Louisiana operates three state-funded preschool initiatives. Louisiana began providing preschool education services in 1988 through the Model Early Childhood Program but matching annual appropriations for this program ended in 1993. Some local school districts then began using the 8(g) Student Enhancement Block Grant Program to offer preschool programs to at-risk 4-year-olds. By the 2009-2010 school year, nearly all districts in the state were offering preschool education programs using 8(g) Student Enhancement Block Grants. The program is available to children who are at risk of being “insufficiently ready for the regular school program,” with priority being given to children from low-income families. As part of the LA8(g) Annual Report, this program was evaluated for both process quality and program impact/child outcomes.

The state established the Cecil J. Picard LA4 Early Childhood Program (formerly LA4 and Starting Points) in 2001. This program is available in almost all school districts in Louisiana, as well as in 15 charter schools. In addition to providing 6 hours of regular instruction per day, the program also offers up to 4 hours of before- and after-school care. Eligibility is granted to 4-year-olds who qualify for free or reduced-price lunch, though children from families with higher incomes also may also attend using local funds or tuition. The LA4 program was subject to budget cuts both before and during the 2009-2010 program year, which resulted in a reduced per-pupil allocation from the previous year. Due to recent reorganization at the Department of Education, a greater emphasis will be placed on literacy instruction and kindergarten readiness. During the 2008-2009 school year, the initiative was evaluated for both process quality and program impact/child outcomes.

The Nonpublic Schools Early Childhood Development Program (NSECD) also was established in 2001 with the goal of providing tuition reimbursement to families with incomes below 200 percent of the federal poverty level that send their 4-year-olds to qualifying preschools. Programs must be state-approved, privately run preschools that provide at least 6 hours of regular instruction per day and up to 4 hours of before- and after-school care. This program was evaluated for both process quality and program impact/child outcomes, including as part of the Comprehensive Five-Year Longitudinal Study.

In 2008, the state mandated voluntary preschool access for all 4-year-olds regardless of income by the 2013-2014 program year. The Department of Education began coordinating with the Department of Social Services during the 2008-2009 program year to create a professional development plan which would permit cross-agency technical assistance and training. As of the 2009-2010 program year, school districts are required to allocate at least 10 percent of new funding to providing programs in diverse delivery settings.

In addition, Louisiana school districts used more than $30 million in Title I funding to support preschool services for more than 7,300 students in the 2009-2010 program year beyond those served in the LA4, LA(8)g, and NSCED programs. The Department of Education is currently drafting guidelines for an LA3 program.

To document the contributions Louisiana makes to prekindergarten, we first present summary information reflecting the state’s overall commitment through enrollment and state spending for all three programs. We then present specific details about the 8(g) program, the Cecil J. Picard LA4 Early Childhood program, and the NSECD program.
STATE OVERVIEW

Total state program enrollment: 20,348
Total state spending: $95,757,442
State spending per child enrolled: $4,706
All reported spending per child enrolled*: $4,804

* Pre-K programs may receive additional funds from federal or local sources that are not included in this figure.

**Head Start per-child spending for the 2009-2010 year includes funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

***K–12 expenditures include capital spending as well as current operating expenditures.

Data are for the ’09-’10 school year, unless otherwise noted.

SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>3-YEAR-OLDS</th>
<th>4-YEAR-OLDS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LA PGMS*</td>
<td>$4,804</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HDST**</td>
<td></td>
<td>$8,054</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K–12***</td>
<td></td>
<td>$12,560</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* State Contributions  ** Federal Contributions  † Special Ed†  ✂ Other/None

Access Rankings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>4-YEAR-OLDS</th>
<th>3-YEAR-OLDS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>None Served</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Resources Rankings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State Spending</th>
<th>All Reported Spending</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
LOUISIANA 8(g) STUDENT ENHANCEMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM

ACCESS

Total state program enrollment ............................................3,178
School districts that offer state program ..................................97%
Income requirement ...............................................................None¹
Hours of operation .................................................................6 hours/day, 5 days/week²
Operating schedule ...............................................................Academic year
Special education enrollment ..................................................5,209
Federally funded Head Start enrollment .........................20,528
State-funded Head Start enrollment ..................................0

Statespanning per child enrolled .................................. $4,304
All reported spending per child enrolled* ...................... $4,304

1 The state does not set specific income eligibility criteria but stipulates that
priority be given to children from low-income families.
2 Programs must offer at least 63,720 minutes of instructional time per year. Most
districts operate 5 days/week.
3 Teacher assistants must also have extended experiences assuming responsibility
and care of children younger than age 5, possess oral and written communication
skills, and meet other district requirements for employment.

QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>POLICY</th>
<th>STATE PRE-K REQUIREMENT</th>
<th>BENCHMARK</th>
<th>DOES REQUIREMENT MEET BENCHMARK?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Early learning standards ..........</td>
<td>Comprehensive ..........</td>
<td>Comprehensive</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher degree ......................</td>
<td>BA ..........</td>
<td>BA</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher specialized training ......</td>
<td>Certification in Nursery,</td>
<td>Specializing in pre-K,</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Pre-K–3, Early Intervention,</td>
<td>Noncategorical preschool handicapped</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assistant teacher degree ..........</td>
<td>HSD³, CDA or equivalent</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher in-service .................</td>
<td>150 clock hours/5 years</td>
<td>At least 15 hours/year</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maximum class size .................</td>
<td>20 or lower</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3-year-olds ..........................</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4-year-olds ..........................</td>
<td>20</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff-child ratio ....................</td>
<td>1:10 or better</td>
<td></td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3-year-olds ..........................</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4-year-olds ..........................</td>
<td>1:10</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Screening/referral ..................</td>
<td>Health, developmental screening; 4 Vision, hearing, health; and</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>and support services ..........</td>
<td>at least 1 support service</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>and support services ⁴ ..........</td>
<td>Breakfast, lunch and snack</td>
<td>At least 1/day</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meals ..................................</td>
<td>Site visits and other monitoring</td>
<td>Site visits</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monitoring ...........................</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

RESOURCES

Total state pre-K spending ............................................ $13,679,635
Local match required? ...............................................................No
State spending per child enrolled ......................... $4,304
All reported spending per child enrolled* ...................... $4,304

1 Developmental screening is conducted to determine which children are potentially
eligible and to plan an appropriate program. Vision, hearing, dental, and general
physical health screenings are determined at the local level. The 8(g) program
follows the referral process and policies established by the state Board of
Elementary and Secondary Education.
2 Support services include education or support services for parents, parenting
support or training, parent involvement activities, health services for children,
information about nutrition, referral to social services, and transition to
kindergarten activities. The number of required annual parent conferences or
home visits is determined locally.

Footnotes:
¹ This is an estimate of children in special education
who are not enrolled in state-funded pre-K or Head Start.
² This is an estimate of children enrolled in Head Start
who are not enrolled in state-funded pre-K or Head Start.
³ Teachers must also have extended experiences assuming responsibility
and care of children younger than age 5, possess oral and written communication
skills, and meet other district requirements for employment.

POLICY STATE PRE-K BENCHMARK DOES REQUIREMENT MEET BENCHMARK?

Early learning standards .............................................. Comprehensive
Teacher degree ................................................................. BA
Teacher specialized training ............................................. Specializing in pre-K
Pre-K–3, Early Intervention,
Noncategorical preschool handicapped
Assistant teacher degree .................................................. CDA or equivalent
Teacher in-service ......................................................... 150 clock hours/5 years
Maximum class size ....................................................... 20 or lower
3-year-olds ................................................................. NA
4-year-olds ................................................................. 20
Staff-child ratio ............................................................. 1:10 or better
3-year-olds ................................................................. NA
4-year-olds ................................................................. 1:10
Screening/referral ......................................................... Health, developmental screening; 4 Vision, hearing, health; and
and support services .......... and support services ⁴ at least 1 support service
Meals ................................................................. Breakfast, lunch and snack
Monitoring ........................... Site visits and other monitoring

RESOURCE BENCHMARKS MET

STATE PRE-K AND HEAD START ENROLLMENT AS PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL POPULATION

178%
11%
21%
5%
25%
2%
14%
2%
52%

3-YEAR-OLDS
4-YEAR-OLDS

SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED

LA 8(g)*
HDST**
K–12***

$ THOUSANDS

State Contributions
Federal Contributions
Local Contributions
TANF Spending

Data are for the ‘09–‘10 school year, unless otherwise noted.
CECIL J. PICARD LA4 EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAM

ACCESS

Total state program enrollment ...............................15,856
School districts that offer state program ....................92%
Income requirement ................................................185% FPL
Hours of operation ..................................................6 hours/day, 5 days/week
Operating schedule ................................................Academic year
Special education enrollment ....................................5,209
Federally funded Head Start enrollment ....................20,528
State-funded Head Start enrollment ..........................0

Total state pre-K spending ....................................$74,577,807
Local match required? ..............................................No
States spending per child enrolled ..........................$4,703
All reported spending per child enrolled* ....................$4,830

STATE PRE-K AND HEAD START ENROLLMENT AS PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL POPULATION

POLICY STATE PRE-K REQUIREMENT BENCHMARK DOES REQUIREMENT MEET BENCHMARK?

