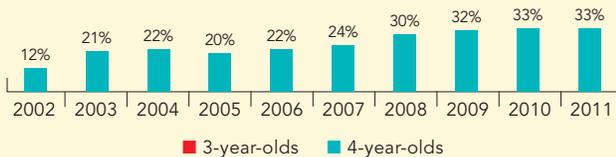


Louisiana

PERCENT OF STATE POPULATION ENROLLED



STATE SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED
(2011 DOLLARS)



Louisiana operates three state-funded preschool initiatives. In 1988, Louisiana began offering preschool education services through the 8(g) Model Early Childhood Program, though matching annual appropriations for this program ended in 1993. Local school districts began using the 8(g) Student Enhancement Block Grant Program to provide preschool programs to at-risk 4-year-olds. By the 2010-2011 school year, nearly all districts were using these Block Grants to offer preschool education programs. Children are eligible for the program if they are at risk of being “insufficiently ready for the regular school program,” with priority given to children from low-income families. This program was evaluated for both process quality and program impact/child outcomes as part of the LA8(g) Annual Report. Regular site visits for monitoring purposes were modified in the 2010-2011 school year due to fiscal constraints.

The Cecil J. Picard LA4 Early Childhood Program (formerly LA4 and Starting Points) was established in 2001. This program is available in most school districts in Louisiana, as well as in 12 charter schools (down from 15 in the 2009-2010 school year). This program offers 6 hours of regular instruction per day as well as 4 hours of before- and after-school care. Four-year-olds are eligible if they qualify for free or reduced-price lunch, though children from over-income families may attend using local funds or tuition. Funding remained relatively stable during the 2010-2011 school year compared to the previous year although the federal share increased by approximately \$40 million to compensate for an equivalent reduction in state general funds. Looking ahead, the program will have a greater emphasis on literacy instruction and kindergarten readiness in response to reorganization at the Department of Education. The initiative was evaluated for both process quality and program impact/child outcomes during the 2010-2011 school year.

Established in 2001, the Non-Public Schools Early Childhood Development Program (NSECD) provides tuition reimbursement to families with incomes below 200 percent of the federal poverty level to send their 4-year-olds to qualifying preschools. Qualifying programs must be state-approved, privately run preschools providing at least 6 hours of regular instructions per day plus up to 4 hours of before- and after-school care. NSECD was evaluated for both process quality and program impact/child outcomes as part of the Comprehensive Five-Year Longitudinal Study.

The state is aiming to provide voluntary preschool access for all 4-year-olds regardless of income by the 2013-2014 school year. Since the 2008-2009 school year, the Department of Education has coordinated with the Department of Social Services to create a professional development plan to permit cross-agency technical assistance and training. Since the 2009-2010 school year, school districts must allocate at least 10 percent of new funding to provide programs in diverse delivery settings.

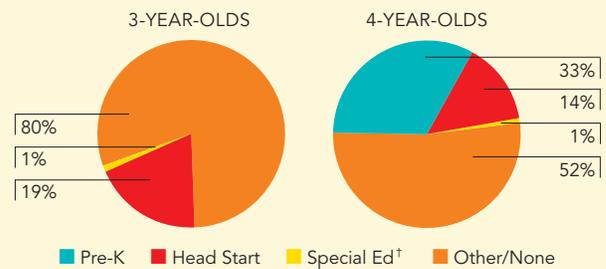
In addition, Louisiana school districts used more than \$28 million in Title I funding to support preschool services for more than 7,300 students in the 2010-2011 school year beyond those served in the LA4, LA(8)g, and NSECD programs. The Department of Education’s plan to draft guidelines for an LA3 program has been temporarily suspended due to budget constraints.

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

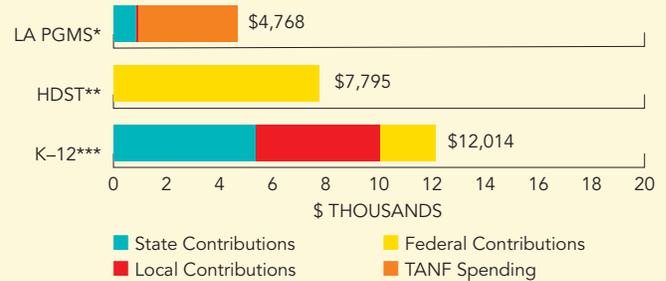
Total state program enrollment	20,258
Total state spending	\$94,590,958
State spending per child enrolled	\$4,669
All reported spending per child enrolled*	\$4,768

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



[†] This is an estimate of children in special education who are not enrolled in state-funded pre-K or Head Start.

SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED



* 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 2010-2011 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 '10-'11 school year, unless otherwise noted.

