



ARKANSAS EDUCATION REPORT
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**OUTSTANDING EDUCATIONAL PERFORMANCE AWARDS:
HIGHLIGHTING TOP ACHIEVING ARKANSAS SCHOOLS, 2009**

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INTRODUCTION

Since our founding in 2003, the mission of the Office for Education Policy has been to look at pressing issues through the lens of academic research and disseminate our findings to educators, policymakers, and other stakeholders around Arkansas. Every once in a while, however, we think it is okay to stray from issue analysis and simply share some *good news*! So, in this Arkansas Education Report (AER) we merely aim to highlight excellent performance and give our congratulations. To that end, we are happy to highlight the top performing schools around the state in an annual AER entitled the **O**utstanding **E**ducational **P**erformance Awards.

Over a three month period, the **OEP Awards** will highlight the top performing schools in Arkansas on the Benchmark exam in math and literacy, and End-Of-Course (EOC) exams in Algebra, Geometry, Literacy (Grade 11), and Biology. This report will begin by featuring the top performing elementary and middle schools on Benchmark performance in literacy, math, and combined test score performance.

After we present our overall snapshot of top performing schools, we will release subsequent reports every two weeks focusing on a different subset of schools. In section two of the **OEP Awards** AER, we will feature schools that are beating the odds (that is, schools that have high percentages of proficient and advanced scores on the Benchmark exam while serving a high percentage of low-income students). In the following weeks, we will focus on top performing elementary schools, middle schools, and high schools in the various regions across the state. Finally, we will conclude our report by focusing on the schools with the greatest improvement in test scores between 2008 and 2009. Our release schedule is:

- **Top “Overall” Schools in Arkansas** (August 26, 2009)
- **Beating the Odds – Top Schools Serving Low Income Students** (September 16, 2009)
- **Top Elementary Schools by Region** (September 30, 2009)
- **Top Middle Schools by Region** (October 14, 2009)
- **Top High Schools Across Arkansas** (October 28, 2009)
- **Most Improved Schools between 2008 and 2009** (November 11, 2009)

Stay tuned over the next six weeks to see which schools in your area are recognized for our **OEP Award**!

I. OEP AWARDS: TOP “OVERALL” SCHOOLS IN ARKANSAS BASED ON PERFORMANCE ON THE BENCHMARK

This section highlights the top performing elementary and middle schools across the state based on the Arkansas Benchmark exam. The Benchmark exams were administered to students in grades three through eight in math and literacy in April 2009. Each table presents the top 20 schools for the noted subject and school level, and includes the region in which the school is located, the grades served at the school, and the percent of students scoring at the proficient and advanced levels in 2009.

A. Benchmark Scores in Mathematics, 2009

Table 1: Top 20 Elementary Schools in Arkansas Based on Benchmark Math Achievement

	School (District)	Region ¹	Grades Served	% Proficient/Advanced ²
1	Vilonia Academy of Technology (Vilonia)	CN	K-4	100 %
2	Park Magnet School (Hot Springs)	CN	K-5	99%
3	Mount Pleasant Elementary (Melbourne)	NE	K-6	99%
4	Eudora Elementary (Lakeside)	SE	PK-6	97%
5	Skyline Heights Elementary (Harrison)	NW	K-4	97%
6	Central Park/Morning (Bentonville)	NW	K-4	96%
7	Pottsville Elementary (Pottsville)	NW	K-3	96%
8	Woodrow Cummins Elementary (Conway)	CN	K-4	96%
9	Jim Stone Elementary (Conway)	CN	K-4	95%
10	Cutter Morning Star (Cutter-Mrg. Star)	CN	K-6	95%
11	Bellview Elementary (Rogers)	NW	K-5	95%
12	Ellen Smith Elementary (Conway)	CN	K-4	95%
13	Salem Elementary (Salem)	NE	K-5	95%
14	Magness Creek Elementary (Cabot)	CN	K-4	95%
15	Elm Tree Elementary (Bentonville)	NW	K-4	94%
16	Arnold Drive Elementary (Pulaski County)	CN	PK-5	94%
17	Vandergriff Elementary (Fayetteville)	NW	K-5	94%
18	Lakeside Intermediate (Lakeside)	CN	2-4	94%
19	Kingston Elementary (Jasper)	NW	K-6	94%
20	Valley View Elementary (Valley View)	NE	PK-6	94%

¹ Schools are divided into five regions in Arkansas: Northwest (NW), Northeast (NE), Central (CN), Southwest (SW), and Southeast (SE).

² Schools are ranked based on the percent of students performing at proficient or advanced levels in the noted subject

Table 2: Top 20 Middle Schools in Arkansas Based on Benchmark Math Achievement

	School (District)	Region	Grades Served	% Proficient/Advanced
1	Vilonia Academy of Service Learning and Technology (Vilonia)	CN	5-6	96 %
2	Umpire High School (Wickes)	SW	7-12	93%
3	Ruth Hale Barker Middle (Bentonville)	NW	5-6	90%
4	Ruth Doyle Intermediate (Conway)	CN	5-6	90%
5	Old High Middle (Bentonville)	NW	5-6	90%
6	Pea Ridge Middle (Pea Ridge)	NW	7-9	90%
7	East Hills Middle (Greenwood)	NW	5-7	90%
8	McNair Middle (Fayetteville)	NW	6-7	89%
9	Spring Hill Middle (Bentonville)	NW	5-6	89%
10	Lisa Middle (Lisa Academy)	CN	6-8	89%
11	Greenbrier Middle (Greenbrier)	CN	5-7	88%
12	Parkers Chapel High (Parkers Chapel)	SW	7-12	87 %
13	Harrison Middle (Harrison)	NW	5-6	87%
14	Mountain View Middle (Mountain View)	NE	6-8	86%
15	Cabot Middle School South (Cabot)	CN	5-6	86%
16	Swifton Middle (Jackson County)	NE	5-7	86%
17	Southwest Middle (Searcy)	NE	5-6	86%
18	Kraus Middle (Clarksville)	NW	5-6	86%
19	Lakeside Middle (Lakeside)	CN	5-7	85%
20	Washington Jr. High (Bentonville)	NW	7-8	85%

In addition to the 40 schools recognized here, there were numerous schools that nearly made the list in mathematics. In fact, 60 elementary schools and 39 middle schools were within five percentage points of the 20th school. Additionally, 324 out of the 508 elementary schools and 113 out of 362 middle schools had at least 75% of students score proficient and advanced.

It is worth noting that many of the schools in the top 20 serve relatively advantaged student populations. To illustrate, while roughly 56% of that state’s students are eligible for free/reduced lunch (FRL), around 30% of the students on the top mathematics lists are eligible for FRL. Along those lines, the schools on the list do tend to be clustered in the state’s more affluent regions. Nonetheless, there are schools serving concentrations of disadvantaged students that are beating the odds and deserve special recognition for their placement on the list. Two schools, Eudora Elementary of the Lakeside School District and Umpire High School of the Wickes School District, each have 100% of students eligible for free and reduced lunch.

B. Benchmark Scores in Literacy, 2009

Table 3: Top 20 Elementary Schools in Arkansas Based on Benchmark Literacy Achievement

	School (District)	Region	Grades Served	% Proficient/Advanced
1	Park Magnet School (Hot Springs)	CN	K-5	97%
2	Vilonia Academy of Technology (Vilonia)	CN	K-4	94%
3	Mount Pleasant Elementary (Melbourne)	NE	K-6	94%
4	Bellview Elementary (Rogers)	NW	K-5	93%
5	Arnold Drive Elementary (Pulaski County)	CN	PK-5	92%
6	Vandergriff Elementary (Fayetteville)	NW	K-5	91%
7	Jim Stone Elementary (Conway)	CN	K-4	90%
8	Ellen Smith Elementary (Conway)	CN	K-4	90%
9	Valley View Elementary (Valley View)	NE	PK-6	90%
10	Spring Hill Elementary (Spring Hill)	SW	K-6	89%
11	Elm Tree Elementary (Bentonville)	NW	K-4	88%
12	Caldwell Elementary (Benton)	CN	K-5	88%
13	Richland Elementary (West Memphis)	NE	K-6	87%
14	Salem Elementary (Bryant)	CN	K-5	87%
15	Magness Creek Elementary (Cabot)	CN	K-4	87%
16	Westside Elementary (Searcy)	NE	K-4	87%
17	Pottsville Elementary (Pottsville)	NW	K-3	87%
18	Bergman Elementary (Bergman)	NW	K-4	86%
19	London Elementary (Russellville)	NW	K-4	86%
20	Hector Elementary (Hector)	NW	K-6	86%

Table 4: Top 20 Middle Schools in Arkansas Based on Benchmark Literacy Achievement

	School (District)	Region	Grades Served	% Proficient/Advanced
1	Umpire High School (Wickes)	SW	7-12	93%
2	Lisa Middle (Lisa Academy)	CN	6-8	93%
3	Vilonia Academy of Service Learning and Technology (Vilonia)	CN	5-6	92%
4	Woodland Jr. High (Fayetteville)	NW	8-9	90%
5	Valley View High (Valley View)	NE	7-12	88%
6	Southwest Middle (Searcy)	NE	5-6	88%
7	Viola High School (Viola)	NE	7-12	87%
8	Harrison Middle (Harrison)	NW	5-6	86%
9	Washington Jr. High (Bentonville)	NW	7-8	86%
10	McNair Middle (Fayetteville)	NW	6-7	86%
11	West Side High (West Side)	NE	7-12	85%
12	Ahlf Jr. High (Searcy)	NE	7-8	85%
13	Pea Ridge Middle (Pea Ridge)	NW	7-9	85%
14	Valley Springs Middle (Valley Springs)	NW	5-8	85%
15	Lakeside Jr. High (Lakeside)	CN	8-9	85%
16	Ruth Doyle Intermediate (Conway)	CN	5-6	84%
17	Mountain Home Jr. High (Mountain Home)	NW	8-9	84%
18	Vilonia Jr. High (Vilonia)	CN	8-9	84%
19	Calico Rock High (Calico Rock)	NE	7-12	84%
20	East Hills Middle (Greenwood)	NW	5-7	83%

As was the case in math, there were numerous schools that nearly made these lists as well. In fact, 63 elementary schools and 43 middle schools were within five percentage points of the 20th school. Additionally, 177 out of the 508 elementary schools and 107 out of 362 middle schools had at least 75% of students score proficient and advanced.

Again, it is also worth noting that many of the schools in the top 20 serve relatively advantaged student populations. While roughly 56% of that state’s students are eligible for free/reduced lunch (FRL), around 30% of the students on the top literacy lists are eligible for FRL. Along those lines, the schools on this list do tend to be clustered in the state’s more affluent regions. Nonetheless, several schools serving concentrations of disadvantaged students are beating the odds and deserve special recognition for their placement on the list. Two schools, Richland Elementary of the West Memphis School District and Umpire High School of the Wickes School District, each have 100% of students eligible for free and reduced lunch.

C. Benchmark Scores Combined (Math and Literacy), 2009

Table 5: Top 20 Elementary Schools in Arkansas Based on Benchmark Math and Literacy Achievement

	School (District)	Region	Grades Served	% Proficient/Advanced
1	Park Magnet (Hot Springs)	CN	K-5	98%
2	Vilonia Academy of Technology (Vilonia)	CN	K-4	97%
3	Mount Pleasant Elementary (Melbourne)	NE	K-6	97%
4	Bellview Elementary (Rogers)	NW	K-5	94%
5	Arnold Drive Elementary (Pulaski County)	CN	PK-5	93%
6	Jim Stone Elementary (Conway)	CN	K-4	93%
7	Vandergriff Elementary (Fayetteville)	NW	K-5	93%
8	Ellen Smith Elementary (Conway)	CN	K-4	93%
9	Valley View Elementary (Valley View)	NE	PK-6	92%
10	Pottsville Elementary (Pottsville)	NW	K-3	92%
11	Elm Tree Elementary (Bentonville)	NW	K-4	91%
12	Central Park/Morning (Bentonville)	NW	K-4	91%
13	Magness Creek Elementary (Cabot)	CN	K-4	91%
14	Skyline Heights Elementary (Harrison)	NW	K-4	91%
15	Richland Elementary (West Memphis)	NE	K-6	90%
16	Caldwell Elementary (Benton)	CN	K-5	90%
17	Woodrow Cummins Elementary (Conway)	CN	K-4	90%
18	Salem Elementary (Bryant)	CN	K-5	90%
19	Lakeside Intermediate (Lakeside)	CN	2-4	90%
20	Westside Elementary (Searcy)	NE	K-4	90%

Table 6: Top 20 Middle Schools in Arkansas Based on Math and Literacy Achievement

	School (District)	Region	Grades Served	% Proficient/Advanced
1	Vilonia Academy of Service Learning and Technology (Vilonia)	CN	5-6	94%
2	Umpire High (Wickes)	SW	7-12	93%
3	Lisa Middle (Lisa Academy)	CN	6-8	91%
4	Pea Ridge Middle (Pea Ridge)	NW	7-9	87%
5	McNair Middle (Fayetteville)	NW	6-7	87%
6	Ruth Doyle Intermediate (Conway)	CN	5-6	87%
7	Southwest Middle (Searcy)	NE	5-6	87%
8	East Hills Middle (Greenwood)	NW	5-7	87%
9	Woodland Jr. High (Fayetteville)	NW	8-9	87%
10	Ruth Hale Barker Middle (Bentonville)	NW	5-6	86%
11	Harrison Middle (Harrison)	NW	5-6	86%
12	Old High Middle (Bentonville)	NW	5-6	86%
13	Washington Jr. High (Bentonville)	NW	7-8	85%
14	Spring Hill Middle (Bentonville)	NW	5-6	85%
15	Valley View High (Valley View)	NE	7-12	85%
16	Valley Springs Middle (Valley Springs)	NW	5-8	84%
17	Cabot Middle South (Cabot)	CN	5-6	84%
18	Cabot Middle North (Cabot)	CN	5-6	84%
19	Mountain View Middle (Mountain View)	NE	6-8	83%
20	Lakeside Middle (Lakeside)	CN	6-8	83%

In addition to the 40 schools recognized here, several schools nearly made the list in both math and literacy. In fact, 52 elementary schools and 36 middle schools were within five percentage points of the 20th school. Additionally, 252 out of the 508 elementary schools and 106 out of 362 middle schools had at least 75% of students score proficient and advanced.

As was the case in math and literacy, many of the schools in the top 20 serve relatively advantaged student populations. Roughly 56% of that state's students are eligible for free/reduced lunch (FRL), while around 30% of the students on the top combined lists are eligible for FRL. Again, these schools do tend to be clustered in the state's more affluent regions. Nonetheless, there are schools serving concentrations of disadvantaged students that are beating the odds and deserve special recognition for their placement on the list. All of the students at Richland Elementary of the West Memphis School District and Umpire High School of the Wickes School District are eligible for FRL. To highlight similar schools, the next section will focus on high-performing schools that serve a large population of low-income students.

