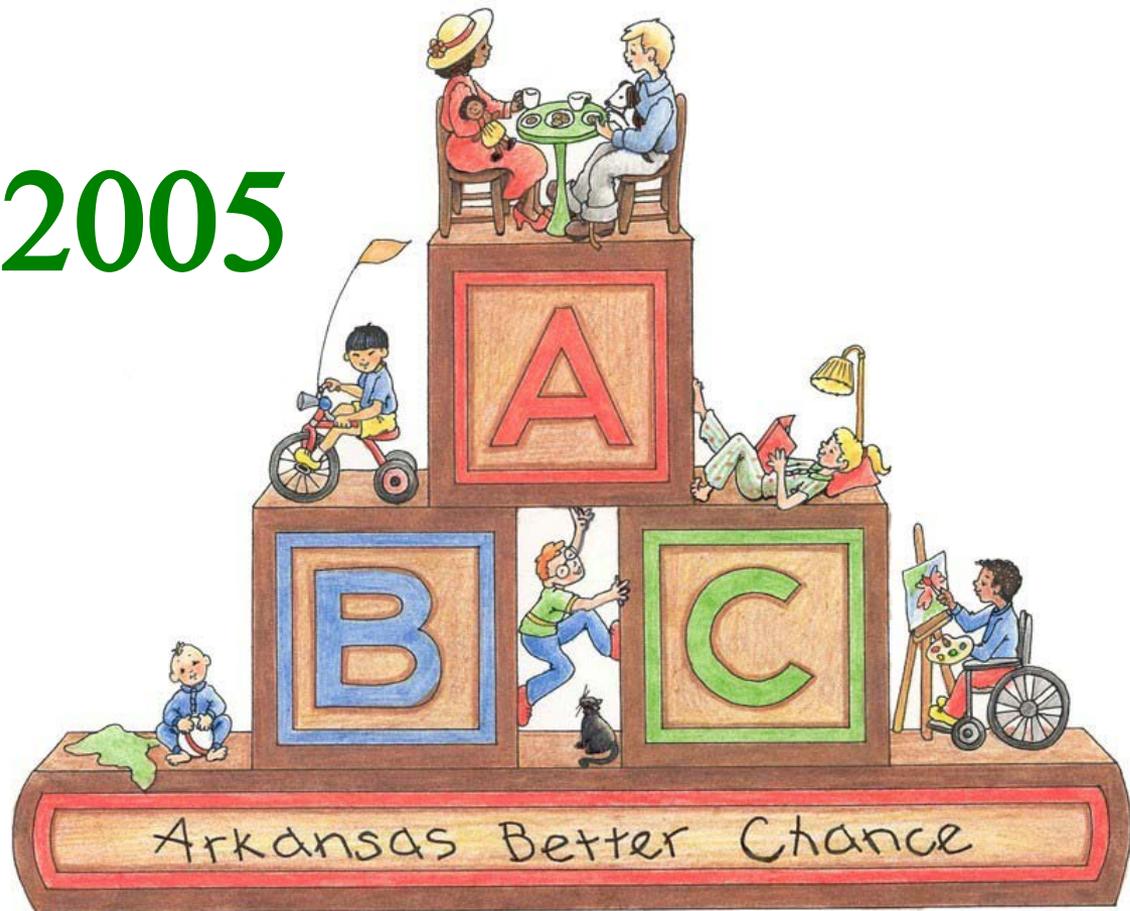


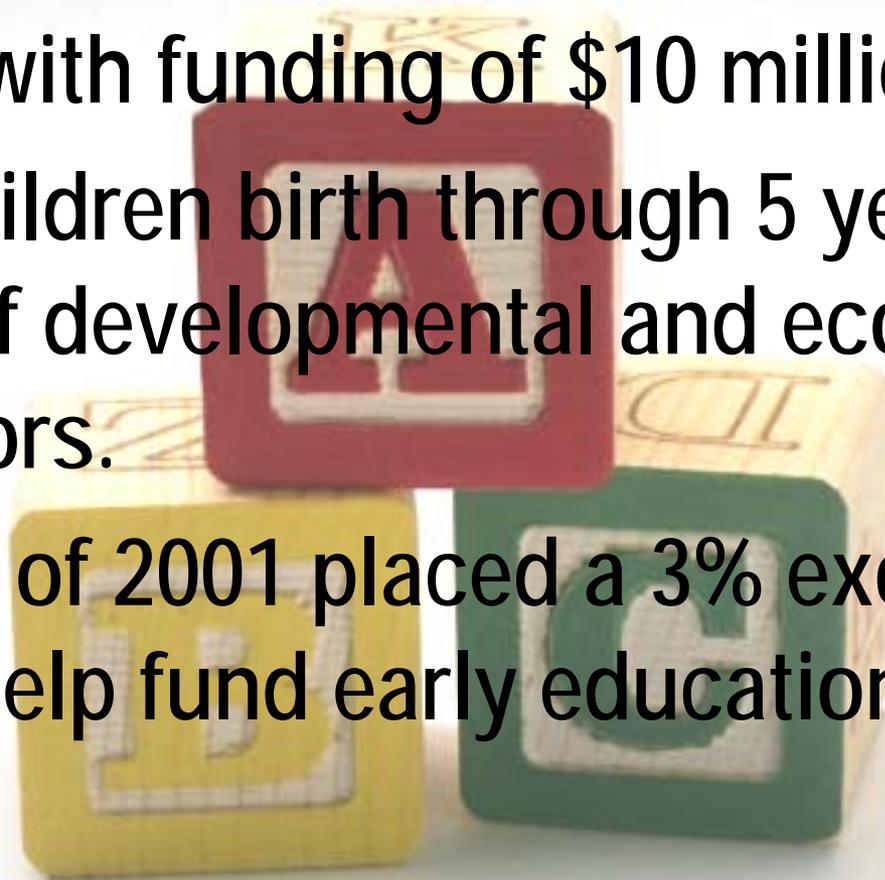
An Overview of Public Pre-K in Arkansas

August 1, 2005



Background

- Act 212 of 1991 created Arkansas Better Chance with funding of \$10 million.
- Serve children birth through 5 years with variety of developmental and economic risk factors.
- Act 1841 of 2001 placed a 3% excise tax on beer to help fund early education.



Background

- Act 49 of 2003 expanded ABC with additional \$40 million in funding (ABC for School Success).
- Expansion added quality education opportunities for pre-K children in low socio-economic areas.
- Purpose is to increase likelihood of academic success in this severely at-risk population.



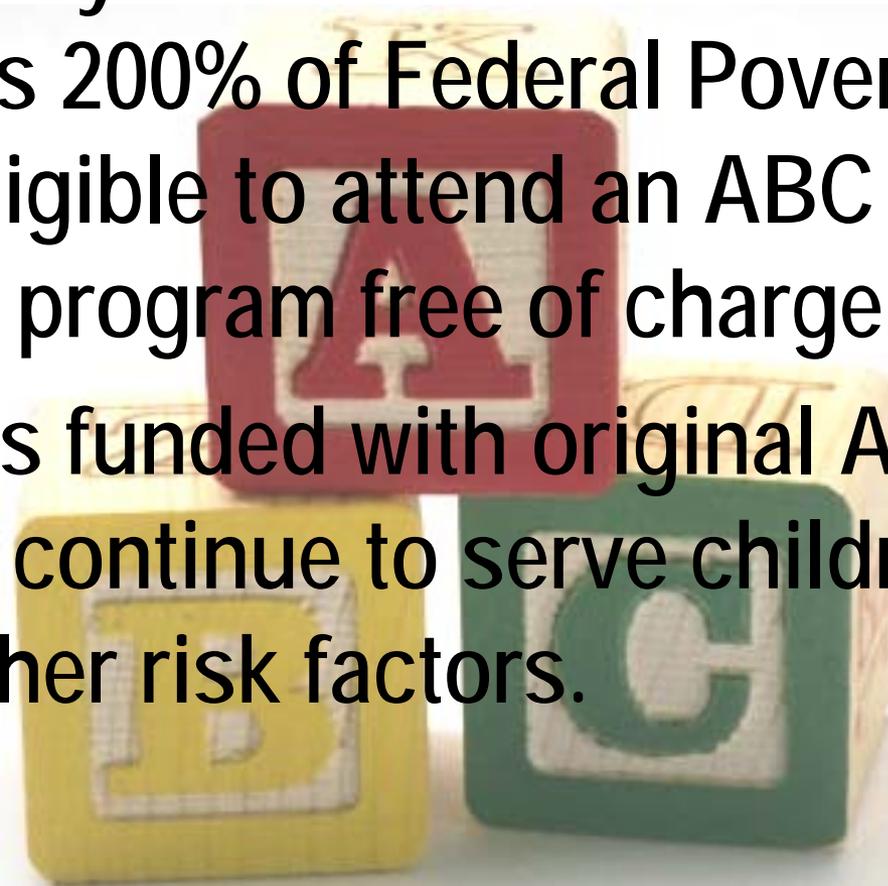
Background

- In 2005, Arkansas Legislature expanded ABCSS again with an additional \$20 million to serve additional children.
- Total funding is now over \$71 million.
- In 2005-2006, ABC and ABCSS will serve approximately 18,500 children across the state.



Background

- Any 3 or 4 year old child whose family income is 200% of Federal Poverty Level or less is eligible to attend an ABC for School Success program free of charge.
- Programs funded with original ABC money may still continue to serve children birth to 5 with other risk factors.



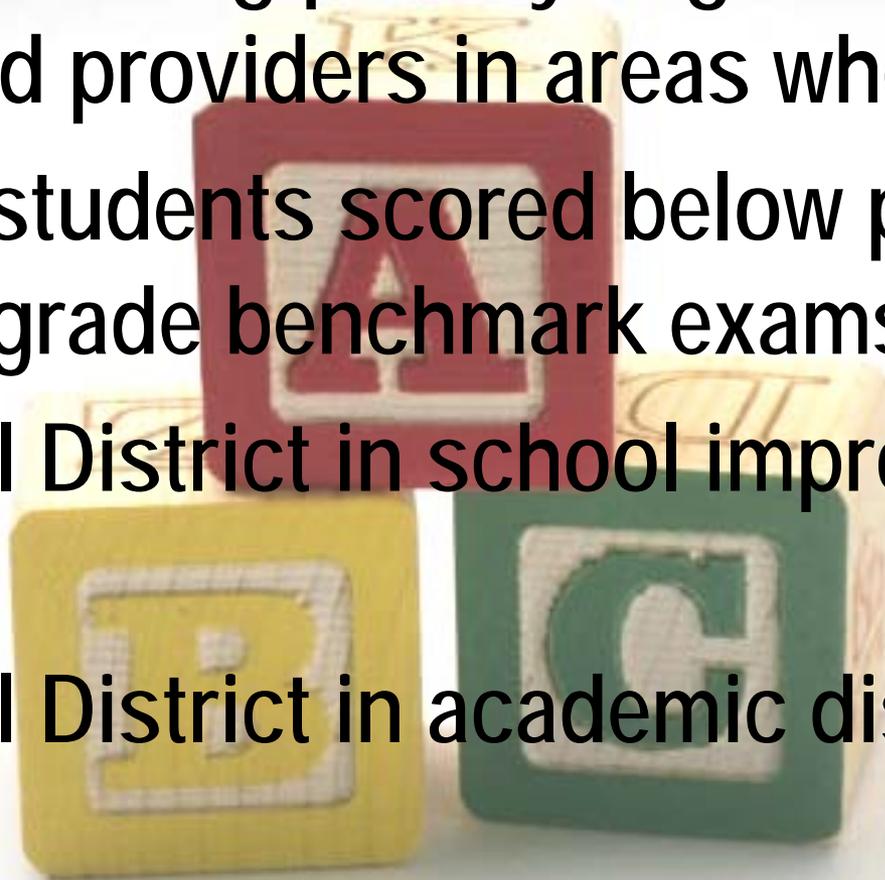
Programs who have families where the household income is 200 – 250% of Federal Poverty Level have the option of allowing parents to pay a fee to participate in ABC.

The State will reimburse the remaining portion.

