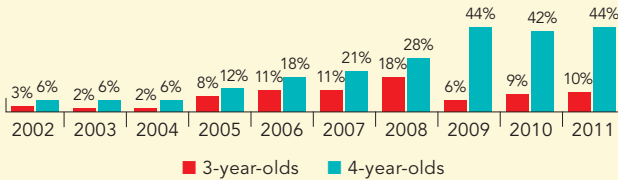
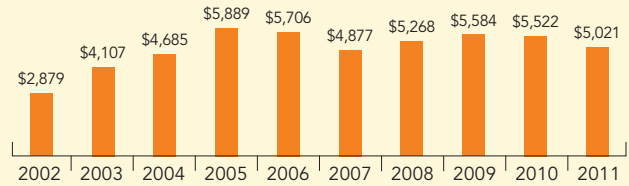


Arkansas

PERCENT OF STATE POPULATION ENROLLED



STATE SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED
(2011 DOLLARS)



The Arkansas Better Chance (ABC) program was established in 1991 as part of a statewide education reform initiative. ABC was initially funded solely through a dedicated sales tax, though between 2001 and 2007 it received additional funding from an excise tax on packaged beer. While ABC also receives some federal funding, at least 40 percent of the program’s overall funding must be local contributions.

The Arkansas Better Chance program provides early childhood services to children from birth to age 5 who are from low-income families. Eligibility can also be determined by other risk factors, including being in foster care, developmental delay, family violence, having a parent on active overseas military duty, having a teen parent, low birth weight, low parental education level, or non-English speaking family members. ABC offers a diverse pre-K delivery system with programs accessible through public schools, educational service cooperatives, nonprofit organizations, private businesses, and Head Start.

Financial support for professional development, including pursuit of college degrees, is offered to pre-K teachers in ABC programs. The Birth through Prekindergarten Teaching Credential, an additional professional pathway for preschool teachers in the ABC program, was made available by Act 187 of 2009 and went into effect in January 2011. Five institutions have been approved to offer the credential. ABC also participates in an ongoing evaluation for both process quality and impact/child outcomes through a study that began in the 2005-2006 year.

Additional state funds led to the launch of the Arkansas Better Chance for School Success (ABCSS) program in the 2004-2005 program year. Three- and 4-year olds are eligible for ABCSS if their families have an income below 200 percent of the FPL. Initially, funding was provided first to those school districts where at least 75 percent of fourth-grade children performed below “proficient” on state benchmarks exams in literacy and math or those districts classified as being in academic distress or school improvement status. As the program has expanded, eligible children in other districts now receive services.

This report profiles ABC and ABCSS together because both programs have similar requirements and standards.

| ACCESS RANKINGS | |
|-----------------|-------------|
| 4-YEAR-OLDS | 3-YEAR-OLDS |
| 10 | 4 |

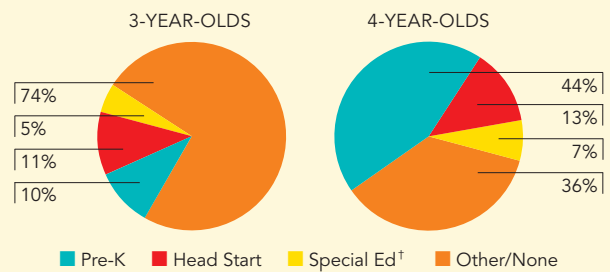
| RESOURCES RANKINGS | |
|--------------------|-----------------------|
| STATE SPENDING | ALL REPORTED SPENDING |
| 12 | 7 |

ARKANSAS BETTER CHANCE/ARKANSAS BETTER CHANCE FOR SCHOOL SUCCESS

ACCESS

| | |
|---|--|
| Total state program enrollment | 22,015 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 | 8,793 |
| Federally funded Head Start enrollment | 9,073 |
| 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 ⁴ | 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 | \$5,021 ⁴ |
| All reported spending per child enrolled*..... | \$8,126 |

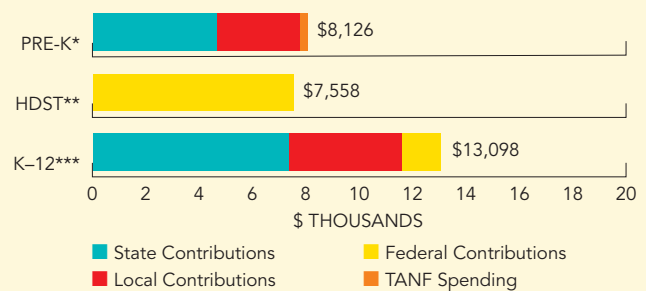
* Pre-K programs may receive additional funds from federal or local sources that are not included in this figure.

** Head Start per-child spending for the 2010-2011 year includes funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

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

Data are for the '10-'11 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 5,510 children who received home-visiting services during the 2010-2011 program year.

² As of August 2007, programs are required to have at least one lead teacher with 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 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.