II. OEP AWARDS: BEATING THE ODDS – TOP SCHOOLS SERVING LOW-INCOME STUDENTS

This section highlights the top performing “high-poverty” elementary and middle schools across the state based on the Arkansas Benchmark exam. The Benchmark exams were administered to students in grades three through eight in math and literacy in April 2009. For the purpose of this report, a school is classified as high-poverty if at least two-thirds (66%) of the students were eligible for the Free or Reduced Lunch (FRL) program in the 2008-09 year. Each table presents the top 20 high-poverty schools for the noted subject and school level and includes the percent of students eligible for FRL, the region in which the school is located, the grades served at the school, and the percent of students scoring at the proficient and advanced levels in 2009.

A. Benchmark Scores in Mathematics, 2009

Table 7: Top 20 Elementary “High-Poverty” Schools in Arkansas Based on Benchmark Math Achievement

	School (District)	% FRL	Region ³	Grades Served	% Proficient/ Advanced ⁴
1	Eudora Elementary (Lakeside)	100	SE	PK-6	97
2	Kingston Elementary (Jasper)	66	NW	K-6	94
3	Woodland Heights Elementary (Harrison)	69	NW	K-4	94
4	Richland Elementary (West Memphis)	100	NE	K-6	93
5	Eagle Heights Elementary (Harrison)	76	NW	K-4	92
6	SC Tucker Elementary (Danville)	77	NW	K-5	92
7	Hamburg Lower Elementary (Hamburg)	100	SE	PK-3	92
8	Oakland Heights Elementary (Russellville)	75	NW	K-4	92
9	Leslie Elementary (Searcy County)	83	NW	K-6	91
10	Cowsert Elementary (Clinton)	66	NW	K-3	91
11	Tuckerman Elementary (Jackson County)	66	NE	K-4	91
12	Bragg Elementary (West Memphis)	100	NE	K-6	90
13	Cherokee Elementary (Highland)	66	NE	K-4	90
14	Midland Elementary (Midland)	67	NE	K-6	90
15	Amanda Gist Elementary (Cotter)	66	NW	K-6	89
16	Acorn Elementary (Ouachita River)	74	SW	K-6	88
17	Lucilia Wood Elementary (Marvell)	99	SE	PK-6	88
18	Cross County Primary (Cross County)	78	NE	K-3	88
19	Nemo Vista Elementary (Nemo Vista)	69	NW	K-6	88
20	Ola Elementary (Two Rivers)	79	NW	K-6	87

³ Schools are divided into five regions in Arkansas: Northwest (NW), Northeast (NE), Central (CN), Southwest (SW), and Southeast (SE).

⁴ Schools are ranked based on the percent of students performing at proficient or advanced levels in the noted subject

All schools on this list served a student population where at least two-thirds of the students were eligible for free or reduced priced lunches (FRL). In 2008-09, approximately 40% of the state’s elementary schools (201 of 508) served student populations facing this level of economic disadvantage. While roughly 56% of the state’s students were eligible for FRL, the schools in the top 20 list above served more disadvantaged populations, with 79% of the students in these schools eligible for FRL. Along with these top 20 schools, many other schools are beating the odds. In fact, 89 out of the 201 high-poverty elementary schools in the state had 75% of students score proficient or advanced. Several of these schools are not only among the highest achieving schools serving disadvantaged student populations, but are also among the highest performing schools in the state. Two schools deserve special recognition: Eudora Elementary of the Lakeside School District was fourth out of all elementary schools in overall math scores and Kingston Elementary of the Jasper School District was 19th.

Table 8: Top 20 Middle “High-Poverty” Schools in Arkansas Based on Benchmark Math Achievement

	School (District)	% FRL	Region	Grades Served	% Proficient/ Advanced
1	Umpire High (Wickes)	100	SW	7-12	93
2	Swifton Middle (Jackson County)	70	NE	5-7	86
3	Wilson Intermediate (Malvern)	66	CN	5-6	82
4	Central Elementary (Trumann)	69	NE	5-6	82
5	J.D. Leftwich High (Magazine)	68	NW	6-12	81
6	Green Forest Intermediate (Green Forest)	74	NW	4-7	80
7	Norfork High (Norfork)	67	NW	7-12	79
8	DeQueen Middle (DeQueen)	73	SW	6-9	78
9	Acorn High (Ouchita River)	69	SW	7-12	76
10	Marshall High (Searcy County)	69	NW	7-12	76
11	Caddo Hills High (Caddo Hills)	71	SW	7-12	75
12	West Junior (West Memphis)	100	NE	7-9	74
13	KIPP: Delta College (KIPP Delta College Prep)	87	SE	5-8	74
14	Warren Middle (Warren)	73	SE	6-8	72
15	Central Middle (Van Buren)	67	NW	5-6	70
16	Wickes High (Wickes)	100	SW	7-12	70
17	Sloan-Hendrix Middle (Sloan-Hendrix)	70	NE	5-7	70
18	Hazen Elementary (Hazen)	68	SE	PK-8	69
19	Cabe Middle (Gurdon)	72	SW	5-8	68
20	Riverview Jr. High (Riverview)	74	NE	7-8	67

In 2008-09, approximately 30% of the state’s middle schools (98 of 362) served student populations in which at least two-thirds of the students were economically disadvantaged. While roughly 56% of the state’s students are eligible for FRL, the schools in the top 20 list above served more disadvantaged student populations, with 75% of the students in these schools

eligible for FRL. Along with these top 20 schools, many other schools are beating the odds. In fact, 12 other schools boasted math achievement levels within five percentage points of the 20th school. Several of these schools are not only among the highest achieving schools serving disadvantaged student populations, but are also among the highest performing schools in the state. Two schools deserve special recognition: Umpire High of the Wickes School District was second out of all middle schools in overall math scores and Swifton Middle of the Jackson County School District was 16th.

We have been highlighting these schools based on the school-wide average. However, there are several grade levels within schools that stand out for exceptional performance. The next table will highlight the top grades in the high-poverty schools across the state.

Table 9: Top 3 Grades in “High-Poverty” Schools in Arkansas Based on Benchmark Math Achievement

	School (District)	% FRL	Region	Grades Served	% Proficient/ Advanced
3rd Grade					
1	Acorn Elementary (Ouachita River)	74	SW	K-6	100
2	Portland Elementary (Hamburg)	100	SE	PK-6	100
3	Deer Elementary (Deer/Mt. Judea)	73	NW	K-6	100
4th Grade					
1	Leslie Elementary (Searcy County)	83	NW	K-6	100
2	Richland Elementary (West Memphis)	100	NE	K-6	98
3	Wedlock Elementary (West Memphis)	100	NE	K-6	95
5th Grade					
1	Midland Elementary (Midland)	67	NE	K-6	94
2	Leslie Elementary (Searcy County)	83	NW	K-6	93
3	Richland Elementary (West Memphis)	100	NE	K-6	90
6th Grade					
1	Kingston Elementary (Jasper)	66	NW	K-6	100
2	Amanda Gist Elementary (Cotter)	66	NW	K-6	98
3	Western Yell County Elementary (Western Yell Co.)	75	NW	K-6	95
7th Grade					
1	KIPP: Delta College (KIPP: Delta College Prep)	87	SE	5-8	94
2	Green Forest Intermediate (Green Forest)	74	NW	4-7	87
3	J.D. Leftwich High (Magazine)	68	NW	6-12	86
8th Grade					
1	Umpire High (Wickes)	100	SW	7-12	93
2	Norfolk High (Norfolk)	67	NW	7-12	86
3	St. Joe High (Ozark Mountain)	73	NW	7-12	77

B. Benchmark Scores in Literacy, 2009

Table 10: Top 20 Elementary “High-Poverty” Schools in Arkansas Based on Benchmark Literacy Achievement

	School (District)	% FRL	Region	Grades Served	% Proficient/ Advanced
1	Richland Elementary (West Memphis)	100	NE	K-6	87
2	Hector Elementary (Hector)	75	NW	K-6	86
3	Leslie Elementary (Searcy County)	83	NW	K-6	86
4	Portland Elementary (Hamburg)	100	SE	PK-6	86
5	Arrie Goforth Elementary (Norfolk)	78	NW	K-6	85
6	Hamburg Lower Elementary (Hamburg)	100	SE	PK-3	85
7	Kingston Elementary (Jasper)	66	NW	K-6	85
8	SC Tucker Elementary (Danville)	77	NW	K-5	83
9	Cowsert Elementary (Clinton)	66	NW	K-3	83
10	Eagle Heights Elementary (Harrison)	76	NW	K-4	82
11	Bradford Elementary (Bradford)	70	NE	K-6	81
12	Acorn Elementary (Ouachita River)	74	SW	K-6	80
13	Woodrow Wilson Elementary (Paragould)	66	NE	K-4	79
14	Judsonia Elementary (Riverview)	72	NE	K-6	79
15	Tuckerman Elementary (Jackson County)	66	NE	K-4	79
16	Cavanaugh Elementary (Fort Smith)	72	NW	K-6	78
17	Drew Central Elementary (Drew Central)	78	SE	K-4	78
18	Marshall Elementary (Searcy County)	71	NW	K-6	78
19	Harrisburg Elementary (Harrisburg)	77	NE	K-4	78
20	Cherokee Elementary (Highland)	66	NE	K-4	78

All schools on this list served a student population where at least two-thirds of the students were eligible for free or reduced priced lunches (FRL). In 2008-09, approximately 40% of the state’s elementary schools (201 of 508) served student populations facing this level of economic disadvantage. While roughly 56% of the state’s students were eligible for FRL, the schools in the top 20 list above served more disadvantaged student populations, with 77% of the students in these schools eligible for FRL. Along with these top 20 schools, many other schools are beating the odds. In fact, 17 other high-poverty elementary schools boasted literacy achievement levels within five percentage points of the 20th school. Several of these schools are not only among the highest achieving schools serving disadvantaged student populations, but are also among the highest performing schools in the state. Two schools deserve special recognition: Richland Elementary of the West Memphis School District was 13th out of all elementary schools in overall literacy scores and Hector Elementary of the Hector School District was 20th.

Table 11: Top 20 Middle “High-Poverty” Schools in Arkansas Based on Benchmark Literacy Achievement

	School (District)	% FRL	Region	Grades Served	% Proficient/Advanced
1	Umpire High (Wickes)	100	SW	7-12	93
2	Acorn High (Ouachita River)	69	SW	7-12	81
3	West Junior High (West Memphis)	100	NE	7-9	79
4	Norfolk High (Norfolk)	67	NW	7-12	77
5	J.D. Leftwich High (Magazine)	68	NW	6-12	77
6	Wickes High (Wickes)	100	SW	7-12	75
7	Cabe Middle (Gurdon)	72	SW	5-8	73
8	Marshall High (Searcy County)	69	NW	7-12	72
9	Lead Hill High (Lead Hill)	68	NW	7-12	72
10	Caddo Hills High (Caddo Hills)	71	SW	7-12	72
11	Riverview Jr. High (Riverview)	74	NE	7-8	71
12	Timbo High (Mountain View)	66	NE	7-12	70
13	KIPP: Delta College (KIPP: Delta College Prep)	87	SE	5-8	70
14	DeQueen Middle (DeQueen)	73	SW	6-9	70
15	Central Elementary (Trumann)	69	NE	5-6	70
16	Izard Co. Middle (Izard Co. Consolidated)	68	NE	5-8	69
17	Cross County High (Cross County)	69	NE	7-12	69
18	Westside High (Westside)	100	NW	7-12	69
19	Hamburg Jr. High (Hamburg)	100	SE	7-9	68
20	Western Yell County High (Western Yell Co.)	70	NW	7-12	68

All schools on this list served a student population where at least two-thirds of the students were eligible for free or reduced priced lunches (FRL). In 2009-09, approximately 30% of the state’s middle schools (98 of 362) served student populations facing this level of economic disadvantage. While roughly 56% of that state’s students were eligible for FRL, the schools in the top 20 list above served more disadvantaged student populations, with 78% of the students in these schools eligible for FRL. Several of these high-poverty middle schools are not only among the highest achieving schools serving disadvantaged student populations, but are also among the highest performing schools in the state. One school deserves special recognition: Umpire High of the Wickes School District was first out of all middle schools in overall literacy scores.

We have been highlighting these schools based on the school-wide average. However, there are several grade levels within schools that stand out for exceptional performance. The next table will highlight the top grades in high-poverty schools across the state.

Table 12: Top 3 Grades in “High-Poverty” Schools in Arkansas Based on Benchmark Literacy Achievement

	School (District)	% FRL	Region	Grades Served	% Proficient/ Advanced
3rd Grade					
1	Deer Elementary (Deer/Mt. Judea)	73	NW	K-6	95
2	Judsonia Elementary (Riverview)	72	NE	K-6	91
3	Richland Elementary (West Memphis)	100	NE	K-6	90
4th Grade					
1	Arrie Goforth Elementary (Norfolk)	78	NW	K-6	100
2	Leslie Elementary (Searcy County)	83	NW	K-6	96
3	Richland Elementary (West Memphis)	100	NE	K-6	95
5th Grade					
1	Marshall Elementary (Searcy County)	71	NW	K-6	92
2	Oden Maddox Elementary (Ouachita River)	81	SW	K-6	91
3	Arrie Goforth Elementary (Norfolk)	78	NW	K-6	88
6th Grade					
1	Kingston Elementary (Jasper)	66	NW	K-6	94
2	Leslie Elementary (Searcy County)	83	NW	K-6	89
3	Black Rock Elementary (Lawrence County)	73	NW	K-6	83
7th Grade					
1	Acorn High (Ouachita River)	69	SW	7-12	88
2	West Junior High (West Memphis)	100	NE	7-9	76
3	KIPP: Delta College (KIPP: Delta College Prep)	87	SE	5-8	72
8th Grade					
1	Umpire High (Wickes)	100	SW	7-12	93
2	Norfolk High (Norfolk)	67	NW	7-12	92
3	Cabe Middle (Gurdon)	72	SW	5-8	88

The first two sections of this report focused on all elementary and middle schools across the state based on the Arkansas Benchmark exams. In the following sections, we will take a closer look at these schools. First, we will highlight top elementary schools in each region of Arkansas, and focus on middle schools in each region in the following section.

III. OEP AWARDS: TOP ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS BY REGION

This section highlights the top performing elementary schools (and grades within schools) by region based on the Arkansas Benchmark exam. The Benchmark exams were administered to students in grades three through eight in math and literacy in April 2009. Each table presents the top schools for the noted subject and region, and includes the grades served at the school and the percent of students scoring at the proficient and advanced levels in 2009.