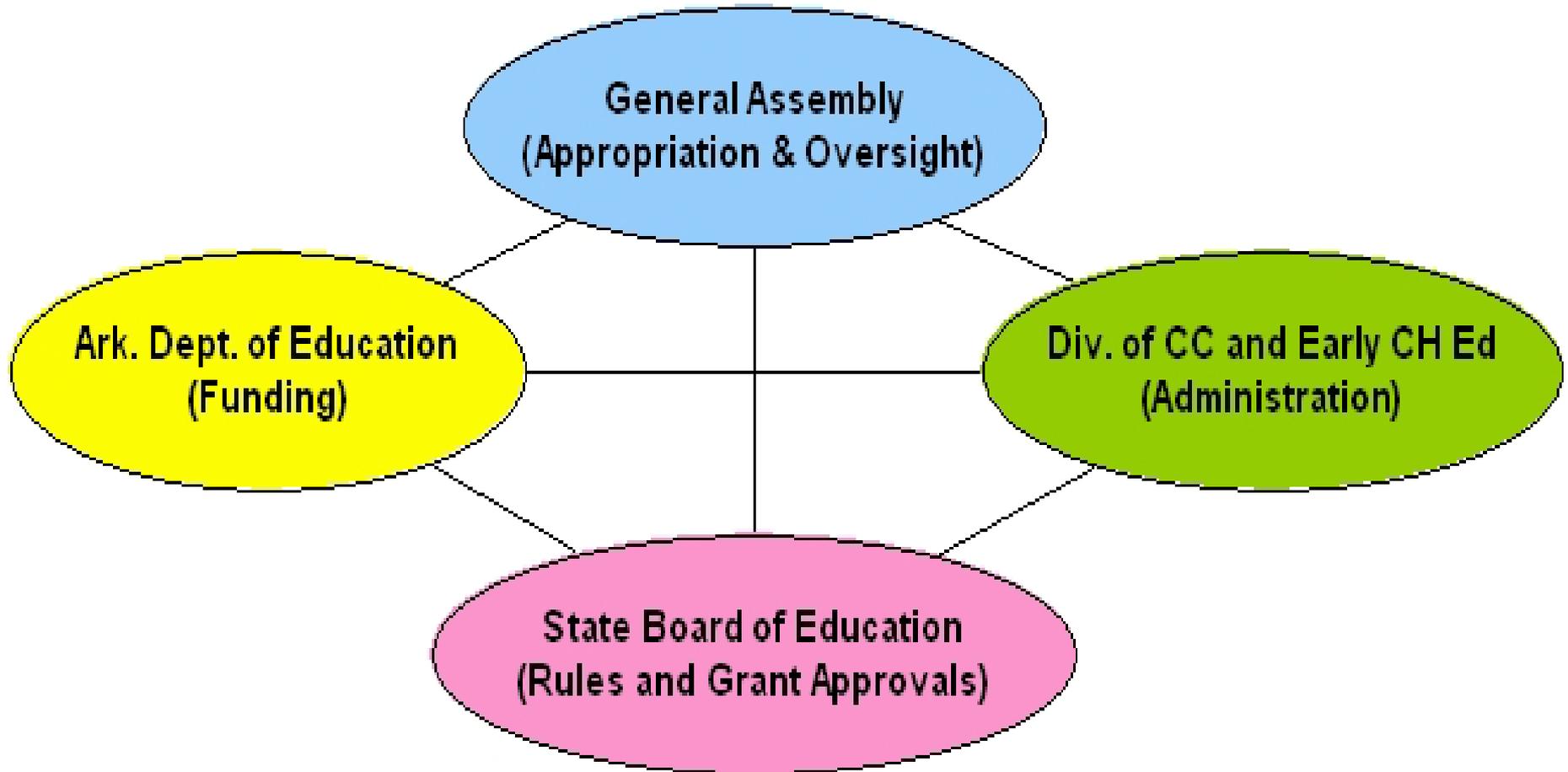
	0 - 200% FPL	200% - 212.5% FPL	212.5 % - 225% FPL	225 % - 237.5% FPL	237.5 % - 250% FPL	> 250% FPL
FEE %	NO FEE	20%	40%	60%	80%	FULL RATE
Center Fee Per Week		\$24.72	\$49.44	\$74.16	\$98.88	\$123.60
Home-Visiting Based Fee Per Week		\$8.74	\$17.48	\$26.22	\$34.97	\$43.71

Background

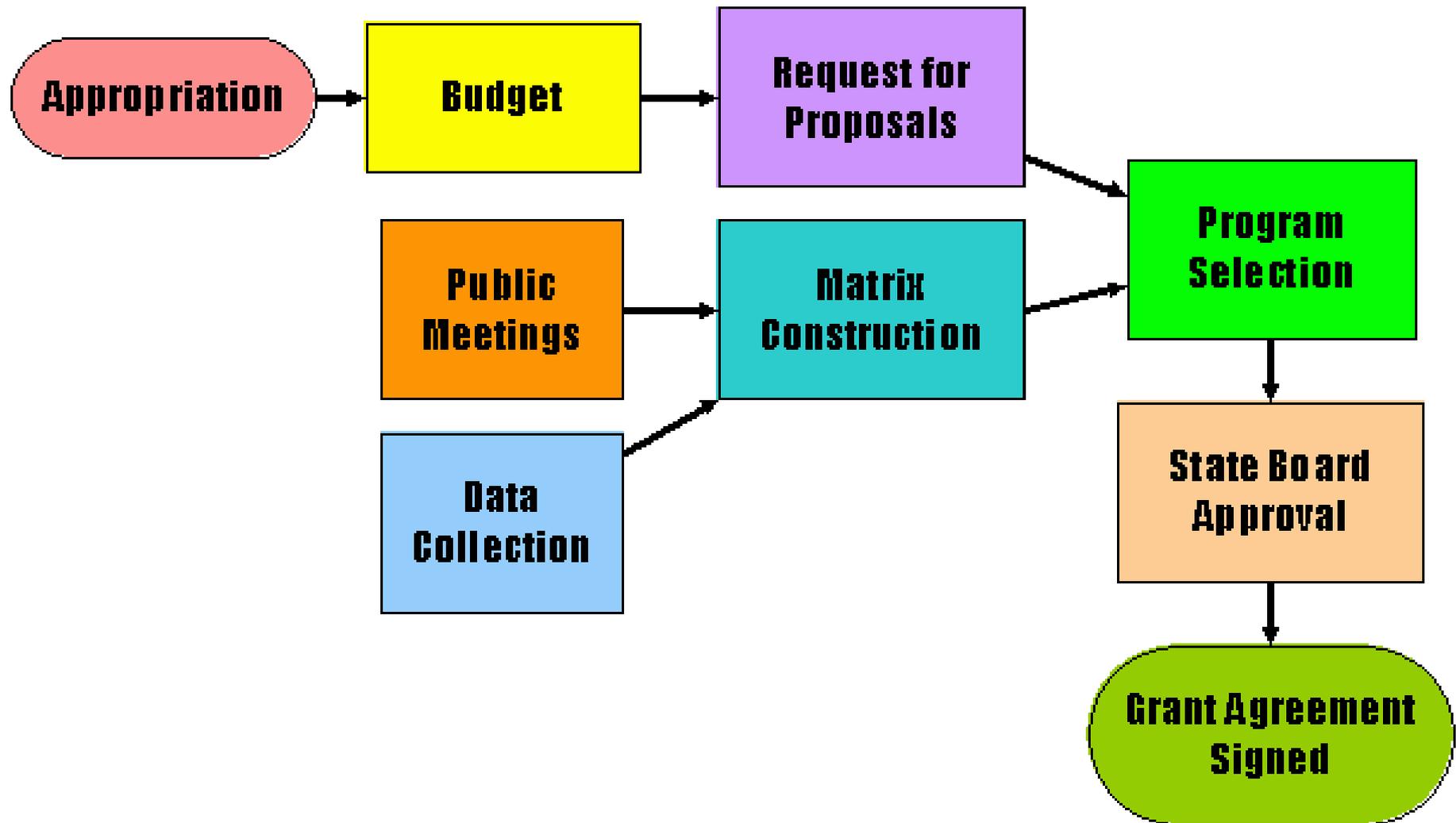
- ABCSS Funding priority is given to early childhood providers in areas where:
 - $\geq 75\%$ students scored below proficient on 4th grade benchmark exams.
 - School District in school improvement status
 - School District in academic distress

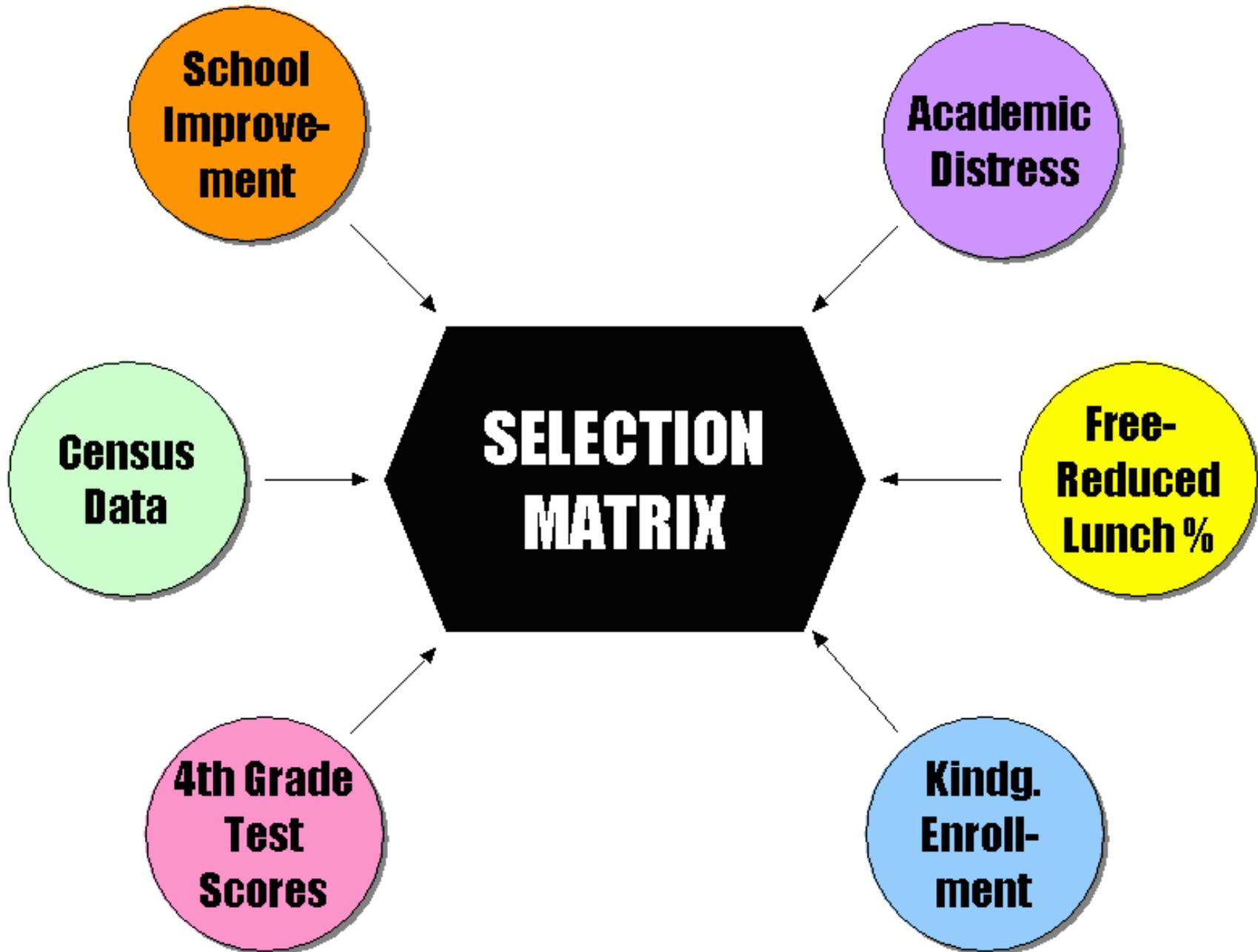


Arkansas Better Chance involves a unique partnership between multiple state entities.

