

***ARKANSAS EDUCATION REPORT***  
***Volume 8, Issue 2***

**OUTSTANDING EDUCATIONAL PERFORMANCE AWARDS:  
HIGHLIGHTING HIGH ACHIEVING ARKANSAS SCHOOLS, 2011**

**BEATING THE ODDS – HIGH ACHIEVING SCHOOLS SERVING LOW-  
INCOME STUDENTS**

**By:**

**Alexandra Boyd**

**Greg Michel**

**Misty Newcomb**

**Gary Ritter**

**Office for Education Policy  
University of Arkansas  
211 Graduate Education Building  
Fayetteville, AR 72701  
Phone: (479) 575-3773  
Fax: (479) 575-3196  
E-mail: [oe@uark.edu](mailto:oe@uark.edu)**

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>Introduction.....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>II. 2011 OEP Awards: Beating the Odds – High Achieving Schools Serving Low-Income Students.....</b>	<b>3</b>
A. Benchmark Scores in Mathematics, 2011 .....	4
B. Benchmark Scores in Literacy, 2011.....	8

## 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 aim to highlight excellent performance and give our congratulations. To that end, we are happy to highlight many high performing schools around the state in our now-annual AER entitled the **Outstanding Educational Performance Awards**.

Over a three month period this fall, a new set of **OEP Awards** will be released every couple of weeks to highlight the high 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 first release will begin by featuring high performing elementary and middle schools on Benchmark performance in literacy, math, and combined test score performance.

After we present our overall snapshot of high performing schools, we will release subsequent reports every few 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 levels of student achievement while serving a high percentage of low-income students). In the following weeks, we will focus on high 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 2010 and 2011. Our release schedule is:

- **High Achieving “Overall” Schools in Arkansas**
- **Beating the Odds – High Achieving Schools Serving Low Income Students**
- **High Achieving Elementary Schools by Region**
- **High Achieving Middle Schools by Region**
- **High Achieving High Schools Across Arkansas**
- **Most Improved Schools between 2006 and 2010**
- **Stay tuned over the next ten weeks to see which schools in your area are recognized for our OEP Award!**

## **II. 2011 OEP AWARDS: BEATING THE ODDS – HIGH ACHIEVING SCHOOLS SERVING LOW-INCOME STUDENTS**

This section highlights the high 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 2011. 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 2010-11 year.

In 2010-2011, approximately 57% of the state’s elementary schools (288 of 506) served student populations facing this level of economic disadvantage. While roughly 64% of the state’s students were eligible for FRL, the high-poverty schools served more disadvantaged populations, with 77% of the students in these schools eligible for FRL.

In 2010-2011, approximately 38% of the state’s middle schools (86 of 227) served student populations in which at least two-thirds of the students were economically disadvantaged. While roughly 57% of the state’s students are eligible for FRL, the high-poverty schools served more disadvantaged student populations, with 81% of the students in these schools eligible for FRL.

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 2011.

