The 8(g) Student Enhancement Block Grant Program was created to compensate for the loss of the Model Early Childhood Program when matching annual appropriations for that program ended. At that time, local school districts began using the 8(g) Block Grant Program to offer preschool programs to at-risk 4-year-olds. In the 2015-2016 school year, 65 of 70 districts used 8(g) block grants to provide preschool to 2,311 children. Enrollment priority is given to children from low-income families, but children also qualify for the program if they are screened and deemed "developmentally unprepared."

Louisiana also operates two other state-funded preschool programs alongside the 8(g). Louisiana’s largest pre-K program, The Cecil J. Picard LA4 Early Childhood Program (formerly LA4 and Starting Points) was established in 2001 and serves children in public schools, charter schools and one tribal school. In the 2015-2016 school year, 16,183 four-year-olds were enrolled.

Also established in 2001, the Non-Public Schools Early Childhood Development program (NSECD) reimburses preschool tuition for enrolled children from families with incomes below 200% of the federal poverty level. With the implementation of Act 3 and unification of Louisiana’s preschool programs, preschool tuition is now reimbursed for families at 185% of the federal poverty level. Programs operate in 16 parishes throughout the state, though all parishes have the opportunity to participate.

An assessment of process quality and program impact/child outcomes for Louisiana’s three pre-K programs was conducted by the Cecil J. Picard Center for Child Development and Learning at the University of Louisiana-Lafayette in 2012-2013. A 2015-2016 evaluation is currently in process for the NSECD program.

During the 2012 session, the Louisiana Legislature passed Act 3, unifying multiple early childhood initiatives under the direction of the Department of Education and in collaboration with other state agencies. This system contains aligned program standards, a quality rating and improvement accountability system in which all programs receiving state and/or federal funds will be required to participate, a unified professional development system, birth-through-five early learning and development standards, and a cross-agency integrated data system.

In July 2013, the Department of Education launched 13 Community Network Pilots to test this new unified system. In January 2015, the state expanded the number of Community Network Pilots to include an additional 33 communities on the way to full implementation of Act 3, scheduled for the 2015-2016 school year, considered to be a learning year. During the learning year, the state released Practice Performance Profiles assigning each site and network a rating with no consequences based on results. After the learning year, any program rated unsatisfactory for any two years in a three-year period will not be eligible for public funding.

In 2014, Louisiana was awarded a competitive federal Preschool Development Grant for $2.4 million. In the 2015-2016 school year, pursuant to Bulletin 140, network members statewide will participate in the early childhood care and education accountability system, which includes both classroom observations and student assessment, and in the coordinated enrollment process. A total of 340 children are served using these grant dollars in new slots.

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

ACCESS
Total state pre-K enrollment..................................................19,860
Special education enrollment, ages 3 and 4 .........................5,293
Federally funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4 ..........18,485
State-funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4...............0

RESOURCES
Total state pre-K spending..................................................$89,974,433
State Head Start spending.....................................................$0
State spending per child enrolled............................................$4,530
All reported spending per child enrolled*............................$4,617

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

3-YEAR-OLD
4-YEAR-OLD

81% 1%
18% 32%

12% 2%
54%

Pre-K Head Start Special Ed†† Other/None

†† Estimates children in special education not also enrolled in state pre-K or Head Start.

SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED

$4,617
$7,478
$13,363

0 2 4 6 8 10 12 14 16 18 20 22 24 26
$ THOUSANDS

State contributions Federal contributions
Local contributions TANF spending

* Pre-K programs may receive additional funds from federal or local sources that are not included in this figure.
** Head Start per-child spending includes funding only for 3- and 4-year-olds.
*** K-12 expenditures include capital spending as well as current operating expenditures.

