



# CHOICE AND OPPORTUNITY

THE PAST AND FUTURE OF  
CHOICE-BASED AID IN LOUISIANA

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## THE PAST AND FUTURE OF CHOICE-BASED AID IN LOUISIANA

On February 29, 2008, Gov. Bobby Jindal presented the Louisiana Legislature with a proposed budget allocating \$10 million for a school choice initiative that would enable parents in New Orleans to send their children to the school of their choice, including private schools, with state-funded scholarships.<sup>1</sup> According to Gov. Jindal, “We want to make sure that every family is able to find a school that best fits their needs.”<sup>2</sup>

Introduced in April 2008, the Student Scholarships for Educational Excellence Act would provide scholarships of over \$6,000 to low-income families in New Orleans for use in non-public schools in New Orleans and public schools in Jefferson, St. Bernard and Plaquemines parishes. Initially available to students entering kindergarten through grade 3, the program would grow to encompass grades 4 through 12 in successive years.<sup>3</sup>

Leaders of the public school establishment went on record to oppose the initiative, spreading fear that providing parents more educational options would take away from public schools. But, as this report demonstrates, Louisiana has a rich history of offering a wide array of choices, including private and religious options, through public programs, including in education. These choices add to—rather than subtract from—the opportunities available to its citizens.<sup>4</sup>

Indeed, the Governor’s school choice initiative follows a long tradition in Louisiana public policy of the government funding—but not necessarily providing—education and other vital social services. In addition to two programs initiated after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, Louisiana currently offers at least 12 scholarship, grant or voucher programs through the Department of Education, Office of Student Financial Assistance, Governor’s Office of Community Programs and the Department of Health and Hospitals that help more than 210,000 Louisianans secure better education, child care and health care. Louisiana makes at least \$174 million in aid available to its citizens through these choice-based programs.

*Choice-based Programs in Louisiana: Participation and Funds Available*

Programs	Participants	Funds
<b>Primarily State Funded</b>		
Tuition Opportunity Program for Students – Opportunity Awards	27,954	Expenditures \$70,238,323.93
Tuition Opportunity Program for Students – Performance Awards	8,679	\$26,920,271.29
Tuition Opportunity Program for Students – Honors Awards	6,204	\$22,635,345.25
GO Grants*	8,295	\$14,098,252
Non-Public Assistance – Textbooks	116,124	\$3,137,685
Non-Public Assistance – Transportation	17,962	\$7,202,105
<i>Subtotal - Expenditures</i>	<i>185,218</i>	<i>\$144,231,982.47</i>
<b>Allocations</b>		
Leveraging Educational Assistance Program	2,433	\$1,451,070
8(g) Block Grant Program	NA	\$1,548,357
8(g) Competitive Grant Program	NA	\$254,318
Education Excellence Fund	NA	\$4,424,190
<i>Subtotal - Allocations</i>	<i>2,433</i>	<i>\$7,677,935</i>
<b>Primarily Federally Funded</b>		
Non-Public Schools Early Childhood Development	11,734	Expenditures \$6,163,185
Access to Recovery	11,114	\$16,489,924
<i>Subtotal - Expenditures</i>	<i>22,848</i>	<i>\$22,653,109</i>
<b>Total - Current Choice-based Programs</b>	<b>210,499</b>	<b>\$174,563,026.47</b>
<b>One-time Hurricane-related Aid</b>		
Emergency Impact Aid for Displaced Students**	47,929	Allocations \$294,514,500
Immediate Aid to Restart School Operations***	NA	\$425,990,479
<b>Total - Hurricane-related Aid</b>	<b>47,929</b>	<b>\$720,504,979</b>

*Notes: All programs include both religious and non-religious providers. Unless otherwise indicated, the data covers the 2006-2007 school year, the most recent available in most cases. For some programs, actual expenditures were not available, so this report uses legislative allocations. The total of funds therefore reflects the total amount of choice-based aid available (actual expenditures plus allocations).*

\* Data covers 2007-2008; participant count for Fall 2007 recipients.

\*\* Data covers 2005-2006.

\*\*\*Data covers 2005-2006 and 2006-2007.

Similar to school choice plans, these programs each allow public funds to flow—on the basis of the choices of individual citizens—to non-public institutions and social service providers, including both religious and non-religious providers.<sup>5</sup> In some cases, as in pre-K and college education, the money flows to citizens directly. In others, non-public institutions such as K-12 schools may obtain public funds for specific uses like transporting students to school based on the number of children using the service. The effect is the same: The aid follows and supports the child. Choice-based programs expand the array of options available to students, parents and others and further empower citizens to choose the provider best suited to their needs. They also enable non-governmental organizations to lend their expertise to meeting the needs of Louisiana citizens.

The idea of private choice through public programs is embedded in both Louisiana's public policy and its state constitutional history. It has also historically enjoyed the broad support of voters.<sup>6</sup> For example, when voters approved the Louisiana Constitution in 1974, they reinforced a longstanding policy of providing funding for textbooks for children in non-public schools, including both religious and non-religious schools.<sup>7</sup>

Likewise, in 1986 voters directed federally awarded Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act funds to education, creating the Louisiana Quality Education Support Fund 8(g), which allocates funds for both public and non-public schools.<sup>8</sup>

Louisiana high school graduates have enjoyed school choice since 1975, when the state opted into a federal grant matching program offering funds for use at Louisiana public and private colleges, including religious and non-religious schools. The awards may also be used at private proprietary schools, such as beauty schools and truck driving and information technology training centers.<sup>9</sup>