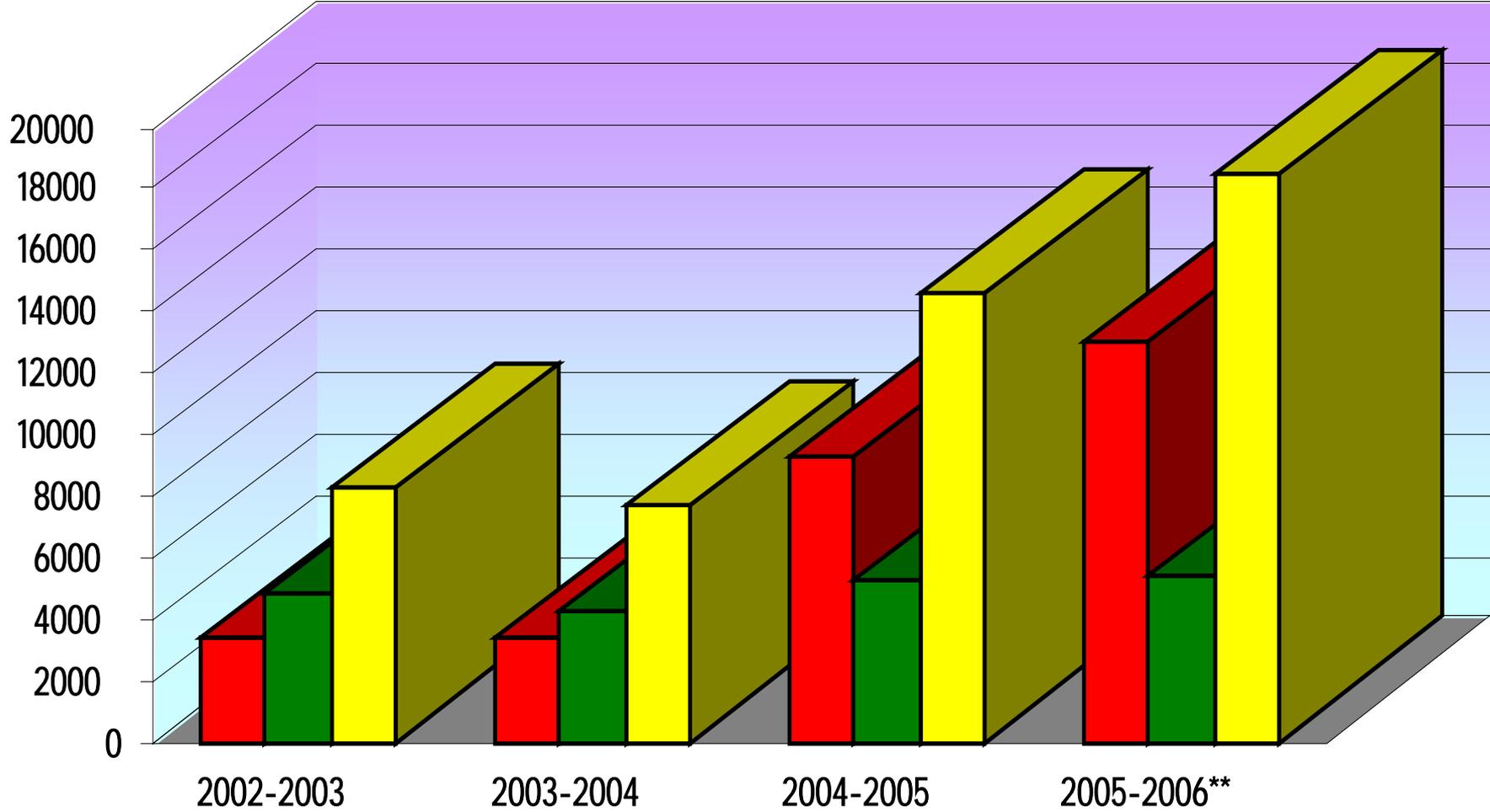


Overview of Funding & Selection Process



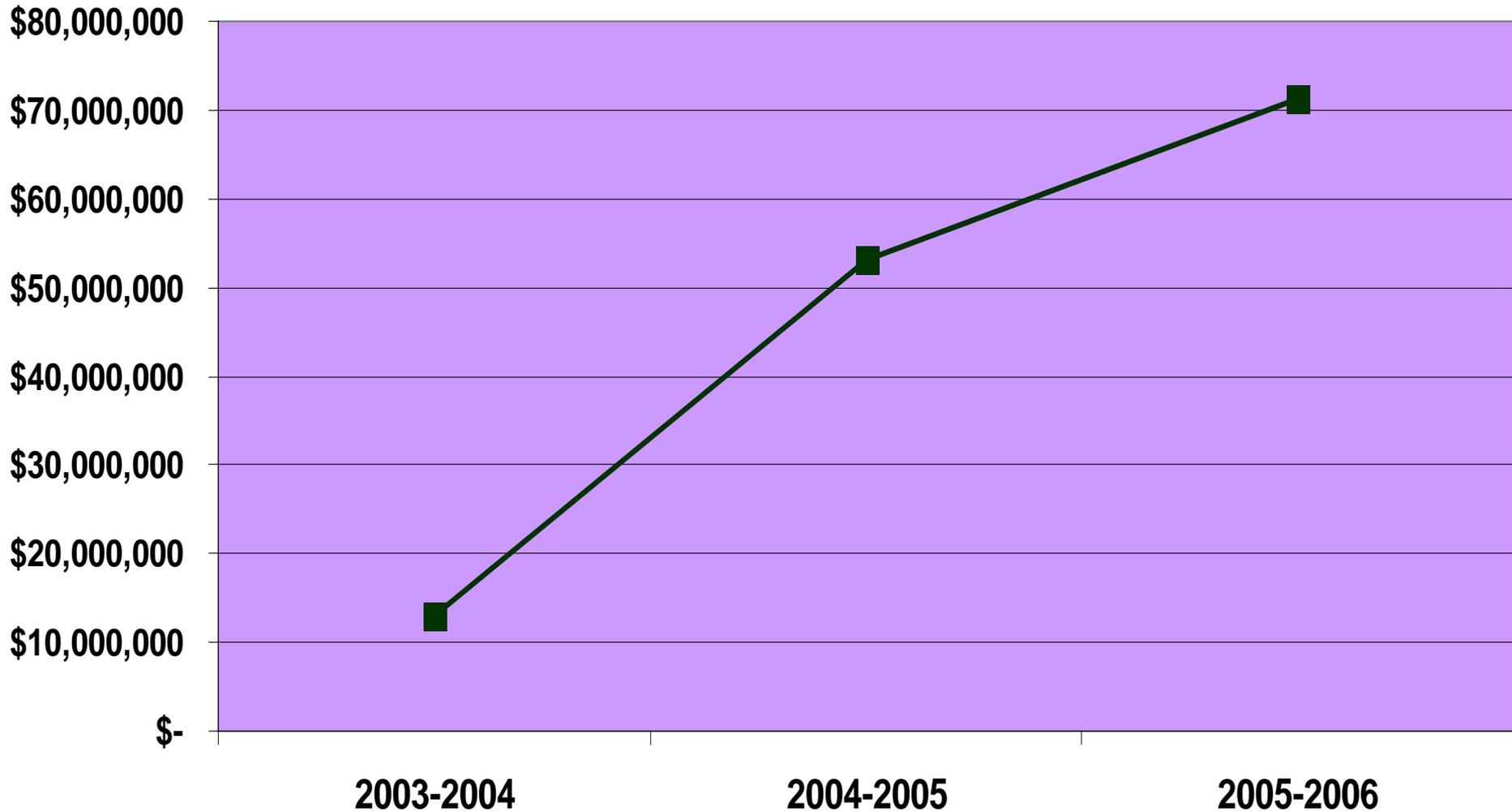


ABC Enrollment by Program Type



Center-Based **HIPPY & PAT** **Total**

Since 2003, Arkansas has increased its financial commitment to public pre-K education by over 500%.



ABC AGENCY TYPES

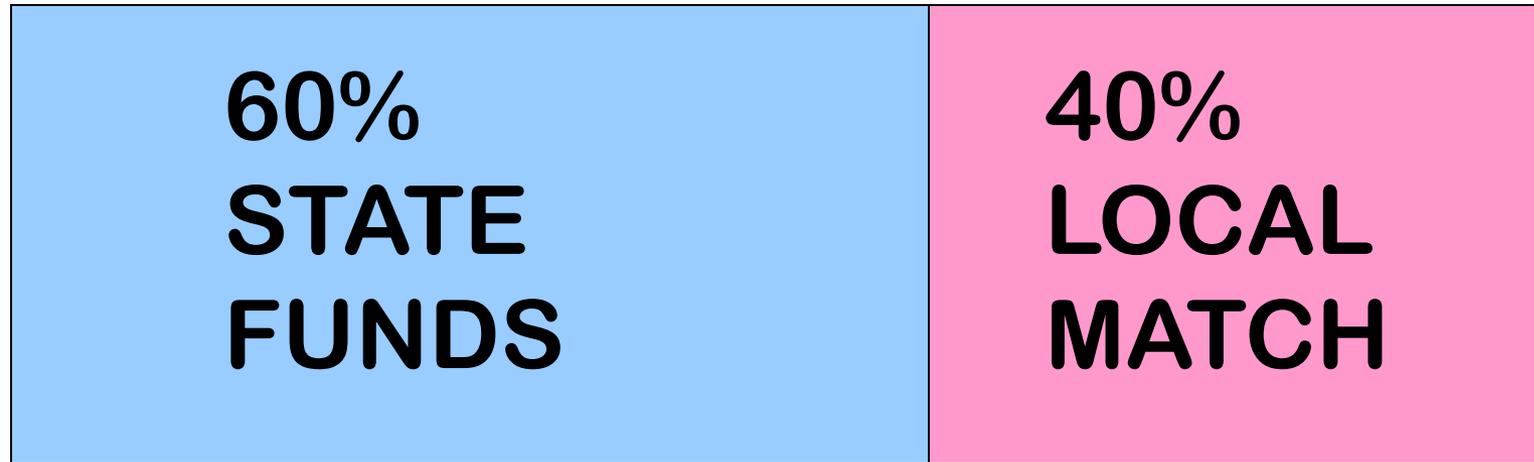
2004-2005

Agency Type	#
School District	86
Private, for profit	23
Non-profit	11
Educational Cooperative	10
Faith-based	7
Community-based	7
Head Start	4
University-based	3
Other home-based	3
Municipality	1
TOTAL AGENCIES	155

2005-2006

Agency Type	#
School District	99
Private, for profit	42
Non-profit	11
Educational Cooperative	10
Faith-based	8
Community-based	7
Head Start	5
University-based	3
Other home-based	3
Municipality	1
Family Child Care Homes	5
DDS Facility	3
New HIPPY	2
New PAT	1
TOTAL AGENCIES	200

HOW IS AN ABC PROGRAM FUNDED?

