

PRESCHOOL PROGRAM PARTNERSHIPS

How Head Start and Statewide Voluntary Preschool Support Dual Enrollment for Head Start Children

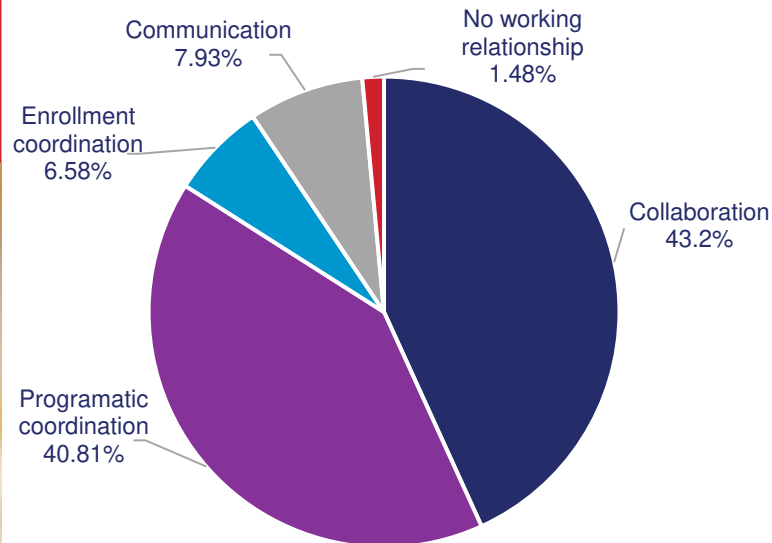
A [recent report](#)¹ using I2D2 showed that over half of Iowa Head Start (HS) children simultaneously enrolled in Iowa's Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program (SWVPP) the year before kindergarten. Furthermore, this study demonstrated that **dual enrollment is linked to better academic and social-emotional skills at the end of the preschool year**, suggesting that a full-time schedule has the potential to improve children's learning compared to part-time attendance.

The current data brief explores whether strong partnerships between Head Start and Iowa's Public School Districts (who run the SWVPP) are a pathway to increase enrollment into both programs for Head Start children.

There are five increasing levels of collaboration among programs:

- (1) No working relationship,
- (2) communication,
- (3) enrollment coordination,
- (4) programmatic coordination, and
- (5) collaboration.

Collaboration Among Head Start Grantees



52% of HS children are also enrolled in SWVPP

Only two-thirds of HS children were in programs that had strong partnerships with the child's school district

Children in HS programs with strong partnerships in their school district were 48 times more likely to also be enrolled in SWVPP

Main Takeaways

- 1) Iowa children and families could benefit from access to full-time care, particularly our Head Start eligible families, but our programs do not currently have capacity to serve full-time.
- 2) A well-established partnership between HS and SWVPP is an opportunity to serve low-income families more broadly, beyond what each one can do independently².

This brief is provided by I2D2, a partnership among Iowa State University and Early Childhood Iowa committed to putting the state's most informed, passionate, and data-driven resources to work ensuring all Iowa children are successful from birth. For more information about the findings presented here, please scan the QR code below or visit i2d2.iastate.edu

¹ Rouse, H.L., Choi, J.Y., Betancur, L. (2022). [Early Childhood Iowa Longitudinal Study Addendum 1: Experiences of Children Attending Head Start](#). Report prepared for the Iowa Head Start Association, Des Moines, IA.

² Bassok, D. (2012). Competition or collaboration? Head Start enrollment during the rapid expansion of state prekindergarten. *Educational Policy*, 26(1), 96-116. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0895904811428973>

