



PROMISE POSTING

A PUBLICATION OF EDUCATION'S NEXT HORIZON



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Here's How We Win, Louisiana

A coalition of fifteen organizations across the state is urging Louisiana's lawmakers and education policymakers to invest more funding in the state's **Cecil J. Picard LA4 Early Childhood Program** and to implement a more diverse LA4 delivery system.

The ACT NOW! Louisiana Coalition for LA4 is calling for:

- **Increased funding of \$7.3 million to bring the LA4 per student reimbursement up to the MFP per pupil reimbursement for K-12 students.** This increase will ensure that all LA4 children receive high-quality educational opportunities. Funding in addition to the \$7.3 million will be needed to provide Pre-K education to children who are not being served by any program.
- **Full scale implementation of a diverse delivery system for LA4.** Louisiana's Pre-K program is offered almost exclusively on public sites. Providing LA4 services in school-based settings, Head Start, private child care, and faith-based centers will increase access to the LA4 program, provide more high quality choices for families, and promote quality and accountability across settings.

Louisiana's Pre-Kindergarten program offers early childhood education and enrichment to "at-risk" children at no cost to qualifying families. These are children in poverty who qualify for free and reduced lunch services. LA4 began in 2001 in eleven pilot parishes and has a current enrollment of 15,762 at-risk four-year old children. An additional 25,643 at-risk four-year olds are served in other programs such as Head Start, 8(G), and Title I. It is estimated that as many as 5,000 at-risk four-year olds are not receiving Pre-K services from any source.

The State of Louisiana Preschool



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Join the movement to improve education



LA4 Benefits

Research evidence shows that the state's high quality Pre-K program is among the best strategies for education improvement. Results show that LA4 better assures school readiness, reduces grade retention, reduces the number of students placed in special education, and significantly improves student academic performance. Additionally, economic analyses show that for every \$1 invested in Pre-K, the state could gain as much as \$11 in cost savings and increased tax revenue.

State Funding Reduced

In spite of these gains, funding for LA4 has declined by nearly \$7 million in the last three years. Nearly 90% of LA4 funding is federal, with the State contributing the balance. The average LA4 per student reimbursement to school districts is \$4,578 as compared to the \$5,044 average per pupil revenue provided to districts through the MFP for K-12 students.

The ACT NOW! Louisiana Coalition for LA4 is led by **Education's Next Horizon**. Other Coalition members are **Alliance for Education, Center for Development and Learning, Children's Coalition for Greater Baton Rouge, Children's Coalition of Northeast Louisiana, Early Childhood and Family Learning Foundation, Entergy Louisiana LLC, Lafayette Parish Public Education Stakeholders Council, Louisiana Association for the Education of Young Children, Louisiana Association of United Ways, Louisiana Early Childhood Association, Louisiana Partnership for Children and Families, Orleans Public Education Network, United Way for the Greater New Orleans Area, and the United Way of Acadiana.**

To join the movement to sustain and expand LA4, contact any of the Coalition members or contact Education's Next Horizon at (225) 383-3844, by email at jsmith@lanexthorizon.org, or visit the website at www.ednexthorizon.org.