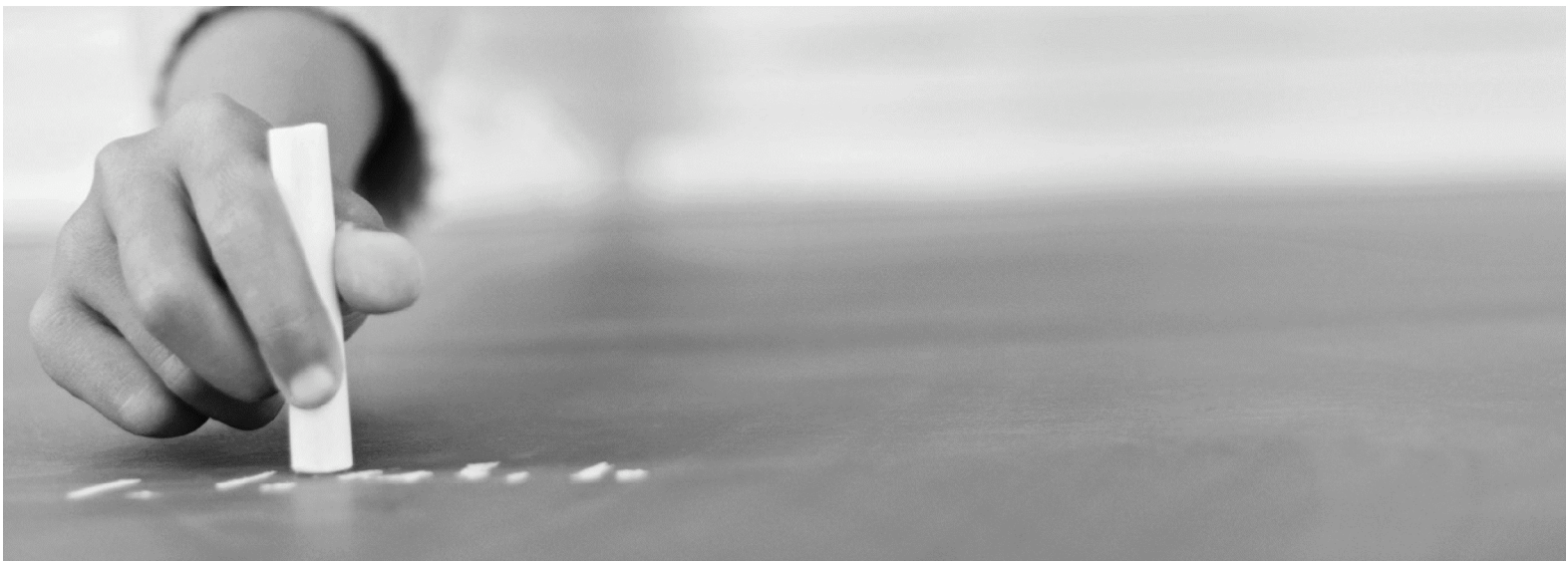
Louisiana's experience shows that choice-based aid programs can serve a diverse range of social needs, most prominently education. Indeed, in the 2006-2007 school year, Louisiana provided choice-based aid to at least 196,952 students from pre-K to college, spending over \$150 million. These numbers are actually an undercount, as the state has further allocated at least an additional \$7,677,935 for similar programs at non-public schools. (Actual expenditures and per-pupil spending rates were not available for these programs.)

On top of that, the federal government provided scholarships to students displaced by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita in 2005. The scholarships served as an educational lifeline to thousands of students, enabling them to secure an education in a time of crisis in the school of their choice, public or private, religious or non-religious. At least 9,667 students used the scholarships to attend private schools.

Some 16,114 pre-K and college students also make use of Louisiana's voucher programs to access private schools. The school choice initiative proposed by Gov. Jindal would simply extend the same kind of educational choice already enjoyed by families with pre-K and college students to K-12 children in New Orleans. Indeed, the state already offers limited choice to K-12 students through textbook, transportation and other grant programs. A school choice initiative would build on that tradition to further expand educational options. It would also reflect the success of 21 programs in 13 states that offer expanded educational opportunities through school choice.<sup>10</sup>

Extending opportunity through choice-based aid is part of the past and should be part of the future of Louisiana thanks to the proposed Student Scholarships for Educational Excellence Act. As this report demonstrates, such a school choice program, where Louisiana pays for but does not provide education to K-12 students, would follow in the footsteps of at least 14 other programs that enable citizens to choose services, including those offered by faith-based providers, tailored to their individual needs.

In the pages that follow, we include more detail about Louisiana's choice-based programs. These profiles include short descriptions of each program, when the programs were established and data on the number of participants and dollars expended or allocated (when available). The first set of current programs described below are those funded solely or primarily by the state. The second includes programs funded by the federal government but directed by state and local agencies. Not included below are programs administered and funded solely or in large part by the federal government, such as Pell grants and housing vouchers. Thus, the programs described here actually undercount the broad scope of services received by Louisianans through choice-based programs.



# Programs Funded Solely or Primarily By State Appropriations

## Tuition Opportunity Program for Students – Opportunity Awards<sup>11</sup>

Established: 1998

Description: This is a merit-based award available to graduates of Louisiana public and non-public high schools with a GPA of 2.50 and an ACT score equal to that of the prior year state average. Awards may be used at a Louisiana college or university, including private and religious schools. Deaf students may use their grants out of state at a college or university that specializes in serving the deaf community. The award compensates students who choose to go to a private or religious Louisiana college or university with the weighted average tuition of public colleges and universities. Recipients must maintain a college GPA of 2.30 by the end of the first academic year and 2.50 by the end of all other years. This program is entirely state funded.

Participants and Expenditures:<sup>12</sup>

### *TOPS Opportunity Awards to students at private institutions*

Fiscal Year	Participants	Expenditures	Constant 2007 Dollars
1998-1999	1,241	\$2,545,950.00	\$3,277,481.50
1999-2000	1,676	\$3,500,684.00	\$4,435,571.46
2000-2001	2,141	\$4,446,771.50	\$5,486,192.49
2001-2002	2,354	\$5,480,586.00	\$6,539,321.44
2002-2003	2,284	\$5,319,229.50	\$6,246,844.70
2003-2004	2,295	\$5,414,582.60	\$6,209,791.34
2004-2005	2,136	\$5,165,974.25	\$5,814,201.48
2005-2006	1,504	\$3,788,726.00	\$4,127,914.73
2006-2007	1,791	\$4,472,213.00	\$4,712,370.84
2007-2008	1,823	\$4,454,095.00	\$4,454,094.25

