

News Release

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IASB Statement on Gov. Reynolds Preschool Plan

January 14, 2025—Governor Kim Reynolds delivered her annual Condition of the State address tonight. She outlined her proposal to increase access to preschool by establishing an Early Childhood "Continuum of Care" program to provide grants to preschool programs and childcare providers that work together to ensure a full day of education and care for students.

We know that the lack of wraparound services is what prevents many students from taking advantage of high-quality preschool, so we are excited to see the governor's attention to eliminating this barrier for students and parents.

IASB, along with our partners at SAI, the Iowa Catholic Conference and Iowa Christian Schools, have prioritized increased funding for the Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program for several years, and we will continue to do so.

While her proposal isn't exactly what we've been advocating for, we appreciate the governor bringing the issue of access to preschool to the forefront of her priorities this legislative session. We know the list of benefits provided by a high-quality preschool experience for students, and near the top of the list is that preschool is essential for young learners to become proficient readers.

Our members have voiced their strong support for preschool, and we look forward to working with Governor Reynolds and the lowa Legislature on this important issue.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact IASB Government Relations Director Michelle Johnson at mjohnson@ia-sb.org or IASB Lobbyist Emily Piper at epiper@ia-sb.org.