Early learning standards ........................................Comprehensive ........ Comprehensive ✓
Teacher degree .........................................................BA .......... BA ✓
Teacher specialized ................ Certification in Nursery, Pre-K –3, .......... Specializing in pre-K ✓
training Early Intervention, or Noncategorical Preschool Handicapped
Assistant teacher degree ............................................HSD .......... CDA or equivalent
Teacher in-service .............................................. 18 clock hours ...... At least 15 hours/year ✓
Maximum class size ...........................................20 or lower
3-year-olds .......................................................... NA
4-year-olds ..........................................................20
Staff-child ratio .......................................................1:10 or better
3-year-olds .......................................................... NA
4-year-olds ..........................................................1:10
Screening/referral ......................................................Vision, hearing, health, .......... Vision, hearing, health; and ✓
and support services developmental; and support services at least 1 support service ✓
Meals .............................................................. Lunch and snack .......... At least 1/day ✓
Monitoring ..................................................Site visits and other monitoring ......Site visits ✓

RESOURCES

Total state pre-K spending ....................................$74,577,807
Local match required? ..............................................No
State spending per child enrolled .............................$4,703
All reported spending per child enrolled* ....................$4,830

The state-funded enrollment total does not include 513 tuition-paying students from families with incomes above the income requirement, or 1,927 children funded through other sources who attend LA4 classes.

* Pre-K programs may receive additional funds from federal or local sources that are not included in this figure.

** Head Start per-child spending for the 2009-2010 year includes funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

*** K-12 expenditures include capital spending as well as current operating expenditures.

Data are for the '09-'10 school year, unless otherwise noted.

1 Dental and mental health screening and referral are determined locally. Support services include two parent conferences, education services or job training for parents, parenting support or training, parent involvement activities, health services for children, information about nutrition, referral to social services, transition to kindergarten activities, GED and literacy training for parents, and housing/utility referrals.

2 This spending allocation also includes funds for the before- and after-school enrichment program. This amount includes $28,000,000 in TANF funds.
LOUISIANA NON-PUBLIC SCHOOLS EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (NSECD)

ACCESS

Total state program enrollment ........................................... 1,314
School districts that offer state program .......... 100% (parishes)
Income requirement .......................................................... 200% FPL
Hours of operation .......................................................... 10 hours/day, 5 days/week
Operating schedule ......................................................... Academic year
Special education enrollment ........................................... 5,209
Federally funded Head Start enrollment ................. 20,528
State-funded Head Start enrollment ......................... 0

QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

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<tr>
<td>Teacher degree</td>
<td>BA</td>
<td>BA</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher specialized</td>
<td>Certification in Pre-K–3, Pre-K, Specializing in pre-K</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Training</td>
<td>Early Intervention, N, Noncategorical Preschool Handicapped</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assistant teacher degree</td>
<td>CDA</td>
<td>CDA or equivalent</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher in-service</td>
<td>18 clock hours</td>
<td>At least 15 hours/year</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maximum class size</td>
<td>20 or lower</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3-year-olds</td>
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<td>4-year-olds</td>
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<tr>
<td>Screening/referral</td>
<td>Vision, hearing, health; and support services</td>
<td>at least 1 support service</td>
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<td>Meals</td>
<td>Breakfast, lunch and snack</td>
<td>At least 1/day</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monitoring</td>
<td>Site visits and other monitoring</td>
<td>Site visits</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

RESOURCES

Total state pre-K spending ........................................... $7,500,000
Local match required? .................................................. No
State spending per child enrolled ......................... $5,708
All reported spending per child enrolled* .......... $5,708

* Pre-K programs may receive additional funds from federal or local sources that are not included in this figure.
** Head Start per-child spending for the 2009-2010 year includes funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).
*** K-12 expenditures include capital spending as well as current operating expenditures.

Data are for the 09-10 school year, unless otherwise noted.

1 Incumbent or new NSECD teachers must be certified in early childhood or working toward certification; those not already certified must have passed the Praxis I and taken all prerequisites to enroll in a Pre-K–3 or Early Intervention alternate certification program. They must continually be enrolled and complete certification within three years of their hire date in order to continue as an NSECD teacher. Teachers who begin with an Elementary Education certificate must become an Early Childhood certified teacher by either taking the Praxis II or completing 12 hours of coursework within three years of their hire date.
2 Incumbent assistant teachers must be enrolled in a CDA program and maintain enrollment until completion of the program.

1 Incumbent or new NSECD teachers must be certified in early childhood or working toward certification; those not already certified must have passed the Praxis I and taken all prerequisites to enroll in a Pre-K–3 or Early Intervention alternate certification program. They must continually be enrolled and complete certification within three years of their hire date in order to continue as an NSECD teacher. Teachers who begin with an Elementary Education certificate must become an Early Childhood certified teacher by either taking the Praxis II or completing 12 hours of coursework within three years of their hire date.
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2 Incumbent assistant teachers must be enrolled in a CDA program and maintain enrollment until completion of the program.

1 Incumbent or new NSECD teachers must be certified in early childhood or working toward certification; those not already certified must have passed the Praxis I and taken all prerequisites to enroll in a Pre-K–3 or Early Intervention alternate certification program. They must continually be enrolled and complete certification within three years of their hire date in order to continue as an NSECD teacher. Teachers who begin with an Elementary Education certificate must become an Early Childhood certified teacher by either taking the Praxis II or completing 12 hours of coursework within three years of their hire date.
2 Incumbent assistant teachers must be enrolled in a CDA program and maintain enrollment until completion of the program.