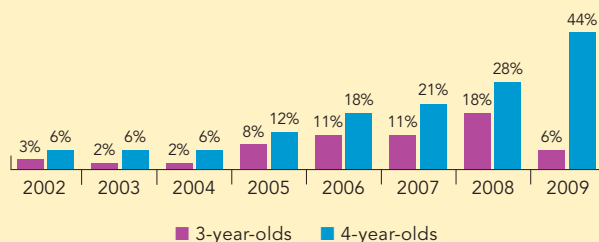
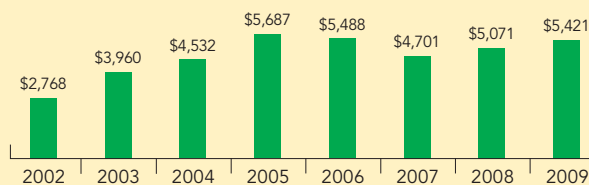


# Arkansas

PERCENT OF STATE POPULATION ENROLLED



STATE SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED  
(2009 DOLLARS)



The Arkansas Better Chance (ABC) program began in 1991 as part of a state education reform initiative. ABC was initially funded entirely through a dedicated sales tax, with additional funding from an excise tax on packaged beer from 2001-2007. ABC also receives some federal funding, but at least 40 percent of the total program funding must consist of local contributions. State funding for preschool education has increased steadily over the past few years, resulting in greater access to the program.

ABC has a diverse pre-K delivery system with more than half of the programs operating through public schools or education cooperatives, and the other programs operating through Head Start and private organizations. Children birth to age 5 from low-income families are eligible to receive early childhood services. Eligibility is also determined by other risk factors, such as being in foster care, developmental delay, family violence, having a parent on active military duty, having a teen parent, limited English proficiency, or low birth weight.

Teachers in the ABC program can receive financial support for professional development, including college degrees. Act 186 of 2009 requires the development of a Birth-PreK Teaching Credential, which would be an additional professional pathway for teachers/caregivers working with children in the ABC program.

New state funds were available for the 2004-2005 program year to establish the Arkansas Better Chance for School Success (ABCSS) program. Three- and 4-year-old children from families whose income is below 200 percent of the federal poverty level are eligible for ABCSS. Program eligibility is also limited to children who live in school districts in which at least 75 percent of children perform poorly on state benchmark exams in math and literacy or that are in school improvement status. As ABC and ABCSS have the same quality standards, this report combines enrollment and spending figures for the two programs.

ACCESS RANKINGS	
4-YEAR-OLDS	3-YEAR-OLDS
8	8

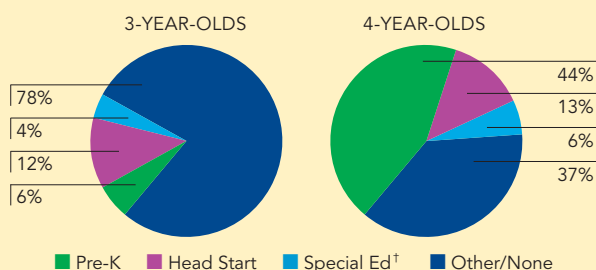
RESOURCES RANKINGS	
STATE SPENDING	ALL REPORTED SPENDING
10	5

# ARKANSAS BETTER CHANCE/ARKANSAS BETTER CHANCE FOR SCHOOL SUCCESS

## ACCESS

Total state program enrollment .....	20,476 <sup>1</sup>
School districts that offer state program .....	96%
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 .....	8,548
Federally funded Head Start enrollment .....	9,782
State-funded Head Start enrollment .....	0

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



<sup>†</sup> 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/BS (public); BA/BS per every 3 classrooms and AA otherwise (nonpublic) <sup>2</sup>	BA	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teacher specialized training .....	Degree in ECE or CD with P-4 certificate (public); Degree in ECE or CD (nonpublic) <sup>2</sup>	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 <sup>3</sup>	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

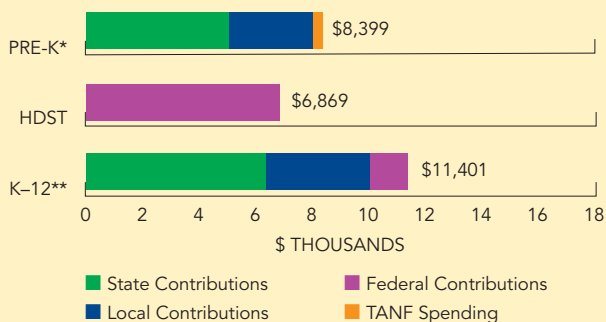
Total state pre-K spending .....	\$111,000,000 <sup>4,5</sup>
Local match required? .....	Yes, 40% of total funding <sup>6</sup>
State spending per child enrolled .....	\$5,421 <sup>5</sup>
All reported spending per child enrolled* .....	\$8,399

\* Pre-K programs may receive additional funds from federal or local sources that are not included in this figure.

\*\*K-12 expenditures include capital spending as well as current operating expenditures.

Data are for the '08-'09 school year, unless otherwise noted.

SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED



<sup>1</sup> This figure includes some infants and toddlers. It represents center-based enrollment only and does not include 5,627 children who received home-visiting services during the 2008-2009 program year.

<sup>2</sup> As of August 2007, lead teachers in public school settings are required to have a bachelor's degree in ECE or CD with P-4 certification. In all other settings, one teacher for every three classrooms must have a bachelor's degree in ECE, child development, or equivalent. This teacher is designated the lead teacher. The second and third classroom teachers must have at least an AA in ECE or child development.

<sup>3</sup> Support services include two annual parent conferences 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.

<sup>4</sup> Additional state, TANF, and local funds totaling \$15,877,743, not included in this figure, were allocated to a home-based program option.

<sup>5</sup> These figures include both state and TANF funds.

<sup>6</sup> Programs must provide the 40 percent match in cash or through in-kind services. The funding sources are determined locally.