ACCESS RANKINGS

4-YEAR-OLDS

3-YEAR-OLDS

13

None Served

RESOURCES RANKINGS

STATE SPENDING

ALL REPORTED SPENDING

14

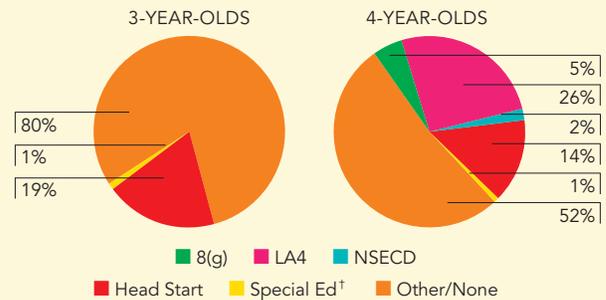
21

LOUISIANA 8(g) STUDENT ENHANCEMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM

ACCESS

Total state program enrollment	3,244
School districts that offer state program	96%
Income requirement.....	None ¹
Hours of operation	6 hours/day, 5 days/week ²
Operating schedule	Academic year
Special education enrollment	5,763
Federally funded Head Start enrollment	20,323
State-funded Head Start enrollment.....	0

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



[†] This is an estimate of children in special education who are not enrolled in state-funded pre-K or Head Start.

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, Early Intervention, Non-categorical preschool handicapped ³	Specializing in pre-K	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Assistant teacher degree	HSD ⁴	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	Health, developmental screening; and support services ⁵	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"/>

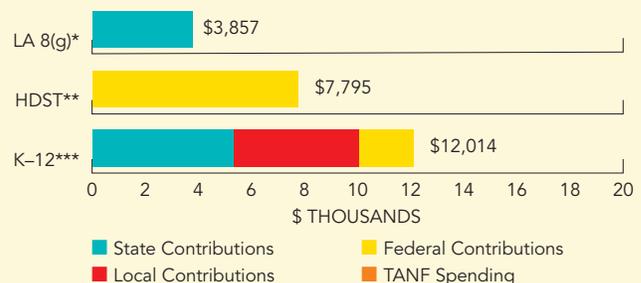
TOTAL BENCHMARKS MET

8

RESOURCES

Total state pre-K spending	\$12,513,151
Local match required?	No
State spending per child enrolled	\$3,857
All reported spending per child enrolled*	\$3,857

SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED



* 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 2010-2011 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 '10-'11 school year, unless otherwise noted.

¹ The state does not set specific income eligibility criteria but stipulates that priority be given to children from low-income families.
² Most districts operate 5 days/week.
³ Teachers holding a Kindergarten or Elementary license may be required to take additional coursework or demonstrate knowledge/competence to add an early childhood endorsement to their original license, permitting them to teach in pre-K without the parish/district/charter requesting a temporary out-of-field teaching authorization.

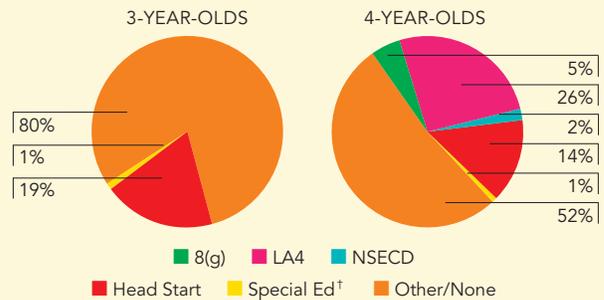
⁴ Teacher assistants must also have extended experiences assuming responsibility and care of children younger than age 5 and meet other district requirements.
⁵ Developmental screening is conducted to determine which children are potentially eligible and to plan an appropriate program. Vision, hearing, dental, and general physical health screenings are determined at the local level.
⁶ 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, transition to kindergarten activities, GED and literacy training for parents, and housing/utility referrals.

CECIL J. PICARD LA4 EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAM

ACCESS

Total state program enrollment	15,706
School districts that offer state program	90% ¹
Income requirement	185% FPL
Hours of operation	6 hours/day, 5 days/week ²
Operating schedule	Academic year
Special education enrollment	5,763
Federally funded Head Start enrollment	20,323
State-funded Head Start enrollment.....	0

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



† This is an estimate of children in special education who are not enrolled in state-funded pre-K or Head Start.

