Louisiana

Louisiana has provided funding and technical assistance for prekindergarten programs in the local public school systems since 1988. A Model Early Childhood program operated from 1988-1989 to 1992-1993, primarily using annual state appropriations. When general funds were no longer available for prekindergarten, the 8(g) Student Enhancement Block Grant Program funds were used to support prekindergarten programs offered by local public school systems. This prekindergarten initiative serves 4-year-olds who are at risk of being insufficiently ready for the regular school program, based on screening results. Programs may only operate in public schools. School districts offering the prekindergarten program must follow several requirements, including implementing a developmentally appropriate program using a research-based curriculum and setting measurable goals for anticipated student outcomes and parental involvement. In fiscal year 2002-2003, funding was $9,358,905 and approximately 4,951 4-year-olds were served, including some students for whom 8(g) funds were supplemental.

While the 8(g) program is the focus of data in this report, Louisiana has additional prekindergarten programs that are primarily supported with TANF dollars. One such program is LA 4, established in 2001 and administered by the Department of Education. In 2001-2002, LA 4 served 1,709 children using $15 million in TANF funds. In 2002-2003, $30 million in TANF funds were used to serve 5,000 children. Four-year-olds who qualify for free or reduced-price lunch (income below 185 percent of poverty) are eligible to participate at no charge to parents. LA 4 programs are operated by public schools, must provide 6 hours a day of instruction, and generally must offer before- and after-school programming for a total of 10 hours. A third program, Starting Points, was established in 1992 and is similar to LA 4. This program differs from LA 4 primarily in that services are provided for only 6 hours per day. Another difference is that funding per child for Starting Points is much lower than that for LA 4. Starting Points received $5,019,000 and served 1,530 children in both 2001-2002 and 2002-2003.

The Non-Public Early Childhood Development Program began in 2001-2002 and is run by the Governor’s office. Under this initiative, parents select approved non-public preschools that they want their children to attend and programs are reimbursed. Programs are required to offer at least 6 hours of instructional programming and before- and after-school care. The initiative is open to 4-year-olds below 200 percent of poverty. In 2001-2002, it received $3 million in TANF funds and served 600 children; in 2002-2003, it served 1,100 children with $6 million in TANF funds.

# ACCESS

- State program enrollment: 2006
- State places that offer state program: 98%
- Income requirement: None
- Hours of operation: Full day
- Credentialed teacher: None
- State funding per child enrolled: $128
- State funding per 3-year-old: $0
- State funding per 4-year-old: $128
- State match required: Not required
- State-funded Head Start enrollment: 0

# RESOURCES

- Total state Pre-K spending: $8,111,866
- Local match required: No
- State spending per child enrolled: $128
- State spending per 3-year-old: $0
- State spending per 4-year-old: $128

# QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>POLICY</th>
<th>PRE-K REQUIREMENT</th>
<th>HDST REQUIREMENT</th>
<th>OTHER/NONE REQUIREMENT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Curriculum standards</td>
<td>Comprehensive</td>
<td>Comprehensive</td>
<td>Comprehensive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher degree requirement</td>
<td>BA</td>
<td>BA</td>
<td>BA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher specialized training requirement</td>
<td>Certification in EC</td>
<td>Certification in EC</td>
<td>Certification in EC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assistant teacher degree requirement</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assistant teacher specialized training requirement</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Infant toddler ratios</td>
<td>3:1</td>
<td>3:1</td>
<td>3:1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff-child ratios</td>
<td>3:1</td>
<td>3:1</td>
<td>3:1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vision, hearing, and health requirements</td>
<td>At least 1 service</td>
<td>At least 1/day</td>
<td>At least 1/day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family support services meal requirements</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

# RESOURCES

- State Pre-K spending: $8,111,866
- Local match required: No
- State spending per child enrolled: $128
- State spending per 3-year-old: $0
- State spending per 4-year-old: $128
- Federal spending: $2,389
- Local spending: $6,101
- State spending per 4-year-old: $7,590

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>3-YEAR-OLDS</th>
<th>4-YEAR-OLDS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3%</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8%</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>84%</td>
<td>84%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

# COMPREHENSIVE B

- Vision, hearing, and health
- At least 1 service
- At least 1/day

- Family support services
- Meal requirements

- Staff-child ratios
- 3:1

# SPECIALIZING IN ECCDA OR EQUIVALENT

- At least 15 hours/year
- 20 or lower

- Maximum class size
- 3-year-olds: NA
- 4-year-olds: 20

# 1:10 OR BETTER

- Staff-child ratio
- 3-year-olds: NA
- 4-year-olds: 1:15

# SCREENING/REFERRAL REQUIREMENTS

- Eligibility screening
- Family support services
- Meal requirements

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