*TOPS Opportunity Awards to students at public institutions*

Fiscal Year	Participants	Expenditures	Constant 2007 dollars
1998-1999	15,327	\$32,384,526.59	\$41,689,619.56
1999-2000	18,412	\$38,775,798.53	\$49,131,205.64
2000-2001	22,315	\$51,980,239.35	\$64,130,481.79
2001-2002	25,714	\$59,978,818.44	\$71,565,481.07
2002-2003	25,028	\$59,724,873.38	\$70,140,235.33
2003-2004	25,543	\$62,781,032.22	\$72,001,322.96
2004-2005	25,923	\$65,510,153.38	\$73,730,377.34
2005-2006	26,055	\$65,320,482.27	\$71,168,350.70
2006-2007	26,163	\$65,766,110.93	\$69,297,751.09
2007-2008	25,208	\$60,319,448.38	\$60,319,448.38

*Private institutions awarding TOPS Opportunity Awards,  
FY 2006-2007 & FY 2007-2008*

School	2006-2007		2007-2008	
	Participants	Expenditures	Participants	Expenditures
Centenary College	154	\$385,410.00	134	\$343,866.00
Dillard University	102	\$264,471.00	82	\$202,038.00
Louisiana College	247	\$606,024.00	247	\$588,720.00
Loyola University	368	\$918,339.00	350	\$848,292.00
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary	4	\$13,260.00	7	\$17,394.00
Our Lady of Holy Cross College	122	\$306,999.00	130	322,458.00
Our Lady of the Lake College	215	\$539,207.00	238	\$559,676.00
St. Joseph Seminary	9	\$23,922.00	9	\$26,760.00
Tulane	201	\$496,248.00	236	\$567,259.00
Xavier	369	\$918,333.00	388	\$974,064.00
Rochester Institute	0	\$0	2	\$3,568.00
Private Total	1,791	\$4,472,213.00	1,823	\$4,454,095.00
Public Total	26,163	\$65,766,110.93	25,208	\$60,319,448.38
Grand Total	27,954	\$70,238,323.93	27,031	\$64,773,543.38

## Tuition Opportunity Program for Students – Performance Awards<sup>13</sup>

Established: 1998

Description: This is a merit-based scholarship available to graduates of Louisiana public and non-public high schools with a GPA of 3.00 and an ACT score of 23. Awards may be used at a Louisiana college or university, including private and religious schools. Deaf students may use their grants out of state at a college or university that specializes in serving the deaf community. The award compensates students who choose to go to a private or religious Louisiana college or university with the weighted average tuition of public colleges and universities plus a stipend of \$400. Recipients must maintain a college GPA of 3.00. This program is entirely state funded. Participants and Expenditures:<sup>14</sup>

### *TOPS Performance Awards to students at private institutions*

Fiscal Year	Participants	Expenditures	Constant 2007 Dollars
1998-1999	637	\$1,673,970.00	\$2,154,954.23
1999-2000	686	\$1,790,008.00	\$2,268,044.88
2000-2001	708	\$1,838,526.50	\$2,268,277.17
2001-2002	728	\$1,989,861.00	\$2,374,260.84
2002-2003	733	\$2,037,288.00	\$2,392,568.65
2003-2004	756	\$2,217,980.00	\$2,543,722.02
2004-2005	802	\$2,319,566.00	\$2,610,625.49
2005-2006	539	\$1,709,643.75	\$1,862,700.97
2006-2007	750	\$2,191,982.00	\$2,309,691.43
2007-2008	660	\$1,920,882.00	\$1,920,882.00



*TOPS Performance Awards to students at public institutions*

Fiscal Year	Participants	Expenditures	Constant 2007 dollars
1998-1999	4,473	\$11,811,022.69	\$15,204,700.96
1999-2000	5,162	\$13,548,668.23	\$17,166,955.43
2000-2001	6,069	\$17,224,082.26	\$21,250,165.59
2001-2002	6,434	\$18,060,552.69	\$21,549,476.55
2002-2003	6,207	\$18,315,282.72	\$21,509,266.87
2003-2004	6,460	\$19,942,755.48	\$22,871,633.79
2004-2005	7,215	\$22,327,457.46	\$25,129,110.20
2005-2006	7,755	\$23,776,187.80	\$25,904,770.03
2006-2007	7,929	\$24,728,289.29	\$26,056,198.42
2007-2008	7,161	\$20,989,331.28	\$20,989,331.28

*Private Institutions awarding TOPS Performance Awards,  
FY 2006-2007 and FY 2007-2008*

School	2006-2007		2007-2008	
	Participants	Expenditures	Participants	Expenditures
Centenary College	96	\$279,807.00	95	\$287,606.00
Dillard University	20	\$61,160.00	14	\$38,250.00
Louisiana College	79	\$232,408.00	69	\$203,216.00
Loyola University	187	\$534,021.00	136	\$395,266.00
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary	4	\$10,682.00	3	\$7,690.00
Our Lady of Holy Cross College	26	\$74,921.00	26	\$79,976.00
Our Lady of the Lake College	42	\$133,023.00	54	\$150,278.00
St. Joseph Seminary	6	\$16,819.00	5	\$15,380.00
Tulane	100	\$283,214.00	101	\$273,816.00
Xavier	188	\$559,811.00	156	\$467,352.00
Rochester Institute	2	\$6,116.00	1	\$2,052.00
Private Total	750	\$2,191,982.00	660	\$1,920,882.00
Public Total	7,929	\$24,728,289.29	7,161	\$20,989,331.28
Grand Total	8,679	\$26,920,271.29	7,821	\$22,910,213.28

## Tuition Opportunity Program for Students – Honors Awards<sup>15</sup>

Established: 1998

Description: This is a merit-based scholarship available to graduates of Louisiana public and non-public high schools with a GPA of 3.00 and an ACT score of 27. Awards may be used at a Louisiana college or university, including private and religious schools. Deaf students may use their grants out of state at a college or university that specializes in serving the deaf community. The award compensates students who choose to go to a private or religious Louisiana college or university with the weighted average tuition of public colleges and universities plus a stipend of \$800. Recipients must maintain a college GPA of 3.00. This program is entirely state funded.

