

SPRINGDALE 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 Federal funding. Last year, Arkansas schools spent nearly \$8M from these sources to provide critical Pre-K opportunities to Arkansas children.

High-Quality Pre-K Funded by Grants

USES NSLA FUNDS TO SUPPORT A FEDERAL GRANT TO PAY FOR

- ✓ **Second Pre-K nurse**
- ✓ **Dental screening**
- ✓ **Technology updates**
- ✓ **Third Pre-K secretary**
- ✓ **Conscious Discipline training for all Pre-K teachers**
- ✓ **Various assessment programs**
- ✓ **Updated playgrounds**
- ✓ **Teacher and Paraprofessional professional development (60 hrs/yr)**

USES NSLA FUNDS TO (\$305,011.54):

- ✓ **Match PDG requirements**

*Percent of Students Eligible for Free and Reduced Meals (2015-16): 70.5%

SAMPLE DAY IN A SPRINGDALE PRE-K CLASSROOM:

- ✓ **7-hour day**
- ✓ **Breakfast, lunch and snack**
- ✓ **Outside time (1 hr)**
- ✓ **Rest time (1 hr, 15 min)**
- ✓ **Stretch-N-Grow physical education program (30 min/wk)**

Over the span of the program's 12 years, Pre-K enrollment at Springdale has increased more than 730% from 160 to 1,342. Several of these students are of Hispanic or Marshallese descent. The program has 67 Pre-K classrooms spread across 18 locations (two of these are dedicated Pre-K centers).

Springdale Pre-K teachers formed a curriculum writing team that has published its own curriculum designed for a competency-based model of instruction. It's published online, and more than 150 Arkansas districts are using it.

We're currently accepting paid slots into our program because so many parents have expressed interest in paying. This is an endorsement of our program in and of itself!

- Dr. Kathy Morledge, Assistant Superintendent, Teaching and Learning, Pre-K - 7, Springdale Public Schools

Community and District Support Builds Foundation for Pre-K Success

ACADEMIC:

- Pre-K students learn the social skills necessary to enter kindergarten. Kindergarten students not exposed to Pre-K frequently have to “learn to go to school” and are behind their peers.
- Average percentage of students considered developed in 2012 QELI (6 categories) Springdale School District: 49.91%
- Language development is an issue in this district from poverty and foreign language-speaking parents, but Pre-K has been shown to help close this achievement gap.

ECONOMIC:

- Conscious Discipline Model integrates social and emotional learning, discipline and self-regulation.
- Springdale’s program does not send students with behavioral problems home, a benefit in that employers don’t have to worry about employees missing work.

FINANCIAL:

- Early identification of students needing developmental or social-emotional services mitigates needed services in kindergarten and thus saves the district money.

Springdale Pre-K’s High-Quality Program Includes:

- ✓ **Certified teachers and paraprofessionals**
- ✓ **STAR classroom, a smaller learning environment for students with discipline challenges**
- ✓ **Family Service Managers to help students and parents transition into Pre-K**
 - *This group received a United Way grant for \$70K to start the Kangaroo Keepers mentoring program*
- ✓ **Family Literacy Program allows non-English speaking parents the opportunity to spend time each day in their student’s classroom**

Community Partnerships Include:

- ✓ **Arts Center of the Ozarks**
- ✓ **Child Care Aware of NWA**
- ✓ **Discount School Supply**
- ✓ **Endeavor**
- ✓ **JB Hunt**
- ✓ **Lakeshore Learning**
- ✓ **Northwest Arkansas Education Service Cooperative**
- ✓ **Ozark Guidance Center**
- ✓ **Samaritan House (Snack Pack sponsor)**
- ✓ **Trike Theatre**
- ✓ **Tyson Foods**
- ✓ **University of Arkansas**
- ✓ **Walmart**

For additional information, please contact:

Kathy Morledge, Ed.D.

Assistant Superintendent, Teaching and Learning, Pre-K-7

Springdale Public Schools

kmorledge@sdale.org