A. Northwest Region, 2009

Table 13: Top 5 Elementary Schools in Northwest Arkansas Based on Benchmark Math Achievement

	School (District)	Grades Served	% Proficient/Advanced
1	Skyline Heights Elementary (Harrison)	K-4	97
2	Central Park at Morning Star (Bentonville)	K-4	96
3	Pottsville Elementary (Pottsville)	K-3	96
4	Bellview Elementary (Rogers)	K-5	95
5	Elm Tree Elementary (Bentonville)	K-4	94

Table 14: Top 3 Schools by Grade Level⁵ in Northwest Arkansas Based on Benchmark Math Achievement

	School (District)	Grades Served	% Proficient/Advanced
3rd Grade			
1	Deer Elementary (Deer/Mt. Judea)	K-6	100
2	Jasper Elementary (Jasper)	K-6	100
3	Skyline Heights Elementary (Harrison)	K-4	97
4th Grade			
1	Leslie Elementary (Searcy County)	K-6	100
2	Central Park at Morning Star (Bentonville)	K-4	97
3	Skyline Heights (Harrison)	K-4	96
5th Grade			
1	Bellview Elementary (Rogers)	K-5	95
2	Vandergriff Elementary (Fayetteville)	K-5	94

⁵ In this section, we highlight the top performing grade levels for grades three through five in each region. We did not distinguish between elementary or middle school, but simply highlight the top grade levels overall. Therefore, a middle school may be listed if it includes one of these grades. The next section will cover grades six through eight.

Table 15: Top 5 Elementary Schools in Northwest Arkansas Based on Benchmark Literacy Achievement

	School (District)	Grades Served	% Proficient/Advanced
1	Bellview Elementary (Rogers)	K-5	93
2	Vandergriff Elementary (Fayetteville)	K-5	91
3	Elm Tree Elementary (Bentonville)	K-4	88
4	Pottsville Elementary (Pottsville)	K-3	87
5	Bergman Elementary (Bergman)	K-4	86

Table 16: Top 3 Schools by Grade Level in Northwest Arkansas Based on Benchmark Literacy Achievement

	School (District)	Grades Served	% Proficient/Advanced
3rd Grade			
1	Deer Elementary (Deer/Mt. Judea)	K-6	95
2	Bellview Elementary (Rogers)	K-5	92
3	Vandergriff Elementary (Fayetteville)	K-5	91
4th Grade			
1	Norfork Elementary (Norfork)	K-6	100
2	Bellview Elementary (Rogers)	K-5	97
3	Leslie Elementary (Searcy County)	K-6	96
5th Grade			
1	Marshall Elementary (Searcy County)	K-6	92
2	Vandergriff Elementary (Fayetteville)	K-5	90
3	Bellview (Rogers)	K-5	89



B. Northeast Region, 2009

Table 17: Top 5 Elementary Schools in Northeast Arkansas Based on Benchmark Math Achievement

	School (District)	Grades Served	% Proficient/Advanced
1	Mount Pleasant Elementary (Melbourne)	K-6	99
2	Salem Elementary (Salem)	K-6	95
3	Valley View Elementary (Valley View)	PK-6	94
4	Richland Elementary (West Memphis)	K-6	93
5	Westside Elementary (Searcy)	K-4	93

Table 18: Top 3 Schools by Grade Level in Northeast Arkansas Based on Benchmark Math Achievement

	School (District)	Grades Served	% Proficient/Advanced
3rd Grade			
1	Mount Pleasant Elementary (Melbourne)	K-6	100
2	Buffalo Island Central West Elementary (Buffalo Island)	PK-6	100
3	Bragg Elementary (West Memphis)	K-6	98
4th Grade			
1	Mount Pleasant Elementary (Melbourne)	K-6	100
2	Buffalo Island Central (Buffalo Island)	PK-6	100
3	Richland Elementary (West Memphis)	K-6	98
5th Grade			
1	Mount Pleasant Elementary (Melbourne)	K-6	96
2	Salem Elementary (Salem)	K-6	96
3	Valley View Elementary (Valley View)	PK-6	94

Table 19: Top 5 Elementary Schools in Northeast Arkansas Based on Benchmark Literacy Achievement

	School (District)	Grades Served	% Proficient/Advanced
1	Mount Pleasant Elementary (Melbourne)	K-6	94
2	Valley View Elementary (Valley View)	PK-6	90
3	Richland Elementary (West Memphis)	K-6	87
4	Westside Elementary (Searcy)	K-4	87
5	Viola Elementary (Viola)	K-6	84

Table 20: Top 3 Schools by Grade Level in Northeast Arkansas Based on Benchmark Literacy Achievement

	School (District)	Grades Served	% Proficient/Advanced
3rd Grade			
1	Judsonia Elementary (Riverview)	K-6	91
2	Valley View Elementary (Valley View)	PK-6	90
3	Richland Elementary (West Memphis)	K-6	90
4th Grade			
1	Richland Elementary (West Memphis)	K-6	95
2	Mount Pleasant Elementary (Melbourne)	K-6	95
3	Cushman Elementary (Cushman)	K-6	94
5th Grade			
1	Mount Pleasant Elementary (Melbourne)	K-6	95
2	Valley View Elementary (Valley View)	PK-6	93
3	Viola Elementary (Viola)	K-6	89



C. Central Region, 2009

Table 21: Top 5 Elementary Schools in Central Arkansas Based on Benchmark Math Achievement

	School (District)	Grades Served	% Proficient/Advanced
1	Vilonia Academy of Technology (Vilonia)	2-4	100
2	Park Magnet School (Hot Springs)	K-5	99
3	Woodrow Cummins Elementary (Conway)	K-4	95
4	Jim Stone Elementary (Conway)	K-4	95
5	Cutter Morning Star (Cutter Morning Star)	K-6	95

Table 22: Top 3 Schools by Grade Level in Central Arkansas Based on Benchmark Math Achievement

	School (District)	Grades Served	% Proficient/Advanced
3rd Grade			
1	Park Magnet School (Hot Springs)	K-5	100
2	Paron Elementary (Bryant)	K-5	100
3	Lisa Academy NLR Middle (Lisa Academy)	K-8	100
4	Vilonia Academy of Technology (Vilonia)	2-4	100
5	Magness Creek Elementary (Cabot)	K-4	100
4th Grade			
1	Park Magnet School (Hot Springs)	K-5	100
2	Vilonia Academy of Technology (Vilonia)	2-4	100
3	Cutter Morning Star (Cutter-Morning Star)	K-6	100
5th Grade			
1	Park Magnet School (Hot Springs)	K-5	97
2	Academy of Service and Technology (Vilonia)	5-6	96
3	Salem Elementary (Bryant)	K-5	95

Table 23: Top 5 Elementary Schools in Central Arkansas Based on Benchmark Literacy Achievement

	School (District)	Grades Served	% Proficient/Advanced
1	Park Magnet (Hot Springs)	K-5	97
2	Vilonia Academy of Technology (Vilonia)	2-4	94
3	Arnold Drive Elementary (Pulaski County)	PK-5	92
4	Jim Stone Elementary (Conway)	K-4	90
5	Ellen Smith Elementary (Conway)	K-4	90

Table 24: Top 3 Schools by Grade Level in Central Arkansas Based on Benchmark Literacy Achievement

	School (District)	Grades Served	% Proficient/Advanced
3rd Grade			
1	Lisa Academy NLR Middle (Lisa Academy)	K-8	96
2	Park Magnet (Hot Springs)	K-5	93
3	Collegeville Elementary (Bryant)	K-5	92
4th Grade			
1	Park Magnet (Hot Springs)	K-5	100
2	Vilonia Academy of Technology (Vilonia)	2-4	100
3	Arnold Drive Elementary (Pulaski County)	PK-5	97
5th Grade			
1	Park Magnet (Hot Springs)	K-5	100
2	Paron Elementary (Bryant)	K-5	100
3	Academy of Service and Technology (Vilonia)	5-6	96



D. Southwest Region, 2009

Table 25: Top 5 Elementary Schools in Southwest Arkansas Based on Benchmark Math Achievement

	School (District)	Grades Served	% Proficient/Advanced
1	Central Primary (Arkadelphia)	2-3	92
2	College Hill Elementary (Texarkana)	K-4	92
3	Parkers Chapel Elementary (Parkers Chapel)	K-6	92
4	Acorn Elementary (Ouachita River)	K-6	88
5	Spring Hill Elementary (Spring Hill)	K-6	88

Table 26: Top 3 Schools by Grade Level in Southwest Arkansas Based on Benchmark Math Achievement

	School (District)	Grades Served	% Proficient/Advanced
3rd Grade			
1	Acorn Elementary (Ouachita River)	K-6	100
2	Emerson Elementary (Emerson-Taylor)	K-6	100
3	Winthrop Elementary (Horatio)	K-6	100
4th Grade			
1	Umpire Elementary (Wickes)	PK-6	93
2	Winthrop Elementary (Horatio)	K-6	92
3	Spring Hill Elementary (Spring Hill)	K-6	92
5th Grade			
1	Parkers Chapel Elementary (Parkers Chapel)	K-6	98
2	Jo Ann Walters Elementary (Dierks)	K-6	85
3	Delight Elementary (Delight)	K-6	84

Table 27: Top 5 Elementary Schools in Southwest Arkansas Based on Benchmark Literacy Achievement

	School (District)	Grades Served	% Proficient/Advanced
1	Spring Hill Elementary (Spring Hill)	K-6	89
2	College Hill Elementary (Texarkana)	K-4	85
3	Parkers Chapel Elementary (Parkers Chapel)	K-6	84
4	Acorn Elementary (Ouachita River)	K-6	80
5	Kirby Elementary (Kirby)	K-6	80

Table 28: Top 3 Schools by Grade Level in Southwest Arkansas Based on Benchmark Literacy Achievement

	School (District)	Grades Served	% Proficient/Advanced
3rd Grade			
1	Spring Hill Elementary (Spring Hill)	K-6	98
2	Wickes Elementary (Wickes)	PK-6	90
3	Delight Elementary (Delight)	K-6	88
4th Grade			
1	Parkers Chapel Elementary (Parkers Chapel)	K-6	93
2	Umpire Elementary (Wickes)	PK-6	93
3	Kirby Elementary (Kirby)	K-6	89
5th Grade			
1	Emerson Elementary (Emerson-Taylor)	K-6	92
2	Oden Maddox Elementary (Ouachita River)	K-6	91
3	Jo Ann Walters Elementary (Dierks)	K-6	85



E. Southeast Region, 2009

Table 29: Top 5 Elementary Schools in Southeast Arkansas Based on Benchmark Math Achievement

	School (District)	Grades Served	% Proficient/Advanced
1	Eudora Elementary (Lakeside)	PK-3	97
2	Noble Lower Elementary (Hamburg)	PK-3	92
3	Lucilia Wood Elementary (Marvell)	PK-3	88
4	Drew Central Elementary (Drew Central)	K-4	87
5	Portland Elementary (Hamburg)	PK-6	86

Table 30: Top 3 Schools by Grade Level in Southeast Arkansas Based on Benchmark Math Achievement

	School (District)	Grades Served	% Proficient/Advanced
3rd Grade			
1	Portland Elementary (Hamburg)	PK-6	100
2	Eudora Elementary (Lakeside)	PK-3	97
3	Des Arc Elementary (Des Arc)	PK-6	93
4th Grade			
1	Allbritton Upper Elementary (Hamburg)	4-6	93
2	Des Arc Elementary (Des Arc)	PK-6	88
3	Partee Elementary (Brinkley)	K-6	83
5th Grade			
1	West Side Elementary (Helena/W. Helena)	1-6	86
2	Hermitage Elementary (Hermitage)	PK-5	79
3	Drew Central Middle (Drew Central)	5-7	79

Table 31: Top 5 Elementary Schools in Southeast Arkansas Based on Benchmark Literacy Achievement

	School (District)	Grades Served	% Proficient/Advanced
1	Portland Elementary (Hamburg)	PK-6	86
2	Noble Lower Elementary (Hamburg)	PK-3	85
3	Drew Central Elementary (Drew Central)	K-4	78
4	Kingsland Elementary (Cleveland County)	K-6	77
5	Allbritton Upper Elementary (Hamburg)	4-6	77

Table 32: Top 3 Schools by Grade Level in Southeast Arkansas Based on Benchmark Literacy Achievement

	School (District)	Grades Served	% Proficient/Advanced
3rd Grade			
1	Portland Elementary (Hamburg)	PK-6	88
2	Kingsland Elementary (Cleveland County)	K-6	86
3	Noble Lower Elementary (Hamburg)	PK-3	85
4th Grade			
1	Portland Elementary (Hamburg)	PK-6	90
2	Allbritton Upper Elementary (Hamburg)	4-6	86
3	Monticello Intermediate (Monticello)	3-5	82
5th Grade			
1	Portland Elementary (Hamburg)	PK-6	82
2	Allbritton Upper Elementary (Hamburg)	4-6	77
3	Kingsland Elementary (Cleveland County)	K-6	71

In every region, there is considerable overlap between the top five performing schools in math and literacy. In fact, the Northeast and Southwest regions had a total of six different schools on the two lists, while the other regions' lists contain seven different schools. The Northwest and Central regions have more students performing at proficient or advanced levels; they also have a much lower percentage of students receiving free or reduced price lunches (FRL). The top schools from the Northwest region had an average of 25% FRL; similarly, the schools in the Central region had an average of 35% FRL. In comparison, the top schools in the Northeast and Southwest regions both had an average of 51% FRL. Particularly noteworthy, is the level of performance for top schools in the Southeast region, who serve an average student population of 94% FRL.

In the next section, we will focus on the same factors in middle schools in each region. We will highlight top performing middle schools, as well as grade levels within schools for grades six through eight.

IV. OEP AWARDS: TOP MIDDLE SCHOOLS BY REGION

This section highlights the top performing middle schools (and grades within schools) by region based on the Arkansas Benchmark exam. The Benchmark exams were administered to students in grades three through eight in math and literacy in April 2009. Each table presents the top schools for the noted subject and region, and includes the grades served at the school and the percent of students scoring at the proficient and advanced levels in 2009.



A. Northwest Region, 2009

Table 33: Top 5 Middle Schools in NW Arkansas Based on Benchmark Math Achievement

	School (District)	Grades Served	% Proficient/Advanced
1	Ruth Hale Barker Middle (Bentonville)	5-6	90
2	Old High Middle (Bentonville)	5-6	90
3	Pea Ridge Middle (Pea Ridge)	7-9	90
4	East Hills Middle (Greenwood)	5-7	90
5	McNair Middle (Fayetteville)	6-7	89

Table 34: Top 3 Schools by Grade Level⁶ in Northwest Arkansas Based on Benchmark Math Achievement

	School (District)	Grades Served	% Proficient/Advanced
6th Grade			
1	Kingston Elementary (Jasper)	K-6	100
2	Amanda Gist Elementary (Cotter)	K-6	98
3	Pea Ridge Middle (Pea Ridge)	7-9	97
7th Grade			
1	Pea Ridge Middle (Pea Ridge)	7-9	92
2	Valley Springs Middle (Valley Springs)	5-8	92
3	Washington Jr. High (Bentonville)	7-8	88
8th Grade			
1	Benton County School of Arts (Benton County)	K-8	89
2	Norfork High (Norfork)	7-12	86
3	Woodland Jr. High (Fayetteville)	8-9	83

⁶ In this section, we highlight the top performing grade levels for grades six through eight in each region. We did not distinguish between elementary or middle school, but simply highlight the top grade levels overall. Therefore, an elementary school may be listed if it includes one of these grades.