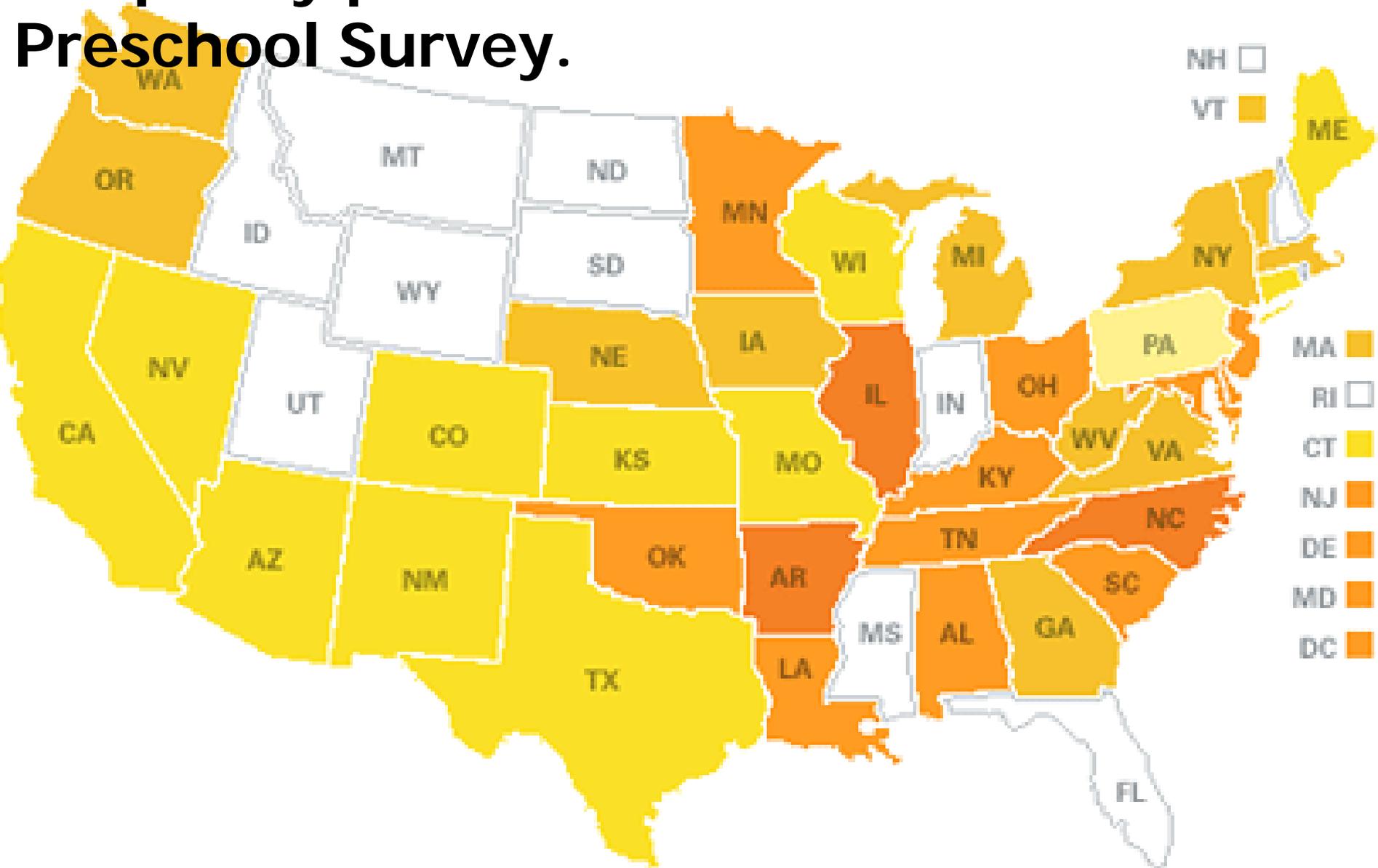


Total Program Cost

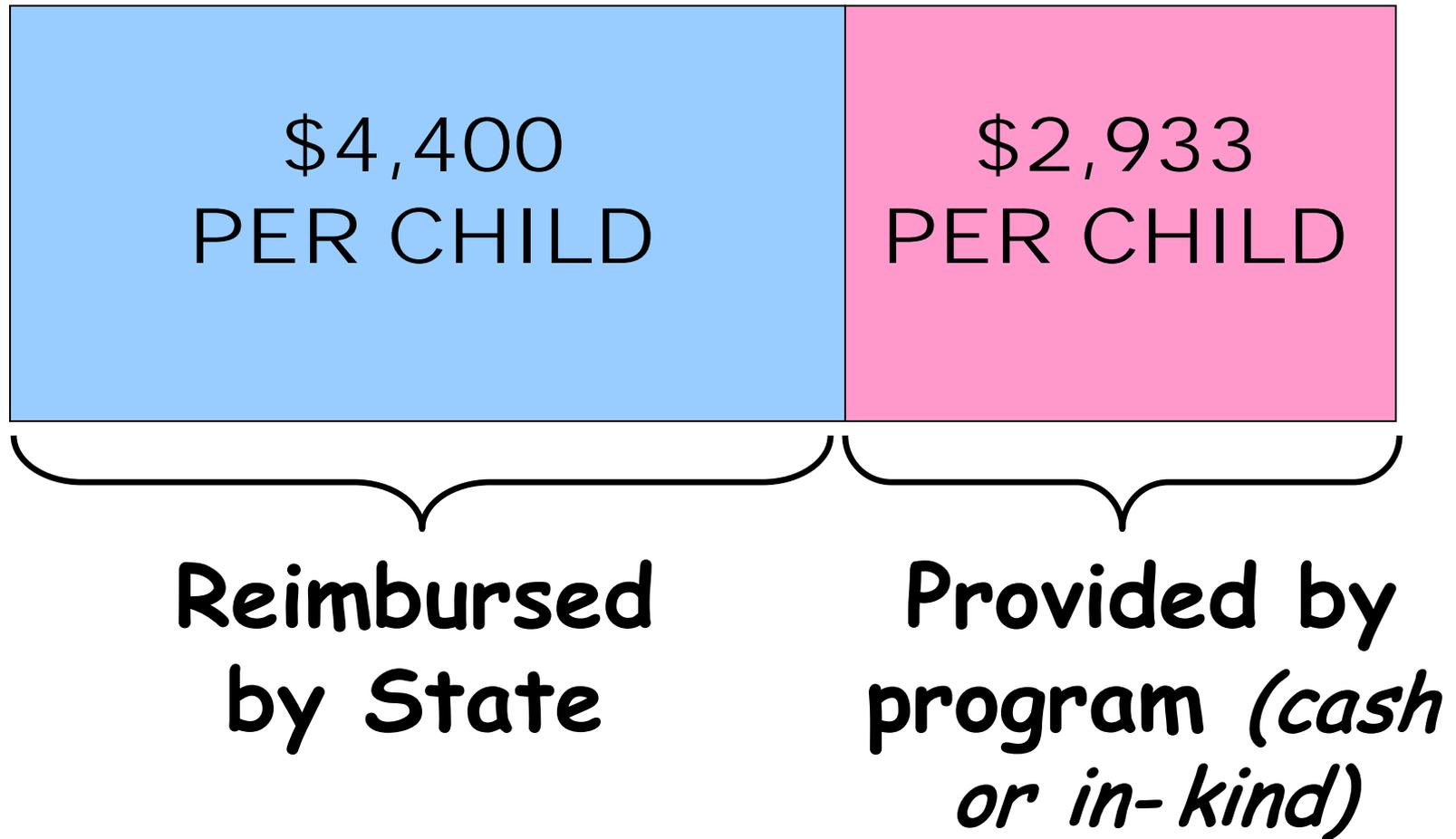
Funding

- In 2002, ABC adopted a core quality education model with a per child cost.
- Core components include:
 - ***staff qualifications and compensation***
 - ***low staff-child ratio***
 - ***health and development screenings***
 - ***meaningful parent and community engagement***
 - ***proven curricula***
- Core Model increased in 2004 and 2005.

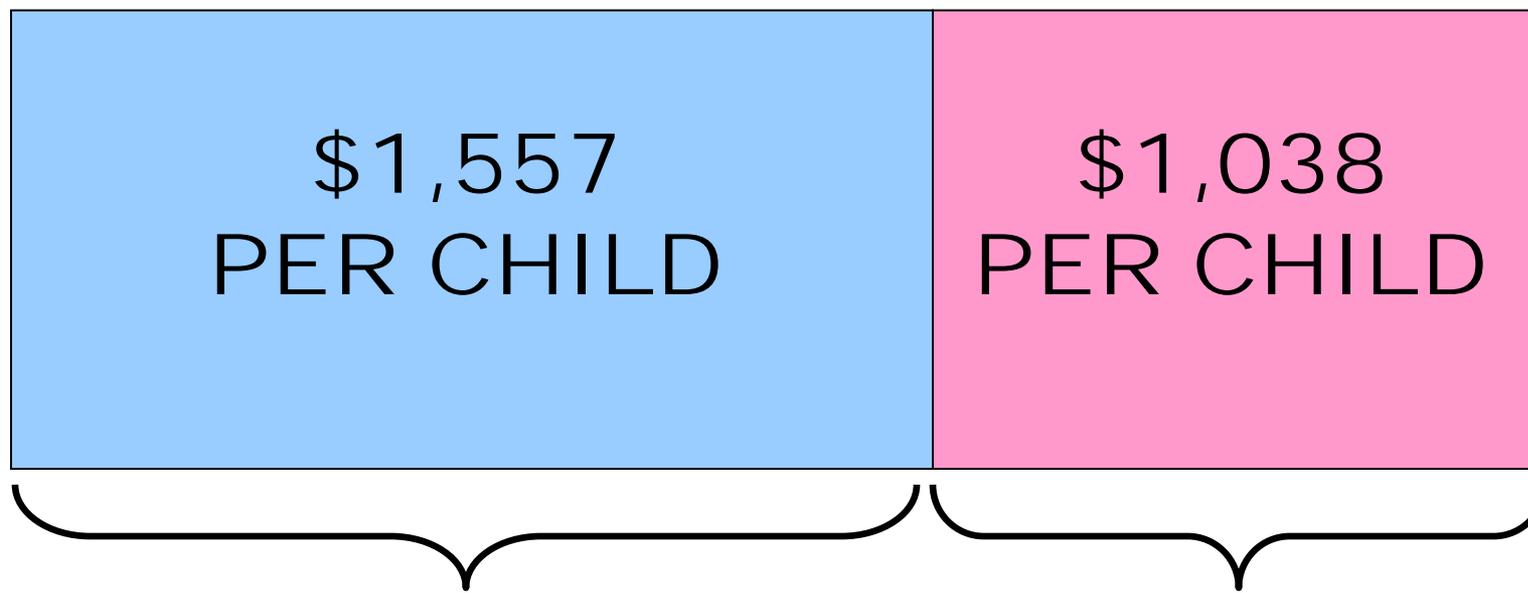
Arkansas: Only state to receive 10 out of 10 on quality pre-K benchmarks in NIEER Preschool Survey.



CENTER AND CHILD CARE FAMILY HOME FUNDING



HOME-VISITING (HIPPIY & PAT) FUNDING

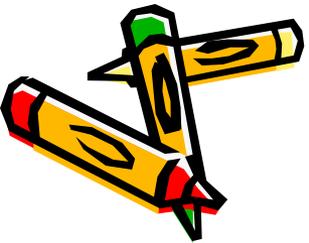
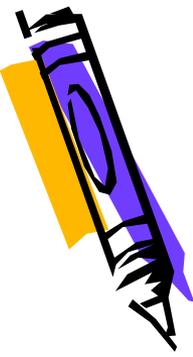


**Reimbursed
by State**

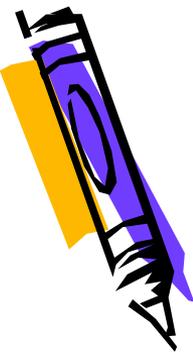
**Provided by
program (*cash
or in-kind*)**

How is the money spent?

- Participating programs must submit a program budget which adheres to the core model.
- The model provides guidance to give programs the resources and skills needed to operate the highest quality early education program.



Staff Requirements (Center)

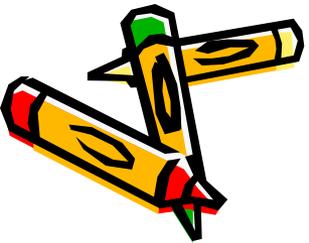


- **Lead Teacher**

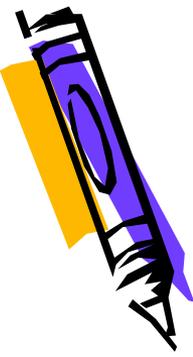
- ✓ BA in Early Childhood
- ✓ P-4 or K-6 certification

- **Other Classroom Teacher**

- ✓ AA in Early Childhood or Child Development

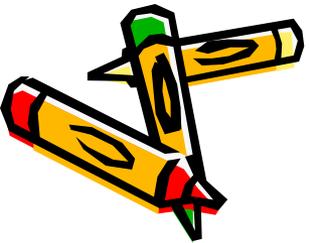


Staff Requirements (Center)

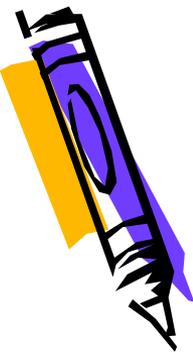


■ Paraprofessional

- ✓ AA in Early Childhood or Child Development Associate (CDA) credential
- ✓ Parapro exam cannot substitute for credential



Staff Requirements (Home-visiting)



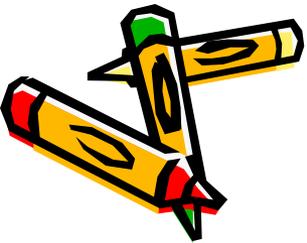
▪ Coordinator

✓ BA in Education, Social Work, Psychology or related field

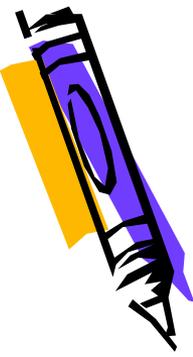
Those without degree must take ≥ 12 college hours per year.

▪ Home-Based Educator

✓ Child Development Associate

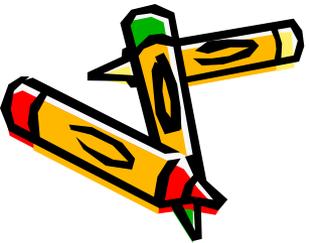


Staff Requirements (Family Home)

