



**Preschool Scholarship Program
Information & Application
2023-2024**

Thank you for your interest in our Preschool Scholarship Program. State tax dollars are allocated to Cedar and Jones counties through Cedar/Jones Early Childhood Iowa to help support children and their families when they choose high quality early education for their child. Scholarships allow for access to financial assistance to help offset costs associated with preschool education.

To apply for a Preschool Scholarship, complete the attached 2023-2024 application and send the application and **a most recent copy of the first two pages of Federal Income Tax Returns for all individuals supporting the household** to the Preschool Scholarship Manager. Only the current application completed in its entirety will be accepted.

ELIGIBILITY:

- Your child will be 3, 4, or 5 years of age as of September 15th, 2023.
- Your child lives in Cedar or Jones County or within the boundaries of the Anamosa, Bennett, Durant, Midland, Monticello, North Cedar, Olin, Tipton, and West Branch School Districts.
- Children living outside of Cedar or Jones County must first apply for a preschool scholarship from the county of residence before determination will be made.
- Your child attends or will attend a high-quality participating preschool.
- Your family meets income guidelines. Please note that this is gross annual income and includes salary/wages/stipends, unemployment benefits, SSI, FIP, Social Security, Child Support, Veteran's benefits, and direct student loans.
- Your child is in Foster Care warranted through the Iowa Department of Human Services.
- You agree to completed Ages and Stages Screenings on your child.

ATTENDANCE: Preschool attendance will be monitored by the school and reported to the Preschool Scholarship Program Manager monthly. At least 85% attendance will be required for participation in the scholarship program. If the child is sick and misses school, these days will not be included in the 85% attendance requirement if a written doctor's excuse is provided.

If attendance falls below 85%, one warning will be given to parents by program management. The second time attendance falls below 85%, the child may be terminated from the scholarship program and not be allowed to re-enter during the current school year. Full preschool tuition will then be the responsibility of the parent/guardian.

SCREENINGS: Families receiving a Preschool Scholarship will be required to complete Ages & Stages Developmental and Social/Emotional Screenings for their child. By submitting this application, you are agreeing to complete two different screenings for your child. The screening tools will be sent out with scholarship award letters and need to be returned prior to receiving a scholarship.

The Ages and Stages Questionnaire-3 addresses your child's development including areas of communication, gross motor, fine motor, problem solving, and personal social skills. You will be asked questions about some things your child can and cannot do.

The Ages and Stages Questionnaire – Social/Emotional-2 addresses social-emotional development. Social-emotional development within the first few years of life prepares your child to be confident, trusting, curious, and able to develop positive relationships with others. Your child's positive social-emotional development forms a foundation for learning throughout life.

Was the child was born 3 or more weeks premature? If so, please note the # of weeks premature below. This will help us determine the appropriate questionnaire for you to complete. _____

Have you previously completed an ASQ:3 or ASQ:SE2 for your child? _____Yes_____No

Has your child been evaluated for developmental or social/emotional concerns?_____Yes____No

If so, has your child received developmental services such as Early Intervention through Early Access, IEP Services through your local school district, or private therapy? ?_____Yes_____No

PAYMENT: Scholarships will only be paid to preschools within Cedar and Jones counties meeting program guidelines. The Cedar/Jones Early Childhood Iowa Board will review exception requests to Preschool Scholarship policies upon individual requests.

If your child is awarded a scholarship, payment will be made directly to the preschool. A co-payment may be required by the preschool and will be the responsibility of the parent/guardian.

Applications for Preschool Scholarships will not be considered until a completed application and most recent copies of Federal Income Tax Returns for all individuals supporting the household income has been received.

Applications (pages 3-4) should be returned to and questions directed to:

Sherri Hunt
Preschool Scholarship Manager
Cedar/Jones Early Childhood Iowa
24594 110th Street
Anamosa, IA 52205

sherri.hunt@jonescountyiowa.gov
(319) 551-3402

The following table outlines 2023 Federal Poverty Guidelines. Requirements for Preschool

Scholarships are for eligible children at their families at 250% or below Federal Poverty Guidelines.

Persons in family or household	2023 poverty guidelines (100% of poverty)	125% of poverty	130% of poverty	150% of poverty	185% of poverty	200% of poverty	250% of poverty
1	\$14,580	\$18,225	\$18,954	\$21,870	\$26,973	\$29,160	\$36,450
2	\$19,720	\$24,650	\$25,636	\$29,580	\$36,482	\$39,440	\$49,300
3	\$24,860	\$31,075	\$32,318	\$37,290	\$45,991	\$49,720	\$62,150
4	\$30,000	\$37,500	\$39,000	\$45,000	\$55,500	\$60,000	\$75,000
5	\$35,140	\$43,925	\$45,682	\$52,710	\$65,009	\$70,280	\$87,850
6	\$40,280	\$50,350	\$52,364	\$60,420	\$74,518	\$80,560	\$100,700
7	\$45,420	\$56,775	\$59,046	\$68,130	\$84,027	\$90,840	\$113,550
8	\$50,560	\$63,200	\$65,728	\$75,840	\$93,536	\$101,120	\$126,400
For each additional person add	\$5,140	\$6,425	\$6,682	\$7,710	\$9,509	\$10,280	\$12,850

*Children at or below 100% of poverty could be eligible for Head Start and need to contact the Head Start Center nearest to their home. Preschool Scholarship funds are to avoid duplication of services and funds with other preschool programming including Head Start.



2023-2024 Preschool Scholarship Application

Date: _____

Child's Name: _____

Child's Date of Birth: _____

Child's Age: (as of September 15, 2023) 3 or 4 or 5 yrs. old (Circle One)

Male or Female (Circle One) Is the Child Hispanic/Latino: Yes No

Race of Child: Black or African American Asian White Multiracial
American Indian/Alaskan Native Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander

School district in which child resides: _____

County in which child resides: _____

Preschool Name _____ Number of days per week: _____

Child's Primary Caregivers Name: _____

Relationship to Child: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip Code: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email: _____

Marital Status: Married Single Widowed Partnered Divorced Separated

Education Level: Middle School or Lower Some High School HS Diploma GED
Some College 2-Year College Degree Trade or Vocational Training
4 Year College Degree Master's Degree or Higher

List all other individuals who live in your home:

Name (First, Last)

Relationship to child (applicant)

Employer

Name (First, Last)	Relationship to child (applicant)	Employer

Total number of adults living in the home: _____

Total number of children living in the home: _____

Documentation of income must be included with this application (pages 4 and 5) or the application will not be processed until the necessary documentation has been received.

If a Federal Income Tax Return is not available, documentation will be required for all forms of income. Please contact the Preschool Scholarship Program Manager for further information.

By signing below, you agree to the terms of participation in the Preschool Scholarship Program including attendance, co-payment requirements, completion of screening tools, and release of information to Cedar/Jones Early Childhood Iowa for program data collection and reporting. You are also stating that all above information is correct and all information relevant to the processing of this application has been disclosed. Individual personal information will be kept confidential.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date