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## II. LA 4 PROGRAM OVERVIEW (FOUR-YEAR-OLD SEATS)

### CECIL J. PICARD LA 4 EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Louisiana's largest preschool program, the Cecil J. Picard LA 4 Early Childhood Program provides more than 16,000 economically disadvantaged children with early childhood education during a six-hour-a-day program. This program is offered in most of Louisiana's parishes as well as several charter schools and one tribal school. LA 4 can also be offered through [diverse delivery partnerships](#) with Type III child care centers. See Appendix A for Diverse Delivery Considerations.

Local education agencies (LEAs) apply for seats for LA 4 through the Coordinated Funding Request. Requests should reflect family demand for seats. Seats are awarded based on the number of children they anticipate serving during the school year and the availability of funds. Four year olds of families who meet the income requirements are eligible to attend the program, although children from families with higher incomes are also eligible, using locally provided funds or paying tuition. Seats are funded in the amount of \$4,580 per child for the 6-hour instructional day for the 10 month school year.

**If 95% of LA 4 seats are not filled by October 1, seats may be reallocated to other LEAs.**

**LA 4 STAFF REQUIREMENTS:** More information can be found in the [LA 4 Guidelines](#).

**All lead teachers** must meet at least one of the following requirements:

- A valid and current Louisiana teaching certificate in PK-3, Nursery School, Kindergarten, Early Interventionist Birth-5, or Noncategorical Preschool Handicapped;
- A Practitioner License in PreK-3;
- A valid and current Louisiana teaching certificate in Elementary Education and an Out-of-Field Authorization to Teach (OFAT) in PK-3, Nursery School, Kindergarten, Early Interventionist Birth-5, or Noncategorical Preschool Handicapped; or
- An uncertified teacher with a baccalaureate degree and a Temporary Authority to Teach (TAT), Temporary Employment Permit (TEP), or an Out-of-State Certificate in PK-3, Nursery School, Kindergarten, Early Interventionist Birth-5, or Noncategorical Preschool Handicapped.

**All paraprofessionals/teacher assistants** must meet LEA specific requirements for employment and one of the following requirements:

- Meet the definition of "highly qualified," which may include passing of the ParaPro test or attainment of the Early Childhood Ancillary Certificate, which can be earned with a CDA, technical diploma or certificate of technical studies in an early childhood related field, an associate's degree in an early childhood related field, or bachelor's degree or higher. Additional information regarding the Early Childhood Ancillary Certificate can be found in the [FAQs](#);
- Possess a high school diploma or equivalent; or
- Have extended experiences of assuming responsibility and care for a group of preschool age children (children younger than five years of age).

There are additional assurances that each grantee must agree to once they are approved for LA 4, including the **use of a Tier I curriculum**. Preliminary assurances are included in the appendix, but do not need to be completed at this time.