Table 35: Top 5 Middle Schools in Northwest Arkansas Based on Benchmark Literacy Achievement

	School (District)	Grades Served	% Proficient/Advanced
1	Woodland Jr. High (Fayetteville)	8-9	90
2	Harrison Middle (Harrison)	5-6	86
3	Washington Jr. High (Bentonville)	7-8	86
4	McNair Middle (Fayetteville)	6-7	86
5	Pea Ridge Middle (Pea Ridge)	7-9	85

Table 36: Top 3 Schools by Grade Level in Northwest Arkansas Based on Benchmark Literacy Achievement

	School (District)	Grades Served	% Proficient/Advanced
6th Grade			
1	Kingston Elementary (Jasper)	K-6	94
2	Leslie Elementary (Searcy County)	K-6	89
3	Cook Elementary (Fort Smith)	K-6	89
7th Grade			
1	Benton County School of Arts (Benton County)	K-8	96
2	Valley Springs Middle (Valley Springs)	5-8	93
3	Alpena High School (Alpena)	7-12	85
8th Grade			
1	Benton County School of Arts (Benton County)	K-8	100
2	Norfolk High (Norfolk)	7-12	92
3	Washington Jr. High (Bentonville)	7-8	90



B. Northeast Region, 2009

Table 37: Top 5 Middle Schools in Northeast Arkansas Based on Benchmark Math Achievement

	School (District)	Grades Served	% Proficient/Advanced
1	Mountain View Middle (Mountain View)	6-8	86
2	Southwest Middle (Searcy)	5-6	86
3	Swifton Middle (Jackson County)	5-7	86
4	Highland Middle (Highland)	5-7	85
5	Tuckerman High (Jackson County)	8-12	84

Table 38: Top 3 Schools by Grade Level in Northeast Arkansas Based on Benchmark Math Achievement

	School (District)	Grades Served	% Proficient/Advanced
6th Grade			
1	Mount Pleasant Elementary (Melbourne)	K-6	100
2	Calico Rock Elementary (Calico Rock)	K-6	100
3	Rural Special Elementary (Mountain View)	K-6	100
7th Grade			
1	Calico Rock High (Calico Rock)	7-12	93
2	Viola High (Viola)	7-12	88
3	Valley View High (Valley View)	7-12	86
8th Grade			
1	Tuckerman High (Jackson County)	8-12	84
2	Mountain View Middle (Mountain View)	6-8	83
3	Heber Springs Middle (Heber Springs)	6-8	82

Table 39: Top 5 Middle Schools in Northeast Arkansas Based on Benchmark Literacy Achievement

	School (District)	Grades Served	% Proficient/Advanced
1	Valley View High (Valley View)	7-12	88
2	Southwest Middle (Searcy)	5-6	88
3	Viola High (Viola)	7-12	87
4	West Side High (West Side)	7-12	85
5	Ahlf Jr. High (Searcy)	7-8	85

Table 40: Top 3 Schools by Grade Level in Northeast Arkansas Based on Benchmark Literacy Achievement

	School (District)	Grades Served	% Proficient/Advanced
6th Grade			
1	Mount Pleasant (Melbourne)	K-6	100
2	Buffalo Island Central West (Buffalo Island)	PK-6	89
3	Calico Rock Elementary (Calico Rock)	K-6	89
7th Grade			
1	Viola High (Viola)	7-12	88
2	Valley View High (Valley View)	7-12	84
3	West Side High (West Side)	7-12	84
8th Grade			
1	Valley View High (Valley View)	7-12	91
2	Ahlf Jr. High (Searcy)	7-8	91
3	Rural Special High (Mountain View)	7-12	91



C. Central Region, 2009

Table 41: Top 5 Middle Schools in Central Arkansas Based on Benchmark Math Achievement

	School (District)	Grades Served	% Proficient/Advanced
1	Academy of Service and Technology (Vilonia)	5-6	96
2	Ruth Doyle Intermediate (Conway)	5-6	90
3	Lisa Middle (Lisa Academy)	6-8	89
4	Greenbrier Middle (Greenbrier)	5-7	88
5	Cabot Middle South (Cabot)	5-6	86

Table 42: Top 3 Schools by Grade Level in Central Arkansas Based on Benchmark Math Achievement

	School (District)	Grades Served	% Proficient/Advanced
6th Grade			
1	Academy of Service and Technology (Vilonia)	5-6	96
2	Lisa Middle (Lisa Academy)	6-8	95
3	Ruth Doyle Intermediate (Conway)	5-6	94
7th Grade			
1	Lisa Middle (Lisa Academy)	6-8	93
2	Bismarck Middle (Bismarck)	5-8	91
3	Greenbrier Middle (Greenbrier)	5-7	84
8th Grade			
1	Bethel Middle (Bryant)	6-8	82
2	Lakeside Jr. High (Lakeside)	8-9	81
3	Carl Stuart Middle (Conway)	7-8	80

Table 43: Top 5 Middle Schools in Central Arkansas Based on Benchmark Literacy Achievement

	School (District)	Grades Served	% Proficient/Advanced
1	Lisa Middle (Lisa Academy)	6-8	93
2	Academy of Service and Technology (Vilonia)	5-6	92
3	Lakeside Jr. High (Lakeside)	8-9	85
4	Ruth Doyle Intermediate (Conway)	5-6	84
5	Vilonia Jr. High (Vilonia)	8-9	84

Table 44: Top 3 Schools by Grade Level in Central Arkansas Based on Benchmark Literacy Achievement

	School (District)	Grades Served	% Proficient/Advanced
6th Grade			
1	Lisa Middle (Lisa Academy)	6-8	93
2	Academy of Service and Technology (Vilonia)	5-6	87
3	Moody Elementary (White Hall)	K-6	87
7th Grade			
1	Lisa Middle (Lisa Academy)	6-8	94
2	Academics Plus (Academics Plus)	3-8	91
3	Lakeside Middle (Lakeside)	6-8	83
8th Grade			
1	Lisa Middle (Lisa Academy)	6-8	90
2	Redfield Jr. High (White Hall)	7-9	90
3	Academics Plus (Academics Plus)	3-8	88



D. Southwest Region, 2009

Table 45: Top 5 Middle Schools in Southwest Arkansas Based on Benchmark Math Achievement

	School (District)	Grades Served	% Proficient/Advanced
1	Umpire High (Wickes)	7-12	93
2	Parkers Chapel High (Parkers Chapel)	7-12	87
3	DeQueen Middle (DeQueen)	6-9	78
4	Taylor High (Emerson-Taylor)	7-12	77
5	Harmony Grove High (Harmony Grove)	7-12	77

Table 46: Top 3 Schools by Grade Level in Southwest Arkansas Based on Benchmark Math Achievement

	School (District)	Grades Served	% Proficient/Advanced
6th Grade			
1	Taylor Elementary (Emerson-Taylor)	K-6	95
2	Van Cove Elementary (Van Cove)	K-6	94
3	Jo Ann Walters Elementary (Dierks)	K-6	92
7th Grade			
1	Taylor High (Emerson-Taylor)	7-12	94
2	Parkers Chapel High (Parkers Chapel)	7-12	94
3	Harmony Grove High (Harmony Grove)	7-12	88
8th Grade			
1	Umpire High (Wickes)	7-12	93
2	Parkers Chapel High (Parkers Chapel)	7-12	81
3	Spring Hill High (Spring Hill)	7-12	78

Table 47: Top 5 Middle Schools in Southwest Arkansas Based on Benchmark Literacy Achievement

	School (District)	Grades Served	% Proficient/Advanced
1	Umpire High (Wickes)	7-12	93
2	Dierks High (Dierks)	7-12	83
3	Taylor High (Emerson-Taylor)	7-12	82
4	Acorn High (Ouachita River)	7-12	81
5	Parkers Chapel (Parkers Chapel)	7-12	79

Table 48: Top 3 Schools by Grade Level in Southwest Arkansas Based on Benchmark Literacy Achievement

	School (District)	Grades Served	% Proficient/Advanced
6th Grade			
1	Spring Hill Elementary (Spring Hill)	K-6	90
2	Gary E. Cobb Middle (Genoa Central)	5-8	81
3	Sparkman Elementary (Harmony Grove)	K-6	81
7th Grade			
1	Acorn High (Ouachita River)	7-12	88
2	Taylor High (Emerson-Taylor)	7-12	82
3	Dierks High (Dierks)	7-12	82
8th Grade			
1	Umpire High (Wickes)	7-12	93
2	Cabe Middle (Gurdon)	5-8	88
3	Dierks High (Dierks)	7-12	85



E. Southeast Region, 2009

Table 49: Top 5 Middle Schools in Southeast Arkansas Based on Benchmark Math Achievement

	School (District)	Grades Served	% Proficient/Advanced
1	Monticello Middle (Monticello)	6-8	83
2	Star City Middle (Star City)	6-8	81
3	Drew Central Middle (Drew Central)	5-7	76
4	Dewitt/Gillett High (Dewitt)	9-12	75
5	KIPP: Delta College Prep (KIPP: Delta)	5-8	74

Table 50: Top 3 Schools by Grade Level in Southeast Arkansas Based on Benchmark Math Achievement

	School (District)	Grades Served	% Proficient/Advanced
6th Grade			
1	Woodlawn Elementary (Woodlawn)	K-6	94
2	Drew Central Middle (Drew Central)	5-7	92
3	Monticello Middle (Monticello)	6-8	90
7th Grade			
1	KIPP: Delta College Prep (KIPP: Delta)	5-8	94
2	Monticello Middle (Monticello)	6-8	86
3	Dewitt/Gillett High (Dewitt)	9-12	83
8th Grade			
1	Star City Middle (Star City)	6-8	77
2	KIPP: Delta College Prep (KIPP: Delta)	5-8	73
3	Monticello Middle (Monticello)	6-8	72

Table 51: Top 5 Middle Schools in Southeast Arkansas Based on Benchmark Literacy Achievement

	School (District)	Grades Served	% Proficient/Advanced
1	Dewitt/Gillett High (Dewitt)	9-12	83
2	Monticello Middle (Monticello)	6-8	78
3	Star City Middle (Star City)	6-8	73
4	KIPP: Delta College Prep (KIPP: Delta)	5-8	70
5	Drew Central Middle (Drew Central)	5-7	69

Table 52: Top 3 Schools by Grade Level in Southeast Arkansas Based on Benchmark Literacy Achievement

	School (District)	Grades Served	% Proficient/Advanced
6th Grade			
1	Monticello Middle (Monticello)	6-8	84
2	Portland Elementary (Hamburg)	PK-6	82
3	Woodlawn Elementary (Woodlawn)	K-6	76
7th Grade			
1	Dewitt/Gillett High (Dewitt)	9-12	91
2	Monticello Middle (Monticello)	6-8	75
3	KIPP: Delta College Prep (KIPP: Delta)	5-8	72
8th Grade			
1	KIPP: Delta College Prep (KIPP: Delta)	5-8	80
2	Star City Middle (Star City)	6-8	79
3	Dewitt/Gillett High (Dewitt)	9-12	75

As was the case for the elementary schools, there is some overlap between the top five performing middle schools in math and literacy in each region. In fact, the same five schools were on both the math and literacy lists in the Southeast region. The Northwest region had a total of eight different schools, the Northeast region had a total of nine different schools, and the other regions had seven different schools on the two lists.

When grade levels were highlighted, there was noticeable overlap in the top schools as well. For example, Lisa Middle was placed first in Central Arkansas based on literacy achievement at all grade levels. Lisa Middle was also listed for grades six and seven in literacy achievement. Other schools that made the top three list for a certain grade level in both math and literacy are: Kingston Elementary (Jasper), Valley Springs Middle (Valley Springs), Benton County School of Arts (Benton County), Norfolk High (Norfolk), Mount Pleasant Elementary (Melbourne), Calico Rock Elementary (Calico Rock), Viola High (Viola), Valley View High (Valley View), Academy of Service and Technology (Vilonia), Taylor High (Emerson-Taylor), Umpire High

(Wickes), Woodlawn Elementary (Woodlawn), Monticello Middle (Monticello), KIPP Delta College (KIPP: Delta), Dewitt/Gillett High (Dewitt), and Star City Middle (Star City). These schools had one or more grade levels (grades six, seven, and/or eight) in which their scores were within the top three in math *and* literacy. Accolades to these schools that are performing well in all areas!

Most of the schools on these lists were middle schools. However, there were some K-6 schools and high schools that made a grade-level list as well. In the next section, we will focus on high schools. We will use the End-of-Course examinations to create a list of overall top high schools in Arkansas, high-poverty high schools that are performing at high levels, and the top high schools in each region.

V. OEP AWARDS: TOP HIGH SCHOOLS ACROSS ARKANSAS

This section highlights the top performing high schools across Arkansas based on End-of-Course (EOC) examinations in algebra, geometry, biology, and the grade 11 literacy examination. This section is divided into subsections based on scores from each of the four tests. In each subsection the top 20 high schools, top 10 “high poverty” high schools, and top five high schools by region are presented.⁷

Two of these exams will become “high stakes” test in the coming years. The EOC for algebra I will become high stakes beginning in 2009-10. The grade 11 literacy examination will become high stakes in 2013. This means they will function as exit exams because students must score proficient or advanced on these two exams (or some alternative exam) to receive a high school diploma.⁸

A. Algebra End-of-Course Exam, 2009

Table 53: Top 20 High Schools in Arkansas Based on EOC Algebra Achievement

	School (District)	Region	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	% Proficient/Advanced
1	Parkers Chapel High (Parkers Chapel)	SW	7-12	50	96
2	Alpena High (Alpena)	NW	7-12	38	94
2	Searcy High (Searcy)	NE	9-12	201	94
4	J. D. Leftwich High (Magazine)	NW	6-12	61	93
5	Poyen High (Poyen)	CN	7-12	36	92
5	Spring Hill High (Spring Hill)	SW	7-12	36	92
7	Lockesburg High (DeQueen)	SW	7-12	11	91
7	Marked Tree High (Marked Tree)	SW	7-12	42	91
7	Taylor High (Emerson-Taylor)	NE	7-12	23	91
10	Bentonville High (Bentonville)	NW	9-12	563	90
10	Oden High (Ouachita River)	SW	7-12	20	90
10	Valley View High (Valley View)	NE	7-12	157	90
13	Bigelow High (East End)	NW	7-12	47	89
13	Cotter High (Cotter)	NW	7-12	45	89
15	Cushman High (Cushman)	NE	7-12	17	88
15	Huntsville High (Huntsville)	NW	9-12	199	88
15	Mount Ida High (Mount Ida)	SW	7-12	51	88
15	Norfork High (Norfork)	NW	7-12	35	88
19	Caddo Hills High (Caddo Hills)	SW	7-12	37	87
20	Bryant High (Bryant)	CN	9-12	437	87

⁷ A school was designated a high school if it served students in 10th, 11th, or 12th grade.

⁸ See the OEP Education Policy News, Vol. 6 Is. 3 and Policy Brief, Vol. 5 Is. 8 for more information on these EOC exams and the new regulations making them high stakes exams.

