Preschool Attendance Policy

Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program

Compulsory Attendance

According to research accumulated by Attendance Works and the Child & Family Policy Center, regular attendance in preschool impacts kindergarten readiness, literacy skills, and future attendance patterns.

A four-year-old child enrolled in the Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program (SWVPP) is of compulsory attendance age unless the child’s parent submits written notice to the district of the intent to remove the child from the program (Iowa Code 299.1A). This allows districts to remove children not regularly attending from the program’s enrollment roster. It is also intended to offer districts language to promote and communicate an expectation of consistent attendance in the preschool program.

Districts are encouraged to clearly communicate the SWVPP program schedule and expectations for attendance at the time of registration and enrollment. Inform families of local attendance policies, including potential consequences for unexcused absences. Record attendance and include this information in the district's state reporting.

For information about the Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program for Four-Year-Old Children, contact Jennifer Adkins at (515) 954-5552 or jennifer.adkins@iowa.gov, or Mary Breyfogle at (515) 326-1030 or mary.breyfogle@iowa.gov.