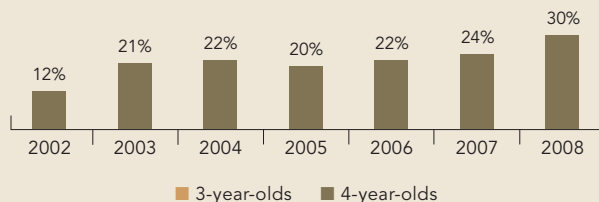
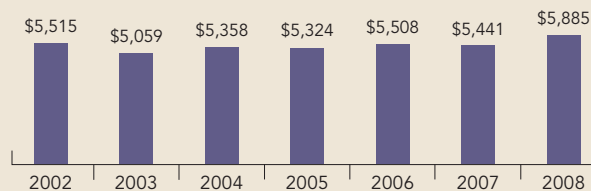


Louisiana

PERCENT OF STATE POPULATION ENROLLED



STATE SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED
(2008 DOLLARS)



Louisiana currently operates three state-funded preschool initiatives. The state first offered prekindergarten in 1988 through the Model Early Childhood program. In 1993, when the state discontinued annual appropriations to the initiative, local school districts began using the 8(g) Student Enhancement Block Grant program to provide preschool for at-risk children. All Louisiana school districts currently offer preschool services to at-risk 4-year-olds through the 8(g) Student Enhancement Block Grant program. To be eligible to participate, children must be considered at risk of being “insufficiently ready for the regular school program,” with priority given to children from low-income families.

The Cecil J. Picard LA4 Early Childhood program (formerly LA4 and Starting Points) started in 2001. This program offers up to 6 hours of regular instruction and up to 4 hours of before- and after-school programming per day. The program is available in 67 out of 71 Louisiana school districts (plus 12 charter schools) and is funded entirely by state dollars. The program serves 4-year-olds who qualify for free or reduced-price lunch, but 4-year-olds from higher income families are also eligible to participate through local funds or tuition.

The Nonpublic Schools Early Childhood Development Program (NSECD) was established in 2001 to provide tuition reimbursement to families with incomes below 200 percent of the federal poverty level who send their 4-year-olds to state-approved private preschools. These programs must offer at least a 6-hour instructional day and up to 4 hours of before- and after-school services each day.

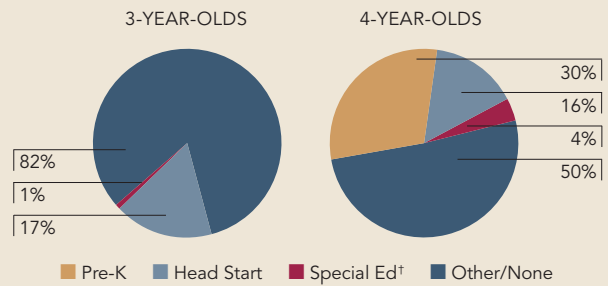
In 2008, legislation was passed mandating access for all 4-year-olds, regardless of income, by the 2013-2014 academic year. School districts will also be required to allocate a minimum of 10 percent of new funding after the 2009-2010 academic year to provide programs in diverse delivery settings. In addition to the three initiatives profiled in this report, Louisiana used approximately \$23 million in Title I funding to support preschool services for more than 7,000 students.

In order to document the contributions Louisiana makes to prekindergarten through its three separate initiatives, we first present summary information reflecting the state’s overall commitment to prekindergarten. Enrollment and state spending for the 8(g), Cecil J. Picard LA4 Early Childhood, and NSECD programs are taken into account. Next, we present specific details about each initiative. The third page of this profile focuses exclusively on the 8(g) program; the fourth page focuses exclusively on the Cecil J. Picard LA4 Early Childhood program; and the final page focuses exclusively on the NSECD program.