Participants and Expenditures:<sup>16</sup>

### *TOPS Honors Awards to students at private institutions*

Fiscal Year	Participants	Expenditures	Constant 2007 Dollars
1998-1999	313	\$893,924.00	\$1,150,776.48
1999-2000	570	\$1,681,650.00	\$2,130,748.95
2000-2001	837	\$2,431,184.00	\$2,999,466.78
2001-2002	974	\$3,076,440.00	\$3,670,744.34
2002-2003	1,012	\$3,203,386.00	\$3,762,021.34
2003-2004	981	\$3,176,424.00	\$3,642,927.21
2004-2005	995	\$3,303,440.50	\$3,717,956.71
2005-2006	682	\$2,303,653.00	\$2,509,889.38
2006-2007	899	\$3,006,705.00	\$3,168,164.53
2007-2008	860	\$2,831,675.00	\$2,831,674.50

### *TOPS Honors Awards to students at public institutions*

Fiscal Year	Participants	Expenditures	Constant 2007 dollars
1998-1999	1,495	\$4,696,752.73	\$6,046,277.50
1999-2000	2,561	\$8,104,918.52	\$10,269,406.01
2000-2001	3,595	\$12,269,202.02	\$15,137,095.30
2001-2002	4,485	\$15,284,615.50	\$18,237,285.92
2002-2003	4,537	\$15,729,437.07	\$18,472,478.14
2003-2004	4,679	\$16,651,443.39	\$19,096,945.54
2004-2005	4,935	\$18,000,591.07	\$20,259,307.96
2005-2006	5,362	\$19,405,071.08	\$21,142,325.59
2006-2007	5,305	\$19,628,640.25	\$20,682,698.23
2007-2008	5,322	\$18,707,699.14	\$18,707,699.14

*Private Institutions awarding TOPS Honors Awards,  
FY 2006-2007 and FY 2007-2008*

School	2006-2007		2007-2008	
	Participants	Expenditures	Participants	Expenditures
Centenary College	162	\$555,009.00	160	\$542,794.00
Dillard University	3	\$10,374.00	1	\$3,476.00
Louisiana College	110	\$367,993.00	104	\$349,338.00
Loyola University	168	\$556,538.00	136	\$454,552.00
Our Lady of Holy Cross College	9	\$34,580.00	11	\$38,236.00
Our Lady of the Lake College	8	\$32,851.00	7	\$24,332.00
St. Joseph Seminary	7	\$25,935.00	4	\$12,166.00
Tulane	383	\$1,259,318.00	381	\$1,213,863.00
Xavier	49	\$164,107.00	56	\$192,918.00
Private Total	899	\$3,006,705.00	860	\$2,831,675.00
Public Total	5,305	\$19,628,640.25	5,322	\$18,707,699.14
Grand Total	6,204	\$22,635,345.25	6,182	\$21,539,374.14

## GO Grants<sup>17</sup>

Established: 2007

Description: Louisiana students who demonstrate financial need can obtain GO Grants of up to \$2,000 per academic year to attend public and private, including religious, Louisiana colleges and universities. Recipients must achieve academic progress defined by the institution in which they matriculate. This program is entirely state funded.

Participants and Expenditures:<sup>18</sup>

School	Fall 2007		Winter 2007		Spring 2008	
	Participants	Expenditures	Participants	Expenditures	Participants	Expenditures
Private	707	\$668,860	0	0	650	\$616,537
Public	6,143	\$5,786,372	359	\$238,285	5,284	\$5,048,873
Technical	149	\$129,250	0	0	109	\$103,250
Community College	1,296	\$1,028,929	0	0	568	\$477,896
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,295</b>	<b>\$7,613,411</b>	<b>359</b>	<b>\$238,285</b>	<b>6,611</b>	<b>\$6,246,556</b>

### *Private Institutions in the GO Grant Program, Fall 2007 and Spring 2008*

School	Fall 2007		Spring 2008	
	Participants	Expenditures	Participants	Expenditures
Centenary College	23	\$23,000	20	\$20,000
Dillard University	74	\$74,000	75	\$75,000
Louisiana College	72	\$72,000	60	\$58,936
Loyola University	80	\$80,000	71	\$71,000
Our Lady of Holy Cross College	53	\$48,750	43	\$38,750
Our Lady of the Lake College	79	\$57,250	80	\$66,500
Tulane University	71	\$58,860	60	\$48,851
Xavier University	255	\$255,000	241	\$237,500
<b>Private Total</b>	<b>707</b>	<b>\$668,860</b>	<b>650</b>	<b>\$616,537</b>
<b>Public* Total</b>	<b>7,588</b>	<b>\$6,944,551</b>	<b>5,961</b>	<b>\$5,630,019</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>8,295</b>	<b>\$7,613,411</b>	<b>6,611</b>	<b>\$6,246,556</b>

*\*Includes public colleges and universities, technical schools and community colleges.*

## Non-Public Assistance — Textbooks<sup>19</sup>

Established: 1975

Description: Louisiana makes funds available on a per-pupil basis to private schools, both religious and non-religious, to obtain textbooks.

Expenditures:

Fiscal Year	Participants	Expenditures	Constant 2007 Dollars
2003-2004	127,389	\$3,442,069.00 <sup>20</sup>	\$3,947,585.97
2004-2005	127,058	\$3,433,123.00 <sup>21</sup>	\$3,863,911.79
2005-2006	126,034	\$3,405,443.00 <sup>22</sup>	\$3,710,318.01
2006-2007	116,124	\$3,137,685.00 <sup>23</sup>	\$3,306,178.68
2007-2008	116,135	\$3,137,994.00 <sup>24</sup>	\$3,137,994.00

## Non-Public Assistance — Transportation<sup>25</sup>

Established: 1944<sup>26</sup>

Description: All Louisiana students who live further than a mile from school are entitled to transportation, including those who attend non-public schools, religious or non-religious. The aid is allocated on a per-pupil basis, following and supporting children who have chosen private schools.

Participation and Expenditures:

Year	Participants <sup>27</sup>	Expenditures	Constant 2007 Dollars
2003-2004	21,436	\$7,463,321.00 <sup>28</sup>	\$8,559,416.22
2004-2005	NA	\$7,434,124.00 <sup>29</sup>	\$8,366,959.01
2005-2006	18,232	\$6,134,289.00 <sup>30</sup>	\$6,683,466.13
2006-2007	17,962	\$7,202,105.00 <sup>31</sup>	\$7,588,858.04
2007-2008	18,135	\$7,200,000.00 <sup>32</sup>	\$7,200,000.00

## Leveraging Educational Assistance Program<sup>33</sup>

Established: 1975

Description: This program provides need-based grants to academically qualified students (high school GPA of at least 2.0) using state and federal matching funds (roughly two-to-one state) to pay for educational expenses at both public and private colleges. The awards can be used at religious and non-religious institutions to cover tuition and fees, books and supplies, and living expenses such as room, board and transportation. The grants can also be used at proprietary schools (beauty, information technology and truck driving). Awards range from \$200 to \$2,000 for a full academic year.

