

Preschool Ratio and Class Size Maximum by Program Standards

Introduction

The Iowa Department of Education supports quality learning opportunities and environments for young children by developing, implementing, and monitoring preschool programs and services. Iowa's school districts and their community partners operating Statewide Voluntary Preschool Programs (SWVPP), Shared Visions, and classrooms providing Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE) instructional services must meet one of the three approved preschool program standards listed below. The preschool ratios and class size maximums are required to be maintained across all delivery models of onsite, hybrid, and continuous learning.

Head Start Program Performance Standards

1302.21 Center-based option.

(3) A class that serves a majority of children who are three years old must have no more than 17 children with a teacher and teaching assistant or two teachers. A double session class that serves a majority of children who are three years old must have no more than 15 children with a teacher and teaching assistant or two teachers.

(4) A class that serves a majority of children who are four and five years old must have no more than 20 children with a teacher and a teaching assistant or two teachers. A double session class that serves a majority of children who are four and five years old must have no more than 17 children with a teacher and a teaching assistant or two teachers.

Age Category	Teacher Child Ratio	Maximum Class Size*
3 - year old	2:17	17 Note: No more than 15 children enrolled in any double class
4 and 5 - year old	2:20	20 Note: No more than 17 children enrolled in any double class.

NAEYC Accreditation

Assessment Item 10B.8

Program staff maintain a developmentally appropriate class size (20) in preschool classrooms and other indoor settings.

Age Category	Teacher Child Ratio	Maximum Class Size*
Preschool (3-5 year olds)	1:10	20

* *Shared Visions preschool programs must maintain a teacher-child ratio of not less than one staff member per eight children regardless of the maximum class size. For example, if a program enrolls 17 or more children in one classroom, three staff members would be required to maintain the ratio of 1:8 for Shared Visions.*

Iowa Quality Preschool Program Standards

Criterion 10.4

Written procedures address the maintenance of developmentally appropriate teaching staff-child ratios and maximum class size to facilitate adult-child interaction and constructive activity among children. Teaching staff-child ratio and maximum class size identified are maintained during all hours of operation, including: Indoor time, Outdoor time, and; During transportation and field trips (when transporting children, teacher-child ratio is used as a guide).

Age Category	Teacher Child Ratio	Maximum Class Size*
Preschool (3-5 year olds)	1:10	20

Note: Class size is the maximum number regardless of the number of staff.