These are not the only schools reaching high levels of achievement in algebra. In all, 202 of the 421 schools with students taking the algebra EOC had 75% or more students score proficient or advanced. Of these 203 schools, 130 are middle or junior high schools, while 72 are high schools.

Algebra I is generally taken during the ninth grade. However, some students may elect to take these courses earlier if they have the prerequisite knowledge. This may result in a small number of the most advanced students taking these exams in the 8th or 9th grade. For this reason, middle schools may have higher proficient and advanced scores than are found in high schools. In fact, over 50 middle or junior high schools had 100% of students score proficient or advanced, as presented in table 54.

Table 54: 100% Proficient and Advanced Based on EOC Algebra Achievement

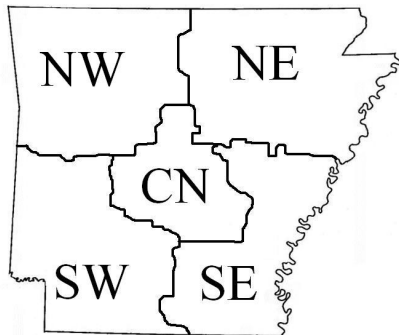
School (District)	Region	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	% Proficient/Advanced
Academic Center of Excellence (Osceola)	NE	1-10	20	100
Ahlf Junior High (Searcy)	NE	7-8	44	100
Atkins Middle (Atkins)	NW	5-8	23	100
Barton Junior High (El Dorado)	SW	7-8	69	100
Berryville Middle (Berryville)	NW	6-8	27	100
Bethel Middle (Bryant)	CN	6-8	48	100
Bismarck Middle (Bismarck)	CN	5-8	26	100
Bob Courtway Middle (Conway)	CN	7-8	58	100
Bryant Middle (Bryant)	CN	6-8	86	100
Camden Fairview Middle (Camden-Fairview)	SW	6-8	30	100
Carl Stuart Middle (Conway)	CN	7-8	68	100
Cedarville Middle (Cedarville)	NW	5-8	22	100
Dardanelle Middle (Dardanelle)	NW	7-8	23	100
Dover Middle (Dover)	NW	6-8	18	100
Elmwood Middle (Rogers)	NW	8-9	71	100
Fouke Middle (Fouke)	SW	6-8	24	100
Fountain Lake Elementary (Fountain Lake)	CN	K-8	30	100
Glen Rose Middle (Glen Rose)	CN	5-8	13	100
Gravette Middle (Gravette)	NW	6-8	30	100
Heber Springs Middle (Heber Springs)	NE	6-8	35	100
Helen Tyson Middle (Springdale)	NW	6-7	43	100
Hellstern Middle (Springdale)	NW	6-7	40	100
Huntsville Middle (Huntsville)	NW	7-8	26	100
J. O. Kelly Middle (Springdale)	NW	6-7	40	100
Jesseville Middle (Jessieville)	CN	6-8	29	100
Joe T. Robinson Middle (Pulaski)	CN	6-8	59	100
Kirksey Middle (Rogers)	NW	6-7	64	100
Lavaca Middle (Lavaca)	NW	5-8	24	100

School (District)	Region	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	% Proficient/Advanced
Lincoln Junior High (Bentonville)	NW	7-8	96	100
Lincoln Middle (Lincoln)	NW	6-8	22	100
Lingle Middle (Rogers)	NW	6-7	68	100
Lonoke Middle (Lonoke)	CN	6-8	30	100
Malvern Junior High (Malvern)	CN	7-8	17	100
Mann Magnet Middle (Little Rock)	CN	6-8	84	100
McNair Middle (Fayetteville)	NW	6-7	43	100
McRae Middle (Prescott)	SW	5-8	27	100
Mena Middle (Mena)	SW	6-8	37	100
Monticello Middle (Monticello)	SE	6-8	43	100
Mountain View Middle (Mountain View)	NE	6-8	32	100
Newport Junior High (Newport)	NE	7-8	16	100
Owl Creek (Fayetteville)	NW	K-7	11	100
Paragould Junior High (Paragould)	NE	7-8	67	100
Paris Middle School (Paris)	NW	5-8	24	100
Prairie Grove Middle (Prairie Grove)	NW	5-8	24	100
Randall G. Lynch Middle (Farmington)	NW	5-8	27	100
Sheridan Middle (Sheridan)	CN	6-8	51	100
Siloam Springs Middle (Siloam)	NW	6-8	41	100
Southside Middle (Southside)	NE	5-8	43	100
Star City Middle (Star City)	SE	6-8	29	100
Stuttgart Junior High (Stuttgart)	SE	7-8	21	100
Valley Springs Middle (Valley Springs)	NW	5-8	36	100
Warren Middle (Warren)	SE	6-8	18	100
Washington Junior High (Bentonville)	NW	7-8	85	100
Yellville-Summit Middle (Yellville-Summit)	NW	5-8	18	100
Yerger Junior High (Hope)	SW	7-8	11	100

Table 55: Top 10 “High-Poverty” High Schools Based on EOC Algebra Achievement

	School (District)	% FRL	Region	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	% Proficient/ Advanced
1	J. D. Leftwich High (Magazine)	68	NW	6-12	61	93
2	Marked Tree High (Marked Tree)	69	NE	7-12	42	91
3	Norfolk High (Norfolk)	67	NW	7-12	35	88
4	Caddo Hills High (Caddo Hills)	71	SW	7-12	37	87
5	Acorn High (Ouachita River)	69	SW	7-12	43	82
5	Mineral Springs High (Mineral Springs)	67	SW	7-12	28	82
7	McGehee High (McGehee)	70	SE	7-12	93	79
8	KIPP: Delta College Prep (KIPP: Delta)	82	SE	9-12	13	77
8	Plainview-Rover High (Two Rivers)	70	NW	7-12	17	77
10	Harrisburg High (Harrisburg)	68	NE	9-12	88	75

Tables 56-60: Top 5 High Schools in Arkansas by Region, EOC Algebra Achievement



CENTRAL REGION

School (District)	# of Test Takers	% Proficient/Advanced
Poyen High (Poyen)	36	92
Bryant High (Bryant)	437	86
Sheridan High (Sheridan)	250	86
Bismarck High (Bismarck)	47	86
Ouachita High (Ouachita River)	25	84

NORTHWEST REGION

School (District)	# of Test Takers	% Proficient/Advanced
Alpena High (Alpena)	38	94
J. D. Leftwich High (Magazine)	61	93
Bentonville High (Bentonville)	563	90
Bigelow High (East End)	47	89
Cotter High (Cotter)	45	89

SOUTHWEST REGION

School (District)	# of Test Takers	% Proficient/Advanced
Parkers Chapel High (Parkers Chapel)	50	96
Spring Hill High (Spring Hill)	36	92
Lockesburg High (DeQueen)	11	91
Taylor High (Emerson-Taylor)	23	91
Oden High (Ouachita River)	20	90

NORTHEAST REGION

School (District)	# of Test Takers	% Proficient/Advanced
Searcy High (Searcy)	201	94
Marked Tree High (Marked Tree)	42	91
Valley View High (Valley View)	157	90
Cushman High (Cushman)	17	88
Mountain View High (Mountain View)	61	85

SOUTHEAST REGION

School (District)	# of Test Takers	% Proficient/Advanced
Star City High (Star City)	106	81
McGehee High (McGehee)	93	79
Woodlawn High (Woodlawn)	51	79
KIPP: Delta College Prep (KIPP: Delta)	13	77
Stuttgart High (Stuttgart)	117	76

B. Geometry End-of-Course Exam, 2009

Table 61: Top 20 High Schools in Arkansas, Geometry Achievement

	School (District)	Region	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	% Proficient/Advanced
1	Benton High (Benton)	CN	10-12	232	98
2	KIPP: Delta College Prep (KIPP: Delta)	SE	9-12	28	97
3	Paris High (Paris)	NW	9-12	67	96
4	Searcy High (Searcy)	NE	9-12	243	95
5	Jasper High (Jasper)	NW	7-12	43	91
5	McCrary High (McCrary)	NE	7-12	32	91
7	Bentonville High (Bentonville)	NW	9-12	906	90
7	Dardanelle High (Dardanelle)	NW	9-12	111	90
7	Haas Hall Academy (Haas Hall Academy)	NW	9-12	39	90
10	Alpena High (Alpena)	SE	7-12	45	89
10	Bryant High (Bryant)	CN	9-12	415	89
10	Rison High (Cleveland County)	NW	7-12	58	89
10	Wonderview High (Wonderview)	NW	7-12	37	89
14	Caddo Hills High (Caddo Hills)	SW	7-12	34	88
14	Centerpoint High (Centerpoint)	SW	6-12	75	88
16	Academics Plus High (Academics Plus)	CN	9-12	38	87
16	Des Arc High (Des Arc)	SE	7-12	53	87
16	McGehee High (McGehee)	NE	7-12	51	87
16	Salem High (Salem)	SE	7-12	46	87
20	Norfork High (Norfork)	NW	7-12	29	86
20	Parkers Chapel High (Parkers Chapel)	SW	7-12	41	86

These are not the only schools reaching high levels of achievement in geometry. In all, 111 of the 334 schools in which students took the geometry EOC, had 75% or more students score proficient or advanced. Geometry is generally taken during the tenth grade. However, some students may elect to take these courses earlier if they have the prerequisite knowledge. This may result in the most advanced students taking these exams in the 8th or 9th grade. For this reason, middle schools may have higher proficient and advanced scores because they have smaller numbers of advanced students taking the exam. In fact, of the 111 schools with 75% or more of students scoring proficient or advanced, 33 are middle or junior high schools, while 78 are high schools. Only one middle school did not have 75% or more students score proficient or advanced. Indeed, over 30 middle or junior high schools had 100% of students score proficient or advanced. These schools are presented in the following table.

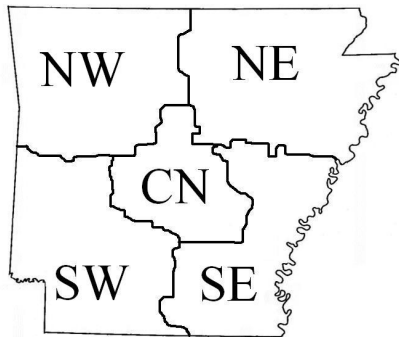
Table 62: 100% Proficient and Advanced Based on EOC Geometry Achievement

School (District)	Region	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	% Proficient/Advanced
Booneville Junior High (Booneville)	NW	7-9	25	100
Butterfield Junior High (Van Buren)	NW	7-9	62	100
Cabot Junior High North (Cabot)	CN	7-9	109	100
Cabot Junior High South (Cabot)	CN	7-9	97	100
Carl Stuart Middle (Conway)	CN	7-8	13	100
Central Junior High (Springdale)	NW	8-9	42	100
Clarksville Junior High (Clarksville)	NW	7-9	28	100
Coleman Junior High (Van Buren)	NW	7-9	48	100
De Queen Middle (DeQueen)	SW	6-9	22	100
Fuller Middle (Pulaski County)	CN	6-8	34	100
Greene County Tech Junior High (Greene Co.)	NE	8-9	43	100
Harrison Junior High (Harrison)	NW	7-9	43	100
Henderson Middle (Little Rock)	CN	6-8	11	100
Hot Springs Middle (Hot Springs)	CN	6-8	15	100
L. A. Chaffin Junior High (Fort Smith)	NW	7-9	60	100
Lake Hamilton Junior High (Lake Hamilton)	CN	8-9	55	100
Lakeside Junior High (Lakeside)	CN	8-9	79	100
Lakewood Middle (North Little Rock)	CN	7-8	57	100
M. O. Ramay Junior High (Fayetteville)	NW	8-9	76	100
Mann Magnet Middle (Little Rock)	CN	6-8	14	100
Marion Junior High (Marion)	NE	8-9	51	100
Nashville Junior High (Nashville)	SW	7-9	25	100
Pleasant View Jr. High (Mulberry)	NW	7-9	15	100
Pulaski Heights Middle (Little Rock)	CN	6-8	14	100
Ramsey Junior High (Fort Smith)	NW	7-9	41	100
Raymond E. Wells Junior High (Greenwood)	NW	8-9	86	100
Ridgeroad Charter Middle (North Little Rock)	CN	7-8	14	100
Russellville Junior High (Russellville)	NW	8-9	86	100
Southwest Junior High (Springdale)	NW	8-9	30	100
Vilonia Junior High (Vilonia)	CN	8-9	41	100
White Hall Junior High (White Hall)	CN	7-9	36	100
Woodland Junior High (Fayetteville)	NW	8-9	133	100

Table 63: Top 10 “High-Poverty” High Schools Based on EOC Geometry Achievement

	School (District)	% FRL	Region	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	% Proficient/ Advanced
1	KIPP: Delta College Prep (KIPP: Delta)	82	SE	9-12	28	97
2	Caddo Hills High (Caddo Hills)	71	SW	7-12	34	88
3	McGehee High (McGehee)	70	SE	7-12	51	87
4	Norfolk High (Norfolk)	67	NW	7-12	29	86
5	Marked Tree High (Marked Tree)	69	NE	7-12	37	76
6	Acorn High (Ouachita River)	69	SW	7-12	36	75
6	Bruno-Pyatt High (Ozark Mountain)	76	NW	7-12	16	75
8	Umpire High (Wickes)	100	SW	7-12	15	74
9	Western Grove High (Ozark Mountain)	72	NW	7-12	15	73
10	Maynard High (Maynard)	68	NE	7-12	65	71

Table 64-68: Top 5 High Schools in Arkansas by Region, Geometry Achievement



CENTRAL REGION

School (District)	# of Test Takers	% Proficient/Advanced
Benton High (Benton)	232	98
Bryant High (Bryant)	415	89
Academics Plus High (Academics Plus)	38	87
Sheridan High (Sheridan)	259	85
Conway	569	81
Magnet Cove High	71	81

NORTHWEST REGION

School (District)	# of Test Takers	% Proficient/Advanced
Paris High (Paris)	67	96
Jasper High (Jasper)	43	91
Dardanelle High (Dardanelle)	906	90
Bentonville High (Bentonville)	111	90
Haas Hall Academy (Haas Hall)	39	90

SOUTHWEST REGION

School (District)	# of Test Takers	% Proficient/Advanced
Caddo Hills High (Caddo Hills)	34	88
Centerpoint High (Centerpoint)	75	88
Parkers Chapel High (Parkers Chapel)	41	86
Spring Hill High (Spring Hill)	46	85
Genoa Central High (Genoa)	58	81

NORTHEAST REGION

School (District)	# of Test Takers	% Proficient/Advanced
Searcy High (Searcy)	243	95
McCrary High (McCrary)	32	91
Salem High (Salem)	46	87
Heber Springs High (Heber Springs)	130	85
Viola High (Viola)	27	85

SOUTHEAST REGION

School (District)	# of Test Takers	% Proficient/Advanced
KIPP: Delta College Prep (KIPP: Delta)	28	97
Rison High (Cleveland County)	58	89
McGehee High (McGehee)	53	87
Des Arc High (Des Arc)	51	87
Gillett High (DeWitt)	19	79

Several schools deserve special recognition for overall math achievement. These high schools were in the state's top 20 in both algebra and geometry: Parkers Chapel, Alpena, Searcy, Bentonville, Norfolk, Caddo Hills, and Bryant. Caddo and Norfolk achieved this high standard even while serving populations with more than 66% of students eligible for free or reduced price lunches. Therefore, they also appear on the algebra and geometry "high-poverty" top ten lists. Four other schools appear on both of these "high-poverty" lists: Marked Tree, Acorn, McGehee, and KIPP: Delta College Prep. These schools are not allowing poverty to be an obstacle to high achievement and should be proud of these results.

