

PRESCHOOL: SUCCESS **STARTS** HERE

High-quality public preschool is one of the best investments the public can make in education. Iowa's public and private schools have dramatically expanded access to high-quality preschools, thanks to the commitment of Iowans to this effort. **We support providing full funding for the Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program for students at or below 185% of the federal poverty level.**

Why Preschool Matters

Learning gaps begin before kindergarten

A great preschool program can benefit any child. But early learning efforts are especially important to ensure the success of low-income students, who often start behind their more affluent peers.



90%

Before age five, 90% of a child's brain develops



30 million

Low-income children hear up to 30 million fewer words than their more affluent peers before entering school



Nine vs. 22

By age five, a typical middle-class child recognizes 22 letters compared to nine for a child in a low-income family



76%

In households with children under the age of 6, 76% have all available parents working. This puts Iowa in the top 3 states for most available parents working (*United Way*).

Adapted from the Annie E. Casey Foundation

\$1 Spent = up to \$17 in Benefit

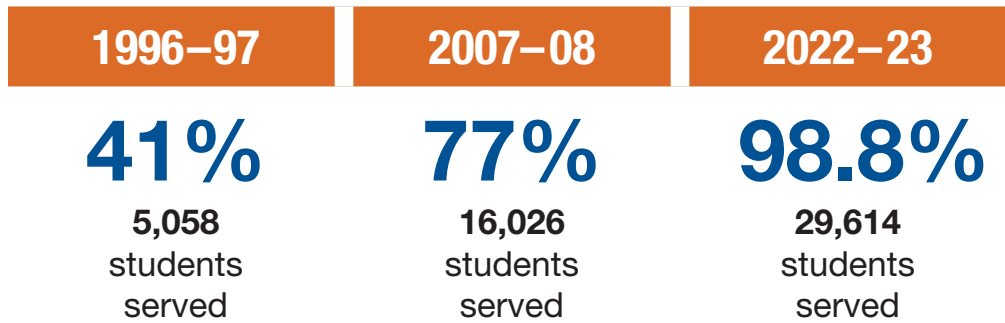
Children benefit from increased earnings in adulthood, while the public sees returns in the form of reduced special education, welfare, and crime costs, and increased tax revenues from participants later in life.

*Iowa Department of Education
Statewide Voluntary Preschool
Program for Four-Year-Old Children
Fact Sheet—Summer 2023*



Preschool in Iowa Schools: By the Numbers

Percent of Iowa Districts Offering Preschool



Community Support

264

community partners work with public school districts on Iowa's statewide voluntary preschool program

Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program for Four-Year-Old Children Fact Sheet—Summer 2023, Iowa Department of Education

Why Full-Day Preschool Matters

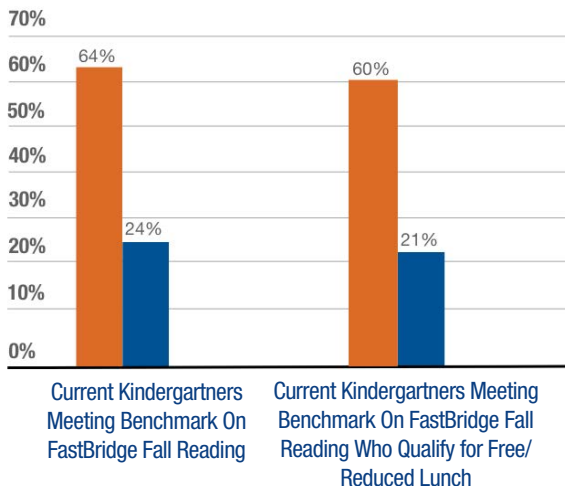
Western Dubuque Schools
GOLD Observational
Assessment Outcomes

	Fall Checkpoint	Summer Checkpoint
Social Emotional	49.35%	88.36%
Physical	68.39%	91.19%
Language	65.81%	88.36%
Cognitive	61.61%	90.25%
Literacy	62.90%	92.77%
Math	47.42%	90.25%

Percentage of students enrolled in full-day preschool who met educational expectations by the end of the 2023–24 school year.

Preschool Prepares Students for School and Success in the Future

Reading Ready Kindergartners



Fifth Graders Without Preschool Don't Catch Up

Reading: DMPS

39%

Reading: No Preschool

27%

Reading Ready Fifth Graders

Special thanks to Des Moines Public Schools (DMPS) for providing their comprehensive student data