STATE OVERVIEW

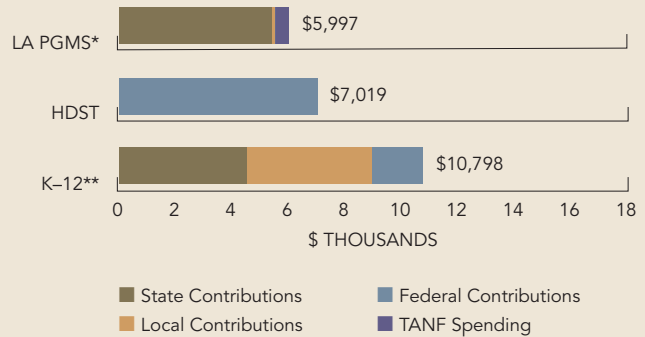
Total state program enrollment	17,788
Total state spending	\$104,674,104
State spending per child enrolled	\$5,885
All reported spending per child enrolled	\$5,997

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



† This number represents children in special education who are not enrolled in Head Start but may be enrolled in state-funded pre-K.

SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED



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

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

Data are for the '07-'08 school year, unless otherwise noted.

ACCESS RANKINGS	
4-YEAR-OLDS	3-YEAR-OLDS
12	None Served

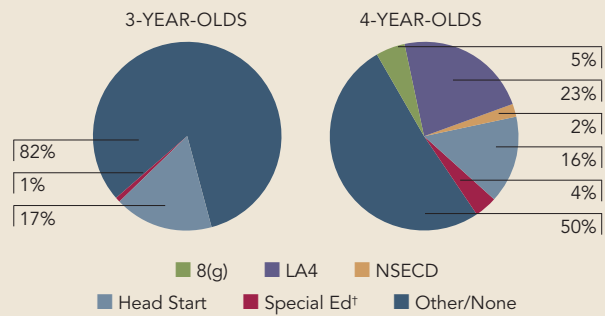
RESOURCES RANKINGS	
STATE SPENDING	ALL REPORTED SPENDING
9	15

LOUISIANA 8(g) STUDENT ENHANCEMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM

ACCESS

Total state program enrollment	3,065
School districts that offer state program	100%
Income requirement	None ¹
Hours of operation	6 hours/day, 5 days/week ²
Operating schedule	Academic year
Special education enrollment	5,031
Federally funded Head Start enrollment	20,202
State-funded Head Start enrollment	0

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



† This number represents children in special education who are not enrolled in Head Start but may be enrolled in state-funded pre-K.

QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

POLICY	STATE PRE-K REQUIREMENT	BENCHMARK	DOES REQUIREMENT MEET BENCHMARK?
Early learning standards	Comprehensive	Comprehensive	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher degree	BA	BA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher specialized training	Certification in Nursery, K, Pre-K-3, or Early Intervention	Specializing in pre-K	<input type="checkbox"/>
Assistant teacher degree	Determined locally	CDA or equivalent	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teacher in-service	150 clock hours/5 years	At least 15 hours/year	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Maximum class size		20 or lower	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3-year-olds	NA		
4-year-olds	20		
Staff-child ratio		1:10 or better	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3-year-olds	NA		
4-year-olds	1:10		
Screening/referral	Developmental screening; ³ and support services ⁴	Vision, hearing, health; and at least 1 support service	<input type="checkbox"/>
Meals	Breakfast, lunch and snack	At least 1/day	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Monitoring	Site visits and other monitoring	Site visits	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

TOTAL BENCHMARKS MET

7

RESOURCES

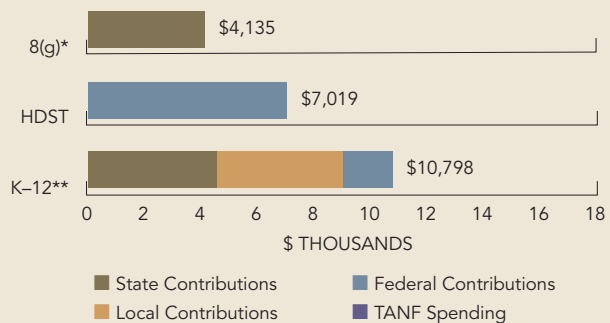
Total state pre-K spending	\$12,674,104
Local match required?	No
State spending per child enrolled	\$4,135
All reported spending per child enrolled*	\$4,135

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

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

Data are for the '07-'08 school year, unless otherwise noted.

SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED



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. The 8(g) program funds a 6-hour instructional day, 5 days per week, but not wrap-around/extended-day services. However, these services may be provided through other funding sources to children served in 8(g)-funded classrooms. Two districts operated 4 days/week.

