

SOUTHSIDE SCHOOL DISTRICT

Third graders are more likely to read proficiently if they have had access to high-quality Pre-K programs. In addition to Arkansas Better Chance (ABC) funds, two funding sources that school districts can use for such programs are the National School Lunch Act (NSLA) and funds allocated by Title 1 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA). Last year, Arkansas schools spent nearly \$8.7M from these sources to provide critical Pre-K opportunities to Arkansas children, however, only 63 districts (25%) use NSLA and only 17 districts (7%) use Title 1 funding for Pre-K.

“I’m not sure how you function without a high-quality Pre-K center. It’s made a tremendous impact on our district.”

— Roger Rich, Superintendent, Southside School District

High-Quality Pre-K Increases District Enrollment

USES NSLA FUNDS (\$78,960.79) TO PAY FOR:

- ✓ 1 instructional facilitator that serves Pre-K teachers with professional development opportunities
- ✓ Enrollment for all children from birth to school age into the Dolly Parton Imagination Library, in collaboration with the United Way of North Central Arkansas

*Percent of Students Eligible for Free and Reduced Meals (2015-16): 63.5%

USES TITLE 1 FUNDS (\$26,396.04) TO PAY FOR:

- ✓ 1/2 salary for a certified Pre-K teacher
- ✓ Pre-K curriculum

TOTAL NSLA/TITLE 1 FUNDS: \$105,356.83

USES ABC FUNDS (AFTER SALARIES) TO PAY FOR:

- ✓ Parent Involvement

Over the span of the program’s 14 years, Pre-K enrollment at Southside has increased from 25 to 183 students.

Pre-K Lays the Foundation for K-12 District Success

ACADEMIC:

- Helps mitigate developmental delays that would otherwise require special attention in kindergarten
- Average percentage of students considered developed in 2012 QELI (6 categories) Southside School District: 47.44%
- May 2017 Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA) reading data showed that 70% of third grade students that attended one or more years at Southside Preschool were at or above the grade-level norms, compared to the 50% of third grade students that did not attend the program.
- In a focus on school readiness, Southside's Pre-K curriculum is closely aligned with K-3 curriculum in a continuum of learning during the critical time that children transition from learning to read into reading to learn. Each Pre-K student enters kindergarten with a detailed report including both academic and behavioral individual data.

ECONOMIC:

- Serves 183 Pre-K students and has more than 100 on the waiting list
- 1/3 of Pre-K students come from outside the district because of the strength of the Pre-K program

FINANCIAL:

- Increased enrollment in Southside Elementary School and beyond

“A good start is the foundation for success in elementary, junior, middle and high school, and even as adults.”

— Dawn Jeffrey, Early Childhood Director, Southside School District

Southside Pre-K's High-Quality Program Includes:

- ✓ Certified teachers providing high-quality instruction in all classrooms
- ✓ Option to stay another year in Pre-K program if warranted in order to ensure kindergarten readiness
- ✓ Serves working families with 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. hours; open 359 days of the year (closed six major holidays)
- ✓ Serves district teachers with infant room for those birth to age four
- ✓ Early Childhood Director is a member of the administrative team alongside elementary, middle and high school principals

For additional information, please contact:

Roger Rich

Superintendent, Southside School District

roger.rich@southsideschools.org



Arkansas Association
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