

Governor Chet Culver announced that Washington CSD was one of 48 school districts in Iowa to receive state funds for 2008-2009 under the Statewide Voluntary Pre-school Program for four-year-olds.

Washington was one of 161 school districts to apply for the competitive state grant. The Iowa Department of Education selected school districts to receive funding based on several criteria. Priority was given to high-poverty districts currently without preschool programs. Also considered were collaborative efforts with community early childhood partners and district size.

The readers of the grant commented that our grant showed “great use of community preschools and a great plan to increase the quality in those preschools”.

The Y Preschool, Washington Preschool, Kingdom Kids Preschool, St James Preschool, and the district agreed to provide at least 10 hours a week of quality preschool instruction, have an appropriately licensed teacher, one teacher for every ten students, or licensed teacher and certified para educator for no more than a class of 20 students, make provisions for integration, and each site agreed to adopt and meet Preschool Program Standards that include Iowa Quality Preschool Program Standards.

The central vision of the Washington Community grant includes parents being able to continue to select their preschool, and expand the opportunity for the children in our community to have access to quality preschool environments and enter school ready to learn.