## A. Benchmark Scores in Mathematics, 2011

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

	School (District)	% FRL	Region <sup>1</sup>	Grades Served	% Proficient/ Advanced <sup>2</sup>
1	Viola Elementary (Viola)*	66%	NE	K-6	98%
2	Evening Shade Math & Science Academy (Cave City)*	89%	NE	K-4	97%
2	Morrilton Elementary (South Conway County)*	67%	NW	2-3	97%
4	SMC Elementary at Luxora (South Mississippi County)	98%	NE	K-4	94%
4	Eudora Elem (Lakeside LV)	93%	SE	K-3	94%
4	Eastside Elementary (Rogers)*	74%	NW	K-5	94%
4	Amanda Gist Elementary (Cotter)	74%	NW	K-6	94%
4	Ida Burns Elementary (Conway)	69%	CN	K-4	94%
4	Sidney Deener Elementary (Searcy)	67%	NE	K-4	94%
10	Weaver Elementary (West Memphis)	92%	NE	K-6	93%
10	Grace Hill Elementary (Rogers)*	87%	NW	K-5	93%
10	Holly Harshman Elementary (Mena)	69%	SW	3-5	93%
10	Southside Elementary (Southside)*	66%	NE	K-4	93%
14	Imboden Area Charter (Imboden)*	87%	NE	K-8	92%
14	Green Forest Elementary (Green Forest)*	87%	NW	K-3	92%
14	Kingston Elementary (Jasper)*	78%	NW	K-6	92%
14	Hector Elementary (Hector)*	77%	NW	K-6	92%
14	Mansfield Elementary (Mansfield)	66%	NW	K-4	92%
14	Nemo Vista Elementary (Nemo Vista)	66%	NW	K-5	92%
20	Nevada Elementary School (Nevada)	81%	SW	K-6	91%
20	DeQueen Elementary (DeQueen)*	80%	SW	3-5	91%
20	Acorn Elementary (Ouachita River)	78%	SW	K-6	91%
20	Woodland Heights Elementary (Harrison)*	76%	NW	K-4	91%
20	Cowsert Elementary (Clinton)	76%	NW	K-3	91%
20	Cherokee Elementary (Highland)	71%	NE	K-4	91%
20	Marshall Elementary (Searcy County)*	69%	NW	K-6	91%
20	Eagle Heights Elementary (Harrison)*	69%	NW	K-4	91%
20	Florence Mattison Elementary (Conway)	68%	CN	K-4	91%

\* Schools honored in both math and literacy this year.

Along with these top 20 schools, many other schools are beating the odds. In math, 171 out of the 288 high-poverty elementary schools in the state had 75% of students score proficient or

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

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

advanced. Three 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. **Viola Elementary** (Viola), **Evening Shade Math & Science Academy** (Cave City), and **Morrilton Elementary** (South Conway) were also in the Top 20 overall elementary math category, highlighted in Section I above.

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

	School (District)	% FRL	Region	Grades Served	% Proficient/ Advanced
1	Kraus Middle (Clarksville)*	68%	NW	5-6	88%
1	Morrilton Intermediate (South Conway County)*	67%	NW	4-6	88%
3	Wilson Intermediate (Malvern)	73%	CN	5-6	84%
4	Hoxie Middle (Hoxie)	72%	NE	6-7	83%
5	Clinton Intermediate (Clinton)*	73%	NW	4-6	82%
5	Cave City Intermediate (Cave City)*	71%	NE	5-6	82%
5	Clarksville Junior High (Clarksville)*	68%	NW	7-9	82%
8	J. O. Kelly Middle (Springdale)	77%	NW	6-7	81%
9	DeQueen Middle (DeQueen)	77%	SW	6-7	80%
9	Highland Middle (Highland)*	66%	NE	5-7	80%
11	Danville Middle (Danville)*	75%	NW	6-8	79%
12	KIPP Blytheville College Preparatory (KIPP Delta)	86%	SE	5	78%
12	Green Forest Intermediate (Green Forest)*	80%	NW	4-8	78%
14	Oak Grove Middle (Paragould)*	67%	NE	5-6	77%
15	Hot Springs Intermediate (Hot Springs)	80%	CN	5-6	76%
15	Oakdale Middle (Rogers)*	67%	NW	6-8	76%
17	Mountainburg Middle (Mountainburg)	75%	NW	5-8	75%
17	Trumann Intermediate Gr. 7-8 (Trumann)*	69%	NE	7-8	75%
17	Gentry Middle (Gentry)*	66%	NW	6-8	75%
20	Marked Tree Middle (Marked Tree)	75%	NE	6-8	74%
20	Cave City Middle (Cave City)*	67%	NE	7-8	74%
20	Dardanelle Middle (Dardanelle)*	66%	NW	7-8	74%

\* Schools honored in both Math and Literacy this year.