C. Biology End-of-Course Exam, 2009

The percentage of students scoring proficient or advanced in biology was significantly lower than the other three examinations. In biology the state mean percentage for proficient and advanced was below 40%. This compares with a mean of over 70% in algebra, over 65% in geometry, and over 50% in literacy. Regardless of the fact that fewer Arkansas students overall reached proficient or advanced on this relatively new state-wide exam, there are many schools whose performance stood out among the rest. Indeed, as in other exams, some of the highest achieving schools educated some of Arkansas' poorest students. Table 69 presents the top 20 high schools in Arkansas, based on overall biology achievement. We also highlight the top performing "high poverty" schools (schools serving 66% or more students eligible for the free/reduced lunch program), and the top schools in each region.

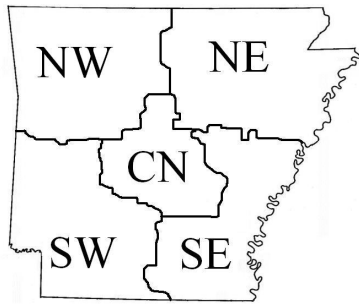
Table 69: Top 20 High Schools in Arkansas Based on EOC Biology Achievement

	School (District)	Region	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	% Proficient/Advanced
1	Haas Hall Academy (Haas Hall Academy)	NW	9-12	29	93
2	Taylor High (Emerson-Taylor)	SW	7-12	20	85
3	Brookland High (Brookland)	NE	9-12	100	75
3	Jessieville High (Jessieville)	CN	9-12	74	75
5	Scranton High (Scranton)	NW	7-12	27	74
6	South Side High (South Side)	NW	7-12	26	73
7	Bentonville High (Bentonville)	NW	9-12	839	71
8	Dardanelle High (Dardanelle)	NW	9-12	108	69
8	Searcy High (Searcy)	NE	9-12	259	69
10	Yellville-Summit High (Yellville-Summit)	NW	9-12	76	67
11	Kingston High (Kingston)	NW	7-12	12	66
11	Southside High (Southside)	NW	10-12	488	66
13	Calico Rock High (Calico Rock)	NE	7-12	32	65
14	Conway High East (Conway)	CN	9-10	693	64
14	Deer High (Deer/Mt. Judea)	NW	7-12	14	64
14	Mountain View High School (Mountain View)	NE	7-12	80	64
14	Benton High School (Benton)	CN	10-12	289	64
18	Cabot High School (Cabot)	CN	10-12	617	63
18	Heritage High School (Rogers)	NW	9-12	209	63
20	Cotter High School (Cotter)	NW	7-12	50	62
20	Omaha High (Omaha)	NW	7-12	29	62

Table 70: Top 10 “High-Poverty” High Schools Based on EOC Biology Achievement

	School (District)	% FRL	Region	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	% Proficient/ Advanced
1	Acorn High (Ouachita River)	69	SW	7-12	28	54
2	Lead Hill High (Lead Hill)	68	NW	7-12	25	52
3	J. D. Leftwich High (Magazine)	68	NW	6-12	58	50
4	Hot Springs High (Hot Springs)	74	CN	9-12	194	47
4	Timbo High (Mountain View)	66	NE	7-12	17	47
6	Shirley High (Shirley)	67	NW	7-12	42	45
6	St. Joe High (Ozark Mountain)	73	NW	7-12	11	45
8	Mountain Pine High (Mountain Pine)	72	CN	7-12	46	43
8	Plainview-Rover High (Two Rivers)	70	NW	7-12	21	43
8	Umpire High (Wickes)	100	SW	7-12	14	43

Tables 71-75: Top 5 High Schools in Arkansas By Region, Biology Achievement



CENTRAL REGION

School (District)	# of Test Takers	% Proficient/Advanced
Jessieville High	74	75
Conway East High	693	64
Benton High	289	64
Cabot High	617	63
Bauxite High	99	56
Greenbrier High	199	56
Magnet Cove High	66	56
Ouachita High	32	56

NORTHWEST REGION

School (District)	# of Test Takers	% Proficient/Advanced
Haas Hall Academy (Haas Hall)	29	93
Scranton High (Scranton)	27	74
South Side High (South Side)	19	73
Bentonville High (Bentonville)	839	71
Dardanelle High (Dardanelle)	108	69

SOUTHWEST REGION

School (District)	# of Test Takers	% Proficient/Advanced
Taylor High (Emerson-Taylor)	20	85
Mena High (Mena)	146	60
Acorn High (Ouachita River)	28	54
Horatio High (Horatio)	60	54
Parkers Chapel High (Parkers Chapel)	53	53

NORTHEAST REGION

School (District)	# of Test Takers	% Proficient/Advanced
Brookland High (Brookland)	100	75
Searcy High (Searcy)	259	69
Calico Rock High (Calico Rock)	32	65
Mountain View High (Mountain View)	80	64
Pocahontas High	139	59
Valley View High	154	59

SOUTHEAST REGION

School (District)	# of Test Takers	% Proficient/Advanced
Woodlawn High (Woodlawn)	47	58
Gillet High (DeWitt)	14	50
Des Arc High (Des Arc)	51	49
Rison High (Cleveland County)	49	47
Monticello High (Monticello)	149	46

D. Grade 11 Literacy Exam, 2009

In literacy, the state mean percentage for proficient and advanced was over 50%. Many schools' performance stood out among the rest. Indeed, as in other exams, some of the highest achieving schools educated some of Arkansas' poorest students. Table 76 presents the top 20 high schools in Arkansas based on overall literacy achievement. We also highlight the top performing "high poverty" schools (schools serving 66% or more students eligible for the free/reduced lunch program), and the top schools in each region.

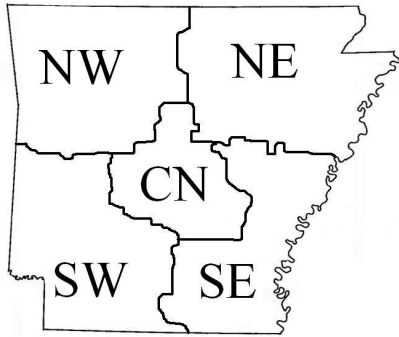
Table 76: Top 20 High Schools in Arkansas Based on Grade 11 Literacy Achievement

	School (District)	Region	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	% Proficient/Advanced
1	AR School for Math, Sciences, and the Arts	CN	11-12	106	99
2	Haas Hall Academy (Haas Hall Academy)	NW	9-12	15	94
3	KIPP: Delta College Prep (KIPP: Delta)	SE	9-12	23	91
4	Bentonville High (Bentonville)	NW	9-12	724	85
4	Weiner High (Weiner)	NE	7-12	26	85
6	Lisa Academy High (Lisa Academy)	CN	9-12	29	83
6	Taylor High (Emerson-Taylor)	SW	7-12	24	83
8	Valley View High (Valley View)	NE	7-12	138	81
9	Calico Rock High (Calico Rock)	NE	7-12	29	79
9	Searcy High (Searcy)	NE	9-12	255	79
9	Valley Springs High (Valley Springs)	NW	9-12	76	79
12	Highland High (Highland)	NE	8-12	115	78
13	Greenwood High (Greenwood)	NW	10-12	242	77
13	Marked Tree High (Marked Tree)	NE	7-12	35	77
15	Izard Co. Cons. High (Izard Co. Cons.)	NE	9-12	30	76
15	Lakeside High (Lakeside)	CN	9-12	211	76
15	Norfolk High (Norfolk)	NW	7-12	40	76
15	Ouachita High (Ouachita)	CN	7-12	33	76
19	Benton High (Benton)	CN	10-12	283	75
19	Gravette High (Gravette)	NW	9-12	111	75
19	Melbourne High (Melbourne)	NE	7-12	72	75
19	Parkview Magnet High (Little Rock)	CN	9-12	106	75

Table 77: Top 10 “High-Poverty” High Schools in Arkansas Based on Grade 11 Literacy Achievement

	School (District)	% FRL	Region	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	% Proficient/ Advanced
1	KIPP: Delta College Prep (KIPP: Delta)	82	SE	9-12	23	91
2	Marked Tree High (Marked Tree)	69	NE	7-12	35	77
3	Norfolk High (Norfolk)	67	NW	7-12	40	76
4	Harrisburg High (Harrisburg)	68	NE	9-12	86	68
5	Fourche Valley High (Two Rivers)	69	NW	7-12	12	67
6	Shirley High (Shirley)	67	NW	7-12	44	66
7	Marshall High (Searcy County)	69	NW	7-12	51	61
8	Mountain Pine High (Mountain Pine)	72	CN	7-12	47	60
9	Bruno-Pyatt High (Ozark Mountain)	76	NW	7-12	21	57
9	Cross County High (Cross County)	69	NE	7-12	44	57
9	Western Grove High (Ozark Mountain)	72	NW	7-12	23	57

Table 78-82: Top 5 High Schools in Arkansas by Region, Literacy Achievement



CENTRAL

School (District)	# of Test Takers	% Proficient/Advanced
AR School for Math, Sciences, and the Arts	106	99
LISA Academy High	29	83
Lakeside High (Lakeside)	211	76
Ouachita High	33	76
Benton High	283	75
Parkview Magnet High (Little Rock)	289	75

NORTHWEST

School (District)	# of Test Takers	% Proficient/Advanced
Haas Hall Academy (Haas Hall)	15	94
Bentonville High (Bentonville)	724	85
Valley Springs High (Valley Springs)	76	79
Greenwood High (Greenwood)	242	77
Norfolk High (Norfolk)	40	76

SOUTHWEST

School (District)	# of Test Takers	% Proficient/Advanced
Taylor High (Emerson-Taylor)	24	83
Parkers Chapel High (Parkers Chapel)	58	74
Harmony Grove High (Harmony Grove)	48	71
Van Cove High (Van Cove)	42	71
Mena High (Mena)	151	64

NORTHEAST

School (District)	# of Test Takers	% Proficient/Advanced
Weiner High (Weiner)	26	85
Valley View High (Valley View)	138	81
Calico Rock High (Calico Rock)	29	79
Searcy High (Searcy)	255	79
Highland High (Highland)	115	78

SOUTHEAST

School (District)	# of Test Takers	% Proficient/Advanced
KIPP: Delta College Prep (KIPP: Delta)	23	91
Rison High (Cleveland County)	67	66
Monticello High (Monticello)	160	62
Des Arc High (Des Arc)	45	58
Hamburg High (Hamburg)	139	52

E. EOC Summary

There were many schools that demonstrated excellence in academics on each of the examinations. However, only two schools were in the top twenty on all four exams: **Bentonville High** and **Searcy High**. **Searcy** ranked second in algebra, fourth in geometry, eighth in biology, and ninth in literacy. **Bentonville** ranked tenth in algebra, seventh in geometry, seventh in biology, and fourth in literacy. Also doing a commendable job were the following schools: **Benton High**, **Haas Hall Academy**, **Norfolk High**, and **Taylor High**. These schools were in the top twenty on three of the four examinations.

Six other schools stood out in their respective regions. **Searcy High** ranked in the top five in the Northeast region on all four examinations, while **Valley View High** placed in three of the lists. In the Central region, **Ouachita High** placed in three of the top five lists. On all four examinations, **Parkers Chapel High** earned a spot in the top five of the Southwest region; **Taylor High** made it on three. Three schools from the Southeast were in the top five on three of the examinations: **KIPP: Delta**, **Rison High**, and **Des Arc High**.

Overall, the Office for Education Policy is happy to recognize the hard work done by high school students and teachers across the state and we look forward to highlighting even better results for our high school students in 2009-10.

VI. OEP AWARDS: MOST IMPROVED SCHOOLS BETWEEN 2008 AND 2009

This section highlights the Arkansas schools that have improved the most between 2008 and 2009. To identify the “most improved” schools, we simply subtracted the percent of students scoring proficient and advanced in 2008 from the percent of students scoring proficient and advanced in 2009. The schools are ranked based on the percentage point increase, as noted below. As in previous sections, we have also highlighted the region in which the school is located, the grades served at the school, the percent of students eligible for the Free/Reduced Lunch (FRL) program, as well as the 2008 and 2009 percent proficient and advanced.

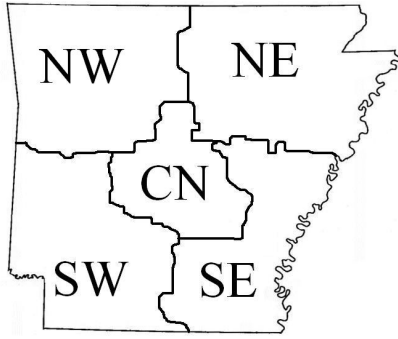
A. Elementary Schools, Mathematics

Table 83: Top 20 Most Improved Elementary Schools Based on Benchmark Mathematics Achievement

	School (District)	Region	Grades Served	% FRL	2008 & 2009 % Proficient/Advanced	% Point Increase
1	Lucilia Wood Elementary (Marvell) ⁹	SE	K-3	99	50→88	33
2	Lepanto Elementary (East Poinsett Co.)	NE	K-4	80	65→86	21
3	West Side Elementary (Helena/W. Helena)	SE	1-6	100	51→71	20
4	Jasper Elementary (Jasper)	NW	K-6	65	62→82	20
5	Magazine Elementary (Magazine)	NW	P-5	74	65→85	19
6	Wonder Elementary (West Memphis)	NE	K-6	100	61→80	19
7	Harris Elementary (Pulaski Co.)	CN	P-5	92	29→48	19
8	Wilson Elementary (Little Rock)	CN	P-5	94	31→49	17
9	Earle Elementary (Earle)	NE	K-4	97	49→66	17
10	Van Cove Elementary (Van Cove)	SW	K-6	66	69→85	16
11	Woodruff Elementary (Little Rock)	CN	P-5	90	51→67	16
12	Luxora Elementary (South Mississippi Co)	NE	P-4	89	54→69	15
13	Weaver Elementary (West Memphis)	NE	K-6	100	68→84	15
14	Southwood Elementary (Pine Bluff)	CN	K-5	84	34→49	15
15	Centerpoint Intermediate (Centerpoint)	SW	4-5	65	55→70	15
16	Guy Perkins Elementary (Guy Perkins)	CN	K-6	55	69→84	15
17	Hamburg Upper Elementary (Hamburg)	SE	4-6	100	68→83	15
18	Emerson Elementary (Emerson-Taylor)	SW	K-6	42	70→84	14
19	Monitor Elementary (Springdale)	NW	K-5	69	48→62	14
20	Tucker Elementary (Rogers)	NW	K-5	46	77→91	14

⁹ In 2008, Lucilia Wood Elementary School served students in grades P-6. In 2009, Lucilia Wood Elementary served grades K-3. For this reason, we only compared scores for grade 3. Lucilia Wood Elementary is now closed.