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, Early Intervention, Non-categorical preschool handicapped ³	Specializing in pre-K	<input checked="" 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; 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"/>

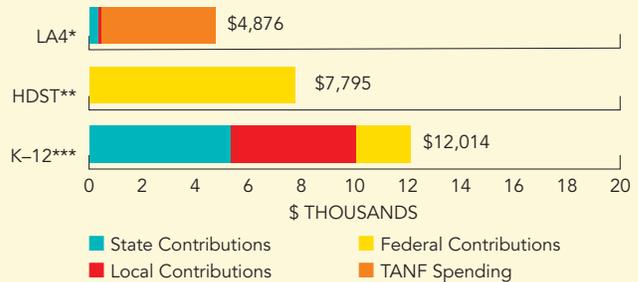
TOTAL BENCHMARKS MET

9

RESOURCES

Total state pre-K spending	\$74,577,807 ⁵
Local match required?	No
State spending per child enrolled	\$4,748 ⁵
All reported spending per child enrolled*	\$4,876

SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED



* 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 2010-2011 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 '10-'11 school year, unless otherwise noted.

¹ In addition to program availability in 64 of 71 school districts, 12 charter schools participate in the LA4 program.
² Schools may also offer 4 hours of before- and after-school enrichment programs. A total of 1,292 children attended these full-day programs in the 2010-2011 school year.
³ Teachers holding a Kindergarten license may be required to take additional coursework or demonstrate knowledge/competence to add an early childhood endorsement to their original license, permitting them to teach in pre-K without the parish/district/charter requesting a temporary out-of-field teaching authorization. Teachers may also qualify with an Elementary certification while working toward an approved early childhood certification for a maximum of 3 years.

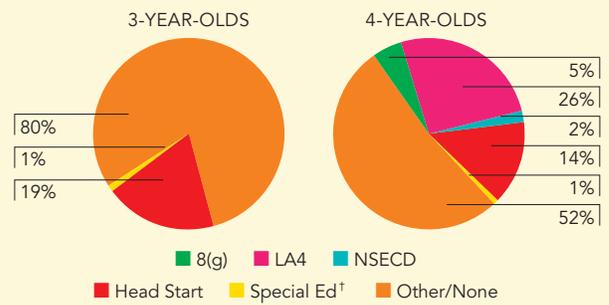
⁴ Dental, developmental and other health screening and referral are determined locally. Support services include parent conferences or home visits, education services or job training for parents, parenting support or training, parent involvement activities, health services for children and parents, information about nutrition, referral to social services, transition to kindergarten activities, GED and literacy training for parents, and housing/utility referrals.
⁵ This spending allocation also includes funds for the before- and after-school enrichment program. This amount includes \$68,550,000 in discretionary TANF funds.

LOUISIANA NON-PUBLIC SCHOOLS EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (NSECD)

ACCESS

Total state program enrollment	1,308
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	5,763
Federally funded Head Start enrollment	20,323
State-funded Head Start enrollment.....	0

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



† This is an estimate of children in special education who are not enrolled in state-funded pre-K or Head Start.

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, Early Intervention, Non-categorical preschool handicapped ¹	Specializing in pre-K	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Assistant teacher degree.....	CDA ²	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 ³	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"/>

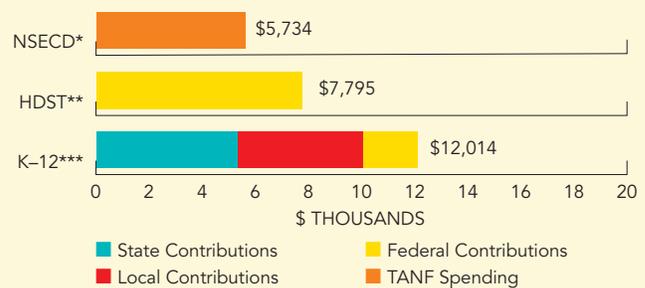
TOTAL BENCHMARKS MET

10

RESOURCES

Total state pre-K spending	\$7,500,000 ⁴
Local match required?	No
State spending per child enrolled	\$5,734 ⁴
All reported spending per child enrolled*.....	\$5,734

SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED



* 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 2010-2011 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 '10-'11 school year, unless otherwise noted.

¹ Incumbent and 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 Interventionist alternate certification program. They must continually be enrolled and complete certification within three years of their hire date. Teachers who begin with a Kindergarten or 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 Since with the 2007-2008 school year, only assistant teachers with at least a CDA or AA in early childhood education or family studies are hired. Incumbent assistant teachers must be enrolled in a CDA or early childhood AA program and maintain enrollment until completion of the program within three years.

³ Support services include conferences or home visits, parenting support or training, parent involvement activities, health services for children, information about nutrition, referral to social services, transition to kindergarten activities, and developmental and social/emotional support services. Other support services are determined locally, as are developmental and dental screening and referrals.

⁴ Funding figures are based on the state's use of federal TANF funds that the state has chosen to direct toward prekindergarten. There are no additional state funds.