It is important to note that the top two high-poverty schools on this list, **Kraus Middle** (Clarksville) and **Morrilton Intermediate** (South Conway), were also highlighted in the Top 20 overall middle school math category, presented in Section I above. While this is the first year for Kraus Middle to find a place on the Top 20 overall list, Kraus Middle has climbed six spots from its position on last year's list to be tied at number one with Morrilton Intermediate of the Top 20 "High Poverty" list.

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

Table 9: Top 5 Schools by Grade in “High-Poverty” Schools in Arkansas Based on Benchmark Math Achievement

	School (District)	% FRL	Region	% Proficient/ Advanced
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Grade</b>				
1	SMC Elementary at Luxora (South Mississippi County)	98%	NE	100%
1	Leslie Elementary (Searcy County)	83%	NW	100%
1	Bruno-Pyatt Elementary (Ozark Mountain)	80%	NW	100%
1	Hector Elementary (Hector)	77%	NW	100%
1	Woodland Heights Elementary (Harrison)	76%	NW	100%
1	Deer Elementary (Deer/Mt. Judea)	75%	NW	100%
1	Amanda Gist Elementary (Cotter)	74%	NW	100%
1	Eagle Heights Elementary (Harrison)	69%	NW	100%
1	Kirby Elementary (Kirby)	66%	SW	100%
<b>4<sup>th</sup> Grade</b>				
1	Evening Shade Math & Science Academy (Cave City)	89%	NE	100%
1	Viola Elementary (Viola)	66%	NE	100%
2	Wickes Elementary (Cossatot River)	73%	SW	98%
3	Weaver Elementary (West Memphis)	92%	NE	96%
3	Hector Elementary (Hector)	77%	NW	96%
3	Judsonia Elementary (Riverview)	76%	NE	96%
3	Allbritton Upper Elementary (Hamburg)	74%	SE	96%
3	Des Arc Elementary (Des Arc)	69%	SE	96%
<b>5<sup>th</sup> Grade</b>				
1	Ode Maddox Elementary (Ouachita River)	78%	SW	100%
1	Jasper Elementary (Jasper)	72%	NW	100%
3	Weaver Elementary (West Memphis)	92%	NE	98%
4	Acorn Elementary (Ouachita River)	78%	SW	97%
4	Eastside Elementary (Rogers)	74%	NW	97%
4	Midland Elementary (Midland)	73%	SE	97%
<b>6<sup>th</sup> Grade</b>				
1	St. Joe Elementary (Ozark Mountain)	85%	NW	100%
1	Viola Elementary (Viola)	66%	NE	100%
3	Midland Elementary (Midland)	73%	NE	94%
3	Marshall Elementary (Searcy County)	69%	NW	94%
5	Weaver Elementary (West Memphis)	92%	NE	93%
5	Mt. Judea Elementary (Deer/Mt. Judea)	89%	NW	93%
5	Danville Middle (Danville)	75%	NW	93%
5	Calico Rock Elementary (Calico Rock)	66%	NE	93%
<b>7<sup>th</sup> Grade</b>				
1	Green Forest Intermediate (Green Forest)	80%	NW	88%
1	Clarksville Junior High (Clarksville)	68%	NW	88%
3	Clinton Junior High (Clinton)	66%	NW	87%
4	Hoxie Middle (Hoxie)	72%	NE	83%
4	Cave City Middle (Cave City)	67%	NE	83%
<b>8<sup>th</sup> Grade</b>				
1	Pleasant View Jr. High (Mulberry-Pleasant View)	73%	NW	76%
1	Clarksville Junior High (Clarksville)	68%	NW	76%
2	Cedarville Middle (Cedarville)	73%	NW	69%
2	Trumann Intermediate Gr. 7-8 (Trumann)	69%	NE	69%
2	Oakdale Middle (Rogers)	67%	NW	69%