Table 84-88: Top 5 Most Improved Elementary Schools in Arkansas by Region, Benchmark Mathematics Achievement



CENTRAL

School (District)	2008 & 2009 % Proficient/Advanced	% Point Increase
Harris Elementary (Pulaski Co.)	29→48	19
Wilson Elementary (Little Rock)	31→49	17
Woodruff Elementary (Little Rock)	51→67	16
Southwood Elementary (Pine Bluff)	34→49	15
Guy Perkins Elementary (Guy Perkins)	69→84	15

NORTHWEST

School (District)	2008 & 2009 % Proficient/Advanced	% Point Increase
Jasper Elementary (Jasper)	62→82	20
Magazine Elementary (Magazine)	65→85	19
Monitor Elementary (Springdale)	48→62	14
Tucker Elementary (Rogers)	77→91	14
Anne Watson Elem. (East End)	61→75	14

SOUTHWEST

School (District)	2008 & 2009 % Proficient/Advanced	% Point Increase
Van Cove Elementary (Van Cove)	69→85	16
Centerpoint Inter. (Centerpoint)	55→70	15
Emerson Elementary (Emerson-Taylor)	70→84	14
Ode Maddox Elem. (Ouachita River)	71→85	14
Junction City (Junction City)	67→79	12

NORTHEAST

School (District)	2008 & 2009 % Proficient/Advanced	% Point Increase
Luxora Elementary (South Mississippi Co.)	54→69	15
Weaver Elementary (West Memphis)	68→84	15
Weiner Elementary (Weiner)	68→82	14
Gibbs Albright Elem. (Newport)	71→82	12
Marked Tree Elem. (Marked Tree)	67→79	12

SOUTHEAST

School (District)	2008 & 2009 % Proficient/Advanced	% Point Increase
Lucilia Wood Elem. (Marvell)	50→88	33
West Side Elementary (Helena/W. Helena)	51→71	20
Hamburg Upper Elem. (Hamburg)	68→83	15
Dermott Elementary (Dermott)	46→58	12
Jimmy Brown Elem. (Star City)	64→73	9

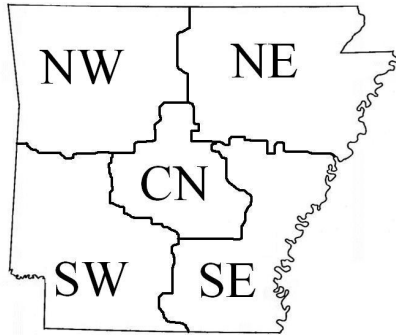
B. Elementary Schools, Literacy

Table 89: Top 20 Most Improved Elementary Schools Based on Benchmark Literacy Achievement

	School (District)	Region	Grades Served	% FRL	2008 & 2009 % Proficient/Advanced	% Point Increase
1	Lucilia Wood Elementary (Marvell) ¹⁰	SE	K-3	99	14→59	45
2	Oak Grove Elementary (Pulaski Co.)	CN	K-4	68	39→62	24
3	Leslie Elementary (Searcy Co.)	NW	K-6	83	64→86	22
4	Nevada Elementary (Nevada)	SW	K-6	84	51→73	21
5	West Side Elementary (Helena/W. Helena)	SE	1-6	100	42→63	21
6	Wonder Elementary (West Memphis)	NE	K-6	100	49→68	19
7	Woodruff Elementary (Little Rock)	CN	P-5	90	39→57	18
8	Guy Perkins Elementary (Guy Perkins)	CN	K-6	55	56→74	18
9	Northside Elementary (Decatur)	NW	K-5	76	42→59	18
10	Eastside Primary (Warren)	SE	K-3	72	49→66	17
11	Harris Elementary (Pulaski Co.)	CN	P-5	92	28→44	17
12	Drew Central Elementary (Drew Central)	SE	K-4	79	62→78	16
13	Luxora Elementary (South Mississippi Co.)	NE	P-4	89	38→54	16
14	Woodrow Wilson Elementary (Paragould)	NE	K-4	66	63→79	16
15	Bradford Elementary (Bradford)	NE	K-6	70	65→81	16
16	Keiser Elementary (South Mississippi Co.)	NE	P-4	56	49→65	15
17	R.L. Davis Elementary (Bryant)	CN	K-5	40	70→85	15
18	Nettleton Central Elementary (Nettleton)	NE	K-3	86	57→72	15
19	Sparkman Elementary (Harmony Grove)	SW	K-6	62	57→72	14
20	Robinson Elementary (Pulaski Co.)	CN	P-5	48	62→77	14

¹⁰ In 2008, Lucilia Wood Elementary School served students in grades P-6. In 2009, Lucilia Wood Elementary served grades K-3. For this reason, we only compared scores for grade 3. Lucilia Wood Elementary is now closed.

Table 90-94: Top 5 Most Improved Elementary Schools in Arkansas by Region, Benchmark Literacy Achievement



CENTRAL

School (District)	2008 & 2009 % Proficient/Advanced	% Point Increase
Oak Grove Elementary (Pulaski Co.)	39→62	24
Woodruff Elementary (Little Rock)	39→57	18
Guy Perkins Elem. (Guy Perkins)	56→74	18
Harris Elementary (Pulaski Co.)	28→44	17
R.L. Davis Elementary (Bryant)	70→85	15

NORTHWEST

School (District)	2008 & 2009 % Proficient/Advanced	% Point Increase
Leslie Elementary (Searcy)	64→86	22
Northside Elementary (Decatur)	42→59	18
SC Tucker Elem. (Danville)	69→83	14
Crawford Elementary (Russellville)	61→75	14
Cedarville Elementary (Cedarville)	50→64	13

SOUTHWEST

School (District)	2008 & 2009 % Proficient/Advanced	% Point Increase
Nevada Elementary (Nevada)	51→73	21
Sparkman Elementary (Harmony Grove)	57→72	14
Kirby Elementary (Kirby)	67→80	13
Wickes Elementary (Wickes)	58→71	13
Bradley Elementary (Bradley)	46→58	12

NORTHEAST

School (District)	2008 & 2009 % Proficient/Advanced	% Point Increase
Wonder Elementary (West Memphis)	49→68	19
Luxora Elementary (South Mississippi Co.)	38→54	16
Woodrow Wilson Elem. (Paragould)	63→79	16
Bradford Elementary (Bradford)	65→81	16
Keiser Elementary (South Mississippi Co.)	49→65	15

SOUTHEAST

School (District)	2008 & 2009 % Proficient/Advanced	% Point Increase
Lucilia Wood Elem. (Marvell)	14→59	45
West Side Elementary (Helena/W. Helena)	42→63	21
Eastside Primary (Warren)	49→66	17
Drew Central Elem. (Drew Central)	62→78	16
Kingsland Elementary (Cleveland Co.)	64→77	13

There are several elementary schools that made noticeable improvement between 2008 and 2009 in *both* math and literacy. These schools deserve special recognition: Lucilia Wood Elementary (Marvell), West Side Elementary (Helena/W. Helena), Wonder Elementary (West Memphis), Harris Elementary (Pulaski Co.), Woodruff Elementary (Little Rock), Luxora Elementary (South Mississippi Co.), and Guy Perkins Elementary (Guy Perkins).

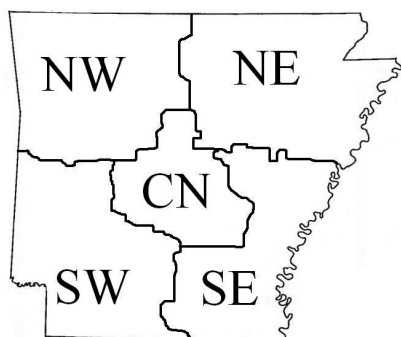
All types of schools are highlighted in this section for noteworthy improvements. Some of the schools that made the “most improvement” list already had more than half of the students score proficient or advanced in 2009. For example, in math Tucker Elementary (Rogers) had 77% of students score proficient or advanced in 2008 and increased that to 91% in 2009. On the other hand, several schools had under half of the students score proficient or advanced in 2008, and made notable gains of improvement in 2009. For example, Oak Grove Elementary (Pulaski Co.) had 39% of students score proficient or advanced in literacy in 2008, and by 2009 there were 62% scoring proficient or advanced. All of these hard-working schools deserve special recognition.

C. Middle Schools, Mathematics

Table 95: Top 20 Most Improved Middle Schools Based on Benchmark Mathematics Achievement

	School (District)	Region	Grades Served	% FRL	2008 & 2009 % Proficient/Advanced	% Point Increase
1	Oak Ridge Central High (Twin River)	NE	K-6	61	33→73	40
2	Emmet High (Blevins)	SW	7-12	60	21→51	30
3	Lockesburg High (DeQueen)	SW	7-12	42	37→65	28
4	Nevada High (Nevada)	SW	7-12	62	50→77	27
5	Weiner High (Weiner)	NE	7-12	49	32→57	25
6	Pea Ridge Middle (Pea Ridge)	NW	6-8	43	66→90	23
7	Redfield Jr. High (White Hall)	CN	7-9	38	53→74	21
8	Junction City High (Junction City)	SW	7-12	42	37→58	21
9	Tuckerman High (Jackson Co.)	NE	8-12	65	64→84	20
10	Calico Rock High (Calico Rock)	NE	7-12	50	57→77	20
11	Central Elementary (Trumann)	NE	5-6	69	63→82	19
12	Crossett Middle (Crossett)	SE	5-8	52	41→60	19
13	Decatur High (Decatur)	NW	8-12	62	45→63	18
14	Clarendon High (Clarendon)	SE	7-12	60	20→37	17
15	Plainview Rover High (Two Rivers)	NW	7-12	70	36→54	17
16	Hermitage Middle (Hermitage)	SE	9-12	66	38→55	17
17	Walnut Ridge High (Lawrence Co.)	NE	7-12	46	52→69	17
18	Mammoth Springs High (Mammoth Springs)	NE	7-12	56	57→73	17
19	Dermott High (Dermott)	SE	7-12	100	26→42	16
20	Magnet Cove High (Magnet Cove)	CN	7-12	37	60→77	16

Table 96-100: Top 5 Most Improved Middle Schools in Arkansas by Region, Benchmark Mathematics Achievement



CENTRAL

School (District)	2008 & 2009 % Proficient/Advanced	% Point Increase
Redfield Jr. High (White Hall)	53→74	21
Magnet Cove High (Magnet Cove)	60→77	16
Greenbrier Jr. High (Greenbrier)	65→79	14
Mt. Vernon/Enola High (Mt. Vernon/Enola)	57→71	14
Pulaski Heights Middle (Little Rock)	57→71	13

NORTHWEST

School (District)	2008 & 2009 % Proficient/Advanced	% Point Increase
Pea Ridge Middle (Pea Ridge)	66→90	23
Decatur High (Decatur)	45→63	18
Plainview Rover High (Two Rivers)	36→54	17
Kingston High (Jasper)	57→73	16
Elmwood Middle (Rogers)	62→77	15

SOUTHWEST

School (District)	2008 & 2009 % Proficient/Advanced	% Point Increase
Emmet High (Blevins)	21→51	30
Lockesburg High (DeQueen)	37→65	28
Nevada High (Nevada)	50→77	27
Junction City High (Junction City)	37→58	21
Harmony Grove (Harmony Grove)	61→77	16

NORTHEAST

School (District)	2008 & 2009 % Proficient/Advanced	% Point Increase
Oak Ridge Central High (Twin Rivers)	33→73	40
Weiner High (Weiner)	32→57	25
Tuckerman High (Jackson Co.)	64→84	20
Calico Rock High (Calico Rock)	57→77	20
Central Elementary (Truman)	63→82	19

SOUTHEAST

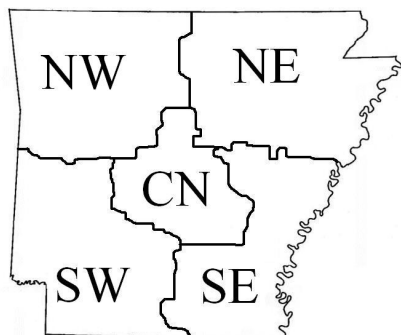
School (District)	2008 & 2009 % Proficient/Advanced	% Point Increase
Crossett Middle (Crossett)	41→60	19
Clarendon High (Clarendon)	20→37	17
Hermitage Middle (Hermitage)	38→55	17
Dermott High (Dermott)	26→42	16
Rison High (Cleveland Co.)	54→67	13

D. Middle Schools, Literacy

Table 101: Top 20 Most Improved Middle Schools Based on Benchmark Literacy Achievement

	School (District)	Region	Grades Served	% FRL	2008 & 2009 % Proficient/Advanced	% Point Increase
1	Emerson High (Emerson Taylor)	SW	7-12	48	49→73	23
2	Bradley High (Bradley)	SW	7-12	64	52→75	23
3	Oak Ridge Central High (Twin Rivers)	NE	7-12	61	41→63	22
4	Bruno-Pyatt High (Ozark Mountain)	NW	7-12	76	40→62	21
5	Viola High (Viola)	NE	7-12	44	66→87	21
6	Dierks High (Dierks)	SW	7-12	46	63→83	21
7	Dewitt/Gillett High (Dewitt)	SE	7-12	48	63→83	20
8	Wickes High (Wickes)	SW	7-12	100	56→75	19
9	Mt. Vernon/Enola High (Mt. Vernon/Enola)	CN	7-12	60	63→80	18
10	Cabe Middle (Gurdon)	SW	5-8	72	56→73	17
11	Calico Rock High (Calico Rock)	NE	7-12	50	66→84	17
12	Horatio High (Horatio)	SW	7-12	59	57→74	17
13	McCrary High (McCrary)	NE	7-12	50	56→72	16
14	Jack Robey Jr. High (Pine Bluff)	CN	8-9	70	30→46	16
15	Lockesburg High (DeQueen)	SW	7-12	42	57→73	16
16	Cross County High (Cross County)	NE	7-12	69	53→69	16
17	Shirley High (Shirley)	NW	7-12	67	52→67	15
18	Emmet High (Blevins)	SW	7-12	60	31→46	15
19	Pea Ridge Middle (Pea Ridge)	NW	6-8	43	70→85	15
20	Decatur High (Decatur)	NW	8-12	62	65→80	15

Table 102-106: Top 5 Most Improved Middle Schools in Arkansas by Region, Benchmark Literacy Achievement



CENTRAL

School (District)	2008 & 2009 % Proficient/Advanced	% Point Increase
Mt. Vernon/Enola High (Mt. Vernon/Enola)	63→80	18
Jack Robey Jr. High (Pine Bluff)	30→46	16
Redfield Jr. High (White Hall)	68→83	15
Lakewood Middle (North Little Rock)	56→70	14
Jacksonville Middle (Pulaski Co.)	50→61	11

NORTHWEST

School (District)	2008 & 2009 % Proficient/Advanced	% Point Increase
Bruno-Pyatt High (Ozark Mountain)	40→62	21
Shirley High (Shirley)	52→67	15
Pea Ridge Middle (Pea Ridge)	70→85	15
Decatur High (Decatur)	65→80	15
Green Forest High (Green Forest)	53→67	14

SOUTHWEST

School (District)	2008 & 2009 % Proficient/Advanced	% Point Increase
Emerson High (Emerson-Taylor)	49→73	23
Bradley High (Bradley)	52→75	23
Dierks High (Dierks)	63→83	21
Wickes High (Wickes)	56→75	19
Cabe Middle (Gurdon)	56→73	17

NORTHEAST

School (District)	2008 & 2009 % Proficient/Advanced	% Point Increase
Oak Ridge Central High (Twin Rivers)	41→63	22
Viola High (Viola)	66→87	21
Calico Rock High (Calico Rock)	66→84	17
McCrary High (McCrary)	56→72	16
Cross County High (Cross County)	53→69	16

SOUTHEAST

School (District)	2008 & 2009 % Proficient/Advanced	% Point Increase
Dewitt/Gillett High (Dewitt)	63→83	20
Lakeside Middle (Lakeside)	44→55	11
Clarendon High (Clarendon)	44→55	11
Rison High (Cleveland Co.)	56→66	11
Star City Middle (Star City)	62→73	10

As was the case in the elementary school section, several schools classified as “middle schools” made noticeable improvement in *both* math and literacy between 2008 and 2009. These schools were: Oak Ridge Central High (Twin River), Emmet High (Blevins), Lockesburg High (DeQueen), Pea Ridge Middle (Pea Ridge), Calico Rock High (Calico Rock), and Decatur High (Decatur).

