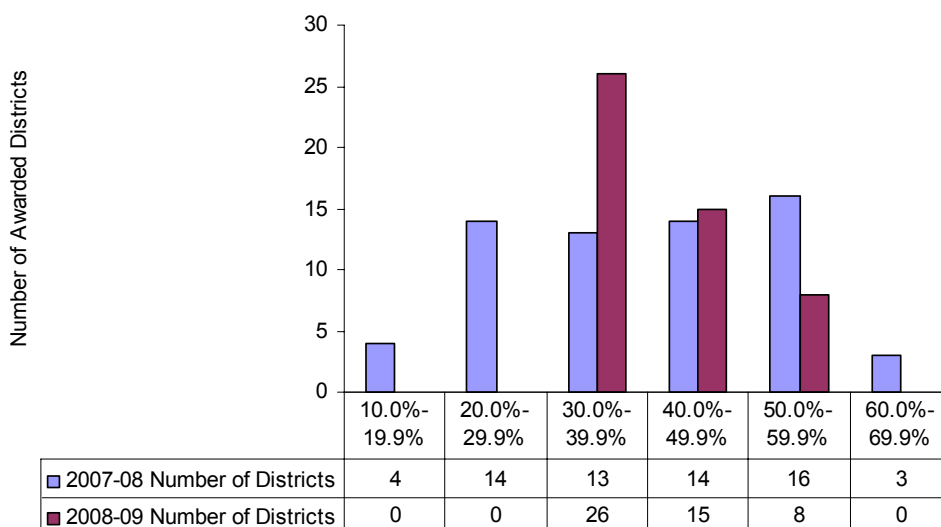
**Type and number of community preschool partners\***

Community Partner	2007-2008	2008-2009	2009-2010	2010-2011
Licensed community-based child care or preschool	TBD	19		
Faith-based preschool (private, community based Christian preschool program)	TBD	7		
Faith-based accredited schools	TBD	10		
Non-public accredited schools	TBD	2		

Note. To Be Determined (TBD); data was not collected specific to type of community partner for 2007-2008 Grantees.

\*Some districts integrated with multiple partners.

**Number of school districts by percent of poverty based on free/reduced meals for grades 1-6\***



Source. Iowa Department of Education, Bureau of Early Childhood Services, Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program Application Data, 2007-2008, 2008-2009.

\*Free/reduced meals are based on family income at or below 130% of poverty level.

**Total Number of District Applications Submitted and the Number of School Districts with Existing Preschool Programs.**

	2007-2008		2008-2009	
	Number of Applicants	Number of Districts with Existing Preschool Programs	Number of Applicants	Number of Districts with Existing Preschool Programs
Awarded Districts	64	59	49	46
Districts not awarded	112	108	102	99

**Technical Assistance Provided by the DE for 2008-2009**

- District teleconference to assist submission of grant year child count
- Administrative leadership training in two regions of the state (67 participants attended)
- Two ICN sessions to provide portfolio guidance to districts receiving verification visits during the 2008-2009 school year and others (298 participants attended)
- Five ICN sessions for implementation of the Quality Preschool Program Standards (Registrations for the first three sessions represents 29 Year-Two awarded districts. A total of 517 registrations have been received.)
  - AEAs provided follow-up sessions to each ICN session (State professional development funds (Teacher Quality appropriation) were allocated to AEAs for this purpose.)
- Creative Curriculum training provided in each AEA
- Two ICN sessions regarding Application development for those planning to apply for 2009-2010 funding will be provided
- Two teleconferences regarding Application rules and requirements for those planning to apply for 2009-2010 funding will be provided

**Program Monitoring by the DE**

- *Iowa Quality Preschool Program Standards Verification Visits* with 2007-2008 district grantees implementing IQPPS
  - Fifty-one districts scheduled for site visits between October 2008 and April 2009  
Note: ALL community preschools partnering with districts are included in the verification visit. This includes any new partners added to Year 1 (2007-2008) District Grantees to assure implementation of quality preschool programs.
- Confirmation process developed to assure the implementation of other preschool program standards including National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) Accreditation and Head Start Program Performance Standards
- School Improvement consultants monitoring the program assurances/requirements during School Improvement Site Visits for districts awarded in 2008-2009
- Currently developing a data system to monitor the progress of district program implementation

### **Iowa Quality Preschool Program Standards (IQPPS) Verification Information**

- The IQPPS are comprised of all 10 NAEYC standards and approximately 45% of the criteria.
- The IQPPS is designed to be a continuous improvement process to culminate with accreditation from NAEYC.
- AEA Early Childhood Consultants are integrated in the Verification Visits that are not in their specific AEA. (Facilitates statewide training and professional development consistency statewide.)
- Elements of Verification Visits mirror School Improvement Visits including the overview, interview, document review, and summary meeting.

### **Iowa Quality Preschool Program Verification Visits**

Verification Visits for the IQPPS began in October 2008 for districts awarded preschool funds the prior school year of 2007-2008. Districts are required to meet Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program assurances and IQPPS “required criteria” within 30 days of the visit and 85% of other criteria for each standard within one year of the visit.

Note. Completed 26 visits as of January 30, 2009.

### **Department Revision of Application and Technical Assistance Guidance**

- Revised Application forms to assist districts in estimating the number of preschool children. Included kindergarten enrollment analysis and justification to assist in accurately estimating the number of children
- Revised Application for weighting poverty and verifying partnerships
- Aligned revised Application with scoring rubric and forms provided in the Technical Assistance Guidance Manual
- Collected and analyzed data from readers and used the data to improve the Application reading process
- Revised application timeline allowing grant awards to occur earlier in May
- Added screening process prior to grant application deadline for districts to meet submission requirements

### **AEA professional development**

- Education Appropriations bill (HF 2679) supported funds for professional development
- DE developed application process for AEAs to prioritize use of professional development
- DE and AEA coordinated professional development training and follow-up
- Funding focused on three priorities:
  1. Support professional development for Creative Curriculum and IQPPS
  2. Build capacity of AEA staff to sustain a system of support
  3. Provide districts professional development and follow-up/technical assistance for preschool programs

## **Positive impacts of the Preschool Program as reported by districts**

Increased the following:

- Access to quality preschools
- Number of licensed teachers in early childhood
- Quality of programming, curriculum, and assessments
- Collaboration among teaching staff
- Collaboration between public schools and communities
- Integration of special needs children
- Family involvement, at a higher level of quality
- Opportunities for appropriate quality professional development

## **Challenges of the Preschool Program as reported by districts**

- Meeting playground requirements
- Meeting associate teacher requirements
  - Some areas of the state do not offer needed courses
  - Pay rate of associates does not support the additional education requirements
  - Veteran associates do not always desire to continue their education
- Meeting assessment requirements
  - Connecting assessment to lesson planning and individualized teaching
  - Communicating assessment and curriculum connection to parents
- Maintaining established and building new collaborative agreements with community preschools
- Availability of qualified teachers in certain areas of the state