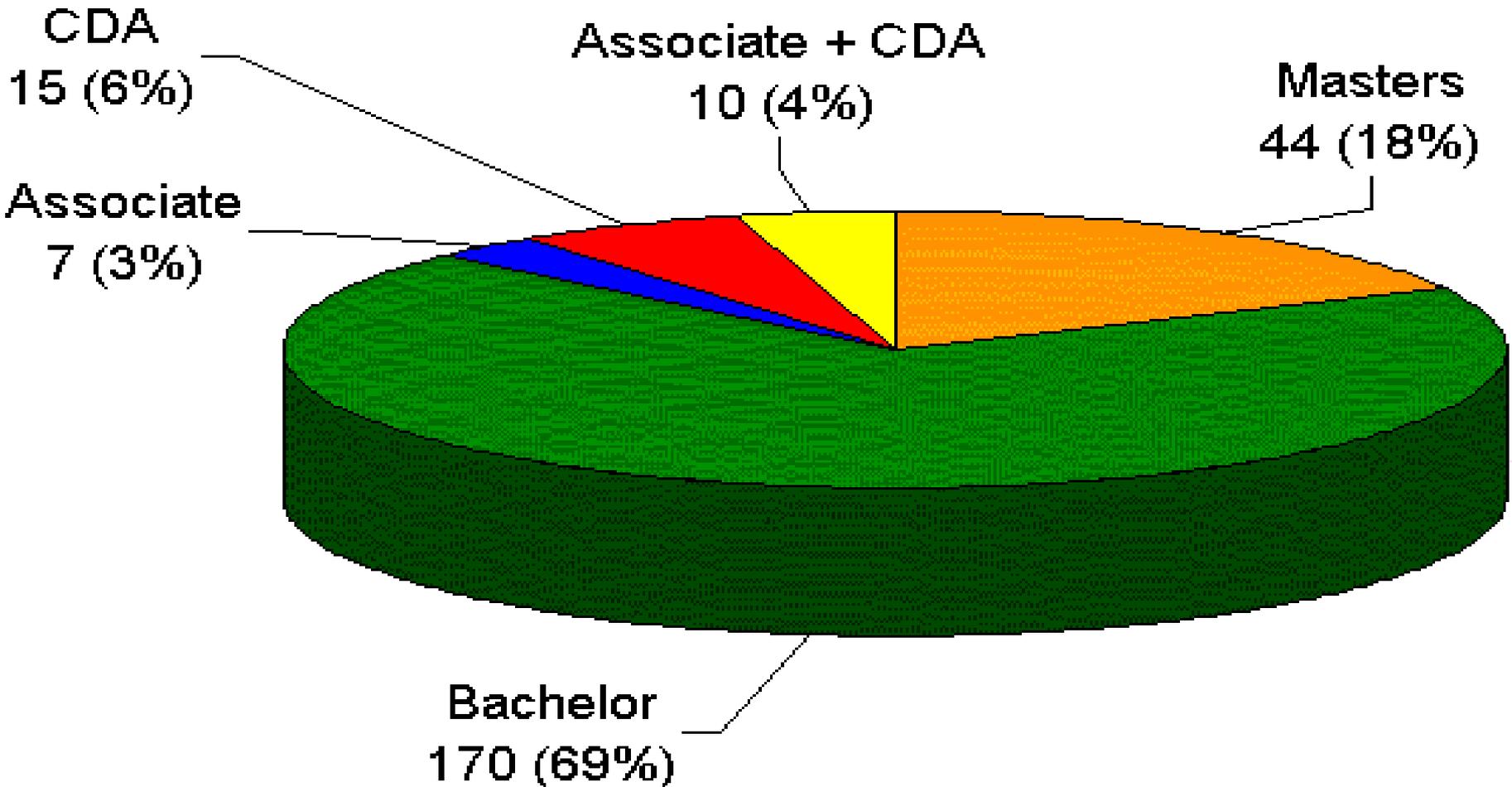


▪ Family Home Teacher

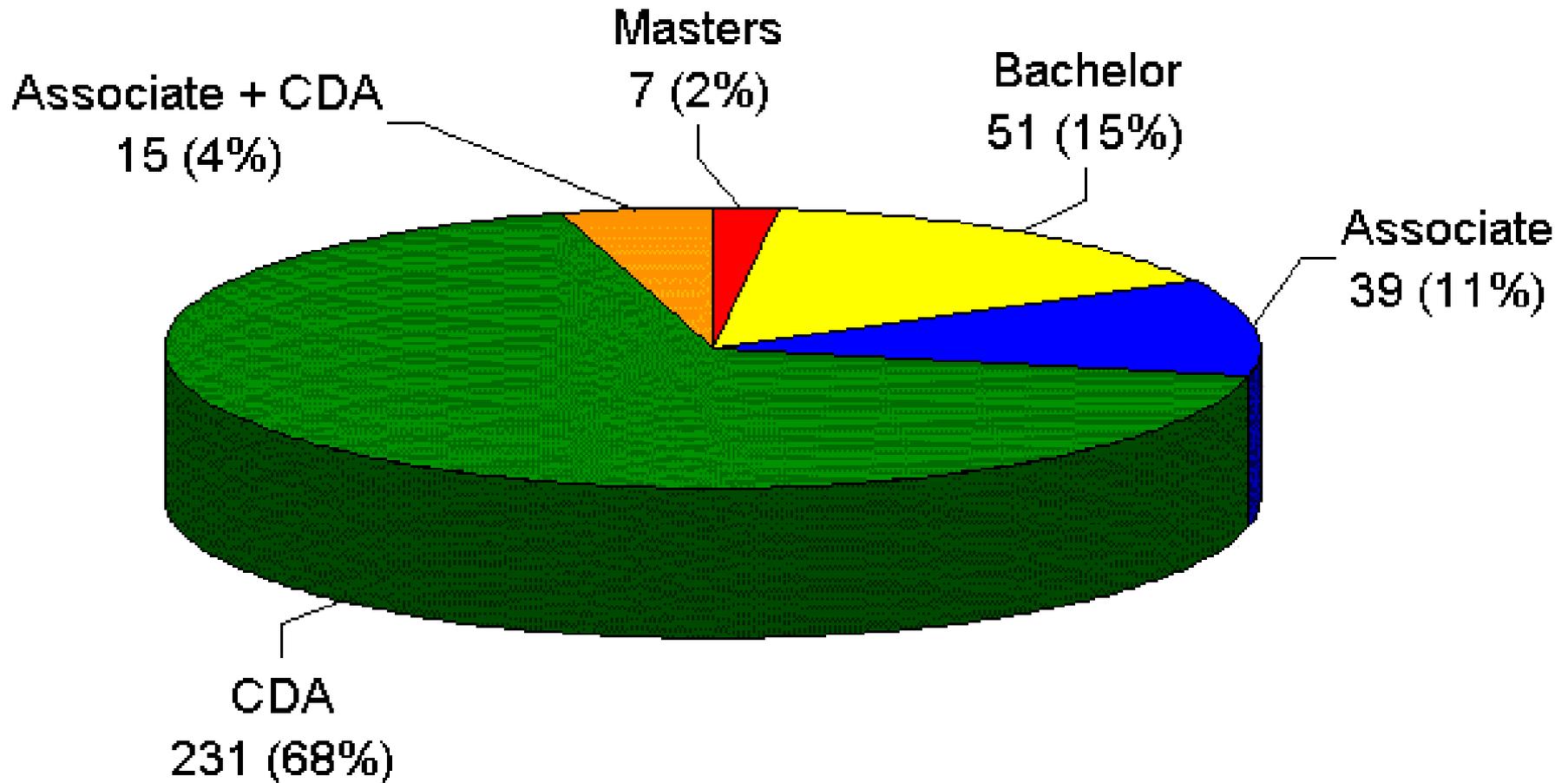
- ✓ Minimum of CDA
- ✓ Professional Development plan that includes a minimum of an Associate degree in Early Childhood or equivalent



In 2004-2005, 87% of all ABC lead teachers had either a BA or Masters degree.

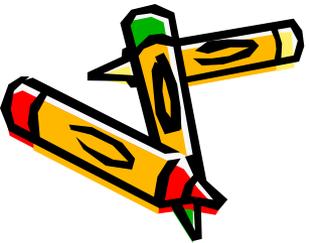
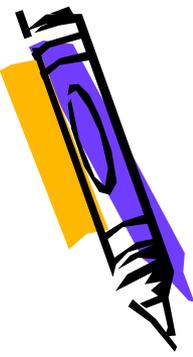


In 2004-2005, 72% of all ABC paraprofessionals held a CDA (Child Development Associate) credential.



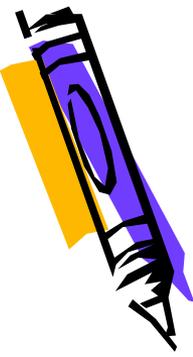
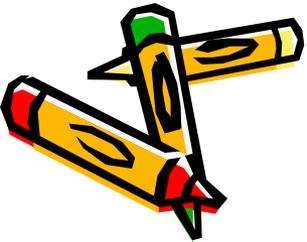
Well-Qualified, Compensated Staff

- Lead teacher responsibilities
 - Expert & certified in the field
 - Lesson plans
 - Supervise AA & paraprofessionals
 - Work Sampling
 - COPA
 - General program management
 - Engage parents
 - *Many duties outside of the 7½ day.*



Professional Development

- \$1,250-2,650 per classroom staff
- Teachers and aides must have 30 hours of training per year for ABC.
- Not be limited to para-educational training opportunities.
- Funds should be able to be used to allow staff to seek higher degrees.



Professional Development

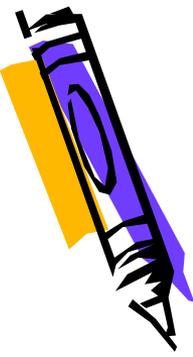
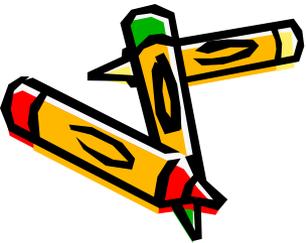
■ Certain training is mandated for classroom staff, as classes are available.

✓ *Pre-K ELLA*

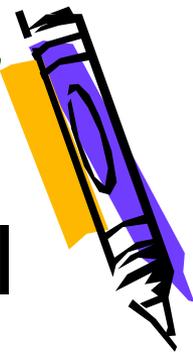
✓ *Early Childhood (or I-T) Frameworks*

✓ *Math & Science*

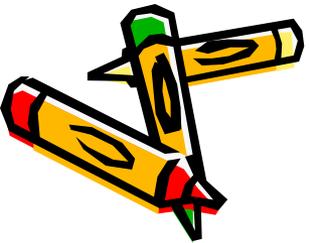
✓ *Social-Emotional*



Health-Developmental Screenings



- Proof of satisfactory health & developmental screen due within 45 days of enrollment.
- AR Kids should cover cost of physical exam. ABC parents should not pay any costs associated with screenings.
- Children must have health screen q 2 yr and developmental screen every year.



Approved Developmental Screen Tools

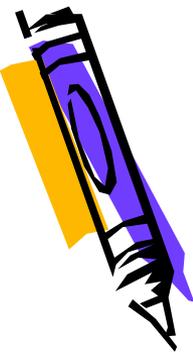
- ✓ Battelle
- ✓ Brigance
- ✓ Kaplan Carolina Developmental Profile
- ✓ Denver
- ✓ Dial
- ✓ EPSF
- ✓ IDEA
- ✓ LAP
- ✓ NCLD
- ✓ Early Screening Inventory
- ✓ Early Screening Assessment Profile

Families must submit proof of current immunization status within 15 days of program enrollment.

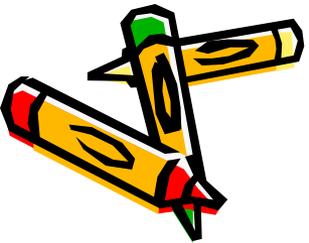
Recommended Childhood and Adolescent Immunization Schedule UNITED STATES • 2005

Vaccine ▼	Age ▶	Birth	1 month	2 months	4 months	6 months	12 months	15 months	18 months	24 months	4-6 years	11-12 years	13-18 years
Hepatitis B ¹		HepB #1	HepB #2		HepB #3			HepB Series					
Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis ²			DTaP	DTaP	DTaP	DTaP				DTaP	Td	Td	
<i>Haemophilus influenzae</i> type b ³			Hib	Hib	Hib	Hib							
Inactivated Poliovirus			IPV	IPV	IPV					IPV			
Measles, Mumps, Rubella ⁴						MMR #1				MMR #2	MMR #2		
Varicella ⁵						Varicella			Varicella				
Pneumococcal ⁶			PCV	PCV	PCV	PCV			PCV	PPV			
Influenza ⁷					Influenza (Yearly)			Influenza (Yearly)					
----- Vaccines below red line are for selected populations -----													
Hepatitis A ⁸										Hepatitis A Series			

Curriculum



- \$170-200 per child
- Programs must use approved curriculum for ABC instruction.
- Curriculum budget also includes funds for classroom supplies (bulletin board, markers, paper)

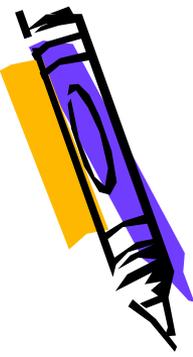
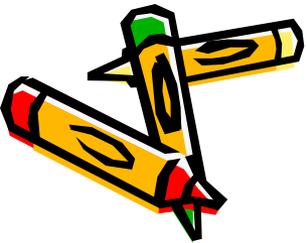


Approved Curricula for ABC-ABCSS

- ✓ Creative Curriculum
- ✓ Core Knowledge
- ✓ Comprehensive Preschool Program (Abrams)
- ✓ DLM Early Childhood Express (McGraw-Hill)
- ✓ High Scope
- ✓ High Reach *(for 2005-06 only)*
- ✓ Opening the World of Learning (Pearson)
- ✓ Scholastic Early Childhood Curriculum
- ✓ Houghton Mifflin Early Childhood Program
- ✓ Harcourt Archive
- ✓ HIPPY & PAT *(Home-visiting programs)*

Parent Engagement Activities

- ✓ \$50-100 per child
- ✓ Parent night/Open house
- ✓ Printing of parent newsletters
- ✓ Dinners/Holiday functions
- ✓ Speakers for parent functions
- ✓ What will bring parents in to see what their children are doing?



Evaluating Program Quality

- Programs are evaluated by two sets of monitors:
 - Contract consultants
 - Division Program Specialists



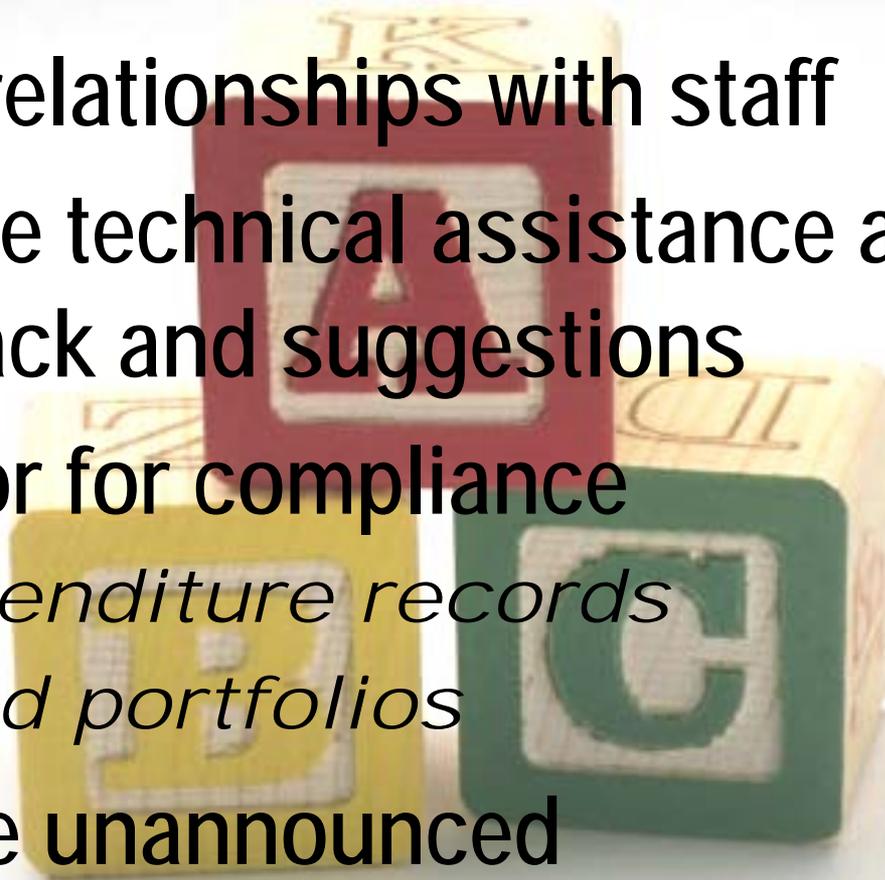
Evaluating Program Quality

- Division Program Specialists
 - Sherrill Archer, NE Arkansas
 - Vivian Jackson, SW Arkansas
 - Kathy Rushing, NW Arkansas
 - Jamie Morrison, SE Arkansas



Evaluating Program Quality

- Site Visits
 - Form relationships with staff
 - Provide technical assistance and give feedback and suggestions
 - Monitor for compliance
 - *Expenditure records*
 - *Child portfolios*
 - May be unannounced



Evaluating Program Quality

- Contract Consultants (ASU)
 - *Provide technical assistance* to help programs achieve quality status for ABC classroom space
 - Monitor program activity for compliance with Early Childhood Environmental Rating Scale (ECERS-R).
 - Monitor for compliance with classroom guidelines (ratios, # children).

