OVERVIEW
Louisiana preschool programs enrolled 20,455 children in 2019-2020, an increase of 1,614 children from the prior year. State funding totaled $48,004,179 and $44,833,620 in TANF funds were also used to support program, up $2,968,266 (3%), adjusted for inflation, since last year. State spending per child (including TANF funds) equaled $4,539 in 2019-2020, down $231 from 2018-2019, adjusted for inflation. Louisiana met an average of 7.9 of 10 quality standards benchmarks.

WHAT’S NEW
Louisiana was one of 23 states awarded a three-year PDG B–5 renewal grant for $11,178,750 designed to implement the strategic plan developed with the 2018 PDG B–5 planning grant.

On March 16, 2020 all three of Louisiana’s state-funded preschool programs closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The state did not require remote learning, but all programs were encouraged to develop a virtual or home-based model of instruction for preschool students. There was a mix of in-person and remote instruction when the 2020-2021 school year began.

BACKGROUND
Louisiana has three distinct state funded preschool programs: the 8(g) Student Enhancement Block Grant Program (8(g)), the Cecil J. Picard LA 4 Early Childhood Program (LA 4), and the Nonpublic Schools Early Childhood Development Program (NSECD). The state also provides early childhood education through the federally funded Preschool Expansion Grant. Many school districts also use federal Title I funding to provide high-quality pre-K to 4-year-olds in public schools, typically adopting the same standards as LA 4.

The first of Louisiana’s state-funded pre-K programs, initially established in 1988, is the 8(g) program. It was created to compensate for the loss of the Model Early Childhood Program when matching annual appropriations for that program ended. The 8(g) program serves 4-year-old children and priority is given to students living at or below 200% FPL. However, if all income-eligible children are served, additional students may be served if they are deemed "developmentally unprepared."

The largest of the three state-funded pre-K programs, the LA 4 program (formerly LA 4 and Starting Points), was established in 2001 and serves 4-year-old children in public schools, independent LEA charter schools, and tribal schools. Additionally, programs can subcontract with Head Start programs, private agencies, and non-independent LEA charter schools to deliver the LA 4 program. Teachers in LA 4 are required to have a minimum of a bachelor’s degree and meet all the qualifications required for public school teachers, regardless of where the program is located. Eligibility for this program is based on income: all children must be at or below 200% FPL to enroll.

Also established in 2001, the NSECD program supports high-quality pre-K for 4-year-olds in nonpublic settings. Teachers in the NSECD program are required to have a bachelor’s degree and assistant teachers are required to have at least a CDA. NSECD has the same eligibility requirements as the LA 4 program and funding is available for this program on a competitive basis.

During the 2012 session, the Louisiana Legislature passed Act 3, unifying multiple early childhood initiatives under the DOE 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 are required to participate, a unified professional development system, birth-through-five early learning and development standards, and a cross-agency integrated data system.

During the 2016-2017 school year, Louisiana completed its first full year of the unified rating and improvement system for all publicly funded childcare, Head Start and pre-K sites. The state shared information for all programs serving children birth to age 5 via a family friendly website, www.louisianaschools.com, which provides comparable information about program quality.

Louisiana’s overall support for state-funded preschool, including enrollment and funding for 8(g), LA 4, and NSECD is depicted in the first two pages of this state profile. The third page focuses solely on 8(g), the fourth page provides information on LA 4, and the fifth page on NSECD.
LOUISIANA STATE OVERVIEW

ACCESS
Total state pre-K enrollment ................................................... 20,455
Special education enrollment, ages 3 and 4 ............................ 5,304
Federally funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4 ......... 17,254
State-funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4 ................. 0

RESOURCES
Total state pre-K spending ............................................ $92,837,799
State Head Start spending ............................................................ $0
State spending per child enrolled .......................................... $4,539
All reported spending per child enrolled* ............................. $4,623

SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED

PERCENT OF POPULATION ENROLLED IN PUBLIC ECE

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

3-YEAR-OLDS
17%
82%
1%

4-YEAR-OLDS
33%
55%
11%
1%

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

ACCESS RANKINGS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>4-YEAR-OLDS</th>
<th>3-YEAR-OLDS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>None Served</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

RESOURCE RANKINGS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STATE SPENDING</th>
<th>ALL REPORTED SPENDING</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TOTAL BENCHMARKS MET
7.9

Data are for the 2019-2020 school year, unless otherwise noted.
LOUISIANA 8(G) STUDENT ENHANCEMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM

ACCESS
Total state pre-K enrollment ..................................................... 2,325
School districts that offer state program ..................................... 93%
Income requirement ........................................................... 200% FPL
Minimum hours of operation .................... 6 hours/day; 5 days/week
Operating schedule .................................... School or academic year

QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

POLICY | LA 8(G) REQUIREMENT | BENCHMARK | REQUIREMENT MEETS BENCHMARK?
--- | --- | --- | ---
Early learning & development standards | Comprehensive, aligned, supported, culturally sensitive | Comprehensive, aligned, supported, culturally sensitive | ✓
Curriculum supports | Approval process & supports | Approval process & supports | ✓
Teacher degree | BA | BA | ✓
Teacher specialized training | Pre-K–3 | Specializing in pre-K | ✓
Assistant teacher degree | Other | CDA or equivalent | □
Staff professional development | 18 hours/year | For teachers & assistants: At least 15 hours/year; individual PD plans; coaching | □
Maximum class size | 20 (4-year-olds) | 20 or lower | ✓
Staff-child ratio | 1:10 (4-year-olds) | 1:10 or better | ✓
Screening & referral | Referrals | Vision, hearing & health screenings; & referral | □
Continuous quality improvement system | Structured classroom observations; Data used for program improvement | Structured classroom observations; data used for program improvement | ✓

For more information about the benchmarks, see the Executive Summary and Roadmap to State Profile Pages.