ACCESS RANKINGS

4-YEAR-OLDS 3-YEAR-OLDS

17  None Served

RESOURCE RANKINGS

STATE SPENDING ALL REPORTED SPENDING

24  31

TOTAL BENCHMARKS MET

CURRENT STANDARDS NEW STANDARDS

9  8

Data are for the 2015-2016 school year, unless otherwise noted.
LOUISIANA 8(G) STUDENT ENHANCEMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM

ACCESS

Total state pre-K enrollment .......................................................... 2,311
School districts that offer state program ......................................... 93%
Income requirement ............................................................... 185% FPL
Minimum hours of operation ........................................... 6 hours/day; 5 days/week
Operating schedule ......................................... School or academic year
Special education enrollment, ages 3 and 4 ................................. 5,293
Federally funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4 .............. 18,485

QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>POLICY</th>
<th>LA 8(g) REQUIREMENT</th>
<th>CURRENT BENCHMARK</th>
<th>MEETS CURRENT BENCHMARK?</th>
<th>NEW BENCHMARK</th>
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<tr>
<td>Early learning &amp; development standards</td>
<td>Comprehensive, aligned, supported, culturally sensitive</td>
<td>Comprehensive</td>
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<td>Comprehensive, aligned, supported, culturally sensitive</td>
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<td>Curriculum supports</td>
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<td>New in 2015-2016</td>
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<td>Assistant teacher degree</td>
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<td>CDA or equivalent</td>
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<tr>
<td>Staff professional development</td>
<td>18 clock hours/year; coaching</td>
<td>For teachers: At least 15 hours/year</td>
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<td>For teachers &amp; assistants: At least 15 hours/year; individual PD plans; coaching</td>
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<td>Maximum class size</td>
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<td>Staff-child ratio</td>
<td>1:10 (4-year-olds)</td>
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<td>1:10 or better</td>
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<td>Screening &amp; referral</td>
<td>Support services†</td>
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<td>Vision, hearing &amp; health screenings; &amp; referral</td>
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<td>Meals</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monitoring/ Continuous quality</td>
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<td>Site visits</td>
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<td>improvement system</td>
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RESOURCES

Total state pre-K spending .......................................................... $9,142,013
Local match required? .......................................................... No
State spending per child enrolled ........................................... $3,956
All reported spending per child enrolled* ................................ $3,956

* Pre-K programs may receive additional funds from federal or local sources that are not included in this figure.
** Head Start per-child spending includes funding only for 3- and 4-year-olds.
*** K-12 expenditures include capital spending as well as current operating expenditures.

SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED

Data are for the 2015-2016 school year, unless otherwise noted.
CECIL J. PICARD LA 4 EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAM

ACCESS

Total state pre-K enrollment ......................................................... 16,183
School districts that offer state program .............................................. 91%
Income requirement ................................................................. 185% FPL
Minimum hours of operation ...................................................... 6 hours/day; 5 days/week
Operating schedule ................................................................. School or academic year
Special education enrollment, ages 3 and 4 ........................................... 5,293
Federally funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4 .............................. 18,485

QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

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<tr>
<th>POLICY</th>
<th>LA 4 REQUIREMENT</th>
<th>CURRENT BENCHMARK</th>
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<td>Early learning &amp; development standards</td>
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<td>P-3, ECE SpEd††</td>
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<td>Site visits</td>
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<td>Structured classroom observation; program improvement plan</td>
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RESOURCES

Total state pre-K spending .......................................................... $74,576,140
Local match required? .................................................................... No
State spending per child enrolled ..................................................... $4,608
All reported spending per child enrolled* ........................................ $4,715

* Pre-K programs may receive additional funds from federal or local sources that are not included in this figure.
** Head Start per-child spending includes funding only for 3- and 4-year-olds.
*** K-12 expenditures include capital spending as well as current operating expenditures.

DATA ARE FOR THE 2015-2016 SCHOOL YEAR, UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED.
ACCESS

Total state pre-K enrollment .......................................................... 1,366
School districts that offer state program ....... 25% (counties/parishes)
Income requirement ............................................................... 185% FPL
Minimum hours of operation ......................... 6 hours/day; 5 days/week
Operating schedule ......................................................... School or academic year
Special education enrollment, ages 3 and 4 ................................. 5,293
Federally funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4 .............. 18,485

QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

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RESOURCES

Total state pre-K spending .......................................................... $6,256,280
Local match required? ............................................................... No
State spending per child enrolled ............................................. $4,580
All reported spending per child enrolled* ................................ $4,580

* Pre-K programs may receive additional funds from federal or local sources that are not included in this figure.
** Head Start per-child spending includes funding only for 3- and 4-year-olds.
*** K-12 expenditures include capital spending as well as current operating expenditures.