

Policy ID: 4.10	Title: Preschool Tuition Scholarship Program Criteria	Date Approved: 6/14/2016
Effective Date: 7/1/2016	Approved by: DHLW Early Childhood Area Board	
Revised: 4-14-2020, May 2021, Pending action on August 19 th 2025		

Policy: Preschool programs receiving tuition scholarship funds shall meet quality standards as identified by the DHLW+M Board.

Bylaw/ECI Regulation: Tool O – *Early Care and Education Scholarships* service type

Purpose: The Preschool Tuition Scholarship Program provides assistance to low-income families with a child(ren) age 3-5 years attending a preschool that meets DHLW+M identified quality standards. Scholarships are awarded based on requirements identified in ECI Tool O. Requirements include income level, availability of scholarship funds, and eligibility of other available resources. Scholarships are paid directly to the approved preschool program and shall not exceed \$200 per month per scholarship recipient. Families do not receive direct payments and are responsible for any tuition costs that exceed the maximum scholarship amount

Scope: This policy applies to preschool programs that receive tuition reimbursements for children attending the program and approved for a scholarship by the Preschool Scholarship Program Coordinator.

Responsibilities: The contracting agency receiving DHLW+M funding for the purpose of implementing the Preschool Tuition Scholarship Program is responsible for assuring that quality standards are met by participating preschools. The DHLW Board is responsible for determining quality standards and authorizing waivers in the event that special circumstances arise. The contracting agency may not authorize waivers to quality criteria.

Definitions: Contracting Agency – The organization that receives funding from DHLW+M to implement the Preschool Tuition Scholarship Program.
Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program (SVPP) – Four-year-old no cost preschool program meeting Iowa Department of Education standards and implemented by a local CSD or a community-based partner.
Preschool Scholarship Program Coordinator – Staff person assigned by the contracting agency to supervise and implement the scholarship program.

Required criteria: Preschool programs participating in the Preschool Tuition Scholarship Program must meet one of the following quality standards:

- a) NAEYC accreditation
- b) Head Start standards
- c) QPPS Quality Preschool Program Standards
- d) IQ4K completed rating OR verification that an application is in process with active progress toward completion. Verification may include written confirmation from Consultants.

In the event of a new preschool opening a grace period of one year may be granted upon request from the new preschool. The request will be reviewed by the DHLW+M Director and the Preschool Scholarship Program Coordinator and placed on the DHLW+M agenda.