

ARKANSAS

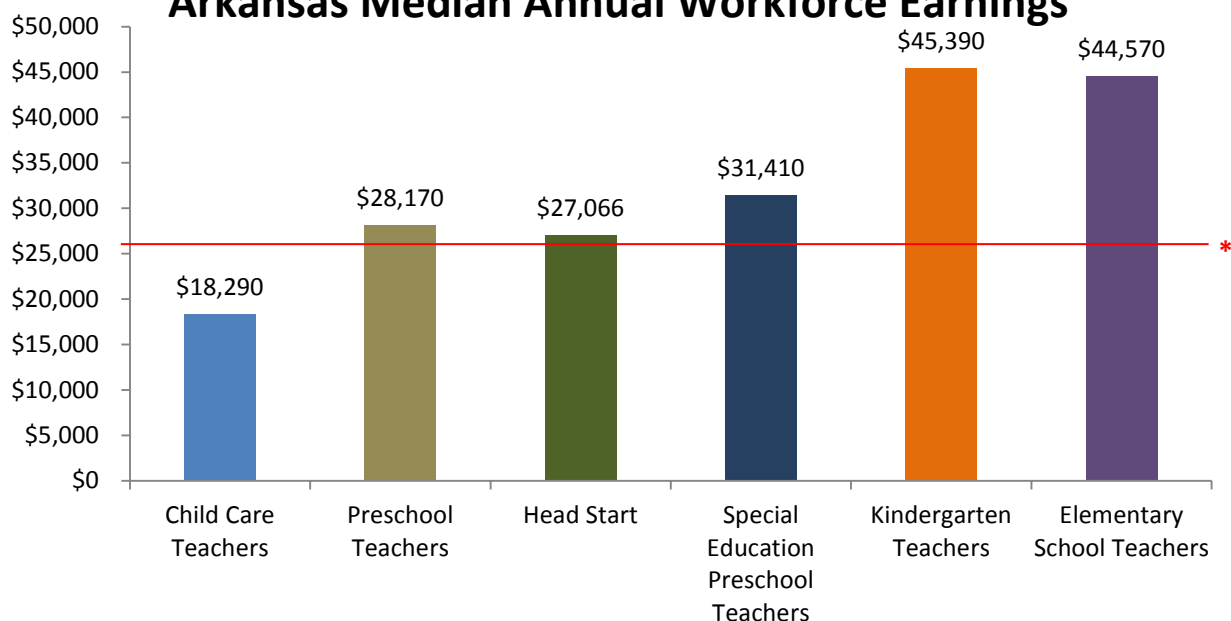
Access to High Quality Early Learning Matters!

Research shows that during the earliest years of a child's life:

- 700 - 1,000 new neural connections form every second
- Genetics plus experiences shape the developing brain
- The foundation forms for future cognitive abilities
- Vocabulary at age 3 can predict 3rd Grade Reading Achievement

High Quality Programs Depend on a Quality Workforce Low Wages Undermine Quality

Arkansas Median Annual Workforce Earnings



*Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) eligibility for a family of three: \$26,124

Arkansas Demographics

- 228,326** Children Under Age 6
- 139,094** Children Under Age 6 Below 200% of Poverty
- 64.9%** Children Under Age 6 Living in Households with All Parents Working
- 53.6%** Families Led by a Single Mother with Children Under Age 5 Living in Poverty
- 30.1%** Children Under Age 5 Living in Poverty

Arkansas Median Annual Wages for Other Occupations

- Parking Lot Attendants \$19,500
- Manicurists & Pedicurist \$19,230
- Word Processors/Typists \$34,890
- Nurses \$55,660

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, ACS 1 Year data (2014); U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Employment Statistics (2015); Head Start Program Information Report (2015).

