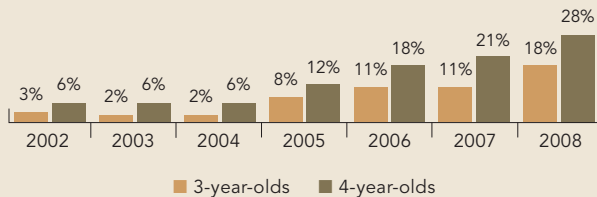
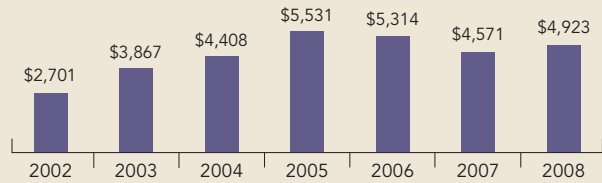


Arkansas

PERCENT OF STATE POPULATION ENROLLED



STATE SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED
(2008 DOLLARS)



In 1991, the Arkansas Better Chance (ABC) program began as part of a state education reform initiative. Since its inception, ABC has been funded through a dedicated sales tax. Beginning in 2001, the program has been partially funded by an excise tax on package beer. Additionally, ABC receives some federal funding, although local contributions must cover at least 40 percent of the total program funding.

The program provides services for children from low-income families from birth to age 5. Additional risk factors for determining eligibility for the ABC program include 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. Arkansas has a diverse pre-K delivery system with about half of all providers being public schools or education cooperatives. The state also permits and funds programs operating through Head Start and private organizations, which comprise the other half.

ABC provides financial resources to its programs for teacher professional development, including college degrees. State legislators have commissioned an interim study to examine the possibility of instituting a birth–5 teaching license that would be required for state pre-K teachers in public schools, including those in multi-classroom sites. The study will be discussed more in depth during the 2009 state legislative session.

In recent years, state funding for prekindergarten has increased steadily, resulting in greater access to the program. In the 2004–2005 program year, the Arkansas Better Chance for School Success (ABCSS) program was established using new state funds. ABCSS and ABC have the same quality standards, but ABCSS is targeted to 3- and 4-year-old children in families below 200 percent of the federal poverty level and who live in school districts that are in school improvement status or in which at least 75 percent of children perform poorly on state benchmark exams in math and literacy. This report combines enrollment and spending figures for the ABC and ABCSS programs.

ACCESS RANKINGS	
4-YEAR-OLDS	3-YEAR-OLDS
14	2

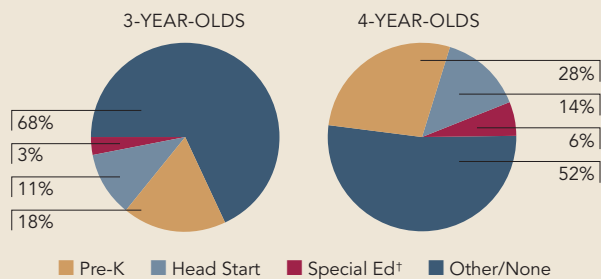
RESOURCES RANKINGS	
STATE SPENDING	ALL REPORTED SPENDING
11	6

ARKANSAS BETTER CHANCE/ARKANSAS BETTER CHANCE FOR SCHOOL SUCCESS

ACCESS

Total state program enrollment	18,870 ¹
School districts that offer state program	94%
Income requirement	200% FPL
Hours of operation	7 hours/day, 5 days/week
Operating schedule	Academic year
Special education enrollment	8,109
Federally funded Head Start enrollment	9,838
State-funded Head Start enrollment	0

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



† This number represents children in special education who are not enrolled in state-funded pre-K or Head Start.

QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

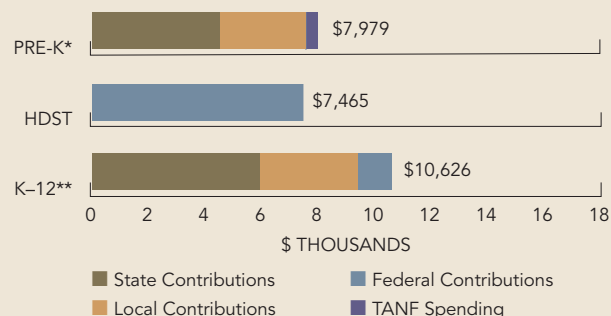
POLICY	STATE PRE-K REQUIREMENT	BENCHMARK	DOES REQUIREMENT MEET BENCHMARK?
Early learning standards	Comprehensive	Comprehensive	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher degree	BA/BS (single classroom sites); AA/AS (multiple classroom sites) ²	BA	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teacher specialized training	Degree in EC with P-4 license (public single classroom sites); Degree in EC (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, dental, 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	\$92,895,744 ^{4,5}
Local match required?	Yes, 40% of total funding
State spending per child enrolled	\$4,923 ⁵
All reported spending per child enrolled*	\$7,979

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 '07-'08 school year, unless otherwise noted.

¹ This figure includes some infants and toddlers. It represents center-based enrollment only and does not include 5,674 children who received home-visiting services during 2007-2008.

² The P-4 teacher license covers birth-grade 4. In multiple classroom sites, one teacher must have a BA/BS in EC and P-4 certification for every three classrooms, and the other two classrooms may have a teacher with an AA/AS in EC. This was also true in previous years.

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 \$15,877,743, not included in this figure, were allocated to a home-based program option.

⁵ These figures include both state and TANF funds.