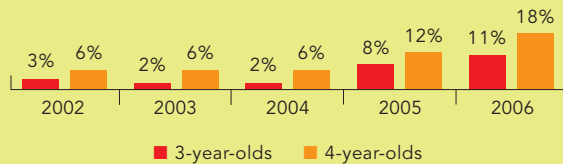
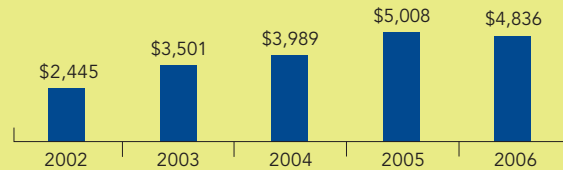


# Arkansas

PERCENT OF STATE POPULATION ENROLLED



STATE SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED  
(2006 DOLLARS)



**I**n 1991, the Arkansas Better Chance (ABC) program began as part of a state education reform initiative, providing services for children from birth to age 5. The program was originally funded through a dedicated sales tax, and since 2001 it has been partly funded by an excise tax on package beer. The program also receives some federal funding, and local contributions must cover 40 percent of total program funding. Most programs are run by public schools and educational cooperatives, but the state also funds programs through Head Start and other private organizations. Children are eligible if they come from low-income families or if they have specific risk factors such as low birth weight, a teen parent, family violence, a developmental delay, and limited English proficiency.

State funding for prekindergarten has increased steadily in recent years, rising 18 percent from the 2004-2005 program year to 2005-2006. The additional funding allows greater access to the program. New funding in 2004-2005 was used to support the new Arkansas Better Chance for School Success (ABCSS) program. ABCSS follows the same quality standards as the ABC program, but targets 3- and 4-year-old children in families at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty level. Families must also reside 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 literacy and math. ABCSS providers include school districts as well as private early education providers that meet state-mandated quality standards. Enrollment and funding figures for ABC and ABCSS are combined for purposes of this report.

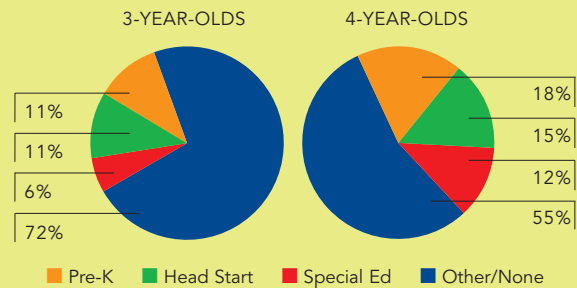
Programs funded through the ABC initiative receive financial resources toward professional development, including college degrees. State administrators are working to promote a potential state rule change so that all teachers—including those in multi-classroom sites—will hold a bachelor's degree with specialization in early childhood.

ACCESS RANKING-4s	ACCESS RANKING-3s	RESOURCES RANKING
15	5	9

## ACCESS

Total state program enrollment .....	11,820 <sup>1</sup>
School districts that offer state program .....	100% (counties)
Income requirement .....	200% FPL
Hours of operation .....	7.5 hours/day, 5 days/week
Operating schedule .....	Academic year
Special education enrollment.....	6,617
Federally funded Head Start enrollment .....	9,377
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) <sup>2</sup>	BA	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teacher specialized training .....	Degree in EC with P-4 license (single classroom sites); Degree in EC (multiple classroom sites) <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 and support services .....	Vision, hearing, health, and 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"/>

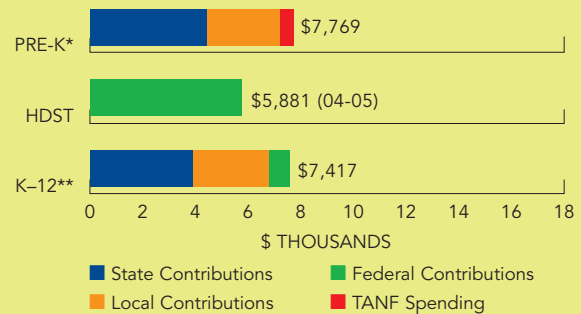
**TOTAL BENCHMARKS MET**

9

## RESOURCES

Total state pre-K spending .....	\$57,157,279 <sup>4,5</sup>
Local match required?.....	Yes, 40% of total funding
State spending per child enrolled .....	\$4,836 <sup>5</sup>
State spending per 3-year-old.....	\$512 <sup>5</sup>
State spending per 4-year-old.....	\$879 <sup>5</sup>

### 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 '05-'06 school year, unless otherwise noted.

<sup>1</sup> This figure includes some infants and toddlers. It represents center-based enrollment only, and does not include 5,396 children who received home-visiting services during 2005-2006.

<sup>2</sup> 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 2004-2005 and in previous years.

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

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

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