RESOURCES
Total state pre-K spending ..................................................... $9,016,600
Local match required? ........................................................... No
State spending per child enrolled .............................................. $3,878
All reported spending per child enrolled* .................................. $3,878

* 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.

For more information about the benchmarks, see the Executive Summary and Roadmap to State Profile Pages.

SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Spending Per Child Enrolled</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LA 8(g)*</td>
<td>$3,878</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HDST**</td>
<td>$9,013</td>
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<tr>
<td>K-12***</td>
<td>$13,260</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Data are for the 2019-2020 school year, unless otherwise noted.
CECIL J. PICARD LA 4 EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAM

ACCESS
Total state pre-K enrollment ................................................... 16,910
School districts that offer state program ..................... 95% (parishes)
Income requirement ...........................................................200% FPL
Minimum hours of operation.................... 6 hours/day; 5 days/week
Operating schedule.............................. School or academic year

QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>POLICY</th>
<th>LA 4 REQUIREMENT</th>
<th>BENCHMARK</th>
<th>REQUIREMENT MEETS BENCHMARK?</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Early learning &amp; development standards</td>
<td>Comprehensive, aligned, supported, culturally sensitive</td>
<td>Comprehensive, aligned, supported, culturally sensitive</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Curriculum supports</td>
<td>Approval process &amp; supports</td>
<td>Approval process &amp; supports</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher degree</td>
<td>BA</td>
<td>BA</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher specialized training</td>
<td>Pre-K–3, ECE SpEd</td>
<td>Specializing in pre-K</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assistant teacher degree</td>
<td>Other</td>
<td>CDA or equivalent</td>
<td>□</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff professional development</td>
<td>18 hours/year</td>
<td>For teachers &amp; assistants: At least 15 hours/year; individual PD plans; coaching</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maximum class size</td>
<td>20 (4-year-olds)</td>
<td>20 or lower</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff-child ratio</td>
<td>1:10 (4-year-olds)</td>
<td>1:10 or better</td>
<td>✓</td>
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<tr>
<td>Screening &amp; referral</td>
<td>Vision, hearing, immunizations</td>
<td>Vision, hearing &amp; health screenings; &amp; referral</td>
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<tr>
<td>Continuous quality improvement system</td>
<td>Structured classroom observations; Data used for program improvement</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

For more information about the benchmarks, see the Executive Summary and Roadmap to State Profile Pages.

RESOURCES
Total state pre-K spending ................................................... $78,221,820
Local match required? .......................................................... No
State spending per child enrolled ........................................... $4,626
All reported spending per child enrolled* ................................ $4,728

* 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.

For more information about the benchmarks, see the Executive Summary and Roadmap to State Profile Pages.
**LOUISIANA NONPUBLIC SCHOOLS EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (NSECD)**

### ACCESS

- **Total state pre-K enrollment**: 1,220
- **School districts that offer state program**: 2% (parishes)
- **Income requirement**: 200% FPL
- **Minimum hours of operation**: 6 hours/day; 5 days/week
- **Operating schedule**: School or academic year

### QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>POLICY</th>
<th>LA NSECD REQUIREMENT</th>
<th>BENCHMARK</th>
<th>REQUIREMENT MEETS BENCHMARK?</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Early learning &amp; development standards</td>
<td>Comprehensive, aligned, supported, culturally sensitive</td>
<td>Comprehensive, aligned, supported, culturally sensitive</td>
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<tr>
<td>Curriculum supports</td>
<td>Approval process &amp; supports</td>
<td>Approval process &amp; supports</td>
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<tr>
<td>Teacher degree</td>
<td>BA</td>
<td>BA</td>
<td>✓</td>
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<tr>
<td>Teacher specialized training</td>
<td>Pre-K–3, ECE SpEd</td>
<td>Specializing in pre-K</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assistant teacher degree</td>
<td>CDA</td>
<td>CDA or equivalent</td>
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<td>Staff professional development</td>
<td>18 hours/year</td>
<td>For teachers &amp; assistants: At least 15 hours/year; individual PD plans; coaching</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maximum class size</td>
<td>20 (4-year-olds)</td>
<td>20 or lower</td>
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<tr>
<td>Staff-child ratio</td>
<td>1:10 (4-year-olds)</td>
<td>1:10 or better</td>
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<td>Screening &amp; referral</td>
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<td>Vision, hearing &amp; health screenings; &amp; referral</td>
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<td>Structured classroom observations; Data used for program improvement</td>
<td>Structured classroom observations; data used for program improvement</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

For more information about the benchmarks, see the Executive Summary and Roadmap to State Profile Pages.

### RESOURCES

- **Total state pre-K spending**: $5,599,379
- **Local match required?**: No
- **State spending per child enrolled**: $4,590
- **All reported spending per child enrolled***: $4,590

* 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 2019-2020 school year, unless otherwise noted.