## B. Benchmark Scores in Literacy, 2011

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

	School (District)	% FRL	Region	Grades Served	% Proficient/ Advanced
1	Evening Shade Math & Science Academy (Cave City)*	89%	NE	K-4	94%
1	Eagle Heights Elementary (Harrison)*	69%	NW	K-4	94%
3	Woodland Heights Elementary (Harrison)*	76%	NW	K-4	93%
3	Eastside Elementary (Rogers)*	74%	NW	K-5	93%
3	Viola Elementary (Viola)*	66%	NE	K-6	93%
6	Imboden Area Charter (Imboden)*	87%	NE	K-8	92%
6	Morrilton Elementary (South Conway County)*	67%	NW	2-3	92%
8	Green Forest Elementary (Green Forest)*	87%	NW	K-3	91%
8	Arrie Goforth Elementary (Norfolk)	85%	NW	K-6	91%
8	Sallie Cone Elementary (Conway)	81%	CN	K-4	91%
8	Kingston Elementary (Jasper)*	78%	NW	K-6	91%
8	Gurdon Primary (Gurdon)	76%	SW	K-4	91%
13	Hector Elementary (Hector)*	77%	NW	K-6	90%
14	DeQueen Elementary (DeQueen)*	80%	SW	3-5	89%
15	Prescott Elementary (Prescott)	82%	SW	K-4	89%
15	Southside Elementary (Southside)*	66%	NE	K-4	89%
17	Grace Hill Elementary (Rogers)*	87%	NW	K-5	88%
17	Bonnie Grimes Elementary (Rogers)	82%	NW	K-5	88%
17	Marshall Elementary (Searcy County)*	69%	NW	K-6	88%
17	John Tyson Elementary (Springdale)	69%	NW	K-5	88%
17	Cutter-Morning Star Elementary (Cutter Morning Star)	67%	CN	K-6	88%

\* Schools honored in both math and literacy this year.

Along with these top 20 schools, many other schools are beating the odds. In fact, 123 out of 288 high-poverty elementary schools boasted literacy achievement levels above 75% or more of students proficient or advanced.

Seven 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. **Eagle Heights Elementary** (Harrison), **Evening Shade Math & Science Academy** (Cave City), **Woodland Heights Elementary** (Harrison), **Viola Elementary** (Viola), **Eastside Elementary** (Rogers), **Imboden Area Charter** (Imboden), and **Morrilton Elementary** (South Conway) were also in the Top 20 overall in elementary literacy category, highlighted in Section I above.

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

	School (District)	% FRL	Region	Grades Served	% Proficient/ Advanced
1	Kraus Middle (Clarksville)* Morrilton Intermediate (South Conway County)*	68%	NW	5-6	86%
2	Gentry Middle (Gentry)*	67%	NW	4-6	85%
3	Clarksville Junior High (Clarksville)*	66%	NW	6-8	84%
4	Dardanelle Middle (Dardanelle)*	68%	NW	7-9	83%
5	DeQueen Junior High (DeQueen)	66%	NW	7-8	81%
6	Danville Middle (Danville)*	70%	SW	8-9	80%
7	Eureka Springs Middle (Eureka Springs)	75%	NW	6-8	79%
8	Oakdale Middle (Rogers)*	69%	NW	5-8	78%
8	Riverview Junior High (Riverview)	67%	NW	6-8	78%
10	Clinton Intermediate (Clinton)*	74%	NE	7-8	77%
11	Oak Grove Middle (Paragould)*	73%	NW	4-6	76%
12	Green Forest Intermediate (Green Forest)*	67%	NE	5-6	76%
12	Highland Middle (Highland)*	80%	NW	4-8	76%
12	Highland Middle (Highland)*	66%	NE	5-7	76%
15	Cave City Intermediate (Cave City)*	71%	NE	5-6	75%
15	Trumann Intermediate Gr. 7-8 (Trumann)*	69%	NE	7-8	75%
15	Cave City Middle (Cave City)* Buffalo Is. Central Junior High (Buffalo Island Central)	67%	NE	7-8	75%
15	Cabe Middle (Gurdon)	70%	NE	7-8	75%
15	Cabe Middle (Gurdon)	69%	SW	5-8	75%
15	George Junior High (Springdale)	73%	NW	8-9	75%

\* Schools honored in both Math and Literacy this year.

