

Arkansas Better Chance (ABC)

2024-2025 Provider Call



Introductions – Office of Early Childhood (OEC) Staff



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Arkansas Better Chance (ABC) Agenda

- Introductions – Office of Early Childhood (OEC) Staff
- COPA Support Mailbox
- Updates to the ABC Website
- Reports Due by January 31st
- OEC Monitoring Procedure
- Updated Waivers
- Inclement Weather
- Updates to the Rules Governing the ABC Program
 - Programs operating less than 178 days
 - Professional development hours change for Paraprofessionals
 - Changes of terms such as COPA, Work Sampling, ECERS
 - Monthly payments based on enrollment
- Questions



COPA Support Mailbox

- Please use the COPA Support mailbox for request, assistance with COPA, program questions, and submission of forms.
- Our entire teams works from this mailbox to ensure that you get a quick reply.
- copasupport.mailaccount@ade.arkansas.gov

Updates to the ABC Website



The Arkansas Better Chance (ABC) website has been updated with new forms, a training section, and updated links. Please use the forms and documents for the most up-to-date fillable forms before submitting request.

The updated *2024-2025 Program Guide* can also be found on our website.

Arkansas Better Chance (ABC)

A screenshot of the Arkansas Better Chance (ABC) website. The header includes the Division of Elementary & Secondary Education logo, a portrait of Jacob Oliva (Secretary), a language selection dropdown, and the Arkansas Department of Education logo. The navigation bar has links for About, Stakeholders, State Board, Offices, Directory, Tools, and Search. The main content area features a sidebar with links to Early Childhood, About OEC, and the Arkansas Better Chance Program (ABC) (which is highlighted). The ABC section includes links to COPA, Curriculum & Screening Tools, ABC Program Forms and Documents, and Pre-K R.I.S.E. The main content area has a heading for the Arkansas Better Chance Program (ABC) with a collage of images of children. Below this is a section titled "Arkansas Better Chance" with a paragraph describing the program's history and mission. To the right of the main content is a "Related Files" section with links to Act 49, Rules Governing the Arkansas Better Chance Program, and the ABC Program Longitudinal Study. At the bottom right is a "Related Links" section with links to the Division of Childcare & Early Childhood Education, Arkansas Better Beginnings Quality Rating Information, Minimum Licensing Requirements for Childcare Center, and Minimum Licensing Requirements for Licensed Childcare Family Homes.



Reports Due by January 31st

Reminder, two reports are due in January. You can find updated templates for both reports on our [website](#).

- Staff Qualification Plan (SQP) Progress Report
- Mid-Year Expenditure Report
- These can be submitted to copasupport.mailaccount@ade.arkansas.gov.



OEC Monitoring Procedure

The OEC – ABC team will begin monitoring ABC programs through the remaining of the school year. Please note that program eligibility specialists will be reaching out to your program with dates and information for your monitor to take place. Programs will be expected to upload documents into COPA during this timeframe. A few examples of documentation requested:

- Child Eligibility Documentation
- Child Health Documents
- Staff Files (Degree/Other Credentials)
- Staff Training Transcripts (OEC will pull from PDR, others may be uploaded to COPA)
- Attendance Data from COPA
- Program Documents (Parent Handbook, Transition Plans, etc)
- Child Screenings and Referrals (If applicable)

All updated waivers have been posted to the ABC [website](#).

- OEC has created one new waiver, the **Staff Waiver**. This form can be used by programs to request the staffing pattern requirements be waived. Programs that are not able to meet the lead teacher requirements for multiple classrooms may request a waiver.



Updates to the Rules Governing the ABC Program

Effective January 1, 2025

Rules Governing the ABC Program

Updates to the Rules Governing the ABC Program



- **Programs operating less than 178 days**

- 9.6 For each child enrolled, ABC programs shall provide a minimum of seven (7) hours a day for up to 178 days per school calendar year.
- 9.6.1 Extended hours do not count as additional days for funding.
- 9.6.2 Funding is based on the number of days.
- 9.6.3 Any days less than the 178 days will be pro-rated based on the daily rate of the program established by the OEC.

- **Professional development hours change for Paraprofessionals**

- 11.9.1 All ABC paraprofessionals shall participate in a minimum of fifteen (15) hours of staff development on topics pertinent to early childhood education.

Updates to the Rules Governing the ABC Program



- **Changes of terms such as COPA, Work Sampling, ECERS**

- Key terms have changed in the rules, however we are still using the current system. Any changes to the data management system, or other programs will be updated in the annual program guide and communicated to all programs.
- CLASS Pilot
 - The Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS) is being piloted across Arkansas. We would highly recommend that ABC programs take a CLASS training as soon as they become available. This assessment tool is interaction based, and not environment based (ECERS).
 - [CLASS Resources](#)
 - Contact OEC Staff at OEC.CLASS@ade.arkansas.gov

Updates to the Rules Governing the ABC Program



Enrollment based funding.

- **6.5** The ABC funding award is based upon projected child enrollment from the previous year's October **enrollment**.
- **6.5.1** Programs will be paid monthly based on **enrollment** and the number of **full days offered**.
- **These changes will go into effect in February, for January you're billing.**

OEC will be reviewing and monitoring enrollment in accordance with the Rules Governing the ABC program. Programs who choose a calendar with less than 178 days, will be paid for the number of days offered.



Questions?