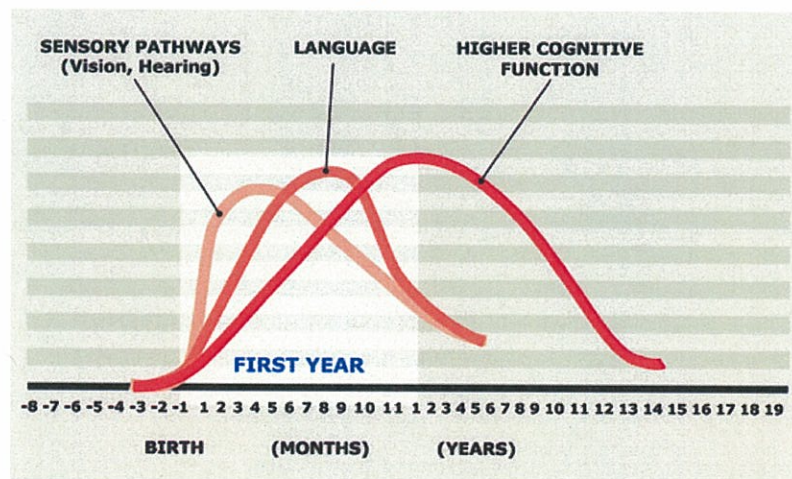


Arkansas Better Chance Update

Early Childhood Permanent Subcommittee
November 26, 2012
Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education
www.arkansas.gov/childcare/

Brain Development



History

- **Act 212 of 1991 created Arkansas Better Chance (ABC) with funding of \$10 million.**
- **Purpose was to provide quality early education opportunities to children birth through 5 years with variety of developmental and economic risk factors.**

History

In 2002, the following program quality model was adopted based on early childhood research.

Core components include:

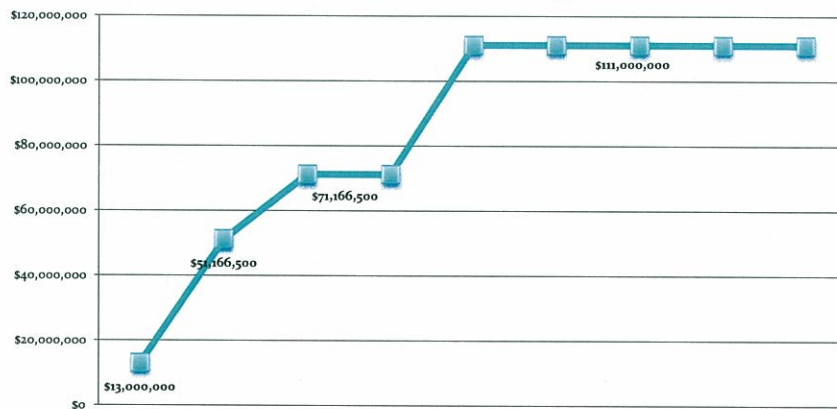
- **staff qualifications and compensation**
- **low student to teacher ratio (1:10)**
- **health and development screenings**
- **meaningful parent and community engagement activities**
- **proven curricula**
- **Arkansas requires the Environmental Rating Scales for state pre-k programs**

History

- **Act 49 of 2003 expanded ABC creating the state funded pre-K program--ABC for School Success targeting 3 and 4 year olds below 200% federal poverty**
- **At that time, the Legislature made a commitment to fund up to \$100 million new dollars--\$103.5 Million State funding/\$7.5 Million Federal**
- **The funding targeted approximately 70% of 3 and 4 year olds below 200% federal poverty**

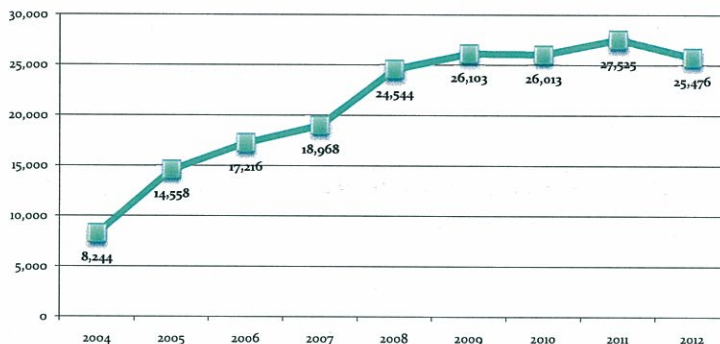
Funding

Arkansas Pre-K Funding



Children Served

Children Served in Arkansas Pre-K



ABC Delivery Model

- **Diverse delivery model**
 - School Districts
 - Educational Cooperatives
 - State Universities
 - For Profit and Non-profit Community Based early childhood programs
- **Program model**
 - Center based
 - Home based

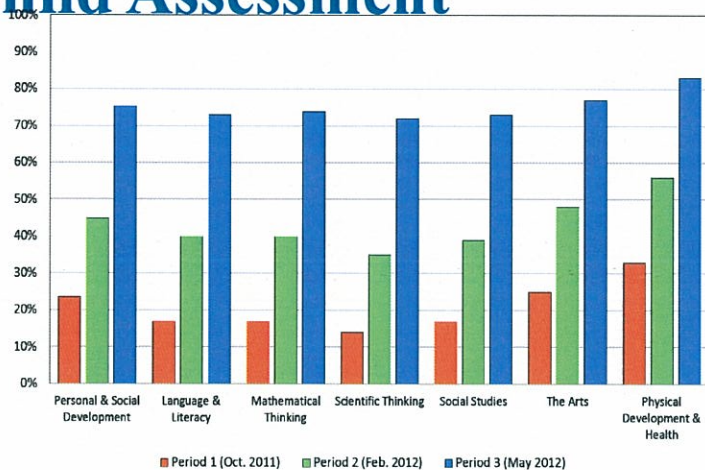
Program Information

- Total Agencies: 275
- School districts/educational cooperatives make up more than half.
 - Center Based 86%
 - Total Sites: 560
 - Total Classrooms: 1,250
 - Full Day: 178 days, 7 hours
 - Per Child Funding: State-\$4,860 (60%), 40% Local Match
 - Home Based 14%
 - Per Child Funding: State-\$1,750 (60%), 40% Local Match

Teacher Qualifications

- Doctorate 1%
- Master's 15%
- Bachelor's 73%
- Associate's 9%
- Child Development Associate Credential 2%

Child Assessment



National Perspective

- Arkansas has been recognized by the National Institute for Early Education Research since 2004 for quality standards in state funded pre-k receiving either a 10/10 or 9/10.
- The National Institute of Early Education Research has ranked Arkansas in *The State of Pre-K 2011 Yearbook*:
 - 4th in the nation for access to 3-year-olds
 - 10th in the nation for access to 4-year-olds
 - 9 out of 10 quality standards

www.nieer.org