From 1988 to 1993, Louisiana used annual state appropriations to support the Model Early Childhood program, which provided funding and technical support for prekindergarten programs. Once general funds were no longer available, local public school systems began using the 8(g) Student Enhancement Block Grant Program to support prekindergarten education for at-risk children. Four-year-olds who are identified as at risk of being “insufficiently ready for school” are eligible for the 8(g) program, with priority given to low-income families.

A second state prekindergarten initiative, established in 2001 and administered by the Department of Education, is the LA4 program. LA4 is largely supported by TANF funds and primarily serves 4-year-olds who qualify for free or reduced-price lunch. The program is also available to 4-year-olds who do not qualify for free or reduced-price meals, through tuition or local funding. Most children are served in public school settings; however, a few districts subcontract with Head Start programs, private child care centers, and faith-based centers to provide services. The LA4 program funds 6 hours of instruction along with up to 4 hours of before- and after-school programming per day.

Starting Points, a third initiative, was established in 1992 and is similar in many respects to LA4. However, Starting Points provides a lower level of funding per child than LA4. In addition, Starting Points funds only a 6-hour program day, although some children in the program are able to receive before- and after-school services supported by LA4.

Louisiana also offers a fourth prekindergarten initiative, the Nonpublic Schools Early Childhood Development Program (NSECD), which is run by the Governor’s office. Begun in the 2001-2002 school year, this initiative provides tuition reimbursements to parents who wish to send their children to state-approved nonpublic preschools. NSECD is open to families with incomes below 200 percent of the federal poverty level. Programs are required to offer at least 6 hours of instruction along with up to 4 hours of before- and after-school programming per day.

In addition to the initiatives profiled in this report, Louisiana directed approximately $19.6 million in Title I funds to support preschool services for more than 9,000 students.

In order to document the contributions Louisiana makes to prekindergarten through its four separate initiatives, we first present summary information reflecting the state’s overall commitment to prekindergarten. Enrollment and state spending for the 8(g), LA4, Starting Points, and NSECD programs are taken into account. Next, we present specific details about each initiative in the state. The third page of this profile focuses exclusively on the 8(g) program; the fourth page focuses exclusively on the LA4 and Starting Points programs with differences between the two initiatives noted; and the final page focuses exclusively on the NSECD Program.
STATE OVERVIEW

Total state program enrollment - 12,379
Total state spending - $56,132,597
State spending per child enrolled - $4,535
State spending per 3-year-old - $0
State spending per 4-year-old - $897

* 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 ’04–’05 school year, unless otherwise noted.

SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED

LA PGRMS: $4,535
HDST: $6,573 (’03–’04)
K–12**: $8,774

ACCESS RANKING—4s
ACCESS RANKING—3s
RESOURCES RANKING

13
None Served
11

3-YEAR-OLDS 4-YEAR-OLDS

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

3% 20%
14% 17%
83% 6%
Pre-K   HdSt   SpEd  Other/None

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

3-YEAR-OLDS 4-YEAR-OLDS

83% 20%
14% 17%
3% 6%
Pre-K   HdSt   SpEd  Other/None

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

3-YEAR-OLDS 4-YEAR-OLDS

83% 20%
14% 17%
3% 6%
Pre-K   HdSt   SpEd  Other/None

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

3-YEAR-OLDS 4-YEAR-OLDS

83% 20%
14% 17%
3% 6%
Pre-K   HdSt   SpEd  Other/None
LOUISIANA 8(g) STUDENT ENHANCEMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM

ACCESS

Total state program enrollment - 3,750
School districts that offer state program - 99%
Income requirement - None
Hours of operation - 6 hours/day, 5 days/week
Operating schedule - Academic year
Special education enrollment - 6,111
Federally funded Head Start enrollment '03–'04 - 19,431
State-funded Head Start enrollment - 0

QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

POLICY
Early learning standards - Comprehensive
Teacher degree - BA
Teacher specialized training - Certificate in Nursery, K, Pre-K-3, or Early Intervention
Assistant teacher degree - Determined locally
Teacher in-service - 150 clock hours/5 years
Maximum class size
3-year-olds - NA
4-year-olds - 20
Staff-child ratio
3-year-olds - NA
4-year-olds - 1:10
Screening/referral and support services - Developmental screening; and support services
Meals - Breakfast, lunch, and snack
Monitoring - Site visits and other monitoring

BENCHMARK
Comprehensive
BA
Specializing in Pre-K
CDA or equivalent
At least 15 hours/year
20 or lower
1:10 or better
Vision, hearing, health; and at least 1 service
At least 1/day
Site visits

RESOURCES

Total state Pre-K spending - $12,633,597
Local match required? - No
State spending per child enrolled - $3,369
State spending per 3-year-old - $0
State spending per 4-year-old - $202

SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>PRE-K</th>
<th>K–12</th>
<th>HDST</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>State Contribution</td>
<td>$3,369</td>
<td>$8,774</td>
<td>$6,573 ('03–'04)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Local Contribution</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal Contribution</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

* 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 2004–05 school year, unless otherwise noted.

1 The state does not set specific income eligibility criteria, but priority is given to children from low-income families.
2 Programs follow the referral process and policies established by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education. Support services include parenting support or training, parent involvement activities, referral to social services, transition to kindergarten activities, and other specific locally determined services. The number of required annual parent conferences or home visits is determined locally.
3 This spending per child figure is not comparable to spending per child figures reported for the 8(g) program in previous years. Prior calculations of spending per child were based on duplicated enrollment counts that included children supported with other funding sources. The 2004–2005 enrollment total reported above is an unduplicated count.

(Data are for the '04–'05 school year, unless otherwise noted.)
**QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST**

**POLICY**
- Early learning standards
- Teacher degree
- Teacher specialized training
- Assistant teacher degree
- Maximum class size
- Staff-child ratio
- Screening/referral and support services
- Meals
- Monitoring

**STATE PRE-K REQUIREMENT**
- Comprehensive
- BA
- Pre-K – 3, or Early Intervention
- HSD or equivalent
- NA
- NA
- Vision, hearing, health; and support services
- Lunch and snack
- Site visits and other monitoring

**BENCHMARK**
- Comprehensive
- BA
- Specializing in Pre-K
- CDA or equivalent
- At least 15 hours/year
- At least 1/da y
- Vision, hearing, health; and at least 1 service
- At least 1/da y
- Site visits

**DOES REQUIREMENT MEET BENCHMARK?**
- Yes
- No

**RESOURCES**

**SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>State Contribution</th>
<th>Local Contribution</th>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TOTAL:** 8 out of 10

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

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

3 Data are for the '04–'05 school year, unless otherwise noted.

4 This total does not include 167 students who were enrolled in LA4/Starting Points-funded classrooms, but whose families paid their tuition. It also does not include approximately 2,500 children whose before- and after-school enrichment services were funded by LA4.

5 Teachers may also qualify with any of the following: Elementary certificate and an Out-of-Field Authorization to Teach, a BA and a Temporary Authority to Teach, 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.

6 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, and referral for mental health issues.

7 These estimates include both state and TANF funds.
As of the 2005-2006 program year, all new teachers must be certified in early childhood or elementary education, and all current uncertified teachers must have passed the Praxis and must enroll in an early childhood certification or add-on program.

This requirement was effective with the 2004-2005 program year; in-service had not been required previously. Teachers are required to attend a 3-day curriculum training workshop.

Support services include two parent conferences, transition to kindergarten activities, and other specific locally determined services.

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

These estimates are based on the state's use of federal TANF funds.