Awards and Allocations:<sup>34</sup>

### *LEAP Fiscal Years 2003-2004, 2004-2005*

School	2003-2004			2004-2005		
	Awards Disbursed	Awards Allocated	Allocations	Awards Disbursed	Awards Allocated	Allocations
4 yr public	1,874	2,700	\$1,007,770	1,949	2,760	\$1,007,306
2 yr public	186	492	\$134,679	163	492	\$136,041
Private	234	281	\$182,846	255	294	\$210,335
Beauty & Proprietary	40	148	\$47,469	44	189	\$53,508
Technical College	68	315	\$78,806	73	340	\$78,151
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,402</b>	<b>3,936</b>	<b>\$1,451,570</b>	<b>2,484</b>	<b>4,075</b>	<b>\$1,485,341</b>

### *LEAP Fiscal Years 2005-2006, 2006-2007*

School	2005-2006			2006-2007		
	Awards Disbursed	Awards Allocated	Allocations	Awards Disbursed	Awards Allocated	Allocations
4 yr public	2,350	3,150	\$1,151,538	2,020	2,949	\$1,032,576
2 yr public	109	350	\$131,118	129	422	\$127,284
Private	50	66	\$29,923	218	268	\$201,657
Beauty & Proprietary	18	136	\$45,104	15	86	\$32,835
Technical College	74	331	\$95,101	51	230	\$57,218
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,601</b>	<b>4,033</b>	<b>\$1,452,784</b>	<b>2,433</b>	<b>3,955</b>	<b>\$1,451,070</b>

*Private Institutions in the Leveraging Educational Assistance Program,  
FY 2003-2004 and 2004-2005*

School	2003-2004			2004-2005		
	Awards Disbursed*	Awards Allocated	\$ Allocated	Awards Disbursed	Awards Allocated	\$ Allocated
<i>Private Colleges</i>						
Centenary College	17	19	\$10,069.00	18	20	\$9,046.00
Dillard University	27	31	\$24,076.00	63	63	\$49,713.00
Louisiana College	46	48	\$10,888.00	39	43	\$10,610.00
Loyola University	32	32	\$31,504.00	32	32	\$31,635.00
Our Lady of Holy Cross College	14	42	\$4,544.00	8	19	\$6,088.00
Our Lady Of the Lake College	3	6	\$1,867.00	0	11	\$2,247.00
St. Joseph Seminary College	1	1	\$580.00	4	5	\$1,848.00
Tulane University	64	64	\$63,204.00	64	64	\$63,531.00
Xavier University	30	38	\$36,114.00	27	37	\$36,617.00
<i>Proprietary Schools</i>						
Bastrop Beauty	2	2	\$747.00	2	2	\$715.00
Moler – NO	6	11	\$3,198.00	0	NA	\$1,645.00
Moler – Kenner	6	13	\$3,878.00	7	13	\$3,720.00
Guy's	0	3	\$1,019.00	2	3	\$1,216.00
Stevenson's	6	8	\$3,674.00	7	12	\$3,863.00
Ayers	1	3	\$1,563.00	1	3	\$2,003.00
Bryman College	4	11	\$8,225.00	2	22	\$8,870.00
Delta - BR	3	12	\$2,655.00	1	21	\$6,367.00
Delta - LC	2	18	\$3,946.00	4	18	\$4,507.00
Remington – LAF	4	26	\$5,850.00	13	49	\$11,946.00
Med Vance – BR	0	1	\$543.00	0	26	\$4,435.00
Med Vance - TENN	0	2	\$1,495.00	0	0	\$0
Remington - MET	6	38	\$10,676.00	5	20	\$4,221.00
<b>Totals</b>	<b>274</b>	<b>429</b>	<b>\$230,315.00</b>	<b>299</b>	<b>483</b>	<b>\$263,843.00</b>

\* Shows the number of awards and not number of students since some students receive an award for multiple semesters/quarters during the year.



*Private Institutions in the Leveraging Educational Assistance Program,  
FY 2005-2006 and 2006-2007*

School	2005-2006			2006-2007		
	Awards Disbursed*	Awards Allocated	\$ Allocated	Awards Disbursed	Awards Allocated	\$ Allocated
<i>Private Colleges</i>						
Centenary College	20	24	\$13,231.00	16	18	\$9,713.00
Dillard University	0	0	\$0	38	50	\$39,832.00
Louisiana College	27	33	\$12,883.00	20	24	\$9,942.00
Loyola University	0	0	\$0	31	34	\$31,188.00
Our Lady of Holy Cross College	0	0	\$0	17	32	\$10,518.00
Our Lady Of the Lake College	1	7	\$2,614.00	2	10	\$1,849.00
St. Joseph Seminary College	2	2	\$1,195.00	0	0	\$0
Tulane University	0	0	\$0	62	62	\$62,201.00
Xavier University	0	0	\$0	32	38	\$36,414.00
<i>Proprietary Schools</i>						
Bastrop Beauty	1	5	\$1,372.00	0	2	\$754.00
Moler – NO	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0
BRGMC – Rad Tech	0	2	\$514.00	0	1	\$302.00
BRGMC - Nursing	0	4	\$1,286.00	0	3	\$709.00
Guy's	2	6	\$2,401.00	0	3	\$1,328.00
Stevenson's	0	0	NA	2	3	\$4,150.00
Ayers	1	12	\$5,745.00	1	5	\$3,154.00
Delta - BR	3	13	\$6,431.00	2	11	\$3,531.00
Delta - Covington	0	0	\$0	0	2	\$483.00
Delta - LC	0	27	\$8,061.00	1	5	\$4,421.00
Remington – LAF	7	49	\$10,547.00	5	27	\$5,809.00
Med Vance – BR	4	18	\$8,747.00	3	10	\$4,829.00
Den Springs Beauty	0	0	\$0	0	1	\$453.00
Gretna Career	0	0	\$0	1	13	\$2,912.00
Totals	68	202	\$75,027.00	233	354	\$234,492.00

\* Shows the number of awards and not number of students since some students receive an award for multiple semesters/quarters during the year.

