

## Using research and data to understand and improve Arkansas' prekindergarten programs

High-quality early childhood education is key to later success in school and life. The **Arkansas Prekindergarten Research Alliance** is a collaborative partnership of early childhood state leaders, school district staff, legislative staff, and researchers seeking to improve early learning through **research and analytic technical support**.

“*The data inventory project identified early childhood resources that are publicly available and compiled data related to both preK participation and school readiness in Arkansas into one document, which is very helpful to have.*”

— Tonya Williams, Director, Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education, Arkansas Department of Human Services

### Alliance priorities and work

#### PreK program quality

- ▶ **Technical assistance:** Alignment of the Arkansas Teacher Excellence and Support System (TESS) to two teacher performance measures
- ▶ **Workshop and webinar:** Evidence-based strategies for teaching math to young children
- ▶ **Webinar:** How states are addressing early learning under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)
- 🎯 **State education leaders and early childhood educators are applying the data and strategies to improve preK teacher performance evaluation, math instruction, and state-level support**

#### PreK program participation and need

- ▶ **Technical assistance:** Analyzing and mapping preK participation patterns and trends
- ▶ **Conference session:** Designing and sustaining accessible preK programming
- 🎯 **The data are informing state efforts to improve participation in Arkansas' preK program**

#### Data availability and use

- ▶ **Workshop and technical assistance:** Using Arkansas data to promote data-driven preK practices
- ▶ **Workshop:** Maintaining quality control of early childhood data, AR Dept. of Human Services (DHS)
- ▶ **Webinar:** Engaging families in preK assessments and data use
- ▶ **Webinar:** Building early childhood data systems
- 🎯 **DHS refined its process for managing early childhood data to improve quality control and efficiency; educators expanded their capacity to use data to track/support children's progress**

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