

4,500 More Kids Eligible for Preschool

In another effort to boost student achievement at Iowa's K-12 schools, 4,500 more four-year olds will have access to quality pre-school as a result of the grants school districts will be receiving. This brings the total number of four-year olds attending preschool under this program to an estimated total of 21,354 children in 326 Iowa school districts.

This is the final installment in the four-year old preschool program approved by the Legislature and signed by the Governor in 2007. The intent is to provide quality preschool to all Iowa's eligible four-year old children.

Local programs are provided through a collaborative effort between school districts, community organizations and other partners. Program standards are outlined and a certified teacher must be providing the instruction in the classrooms.

National research shows children who attend a quality preschool begin school with better language, math, and social skills. The opportunity to attend a quality preschool also pays off in later years. Research shows that those students who attended a quality pre-school were less likely to drop out of school, repeat grades, or get into trouble with the law.

More information about Iowa's Four-Year Old Preschool program can be found on the Iowa Department of Education's website at www.iowa.gov/educate.