



Providing high-quality pre-k is a commitment to our children's future.

Today in Pre-K

Louisiana Joins States Pledging Pre-K for All

For the large percentage of Louisiana's children not eligible for the voluntary *LA4* pre-k program, change is on the way. State legislators passed a bill this session to open *LA4* to all four year olds by 2013. Gov. Bobby Jindal signed the bill into law this week. Supported by the [Pre-K for All Louisiana](#) campaign, [Blueprint Louisiana](#), and many others, the bill would gradually expand eligibility to families who earn more than 185 percent of the poverty line (the current income cap). This is a great model for other states with targeted pre-k programs to follow. "With... Senate Bill 286, we should begin to close the widening educational gaps that have kept too many of our children from experiencing success in school and in life," wrote Nadra Harrison of Every Child Matters in a letter to the [Times-Picayune](#). "They will finally have a fair start."

Pre-K Tide Has Highs and Lows in Ocean State

Rhode Island's 2008 legislative session had steps forward and backward for pre-k but, most notably, saw the passage of the Pre-Kindergarten Education Act. The act charges the Department of Education with planning a pilot program to serve three and four year olds in communities with low-performing schools. Creating a pre-k pilot is an important milestone for the state, which has been among the dozen states without a state pre-k program. The Department must also meet the challenge of funding; no state dollars have been appropriated for the pilot. Complicating matters, legislators and advocates like [Rhode Island Kids Count](#) had to simultaneously fight a proposal by Gov. Don Carcieri to eliminate the state's supplemental funding for Head Start. In a partial reversal of fortune, the General Assembly saved funds for 130 children. But 270 other children lost out in the budget crunch, making the success of the pre-k pilot all the more important.