Evaluating Program Quality

- ECERS reviews will be unannounced as to the exact day.
- Early Childhood Environmental Rating Scale (Harms, Cryer, et al)
- Assesses programs in seven different areas of program instruction and interaction.



Evaluating Program Quality

- Each area is rated on a scale from 1 to 7.
 - *Space and Furnishings*
 - *Personal Care*
 - *Language Task and Reasoning*
 - *Activities*
 - *Interaction*
 - *Program Structure*
 - *Parent/Staff*

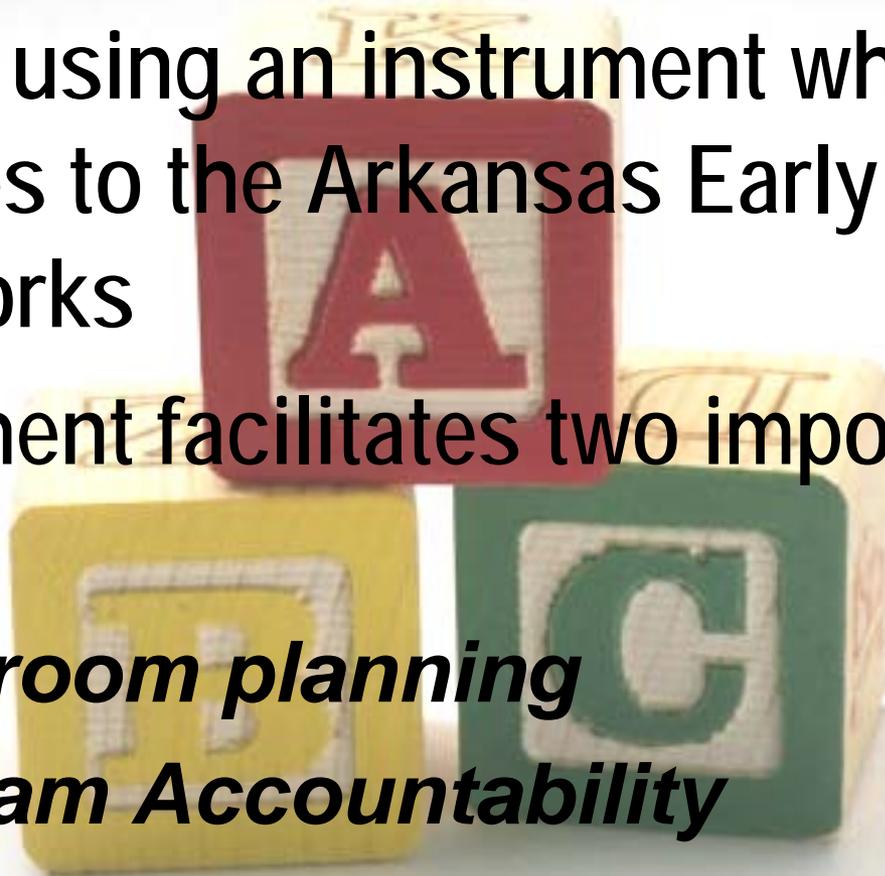


Evaluating Program Quality

- ABC programs must achieve ≥ 5.5 overall.
- All subscores ≥ 4.5 .
- Programs scoring below acceptable will be reviewed again in the Spring.
- Programs not passing ECERS after two visits must accept a corrective action plan with mandated technical assistance.
- Programs not passing ECERS after three evaluations will lose ABC funding.

Measuring Short-Term Outcomes

- ABCSS children are to be assessed annually using an instrument which correlates to the Arkansas Early Childhood Frameworks
- Assessment facilitates two important goals:
 - ***Classroom planning***
 - ***Program Accountability***





- Work Sampling System by Pearson Early Learning was chosen.
- Curriculum-neutral, observation-based
- Effectiveness proven through valid research
- Correlates to Frameworks
- On-line version allows for greater management of assessment reporting, and data storage for teachers and administrators.



ABC children are assessed 3 times annually over 7 developmental domains:

- 1. Personal and Social Development**
- 2. Language and Literacy**
- 3. Mathematical Thinking**
- 4. Scientific Thinking**
- 5. Social Studies**
- 6. The Arts**
- 7. Physical Development and Health**



- Training and technical assistance provided to all ABC instructional staff.
- All classrooms assigned a Work Sampling mentor.
- Division assistance available as well.

Work Sampling Online

Developmental Checklist for Leslie Montgomery

Domain: The Arts
Class Level: Preschool 3
Collection Period: 1
Academic Year: 2001/2002

- Click  to see rationales and examples.
- Double-click a rating button to deselect it.
- Type comments for Summary Reports in the text box.

Key: NY: Not Yet, IP: In Process, PRO: Proficient
N/A: Not Applicable, DNO: Did Not Observe
[How to Use N/A and DNO Ratings](#)

Functional Components and Performance Indicators	NY	IP	PRO	N/A	DNO	
A. Expression and representation						
1. Participates in group music experiences.						
2. Participates in creative movement, dance, and drama.						
3. Uses a variety of art materials for tactile experience and exploration.						
B. Understanding and appreciation						
1. Responds to artistic creations or events.						

A  indicates the rating given on the previous Developmental Checklist.

[Clear all answers](#)

Comments and Notes:

 Comments entered here will automatically be entered in this child's Summary Report.

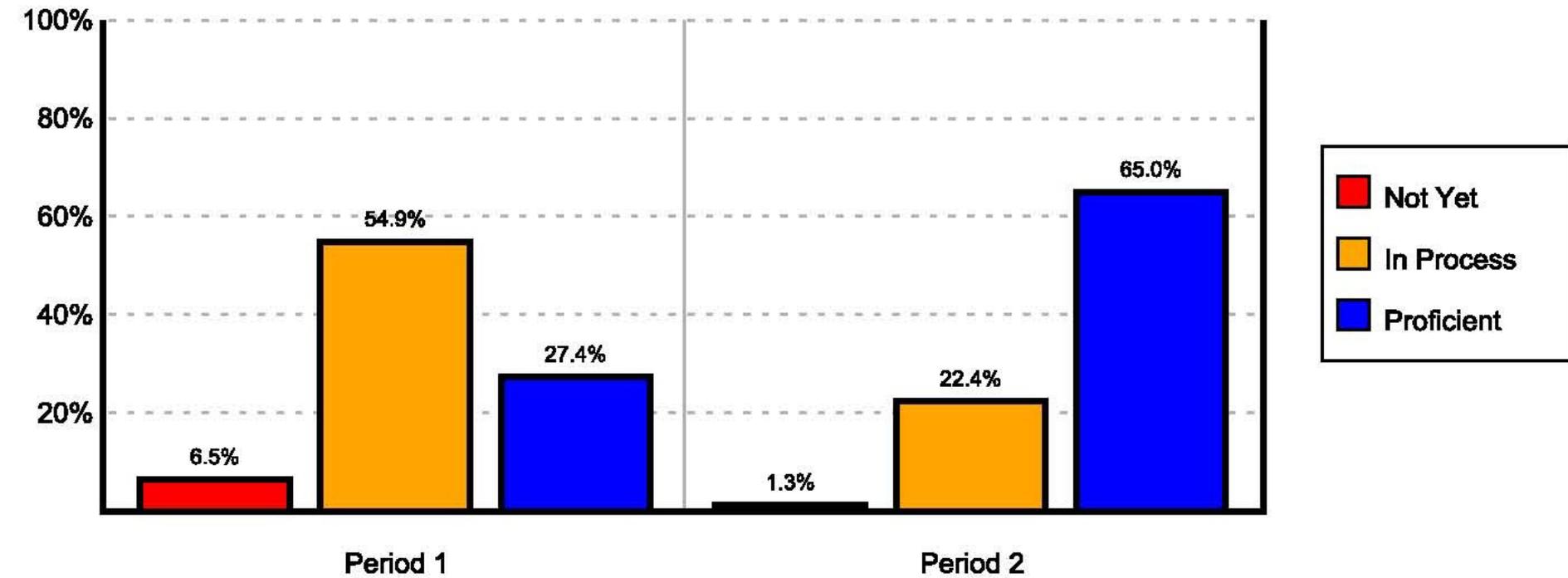
Finalize

This Developmental Checklist will be marked as a preliminary rating until you check the box above.