8(g) Elementary/Secondary Student Enhancement Block  
Grant Program<sup>35</sup>

Established: 1986

Description: Part of the Louisiana Quality Education Support Fund, the program provides support for children in public and non-public K-12 schools, including both religious and non-religious schools, for a wide variety of programs including pre-K programs for at-risk children and remedial instruction for students failing “high stakes testing.” These include the Louisiana Virtual School, which provides web-based courses to students who might not otherwise have access to courses—such as Advanced Placement—that count toward university admissions and grant programs. Through the Foreign Language Model Program, schools may apply for money to recruit foreign teachers and develop foreign language curricula. This program also offers choice to teachers in private schools, as they can seek support for obtaining appropriate certifications.

Allocations:<sup>36\*</sup>

Fiscal Year	Allocation	Constant 2007 Dollars
2001-2002	\$1,112,287.00	\$1,327,157.76
2002-2003	\$1,409,715.00	\$1,655,553.81
2003-2004	\$1,334,162.00	\$1,530,102.73
2004-2005	\$1,563,281.00	\$1,759,441.74
2005-2006	\$1,649,397.00	\$1,797,060.59
2006-2007	\$1,548,357.00	\$1,631,503.77
2007-2008	\$1,531,357.00	\$1,531,357.00
Totals	\$10,148,556.00	\$11,232,177.40

*\*Data on number of students impacted unavailable.*

## 8(g) Competitive Grant Program<sup>37</sup>

Established: 1986

Description: Funded by the Louisiana Quality Education Support Fund, the program allows private, including religious, schools to compete for state funding for a maximum of three years to implement new and innovative programs geared towards K-12 Language Arts/English, Math, Science or Social Studies. Applicant schools must submit programs for anonymous evaluations by the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education before funding is awarded. The program supports children in both public and non-public schools.

Allocations:<sup>38\*</sup>

Fiscal Year	Allocation	Constant 2007 Dollars
2001-2002	\$309,498.00	\$369,286.59
2002-2003	\$392,577.00	\$461,038.12
2003-2004	\$338,253.00	\$387,930.28
2004-2005	\$343,588.00	\$386,701.47
2005-2006	\$162,351.00	\$176,885.60
2006-2007	\$254,318.00	\$267,974.88
2007-2008	\$200,451.00	\$200,451.00
Totals	\$2,001,036.00	\$2,250,267.94

\* Data on number of students impacted unavailable.

## Education Excellence Fund<sup>39</sup>

Established: 1999

Description: The program allows for non-public—including both religious and non-religious—schools providing instruction for children in pre-kindergarten through the 12<sup>th</sup> grade to apply to the Louisiana Department of Education for public funds. The money supports families who have chosen these schools and must be used for early childhood education programs for at-risk children, remedial instruction and for assistance to students who fail required tests.

Participants and Allocation:<sup>40\*</sup>

Fiscal Year	Non-public Schools	Allocation
2006-7	156	\$4,424,189.57

*\*Data on number of students impacted unavailable.*

# Programs Supported By State-Directed Federal Funds

## Non-Public Schools Early Childhood Development<sup>41</sup>

Established: 2001

Description: Funded by Louisiana Temporary Assistance to Needy Families, a federal block grant, and administered by the Governor’s Office for Community Programs, the program provides support for families whose household income is below 200 percent of the federal poverty level to send their 4-year-olds to private, including religious, pre-schools.

Participants and Expenditures:<sup>42</sup>

Fiscal Year	Participants	Expenditures	Constant 2007 Dollars
2001-2002	4,245	\$1,985,832.23	\$2,369,453.79
2002-2003	9,875	\$5,120,280.00	\$6,013,200.60
2003-2004	13,682	\$7,044,300.00	\$8,078,856.01
2004-2005	15,509	\$8,019,540.00	\$9,025,833.09
2005-2006	7,902	\$3,948,300.00	\$4,301,774.72
2006-2007	11,734	\$6,163,185.00	\$6,494,148.03

## Access to Recovery<sup>43</sup>

Established: 2005

Description: As part of the federal government's Drug Treatment Initiative, Louisiana received funds to provide vouchers for people seeking treatment and support services for a range of substance abuse and addiction problems. Designed to expand choices for individuals at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty level, the program enables those seeking help to use their vouchers at a variety of service providers, including religious and non-religious ones. Originally funded for three fiscal years, the Governor and Louisiana Legislature sustained the project with state funds.

Participants and Expenditures:

Fiscal Year	Participants	Expenditures	Constant 2007 Dollars
2004-2005	1,061	\$90,348.00	\$101,684.88
2005-2006	6,118	\$3,879,164.00	\$4,226,449.26
2006-2007	11,114	\$16,489,924.00	\$17,375,432.92

## Emergency Impact Aid for Displaced Students<sup>44</sup>

Established: 2005

Description: Passed in the wake of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, the Hurricane Education Recovery Act provided federal funds to local education agencies for only the 2005-2006 school year to help displaced students return to the classroom. The program mandates that agencies provide to families tuition vouchers of up to \$6,000 per student, or \$7,500 for students with a disability, to enroll their children at public or private schools, including both religious and non-religious schools.

Participants and Allocations:<sup>45</sup>

Quarter	Public	Private	Allocations
1	35,650	9,667	\$69,308,250
2	41,693	8,879	\$77,667,375
3	43,531	4,436	\$73,870,125
4	43,170	4,692	\$73,668,750
Total*	41,011	6,918	\$294,514,500

\* Student count is an average across all quarters.

## Immediate Aid to Restart School Operations<sup>46</sup>

Established: 2005

Description: Also part of the Hurricane Education Recovery Act, the Restart program set aside funds to aid the re-opening of Louisiana schools. The Act mandated that the Louisiana Department of Education allocate money for public and non-public schools, including religious and non-religious schools, for recovery of student and personnel data, renting mobile classrooms, replacing textbooks, facilities clean up and other uses.