It is important to note that the top high-poverty school on this list, **Kraus Middle** (Clarksville), was also highlighted in the Top 20 overall middle school literacy category, presented in Section I above.

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 high achieving grades in high-poverty schools across the state.

Table 12: Top 5 Schools by Grade in “High-Poverty” Schools in Arkansas Based on Benchmark Literacy Achievement

	School (District)	% FRL	Region	% Proficient/ Advanced
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Grade</b>				
1	Evening Shade Math & Science Academy (Cave City)	89%	NE	100%
1	Eagle Heights Elementary (Harrison)	69%	NW	100%
3	Viola Elementary School (Viola)	66%	NE	97%
4	Sallie Cone Elementary (Conway)	81%	CN	93%
4	Nemo Vista Elementary (Nemo Vista)	66%	NW	93%
<b>4<sup>th</sup> Grade</b>				
1	St. Paul Elementary (Huntsville)	89%	NW	100%
2	Hector Elementary (Hector)	77%	NW	96%
2	Portland Elementary (Hamburg)	76%	SE	96%
2	Woodland Heights Elementary (Harrison)	76%	NW	96%
2	Eastside Elementary (Rogers)	74%	NW	96%
<b>5<sup>th</sup> Grade</b>				
1	Acorn Elementary (Ouachita River)	78%	SW	100%
1	Union Elementary (El Dorado)	67%	SW	100%
3	Hazen Elementary (Hazen)	74%	SE	93%
3	Cutter-Morning Star Elementary (Cutter Morning Star)	67%	CN	93%
5	Riverside East Elementary (Riverside)	73%	NE	92%
<b>6<sup>th</sup> Grade</b>				
1	Umpire Elementary (Cossatot River)	86%	SW	100%
1	St. Joe Elementary (Ozark Mountain)	85%	NW	100%
3	Arrie Goforth Elementary (Norfork)	85%	NW	94%
4	Cavanaugh Elementary (Fort Smith)	71%	NW	92%
5	Viola Elementary (Viola)	66%	NE	90%
5	Weiner Elementary (Harrisburg)	66%	NE	90%
<b>7<sup>th</sup> Grade</b>				
1	Gentry Middle (Gentry)	66%	NW	85%
2	Dardanelle Middle (Dardanelle)	66%	NW	83%
3	Eureka Springs Middle (Eureka Springs)	69%	NW	79%
4	Clarksville Junior High (Clarksville)	68%	NW	78%
5	Oakdale Middle (Rogers)	67%	NW	77%
<b>8<sup>th</sup> Grade</b>				
1	Buffalo Is. Central Junior High (Buffalo Island Central)	70%	NE	90%
2	Clarksville Junior High (Clarksville)	68%	NW	88%
3	Trumann Intermediate Gr. 7-8 (Trumann)	69%	NE	86%
4	Riverview Jr. High (Riverview)	74%	NE	83%
4	Oakdale Middle (Rogers)	67%	NW	83%

Among the high-poverty schools in the state, many schools obtained the accomplishment of being on two lists, either Top 20 math and literacy for "high-poverty" schools or of being both Top 20 on the "high-poverty" and the overall lists in one subject. **Morrilton Intermediate** (South Conway) was on three lists in the Top 20 in math for high-poverty schools and the Top 20 math and combined overall. Three elementary schools--**Viola Elementary** (Viola), **Evening Shade Math & Science Academy** (Cave City), **Morrilton Elementary** (South Conway County), and one middle school, **Kraus Middle** (Clarksville)--earned the highest achievement of being in the Top 20 on all five lists (Literacy "High Poverty", Math "High Poverty", Literacy Overall, Math Overall, and Overall Combined) in their level.