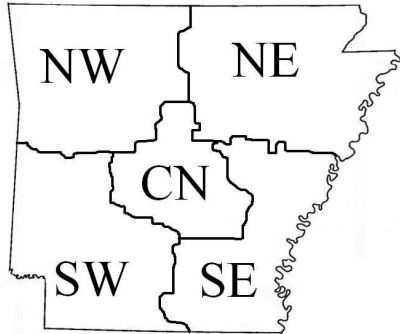
In this section, we only highlight schools that have improved remarkably between 2008 and 2009. Most schools listed on the overall top-performing schools list for the state of Arkansas (section one of this report) performed at high levels in both 2008 and 2009, and therefore are not on this “most improved” list. However, there were three schools that not only improved between 2008 and 2009, but were placed on the *overall* top-performing schools list for Arkansas. **Pea Ridge Middle** (Pea Ridge) increased 23 percentage points to reach 90% proficient and advanced in math, and 15 percentage points to reach 85% proficient and advanced in literacy, making Pea Ridge Middle sixth overall for mathematics achievement and thirteenth overall for literacy achievement in the state. **Viola High** (Viola) increased 21 percentage points to reach 87% proficient and advanced in literacy between 2008 and 2009, and placed seventh overall in the state. Finally, **Calico Rock High**, with a 17 percentage point increase to reach 84% proficient and advanced in literacy, placed nineteenth overall in the state.

E. High Schools, Algebra

Table 107: Top 20 Most Improved Schools Based on EOC Algebra Achievement

	School (District)	Region	Grades Served	% FRL	2008 & 2009 % Proficient/Advanced	% Point Increase
1	Lockesburg High (DeQueen)	SW	7-12	42	29→91	62
2	Crossett High (Crossett)	SE	9-12	52	24→74	50
3	Sheridan High (Sheridan)	CN	9-12	32	40→86	46
4	Mineral Springs High (Mineral Springs)	SW	7-12	67	38→82	44
5	Jacksonville Middle (girls) (Pulaski Co.)	CN	6-8	69	55→94	39
6	Earle High (Earle)	NE	9-12	93	2→40	38
7	Cutter-Morning Star High(Cutter-Morning	CN	7-12	55	40→74	34
8	Plainview Rover High (Two Rivers)	NW	7-12	70	43→77	34
9	Prescott High (Prescott)	SW	9-12	52	63→96	33
10	Norman Jr. High (Crossett)	SE	5-8	49	37→70	33
11	Morrilton Senior High (South Conway)	NW	9-12	48	36→68	32
12	Hackett High (Hackett)	NW	7-12	32	49→81	32
13	Pea Ridge High (Pea Ridge)	NW	9-12	27	35→66	31
14	Taylor High (Emerson- Taylor)	SW	7-12	34	60→91	31
15	Oden High (Ouachita River)	SW	7-12	63	59→90	31
16	Junction City High (Junction City)	SW	7-12	42	35→66	31
17	Hermitage High (Hermitage)	SE	9-12	71	32→61	29
18	Waldron High (Waldron)	NW	9-12	51	49→77	28
19	Gravette High (Gravette)	NW	9-12	34	59→85	26
20	Mammoth Spring High (Mammoth Spring)	NE	7-12	56	47→73	26

Table 108-112: Top 5 Most Improved High Schools in Arkansas by Region, Algebra Achievement



CENTRAL

School (District)	2008 & 2009 % Proficient/Advanced	% Point Increase
Sheridan High (Sheridan)	40→86	46
Jacksonville Middle-Girls (Pulaski Co.)	55→94	39
Cutter-Morning Star High (Cutter Morning Star)	40→74	34
Mabelvale Middle (Little Rock)	65→89	24
Bismarck High (Bismarck)	63→86	23

NORTHWEST

School (District)	2008 & 2009 % Proficient/Advanced	% Point Increase
Plainview-Rover High (Two Rivers)	43→77	34
Morrilton Senior High (South Conway)	36→68	32
Hackett High (Hackett)	49→81	32
Pea Ridge High (Pea Ridge)	35→66	31
Waldron High (Waldron)	49→77	28

SOUTHWEST

School (District)	2008 & 2009 % Proficient/Advanced	% Point Increase
Lockesburg High (DeQueen)	29→91	62
Mineral Springs High (Mineral Springs)	38→82	44
Prescott High (Prescott)	37→70	33
Taylor High (Emerson-Taylor)	60→91	31
Oden High (Ouachita River)	59→90	31

NORTHEAST

School (District)	2008 & 2009 % Proficient/Advanced	% Point Increase
Earle High (Earle)	2→40	38
Mammoth Spring (Mammoth Spring)	47→73	26
Academic Center of Excellence (Osceola)	74→100	26
Palestine Wheatley High (Palestine Wheatley)	38→64	26
Walnut Ridge (Lawrence Co.)	50→75	25

SOUTHEAST

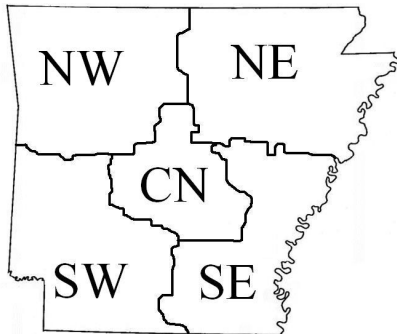
School (District)	2008 & 2009 % Proficient/Advanced	% Point Increase
Crossett High (Crossett)	24→74	50
Norman Junior High (Crossett)	63→96	33
Hermitage High (Hermitage)	32→61	29
McGehee High (McGehee)	55→79	24
Star City High (Star City)	60→81	21

F. High Schools, Literacy

Table 113: Top 20 Most Improved Schools Based on EOC Literacy Achievement

	School (District)	Region	Grades Served	% FRL	2008 & 2009 % Proficient/Advanced	% Point Increase
1	Fourche Valley High (Two Rivers)	NW	7-12	69	8→67	59
2	Wonderview High (Wonderview)	NW	7-12	44	25→65	40
3	Norphlet High (Norphlet)	SW	7-12	42	29→62	33
4	Shirley High (Shirley)	NW	7-12	67	33→66	33
5	Norfolk High (Norfolk)	NW	7-12	67	47→76	29
6	Greenland High (Greenland)	NW	9-12	36	40→69	29
7	Harrisburg High (Harrisburg)	NE	9-12	68	40→68	28
8	Earle High (Earle)	NE	9-12	93	6→33	27
9	Bradford High (Bradford)	NE	7-12	56	40→66	26
10	Mulberry High (Mulberry)	NW	10-12	44	39→64	25
11	Harmony Grove High (Harmony Grove)	SW	7-12	40	46→71	25
12	Bismarck High (Bismarck)	CN	9-12	49	43→67	24
13	Scranton High (Scranton)	NW	7-12	51	41→65	24
14	Waldron High (Waldron)	NW	9-12	51	38→62	24
15	Marion High (Marion)	NE	10-12	41	42→65	23
16	Mountainburg High (Mountainburg)	NW	9-12	50	37→59	22
17	Fountain Lake High (Fountain Lake)	CN	9-12	33	32→54	22
18	Blytheville High (Blytheville)	NE	9-12	100	21→43	22
19	Horatio High (Horatio)	SW	7-12	59	29→51	22
20	Quitman High (Quitman)	NE	7-12	39	35→56	21

Table 114-118: Top 5 Most Improved High Schools in Arkansas by Region, Literacy Achievement



CENTRAL

School (District)	2008 & 2009 % Proficient/Advanced	% Point Increase
Bismarck High (Bismarck)	43→67	24
Fountain Lake High (Fountain Lake)	32→54	22
J. A. Fair High (Little Rock)	11→30	19
Ouachita High (Ouachita)	58→76	18
Lisa Academy High (Lisa Academy)	65→83	18

NORTHWEST

School (District)	2008 & 2009 % Proficient/Advanced	% Point Increase
Fourche Valley High (Two Rivers)	8→67	59
Wonderview High (Wonderview)	25→65	40
Shirley High (Shirley)	33→66	33
Norfolk High (Norfolk)	47→76	29
Greenland High (Greenland)	40→69	29

SOUTHWEST

School (District)	2008 & 2009 % Proficient/Advanced	% Point Increase
Norphlet High (Norphlet)	29→62	33
Harmony Grove High (Harmony Grove)	46→71	25
Horatio High (Horatio)	29→51	22
Spring Hill High (Spring Hill)	39→59	20
Fordyce High (Fordyce)	25→44	19

NORTHEAST

School (District)	2008 & 2009 % Proficient/Advanced	% Point Increase
Harrisburg High (Harrisburg)	40→68	28
Earle High (Earle)	6→33	27
Bradford High (Bradford)	40→66	26
Marion High (Marion)	42→65	23
Blytheville High (Blytheville)	21→43	22

SOUTHEAST

School (District)	2008 & 2009 % Proficient/Advanced	% Point Increase
Monticello High (Monticello)	43→62	19
Lakeside High (Lakeside)	19→33	14
Drew Central High (Drew Central)	28→42	14
Lee High (Lee Co.)	14→28	14
Des Arc High (Des Arc)	45→58	13

All types of schools are improving in Arkansas. The range of students eligible for FRL at each school varies. For the EOC portion, a school with as few as 27% of students eligible for FRL and a school with 100% FRL made the list.

Two schools were on the “most improved” list for both algebra and literacy – Earle High (Earle) and Waldron High (Waldron). Again, there were schools that not only improved between 2008 and 2009, but that also placed on the overall top-performing schools for the state Arkansas. For EOC Algebra, **Lockesburg High** (DeQueen) had 29% of students score proficient or advanced in 2008, which increased to 91% proficient or advanced in 2009, placing the school seventh in the state. **Taylor High** (Emerson-Taylor) also placed seventh in the state for Algebra EOC with 91% proficient and advanced, which was an increase from 60% proficient or advanced in 2008. **Oden High** (Ouachita River) had 59% of students score proficient or advanced in 2008, reaching 90% proficient or advanced in 2009 to be placed tenth overall. In EOC Literacy, **Norfolk High** (Norfolk) was the only school to be a “most improved” and a “top-performing” school. Norfolk High had 47% of students score proficient or advanced in 2008, and 76% proficient or advanced in 2009, to be ranked fifteenth overall.

FINAL THOUGHT

Since our founding in 2003, the mission of the Office for Education Policy has been to look at pressing issues through the lens of academic research and disseminate our findings to educators, policymakers, and other stakeholders around Arkansas. Every once in a while, however, we think it is okay to stray from issue analysis and simply share some *good news*! Throughout this report, we have highlighted *several* outstanding schools in Arkansas. These schools are located all over the state and deserve congratulations for the noted performance. We look forward to continued improvement and recognizing Arkansas schools next year!

APPENDIX

A. Methods

The Office for Education Policy strives to make all of our calculations and publications transparent to our readers. Thus, in this appendix we describe our data source, calculations performed on these data for the purposes of our reporting, and our method for determining a school's classification as an elementary, middle, or high school.

All data used in this report were obtained from the Arkansas Department of Education. Benchmark and End-of-Course exam scores were obtained from the testing section (http://arkansased.org/testing/test_scores.html). Other data, such as the percent of students eligible for free and reduced lunch, were obtained from the Arkansas Department of Education Data Center (<http://adedata.arkansas.gov>).

All data were analyzed at the school level; however, the ADE provided the percentage of scores at the proficient and advanced level by grade. Therefore, in order to present an accurate *school-level* percentage of students scoring proficient and advanced across all grades, a weighted average for each school was calculated to account for different levels of enrollment at each grade level. In an effort to highlight schools that were strong in both subject areas, we calculated a simple average of the school level percent proficient and advanced in math *and* literacy at the elementary and middle school level, and in all End-of-Course subjects at the high school level, to measure overall performance for each school.

Schools are divided into two school types: elementary schools and middle schools. However, elementary schools and middle schools can be labeled differently, as there is not a specific way to name or to structure the grades in a school. Rather than comparing schools based on their name, we attempted to sort the schools by the grades served at each school. For the purpose of this report, we classify schools that serve students in grades K-5 as elementary schools and schools that serve students in grades 6-8 as middle schools.

Of course, not every elementary and middle school fits this rule. For all other grade combinations, we identify the school as elementary or middle based on the grades the school primarily serves. For example, if a school serves grades four through six, we classify that school as an elementary school. Based on our rule, two grades (grades four and five) are at the elementary level, and one grade (grade six) is at the middle school level. A school that has the same number of elementary and middle school grades is classified as a middle school. For example, a school with grades five and six is considered a middle school in this report.

Additionally, you may see a high school on the middle school list. This is because some high schools serve grades seven and eight as well. The Benchmark score for any high school on the middle school list is the average of grades seven and/or eight only. Any school administering End-of-Course examinations is considered as part of the high school section of this report.

The goal of this categorization scheme is to ensure, to the extent possible, that similar schools are compared to each other. Of course, it is difficult to create a perfect "rule." These guidelines were used to simply provide as much consistency as possible when comparing Benchmark performance.

B. Compete School List

To view the scores of all schools in Arkansas, visit:

http://www.uark.edu/ua/oe/AER/6_2_Outstanding_Educational_Performance_Awards_Appendix.pdf