³ Developmental screening is conducted to determine which children are potentially eligible and to plan an appropriate program. Vision, hearing, dental, and general physical health screening is 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.

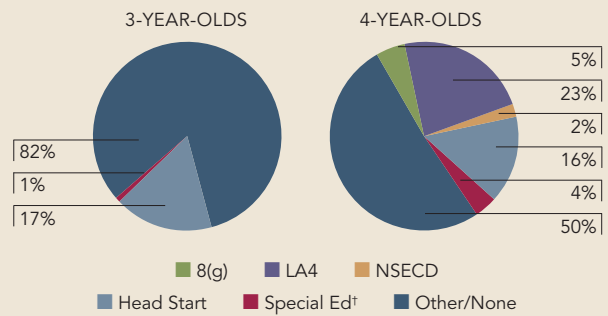
⁴ Support services include parenting support or training, parent involvement activities, health services for children, information about nutrition, referral to social services, and transition to kindergarten activities. The number of required annual parent conferences or home visits is determined locally.

CECIL J. PICARD LA4 EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAM

ACCESS

Total state program enrollment	13,668 ¹
School districts that offer state program	94%
Income requirement	185% FPL
Hours of operation	6 hours/day, 5 days/week ²
Operating schedule	Academic year
Special education enrollment	5,031
Federally funded Head Start enrollment	20,202
State-funded Head Start enrollment	0

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



† This number represents children in special education who are not enrolled in Head Start but may be enrolled in state-funded pre-K.

QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

POLICY	STATE PRE-K REQUIREMENT	BENCHMARK	DOES REQUIREMENT MEET BENCHMARK?
Early learning standards	Comprehensive	Comprehensive	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher degree	BA	BA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher specialized training	Certification in Nursery, K, Pre-K, Pre-K-3, or Early Intervention ³	Specializing in pre-K	<input type="checkbox"/>
Assistant teacher degree	HSD	CDA or equivalent	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teacher in-service	18 clock hours	At least 15 hours/year	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Maximum class size		20 or lower	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3-year-olds	NA		
4-year-olds	20		
Staff-child ratio		1:10 or better	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3-year-olds	NA		
4-year-olds	1:10		
Screening/referral and support services	Vision, hearing, health, developmental; and support services ⁴	Vision, hearing, health; and at least 1 support service	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Meals	Lunch and snack	At least 1/day	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Monitoring	Site visits and other monitoring	Site visits	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

TOTAL BENCHMARKS MET

8

RESOURCES

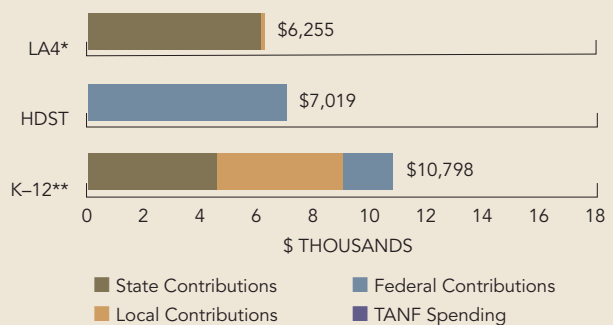
Total state pre-K spending	\$83,500,000
Local match required?	No
State spending per child enrolled	\$6,109
All reported spending per child enrolled*	\$6,255

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

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

Data are for the '07-'08 school year, unless otherwise noted.

SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED



¹ The state-funded enrollment total does not include children whose before- and after-school enrichment services were funded by LA4. The total also does not include 438 tuition-paying students from families with incomes above the income requirement.

² LA4 funds also supported 4 hours of before- and after-school enrichment for 1,874 children.

³ Accepted certifications include: Nursery, Kindergarten, Non-categorical Pre-K, Pre-K-3, or Early Intervention. Teachers may also qualify with any of the

following: Elementary certificate and an Out-of-Field Authorization to Teach, a BA and a Temporary Employment Permit, or an Out-of-State Provisional Certificate. Teachers qualifying under these conditions must be working toward obtaining a Louisiana teaching certificate specified in program requirements.

