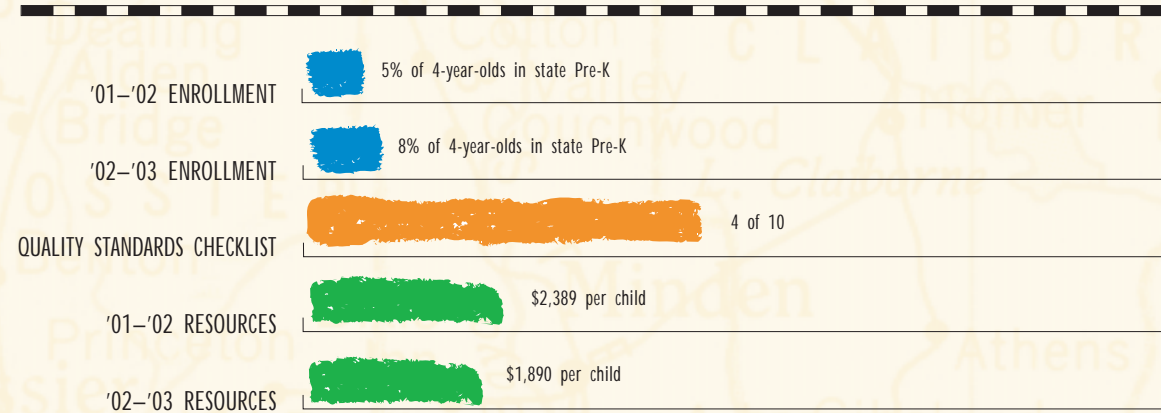


Louisiana



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 (incomes 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.

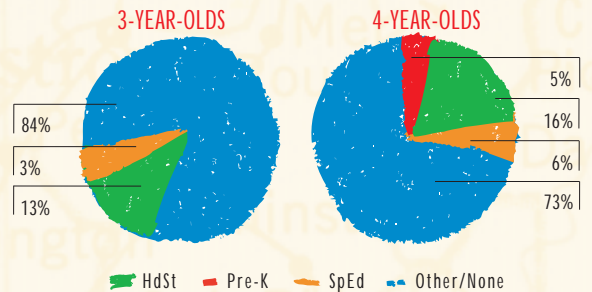
The Non-Public Early Childhood Development Program began in 2001–2002 and is run by the Governor's office. Under this initiative, parents select approved non-public preschools that they want their children to attend and programs are reimbursed. Programs are required to offer at least 6 hours of instructional 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

Total state program enrollment	3,395
School districts that offer state program	98%
Income requirement	None
Hours of operation	Determined locally ¹
Operating schedule	Academic year
Special education enrollment	5,181
Federally-funded Head Start enrollment	18,627
State-funded Head Start enrollment	0

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



QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

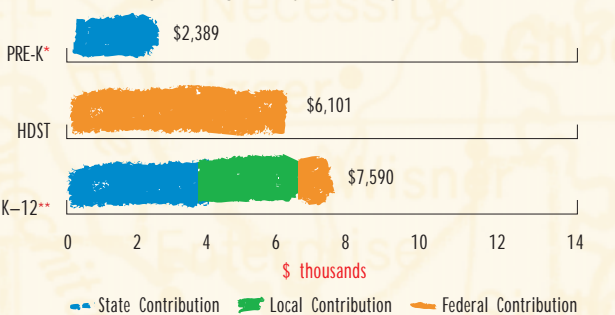
POLICY	STATE PRE-K REQUIREMENT	BENCHMARK	DOES REQUIREMENT MEET BENCHMARK?
Curriculum standards	Comprehensive	Comprehensive	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher degree requirement	BA	BA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher specialized training requirement	Certification in N or K	Specializing in EC	<input type="checkbox"/>
Assistant teacher degree requirement	Determined locally	CDA or equivalent	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teacher in-service requirement	Not reported	At least 15 hours/year	<input 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 type="checkbox"/>
3-year-olds	NA		
4-year-olds	1:15 ²		
Screening/referral requirements	Eligibility screening ³	Vision, hearing, and health	<input type="checkbox"/>
Family support service requirements	Family support services ⁴	At least 1 service	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Meal requirements	None	At least 1/day	<input type="checkbox"/>



RESOURCES

Total state Pre-K spending	\$8,111,866
Local match required?	No
State spending per child enrolled	\$2,389
State spending per 3-year-old	\$0
State spending per 4-year-old	\$128

SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED



* 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 '01-'02 school year, unless otherwise noted.

- 1 Full-day operation is recommended.
- 2 A maximum of 15 children is allowed in a class with one teacher and a half-time aide. Up to 12 children may be in classes with one teacher only. This requirement permits classroom operation with 15 children and one adult for 50% of operating hours.
- 3 Screening is conducted to determine which children are potentially eligible to participate, and to plan a program designed to improve kindergarten readiness skills.
- 4 LEAs must address parent involvement in their operating plans. Strategies to help parents gain a better understanding of child development should specifically be addressed.