SUBMIT

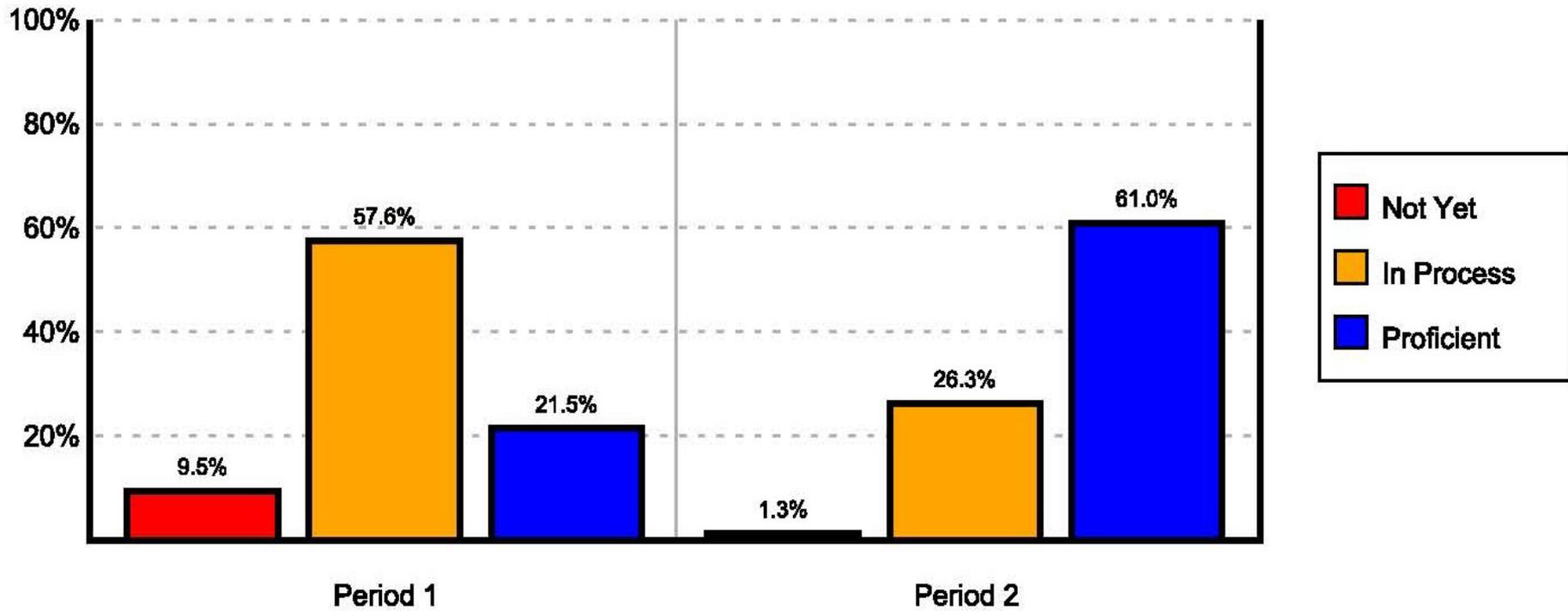
Preliminary Assessment Data 2004-2005

I: Personal and Social Development



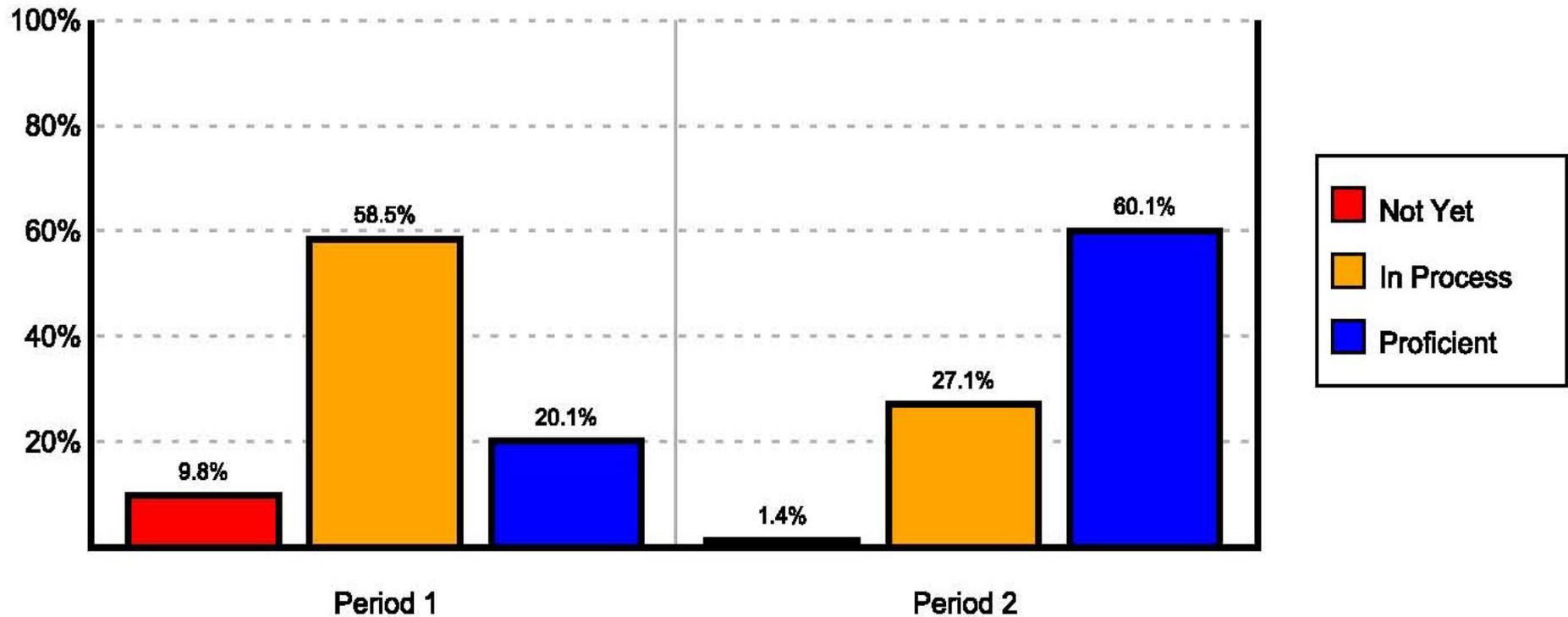
Preliminary Assessment Data 2004-2005

II: Language and Literacy



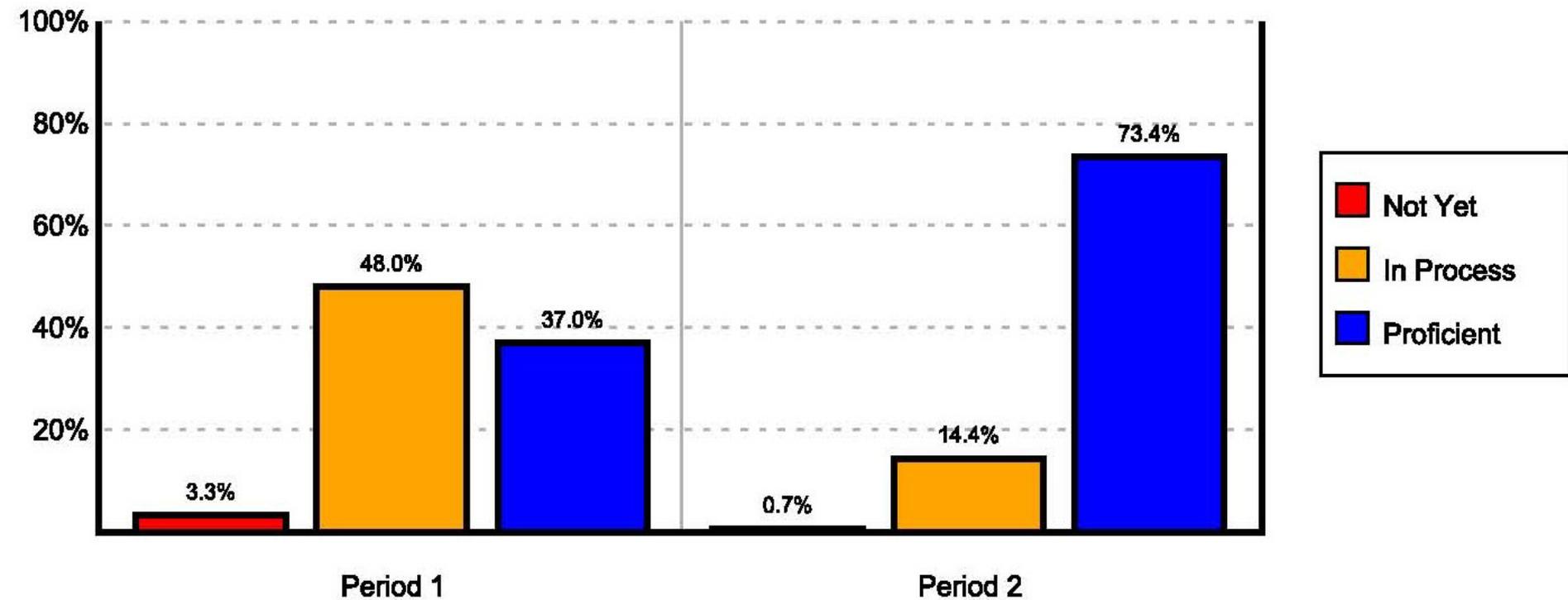
Preliminary Assessment Data 2004-2005

III: Mathematical Thinking



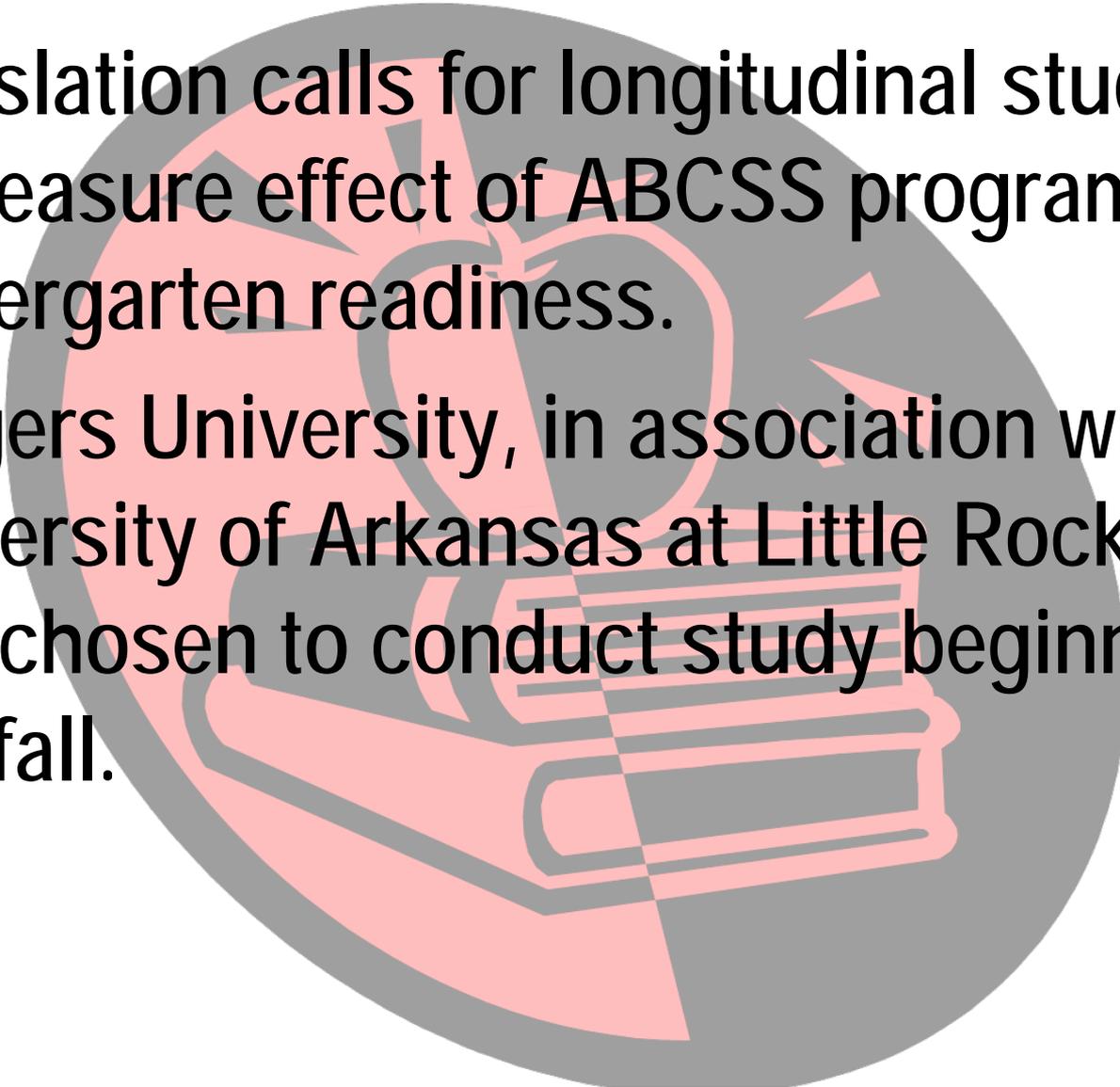
Preliminary Assessment Data 2004-2005

VII: Physical Development and Health



Measuring Long-Term Outcomes

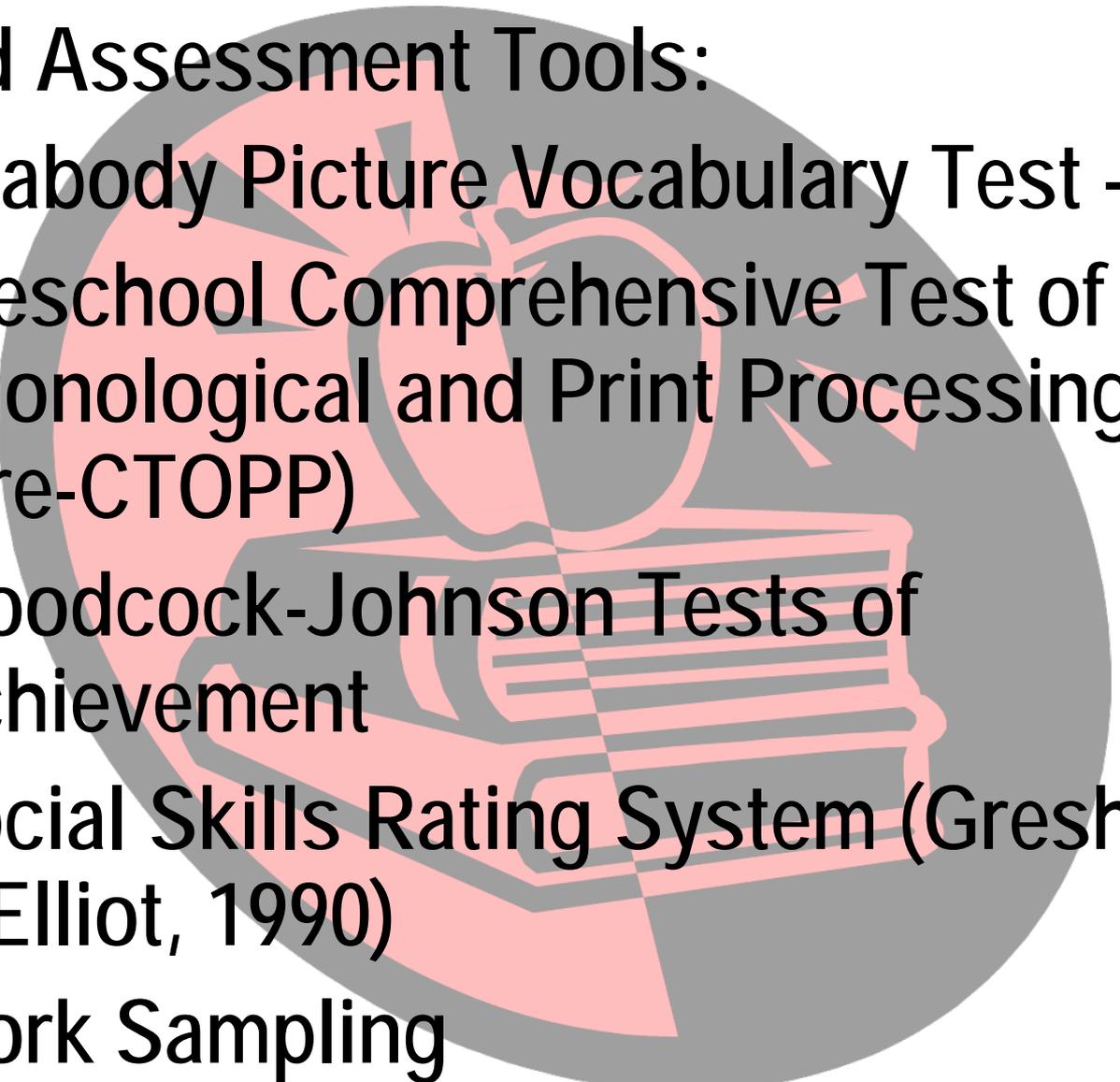
- Legislation calls for longitudinal study to measure effect of ABCSS program on kindergarten readiness.
- Rutgers University, in association with University of Arkansas at Little Rock, was chosen to conduct study beginning this fall.



