

Garland County Pre-K Consortium

Third graders are more likely to read proficiently if they have had access to high-quality Pre-K programs, but funding is sometimes a big obstacle for districts wanting to offer these services to their students.

Community Joins Together For High-Quality Pre-K

USES ABC FUNDS (AFTER SALARIES) TO PAY FOR:

- Teacher Professional Development**
- Developmental Screening**
- Meaningful Parent and Community Engagement Activities**
- High-Quality Curriculum**

Garland County presents an example in the power of seven districts working together to pool Arkansas Better Chance (ABC) funding to create a “Pre-K Consortium” – a program set to offer 120 high-quality Pre-K slots to county residents this fall in a donated building from the Hot Springs School District. The Consortium is the first county-wide Pre-K program in Arkansas, and its 120 slots increase Pre-K access in Garland County by nearly 20%.

“This is a great opportunity for the families of Garland County. I think this is just the beginning of what we can do as an education community when we all work together.”

– Dr. Mike Hernandez, Former Superintendent, Hot Springs School District



Community Organizations Meet Monthly to Improve Access to High-Quality Pre-K in Garland County

Community organizations working together to form the Consortium include:

- Dawson Education Service Cooperative
- All seven Garland County School Districts: Cutter-Morning Star, Fountain Lake, Hot Springs, Jessieville, Lake Hamilton, Lakeside and Mountain Pine
- Greater Hot Springs Education Council (co-chaired by Rep. Les Warren (R-District 25) and Dr. John Hogan of National Park College)
- Garland County State Senators (Alan Clark (R-District 13) and Bill Sample (R-District 14)) and State Representatives (Micky Gates (R-District 22), Les Warren (R-District 25), Bruce Cozart (R-District 24) and Richard Womack (R-District 18))
- Greater Hot Springs Chamber of Commerce

“Pre-K is a priority for us. Data shows how much better kids perform with Pre-K, and I’m proud of us all taking the action needed to make it happen.”

— Darin Beckwith, Director, Dawson Education Service Cooperative

ECONOMIC BENEFIT:

The Garland County Pre-K Consortium will bring approximately 12-15 new jobs to the area and \$600,000 in new revenue.

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Arkansas Association
of Educational Administrators