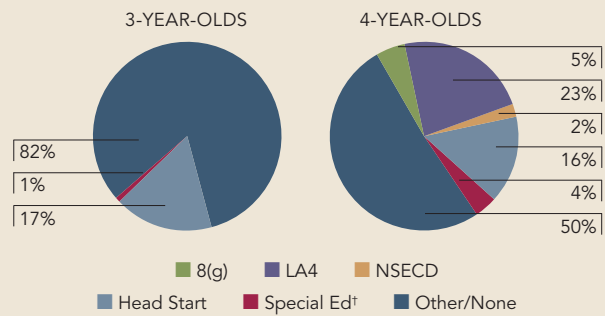
⁴ Support services include two parent conferences, education services or job training for parents, parenting support or training, parent involvement activities, health services for children, information about nutrition, referral to social services, GED training, and literacy training.

LOUISIANA NONPUBLIC SCHOOLS EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

ACCESS

Total state program enrollment	1,055 ¹
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 ²
Special education enrollment	5,031
Federally funded Head Start enrollment	20,202
State-funded Head Start enrollment	0

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



† This number represents children in special education who are not enrolled in Head Start but may be enrolled in state-funded pre-K.

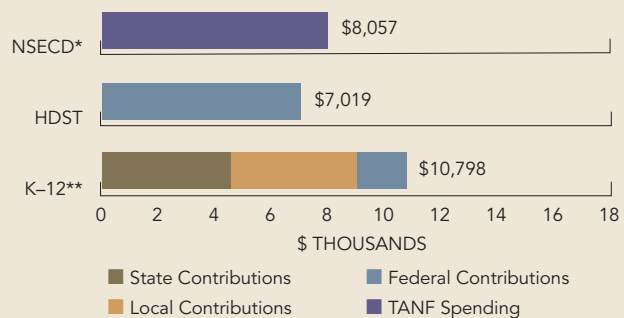
QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

POLICY	STATE PRE-K REQUIREMENT	BENCHMARK	DOES REQUIREMENT MEET BENCHMARK?	TOTAL BENCHMARKS MET 9
Early learning standards	Comprehensive	Comprehensive	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Teacher degree	BA	BA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Teacher specialized.....	Pre-K-3, Pre-K, Early Interventionist, N, K, or Noncategorical Preschool Handicapped Certification ³	Specializing in pre-K	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Assistant teacher degree	CDA ⁴	CDA or equivalent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Teacher in-service	18 clock hours	At least 15 hours/year	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Maximum class size		20 or lower	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
3-year-olds	NA			
4-year-olds	20			
Staff-child ratio		1:10 or better	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
3-year-olds	NA			
4-year-olds	1:10			
Screening/referral	Vision, hearing, health; and support services	Vision, hearing, health; and at least 1 support service	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Meals	Breakfast, lunch and snack	At least 1/day	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Monitoring	Site visits and other monitoring	Site visits	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

RESOURCES

Total state pre-K spending	\$8,500,000 ⁶
Local match required?	No
State spending per child enrolled	\$8,057 ⁷
All reported spending per child enrolled*	\$8,057 ⁷

SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED



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

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

Data are for the '07-'08 school year, unless otherwise noted.

¹ This is the average enrollment throughout the school year. A total of 1,114 4-year-olds were served during the year.

² There is also an optional summer program when the budget permits.

³ Effective with the 2005-2006 program year, teachers who do not hold early childhood-level certification must enroll in courses required to add the Pre-K-3 or Early Interventionist certification. Teachers must be enrolled by January 2008. Incumbent teachers must complete their early childhood certification within three years and new teachers must complete the certification within three years of their hire date.

⁴ Beginning with the 2007-2008 school year, only assistant teachers with at least a CDA are hired. Incumbent assistant teachers must enroll in a CDA program and maintain enrollment until completion of the program.

⁵ Developmental and dental screening and referrals are determined locally. Support services include two parent conferences, parenting support or training, parent involvement activities, health services for children, referral to social services, transition to kindergarten activities, and social/emotional support services.

⁶ This funding total consists of federal TANF funds that the state has chosen to direct toward prekindergarten. There are no additional state funds.

⁷ This figure is based on the state's use of federal TANF funds.