Allocations: \*

Allocations	Non-public	Public
Initial	\$23,871,089.00 <sup>47</sup>	\$75,128,079.00 <sup>48</sup>
Second	\$14,015,686.00 <sup>49</sup>	\$132,605,100.00 <sup>50</sup>
Third	\$47,458,072.00 <sup>51</sup>	\$132,912,453.00 <sup>52</sup>
Totals	\$85,344,847.00	\$340,645,632.00

\* Data on number of students impacted unavailable.



## Endnotes

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<sup>1</sup> Moller, J. (2008, March 1). Jindal's budget plan stays the course; State spending levels would rise by 3.5 percent under blueprint. *New-Orleans Times-Picayune*, p.1.

<sup>2</sup> Deslatte, M. (2008, March 6). Teachers unions oppose Jindal plan. *The News-Star*, p. 1b.

<sup>3</sup> See <http://www.legis.state.la.us/billdata/streamdocument.asp?did=481124> and <http://www.legis.state.la.us/billdata/streamdocument.asp?did=481073>.

<sup>4</sup> Deslatte, M. (2008, March 6); Moller, J. (2008, March 1).

<sup>5</sup> Religious institutions acquiring public funding through the Louisiana Department of Education must prove that they do not discriminate in admissions on the basis of race or religion pursuant to *Brumfield v. Dodd*, 405 F. Supp. 338 (D.C.La. 1975).

<sup>6</sup> That constitutional history includes the deletion of two Blaine Amendments in 1973. Long before the deletion of those Amendments, however, the Louisiana Supreme court had interpreted them to allow provision of free publicly funded textbooks to private school students, reasoning that the students were the primary beneficiaries of the state aid rather than the private schools they attended. *Borden v. Louisiana State Board of Education*, 123 So. 655 (La. 1929). For more on Louisiana's constitution and relevant court decisions, see [http://www.ij.org/pdf\\_folder/school\\_choice/50statereport/states/louisiana.pdf](http://www.ij.org/pdf_folder/school_choice/50statereport/states/louisiana.pdf).

<sup>7</sup> Information received via email correspondence with Lauren Perry, Louisiana Children's Education Alliance, March 6, 2008.

<sup>8</sup> Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, The Louisiana Quality Education Support Fund 8(g), <http://www.doe.state.la.us/lde/bese/1019.html>.

<sup>9</sup> Telephone conversation with Richard Omdal, Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance, March 19, 2008.

<sup>10</sup> The ABCs of School Choice, The Friedman Foundation for Educational Choice, March 10, 2008, at <http://www.friedmanfoundation.org/friedman/downloadFile.do?id=277>.

<sup>11</sup> Telephone conversation with Richard Omdal, Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance, March 19, 2008; Louisiana Administrative Code, Title 28 Education, Chapter 7: Tuition Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS) Opportunity, Performance, and Honors Awards, <http://www.doa.state.la.us/osr/lac/28v4-7/28v4-7.doc>; TOPS Opportunity, Performance, and Honors Awards Brochure, [https://osfantweb.osfa.state.la.us/TOPS\\_OPH\\_brochure\\_8-11.pdf](https://osfantweb.osfa.state.la.us/TOPS_OPH_brochure_8-11.pdf).

<sup>12</sup> Data received via email correspondence with Richard Omdal, Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance, March 19, 2008.

<sup>13</sup> Telephone conversation with Richard Omdal, Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance, March 19, 2008; Louisiana Administrative Code, Title 28 Education, Chapter 7: Tuition Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS) Opportunity, Performance, and Honors Awards, <http://www.doa.state.la.us/osr/lac/28v4-7/28v4-7.doc>; TOPS Opportunity, Performance, and Honors Awards Brochure, [https://osfantweb.osfa.state.la.us/TOPS\\_OPH\\_brochure\\_8-11.pdf](https://osfantweb.osfa.state.la.us/TOPS_OPH_brochure_8-11.pdf).

<sup>14</sup> Data received via email correspondence with Richard Omdal, Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance, March 19, 2008.

<sup>15</sup> Telephone conversation with Richard Omdal, Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance, March 19, 2008; Louisiana Administrative Code, Title 28 Education, Chapter 7: Tuition Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS) Opportunity, Performance, and Honors Awards, <http://www.doa.state.la.us/osr/lac/28v4-7/28v4-7.doc>; TOPS Opportunity, Performance, and Honors Awards Brochure, [https://osfantweb.osfa.state.la.us/TOPS\\_OPH\\_brochure\\_8-11.pdf](https://osfantweb.osfa.state.la.us/TOPS_OPH_brochure_8-11.pdf).

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<sup>16</sup> Data received via email correspondence with Richard Omdal, Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance, March 19, 2008.

<sup>17</sup> Telephone conversation with Richard Omdal, Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance, March 19, 2008; Louisiana Administrative Code, Title 28 Education, Chapter 12: Louisiana GO Grant, <http://www.doa.state.la.us/osr/lac/28v4-7/28v4-7.doc>.

<sup>18</sup> Data received via email correspondence with Richard Omdal, Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance, March 19, 2008.

<sup>19</sup> Information received via email correspondence with Lauren Perry, Louisiana Children's Education Alliance, March 6, 2008.

<sup>20</sup> Louisiana Department of Education, Non-Public Assistance – Textbooks, Fiscal Year 2003-2004, <http://www.doe.state.la.us/lde/uploads/4427.pdf>.

<sup>21</sup> Louisiana Department of Education, Non-Public Assistance – Textbooks, Fiscal Year 2004-2005, <http://www.doe.state.la.us/lde/uploads/6799.pdf>.

<sup>22</sup> Louisiana Department of Education, Non-Public Assistance – Textbooks, Fiscal Year 2005-2006, <http://www.doe.state.la.us/lde/uploads/10954.pdf>.

<sup>23</sup> Louisiana Department of Education, Non-Public Assistance – Textbooks, Fiscal Year 2006-2007, <http://www.doe.state.la.us/lde/uploads/10659.pdf>.

<sup>24</sup> Data received via email correspondence with Lauren Perry, Louisiana Children's Education Alliance, March 6, 2008. Originally supplied by Jackie Bobbett, Louisiana Department of Education, Non-Public Schools Section Leader.

