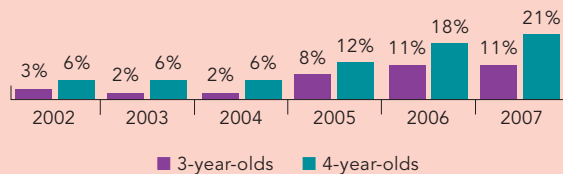
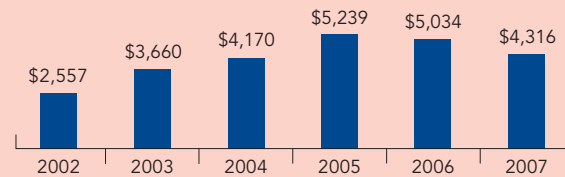


Arkansas

PERCENT OF STATE POPULATION ENROLLED



STATE SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED
(2007 DOLLARS)



The Arkansas Better Chance (ABC) program provides services for children from birth to age 5. It began in 1991 as part of a state education reform initiative. Children from low-income families are eligible for ABC. Other specific risk factors, such as having a teen parent, developmental delay, low birth weight, limited English proficiency, being in foster care, having a parent on active military duty, and family violence are used to determine eligibility for the program. Most ABC programs are run by public schools or educational cooperatives. However, the state also permits and funds programs through Head Start and other private organizations. A dedicated sales tax has been used to fund ABC since its inception, and since 2001 it has also been partially funded by an excise tax on package beer. The program receives some federal funding but local contributions must cover at least 40 percent of the total program funding.

In recent years state funding for prekindergarten has increased steadily, rising 18 percent from 2004-2005 to the 2005-2006 program year. This increase in funding has resulted in greater access to the program. During the 2004-2005 program year, the Arkansas Better Chance for School Success (ABCSS) program was created using new state funds. ABCSS and ABC have the same quality standards but ABCSS is a more targeted program. Three- and 4-year-old children in families below 200 percent of the federal poverty level and who live in school districts that have school improvement status, or in which at least 75 percent of children perform poorly on state benchmark exams in math and literacy, are eligible for the program. This report combines enrollment and spending figures for the ABC and ABCSS programs.

The ABC initiative provides financial resources to its programs for professional development, including college degrees. Arkansas state administrators are drafting regulations that would promote a rule change so that all teachers, including those in multi-classroom sites, will be required to hold a bachelor's degree with specialization in early childhood education or child development. The earliest these new regulations would be effective would be for the 2008-2009 school year.

ACCESS RANKINGS	
4-YEAR-OLDS	3-YEAR-OLDS
15	4

RESOURCES RANKINGS	
STATE SPENDING	ALL REPORTED SPENDING
12*	7

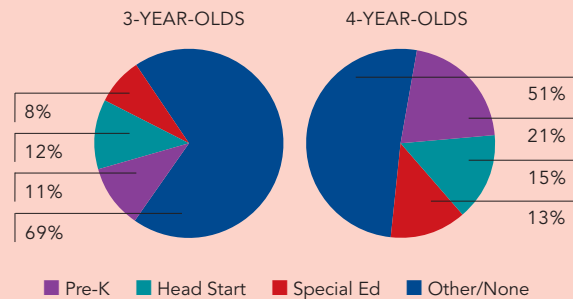
* In previous Yearbooks, only state spending was ranked.

ARKANSAS BETTER CHANCE/ARKANSAS BETTER CHANCE FOR SCHOOL SUCCESS

ACCESS

Total state program enrollment.....	13,617 ¹
School districts that offer state program	100% (counties)
Income requirement.....	200% FPL
Hours of operation.....	7 hours/day, 5 days/week
Operating schedule	Academic year
Special education enrollment	8,023
Federally funded Head Start enrollment.....	10,113
State-funded Head Start enrollment	0

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



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 (single classroom sites); AA/AS (multiple classroom sites) ²	BA	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teacher specialized training	Degree in EC with P-4 cert. (public single classroom sites); Degree in EC area (nonpublic single classroom sites & multiple classroom sites) 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 and support services	Vision, hearing, health, developmental, and dental; 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"/>

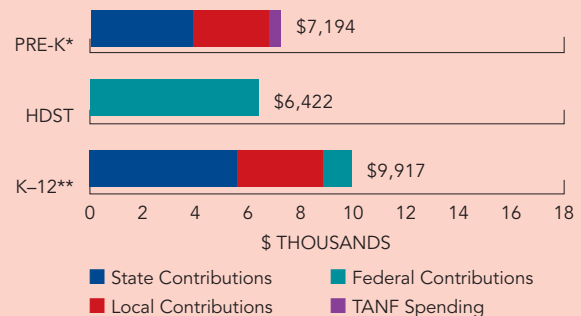
TOTAL BENCHMARKS MET

9

RESOURCES

Total state pre-K spending.....	\$58,775,935 ^{4,5}
Local match required?	Yes, 40% of total funding
State spending per child enrolled.....	\$4,316 ⁵
All reported spending per child enrolled*	\$7,194

SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED



* 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 '06-'07 school year, unless otherwise noted.

¹ This figure includes some infants and toddlers. It represents center-based enrollment only, and does not include 5,351 children who received home-visiting services during 2006-2007.

² The P-4 teacher certification license covers Pre-K – Grade 4. In multiple classroom sites, one teacher for every 3 classrooms must have a BA and P-4 certification (public settings) or a BA in early childhood education or child development (nonpublic settings). In the other classrooms, teachers must have an AA in early childhood education or child development.

³ Support services include two annual parent conferences or home visits, education services or job training for parents, parenting support or training, parent involvement activities, health services for children, information about nutrition, referral to social services, and transition to kindergarten activities.

⁴ Additional state, TANF, and local funds totaling \$14,005,620 were allocated to a home-based program option and are not included in this figure.

⁵ These figures include both state and TANF funds.