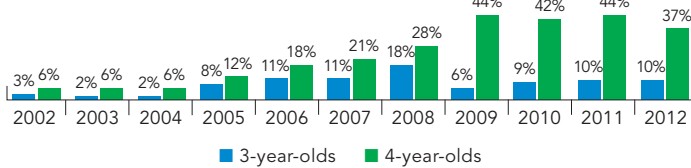
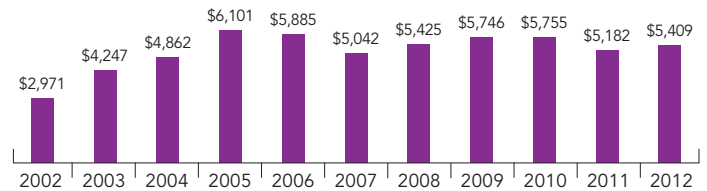


Arkansas

PERCENT OF STATE POPULATION ENROLLED



STATE SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED (2012 DOLLARS)



As part of a statewide education reform initiative, the Arkansas Better Chance (ABC) program was established in 1991 and was originally funded only through a dedicated sales tax. However, between 2001 and 2007 it received additional funding from an excise tax on packaged beer. Although the program operates with some federal funding as well, at least 40 percent of the program’s overall funding must be local contributions.

ABC offers early childhood education services to children from low-income families from birth to age 5. Other risk factors can help determine eligibility, including developmental delay, family violence, foster care, having a parent in active overseas military duty, low parental education level, having a teen parent, low birth weight, or non-English speaking family members. The program uses a diverse delivery system to provide pre-K access through educational service cooperatives, Head Start, nonprofit organizations, private businesses, and public schools.

The Arkansas Better Chance program provides financial support for professional development, including pursuit of college degrees, to its pre-K teachers. Effective January 2011, Act 187 of 2009 established the Birth through Prekindergarten Teaching Credential. This credential allows an additional professional pathway for preschool teachers in the ABC program, and five institutions have been approved to offer the credential. ABC also participates in an ongoing study that began in the 2005-2006 year to evaluate both impact/child and quality outcomes.

The Arkansas Better Chance for School Success (ABCSS) launched in the 2004-2005 program year as a result of additional state funds. ABCSS is available to 3- and 4-year-olds from families who have an income below 200 percent of the federal poverty level. ABCSS funding was originally offered only to school districts where at least 75 percent of fourth grade children performed below “proficient” on state benchmarks exams in math and literacy or to districts classified as being in academic distress or school improvement status. Eligible children in other districts now receive services as well due to expansion of the program.

This report profiles the ABC and ABCSS programs together as they have similar requirements and standards.

ACCESS RANKINGS	
4-YEAR-OLDS	3-YEAR-OLDS
11	5

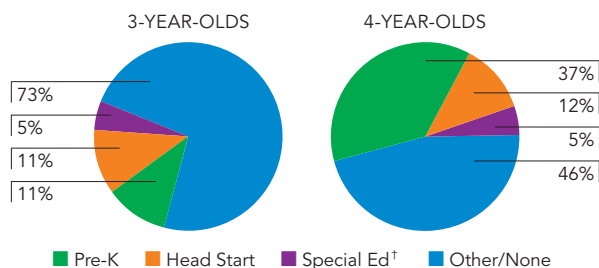
RESOURCES RANKINGS	
STATE SPENDING	ALL REPORTED SPENDING
10	5

ARKANSAS BETTER CHANCE/ARKANSAS BETTER CHANCE FOR SCHOOL SUCCESS

ACCESS

Total state program enrollment	20,520 ¹
School districts that offer state program	98%
Income requirement	90% of the children must be at or below 200% FPL
Hours of operation	7 hours/day, 5 days/week
Operating schedule	Academic year
Special education enrollment	8,578
Federal Head Start enrollment, ages 3 & 4	9,477
State-funded Head Start enrollment.....	0

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



[†] This is an estimate of children in special education who are not enrolled in state-funded pre-K or Head Start.

QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

POLICY	STATE PRE-K REQUIREMENT	BENCHMARK	DOES REQUIREMENT MEET BENCHMARK?
Early learning standards	Comprehensive	Comprehensive	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher degree	BA per every 3 classrooms and AA otherwise (public and nonpublic) ²	BA	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teacher specialized training	Degree in ECE or CD with P-4 certificate (public); Degree in ECE or CD (nonpublic) ²	Specializing in pre-K	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Assistant teacher degree.....	CDA	CDA or equivalent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher in-service.....	60 clock hours (certified staff) 30 clock hours (other staff)	At least 15 hours/year	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Maximum class size		20 or lower	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3-year-olds	20		
4-year-olds	20		
Staff-child ratio		1:10 or better	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3-year-olds	1:10		
4-year-olds	1:10		
Screening/referral.....	Vision, hearing, health, dental, and support services developmental; and support services ³	Vision, hearing, health; and at least 1 support service	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Meals	Breakfast, lunch, and snack	At least 1/day	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Monitoring	Site visits and other monitoring	Site visits	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

TOTAL BENCHMARKS MET

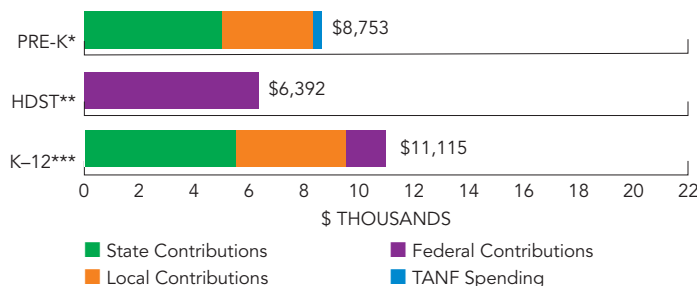
9

RESOURCES

Total state pre-K spending	\$111,000,000 ⁴
Local match required?	Yes, 40% ⁵
State spending per child enrolled	\$5,409 ⁴
All reported spending per child enrolled*.....	\$8,753

* Pre-K programs may receive additional funds from federal or local sources that are not included in this figure.
 ** Head Start per-child spending for the 2011-2012 year includes funding only for 3- and 4-year-olds served. Past years' figures have unintentionally included funds for Early Head Start.
 *** K-12 expenditures include capital spending as well as current operating expenditures. Data are for the '11-'12 school year, unless otherwise noted.

SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED



¹ This figure includes some infants and toddlers. It represents center-based enrollment only and does not include 4,956 children who received home-visiting services during the 2011-2012 program year.
² Lead teachers are required to have a BA for every three classrooms. The lead teacher must have a degree in early childhood education, child development, or equivalent; those in public schools must also have P-4 certification. The other two teachers must have a minimum of an AA in early childhood education or child development.

³ Psychological/behavioral screenings and referrals are determined locally. Support services include parent conferences and/or home visits, parenting support or training, parent involvement activities, health services for children, information about nutrition, referral to social services, and transition to kindergarten activities.
⁴ These figures include both state and TANF funds.
⁵ Programs must provide the 40 percent match in cash or through in-kind services. The funding sources are determined locally.