<sup>25</sup> Louisiana Revised Statute 17:158 (F); Louisiana Department of Education, School Transportation, <http://www.doe.state.la.us/lde/scs/661.html>.

<sup>26</sup> Telephone conversation with Quiana R. Wright, State Library of Louisiana, March 24, 2008. The statute enacting the program may have passed as early as 1922. However, changes in statute numbering during intervening decades make it difficult to substantiate the exact year of the program's creation.

<sup>27</sup> Telephone Conversation with Rashaunda Matthews, Louisiana Department of Education, Grants Management, March 18, 2008.

<sup>28</sup> Louisiana Department of Education, Non-Public Assistance Transportation, Fiscal Year 2003-2004, <http://www.doe.state.la.us/lde/uploads/4428.pdf>.

<sup>29</sup> Louisiana Department of Education, Non-Public Assistance Transportation, Fiscal Year 2004-2005, <http://www.doe.state.la.us/lde/uploads/6305.pdf>.

<sup>30</sup> Louisiana Department of Education, Non-Public Assistance Transportation, Fiscal Year 2005-2006, <http://www.doe.state.la.us/lde/uploads/10941.pdf>.

<sup>31</sup> Louisiana Department of Education, Non-Public Assistance Transportation, Fiscal Year 2006-2007, <http://www.doe.state.la.us/lde/uploads/10839.pdf>.

<sup>32</sup> Telephone Conversation with Rashaunda Matthews, Louisiana Department of Education, Grants Management, March 18, 2008.

<sup>33</sup> Telephone conversation with Richard Omdal, Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance, March 19, 2008; Louisiana Administrative Code, Title 28 Education, Chapter 13: Leveraging Educational Assistance Program, <http://www.doa.state.la.us/osr/lac/28v4-7/28v4-7.doc>; Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance, Leveraging Educational Assistance Program (LEAP), <http://www.osfa.state.la.us/>.

<sup>34</sup> Data received via email correspondence with Richard Omdal, Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance, March 19, 2008.

<sup>35</sup> Telephone conversation with Janie Johnson, Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, March 19, 2008; 8(g) Funding Structure, <https://www.louisianaschools.net/lde/bese/1082.html>; 8(g) Annual Program and Budget 2007-2008,

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<https://www.louisianaschools.net/lde/uploads/10313.pdf>; 8(g) Program Directory 2007-2008, 8(g) Funding Structure, <https://www.louisianaschools.net/lde/bese/1082.html>.

<sup>36</sup> Data received via email correspondence with Janie Johnson, Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, March 19, 2008.

<sup>37</sup> Telephone conversation with Janie Johnson, Louisiana Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, March 19, 2008; Louisiana Department of Education, 8(g) Guidelines and Forms, <http://www.doe.state.la.us/lde/bese/1079.html>; Board of Elementary and Secondary Education 8(g) Competitive Grants 2008-9 Workshops, <http://www.doe.state.la.us/lde/uploads/11832.pdf>; 2007-2008 8(g) Program Directory, <http://www.doe.state.la.us/lde/uploads/11378.pdf>.

<sup>38</sup> Data received via email correspondence with Janie Johnson, Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, March 19, 2008.

<sup>39</sup> Louisiana Revised Statute 39:98.1 1-98.5; Louisiana Department of Education, Education Excellence Funds Home Page, <http://www.doe.state.la.us/lde/eia/1590.html>.

<sup>40</sup> Data received via email correspondence with Mary Cavalier, Louisiana Department of Education, March 4, 2008.

<sup>41</sup> Non-public Schools Early Childhood Development Program (NSECD) Evaluation Report, Executive Summary, on file with the author; National Institute for Early Education Research 2006 Louisiana Report Card, <http://nieer.org/yearbook/pdf/yearbook.pdf#page=76>.

<sup>42</sup> Data received via email correspondence with Petrouchka Moise, Louisiana Governor's Office, March 4, 2008.

<sup>43</sup> Data received via email correspondence with Charlene Gradney, Louisiana Office for Addictive Disorders, March 19, 2008; Access to Recovery, Frequently Asked Questions, <http://www.dhh.louisiana.gov/offices/faq.asp?ID=154>; Access to Recovery, Overview, <http://www.dhh.louisiana.gov/offices/publications/pubs-23/Access%20to%20Recovery%20Storyboard.pdf>.

<sup>44</sup> Hurricane Education Recovery Act, <http://www.doe.state.la.us/lde/uploads/8354.pdf>.

<sup>45</sup> US Department of Education, Final Emergency Impact Aid Student Counts and Payments, <http://hurricanehelpforschools.gov/proginfo/eiap-final.pdf>.

<sup>46</sup> Hurricane Education Recovery Act, <http://www.doe.state.la.us/lde/uploads/8354.pdf>. Louisiana Department of Education, Immediate Aid to Restart School Operations, Frequently Asked Questions – Non-public schools, <http://www.louisianaschools.net/lde/uploads/9108.pdf>.

<sup>47</sup> Louisiana Department of Education, Immediate Aid to Restart School Operations – Initial Allocation – Non-public Schools, <http://www.louisianaschools.net/lde/uploads/8566.pdf>.

<sup>48</sup> Louisiana Department of Education, Immediate Aid to Restart School Operations – Initial Allocation – Public Schools, <http://www.louisianaschools.net/lde/uploads/8484.pdf>.

<sup>49</sup> Louisiana Department of Education, Immediate Aid to Restart School Operations – Second Allocation – Non-public Schools, <http://www.louisianaschools.net/lde/uploads/9525.pdf>.

<sup>50</sup> Louisiana Department of Education, Immediate Aid to Restart School Operations – Second Allocation – Public Schools, <http://www.louisianaschools.net/lde/uploads/9524.pdf>.

<sup>51</sup> Louisiana Department of Education, Immediate Aid to Restart School Operations – Third Allocation – Non-public Schools, <http://www.louisianaschools.net/lde/uploads/10139.pdf>.

<sup>52</sup> Louisiana Department of Education, Immediate Aid to Restart School Operations – Third Allocation – Public Schools, <http://www.louisianaschools.net/lde/uploads/11248.pdf>.

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