Measuring Long-Term Outcomes

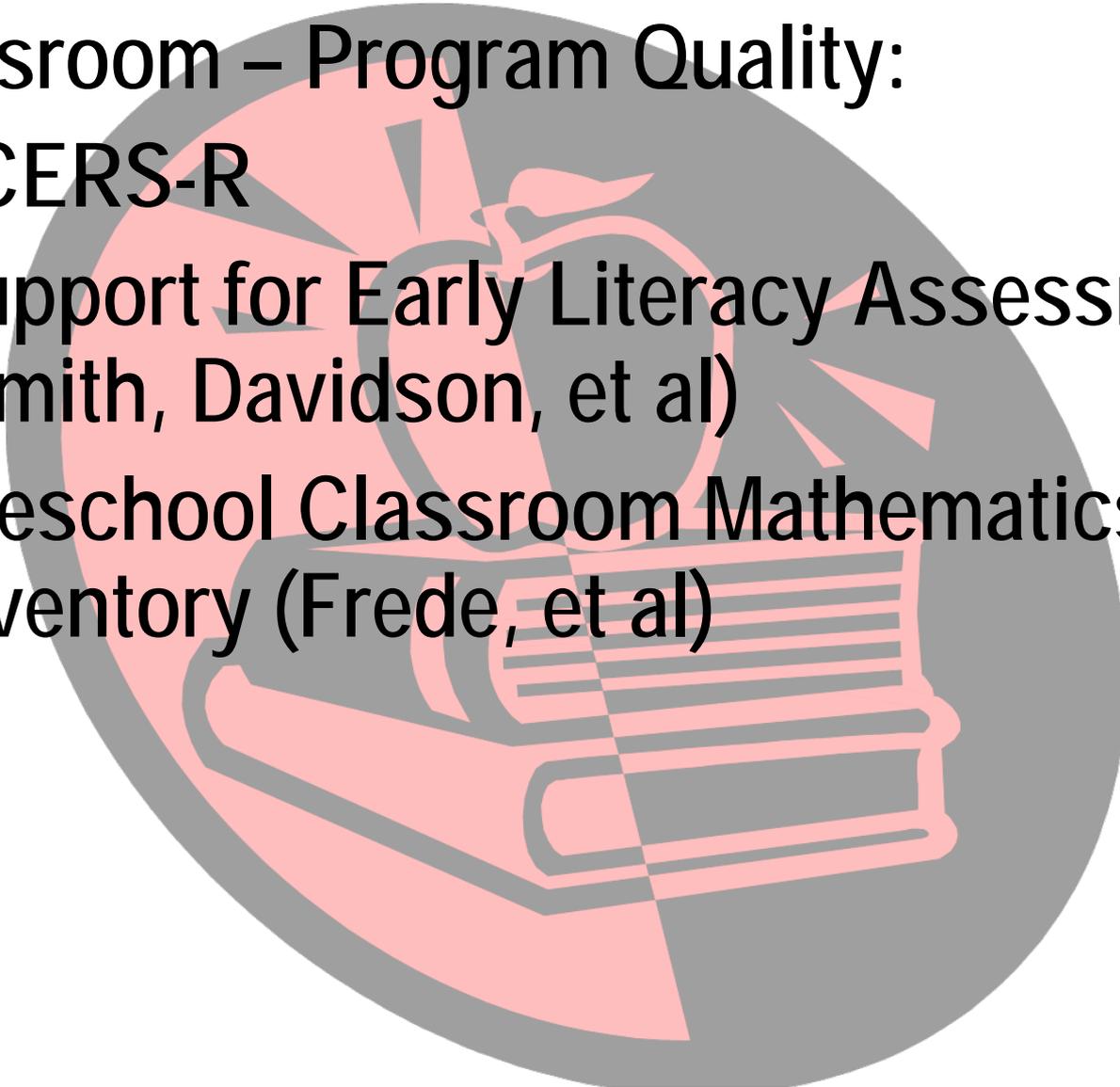
- Random sample of 500 each:
 - Pre-K now attending ABC program
 - Kindergartners attending ABC
 - Kindergartners not attending ABC
- Children assessed and compared using instruments which measure...
 - Vocabulary
 - Phonics
 - Math skill development
 - Social development

Measuring Long-Term Outcomes

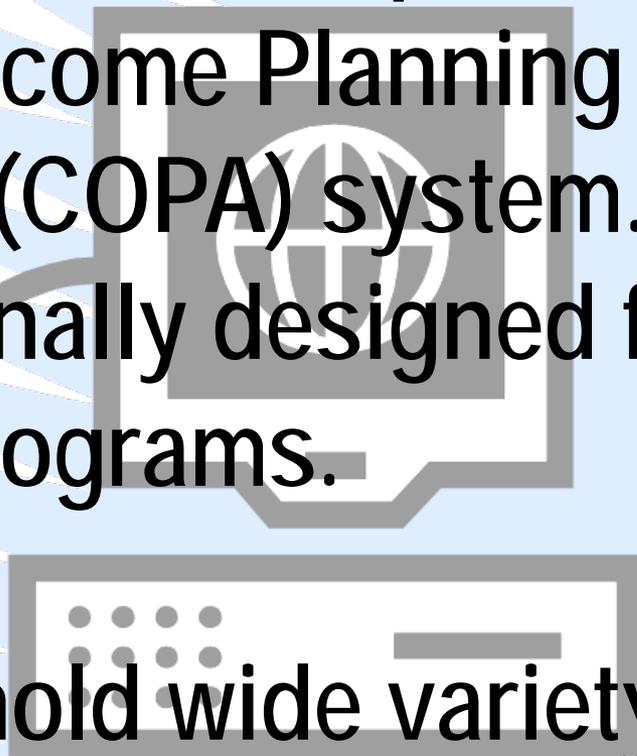
- Child Assessment Tools:
 - Peabody Picture Vocabulary Test - 3
 - Preschool Comprehensive Test of Phonological and Print Processing (Pre-CTOPP)
 - Woodcock-Johnson Tests of Achievement
 - Social Skills Rating System (Gresham & Elliot, 1990)
 - Work Sampling
- 

Measuring Long-Term Outcomes

- Classroom – Program Quality:
 - ECERS-R
 - Support for Early Literacy Assessment (Smith, Davidson, et al)
 - Preschool Classroom Mathematics Inventory (Frede, et al)



Program Data

- ✓ Data collection accomplished via use of the Child Outcome Planning and Assessment (COPA) system.
 - ✓ System originally designed for use in Head Start programs.
 - ✓ Web-based
 - ✓ Capacity to hold wide variety of program and family demographic information.
- 

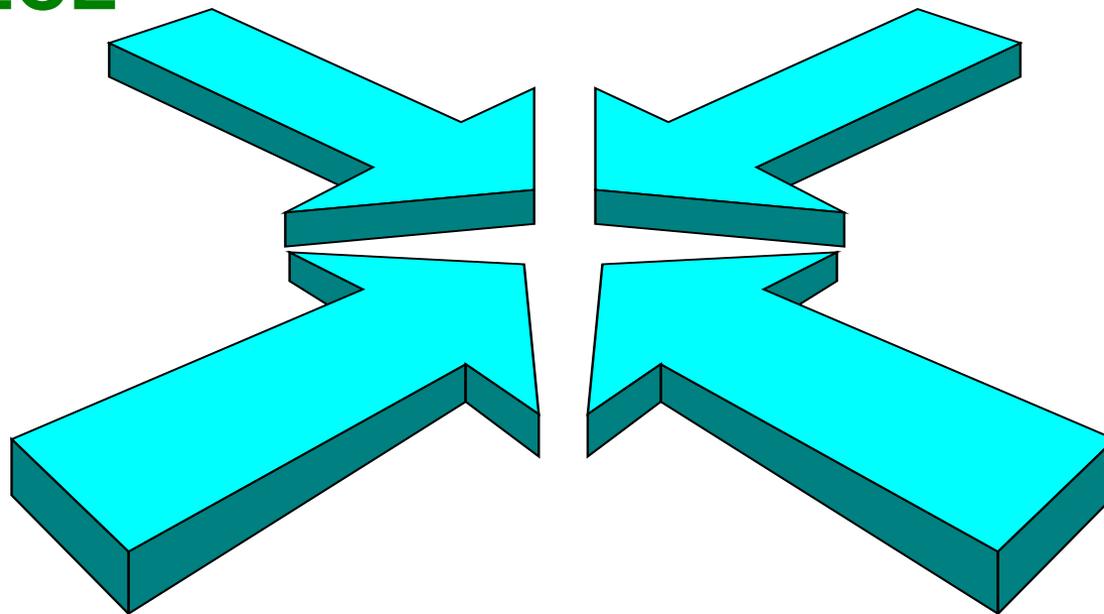
Program Data

- ✓ Virtually eliminate all paper reports submitted by programs.
- ✓ COPA will track:
 - Class enrollment**
 - Staff qualifications**
 - Child immunizations**
 - Family demographics**
 - Attendance and Meals**

ABC is the result of people coming together...

DCC-ECE

Other Gov't Agencies



**Programs &
Families**

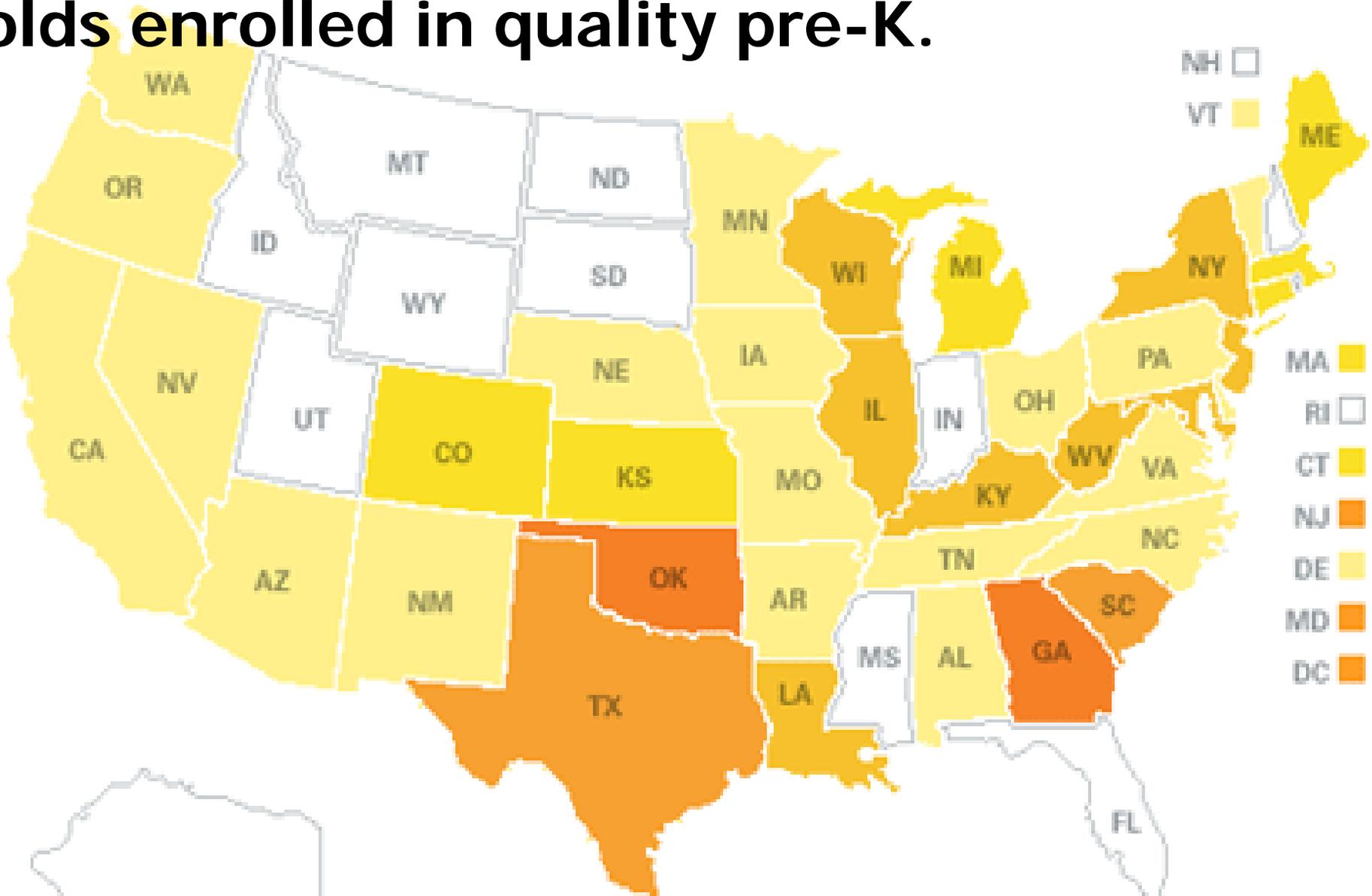
**Collaborative
Partnerships**

...for the children of Arkansas.

Collaborative Partnerships

- Special Education
- Head Start
- Provider Associations
- School Districts
- Educational Cooperatives
- Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies
- Other Division Partners
(Vouchers, Nutrition)
- Institutions of Higher Education
(Program Reviews, Training)

Arkansas: Access ranks in the lower percentiles—less than 10% of four-year olds enrolled in quality pre-K.



Paul Lazenby

ABC Administrator

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www.arkansas.gov/childcare/abcpro.html

