

EDI in Arkansas

Your participation makes a difference!

Early Development Instrument (EDI) data is used in Arkansas to inform policies, direct resources, and build community level plans to improve conditions for young children in Arkansas. District leaders use this information to better understand conditions in the surrounding neighborhoods and to bring preschool, kindergarten and first grade teachers together to improve strategies for early childhood development, school transition, and school success.

The Arkansas Research Center at the University of Central Arkansas and the Center for Healthier Children, Families, and Communities at UCLA are partnering to survey the health, wellbeing and school readiness of all kindergarten children in your county using the EDI.

The EDI is not about teacher accountability or school report cards, but rather looking at what is happening in Arkansas neighborhoods and communities in the years before children arrive to school in Kindergarten. When you complete the EDI questionnaire for your students, you are helping to shape the future of early childhood programs in Arkansas.



"The EDI speaks to equity, it individualizes what our communities and our schools need. Not with the goal of getting to a marker on a standardized test, but with the goal of figuring out what kids need to

lead lives where they are able to provide for themselves. The EDI gives us data that can steer funding and can steer investment and intervention."

- Candace Williams, Executive Director of Rural Community Alliance

"The work that teachers put into completing the EDI is worth it! It helps researchers like me better understand the social and emotional needs of children in our state, so we can target our efforts to support healthy early childhood development, so kindergarteners are ready to learn as soon as they walk in the door."

-Nicola A. Edge, PhD. Associate Director at UAMS Research and Evaluation Division

