

ARKANSAS EDUCATION REPORT
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**OUTSTANDING EDUCATIONAL PERFORMANCE AWARDS:
HIGHLIGHTING HIGH ACHIEVING ARKANSAS SCHOOLS, 2012**

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

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction.....	3
II. 2012 OEP Awards: Beating the Odds - High Achieving Schools Serving Low-Income Communities.....	115
D. Benchmark Scores in Mathematics, 2012	116
E. Benchmark Scores in Literacy, 2012	20
F. Beating the Extreme Odds	24
Appendix.....	A1

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!*

In this Arkansas Education Report (AER), we aim to highlight excellent performance and offer our congratulations. To that end, we are happy to highlight many excellent schools around the state in our now-annual AER, entitled the **O**utstanding **E**ducational **P**erformance Awards or the OEP 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 **second release** will begin by featuring high poverty high performing elementary and middle schools on Benchmark performance in literacy and math.

This year, we are using a new academic performance indicator, the **“GPA” rating system**, to rank the highest performing schools. In the past, the rankings were created based on the percentage of students scoring at the proficient or advanced level on each assessment. Generally, when discussing academic achievement on the Benchmark exams, policymakers focus on this figure. However, this indicator suffers from being an “all-or-nothing” measure, in which a student is either proficient or not.

For example, this mark “throws away” real information provided by student scores that are placed into the four different performance categories: below basic, basic, proficient, and advanced. The percent proficient and advanced measure, for example, does not differentiate between a school in which 100% of students score proficient and a school in which 100% of students score advanced. Both of these schools would show 100% of students performing at proficient and advanced levels; however, in the latter school, students actually performed at a significantly higher level. Thus, a slightly more informative indicator gives the most credit to students who score at the advanced level and the least credit to students who score at the below basic level. For these purposes then, we have created the “GPA” rating system. In this GPA measure, parallel to the familiar grade point average for individual students, we treat the benchmark test scores in a similar way, whereby a 4.0 is a perfect score!

Category	GPA Points Awarded
Advanced	4.0
Proficient	3.0
Basic	2.0
Below Basic	1.0

The GPA measure, we believe, is a better representation of student achievement on statewide standardized exams. In this report, we are presenting a list of the top 25 schools in each area. In some cases, these “top 25 lists” will contain more than 25 schools as some schools’ GPA scores

will be identical. This is not a new phenomenon, as we also exceeded 25 schools in previous reports when using the percent proficient and advanced metric as an indicator for student achievement; however, there are fewer ties using the more precise GPA measure.

After we present our overall snapshot of high performing schools, we will release subsequent reports every few weeks focusing on different subsets of schools. For example, 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. Our release schedule is:

- **High Achieving “Overall” Schools in Arkansas**
- **Beating the Odds – High Achieving Schools Serving Low Income Communities**
- **High Achieving Elementary Schools by Region**
- **High Achieving Middle Schools by Region**
- **High Achieving High Schools Across Arkansas**
- **Most Improved Schools**

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

II. 2012 OEP AWARDS: BEATING THE ODDS – HIGH ACHIEVING SCHOOLS SERVING LOW-INCOME COMMUNITIES

This section highlights high performing “high-poverty” elementary and middle schools based on the Arkansas Benchmark exam. The Benchmark exams in math and literacy were administered to students in grades 3-8 in April 2012. Each table in this section presents the top 25 schools for the noted subject and school level. These tables include the region in which the school is located, the grades served at the school, the percent of students eligible for FRL, the percent of students scoring at the proficient and advanced levels, and the GPA of the school in that particular subject. In this report, schools are considered as a whole and on a grade-by-grade basis. For each grade-level, the top five schools are reported.

For the purpose of this report, a school is classified as “high-poverty” if at least two-thirds (66%) of the students in the school were eligible for the Free or Reduced Lunch (FRL) program in the 2011-12 school year. The FRL figures listed for each school are Provision 2 FRL statistics, not the rounded statistics sometimes reported.¹

In 2011-2012, approximately 59% of the state’s elementary schools (300 of 509) and approximately 43% of middle schools (157 of 367) served student populations facing this level of economic disadvantage (66% or more students FRL-eligible). While roughly 62% of the state’s elementary and middle school students were eligible for FRL, the “high-poverty” schools served more disadvantaged populations, with an average of 79% of the students in these schools eligible for FRL.

For the purposes of this report, elementary schools are defined as schools which primarily serve grades 3-5, and middle schools are defined as schools which primarily serve grades 6-8. In the cases where these grades overlap, we used enrollment data to determine whether a school served more elementary or middle school students. For a detailed description of the classification of schools, see Appendix B at the end of this document.

¹ The Provision 2 % FRL represents the actual percent of students qualifying for Free or Reduced lunches in districts with Provision 2 designation. While different information is reported by the Department of Education as the standard FRL measurement, this measurement is more accurate because it tracks the actual number of students who qualify for free and reduced lunches. The alternate measurement can be found at the Arkansas Department of Education website

D. Benchmark Scores in Mathematics, 2012

Table 7: Top 25 “High-Poverty” Elementary Schools in Arkansas Based on Benchmark Math Achievement

	School (District)	Region ¹	Grades Served	% FRL	% Proficient/Advanced ²	GPA ³
1	Eudora Elem. School (Lakeside – Chicot County)	SE	P-3	93%	91%	3.77
2	Evening Shade Math & Science Academy (Cave City)	NE	K-4	89%	94%	3.73
3	Centerpoint Primary School (Centerpoint)	SW	P-3	75%	99%	3.72
4	Woodland Heights Elem. School (Harrison)	NW	K-4	74%	94%	3.71
5	Morrilton Elem. School (South Conway)	NW	2-3	68%	92%	3.68
6	Cowsert Elem. School (Clinton)	NW	K-3	73%	90%	3.67
7	Leslie Elem. School (Searcy County)	NW	K-6	81%	94%	3.65
8	De Queen Elem. School (DeQueen)	SW	3-5	79%	92%	3.62
9	Des Arc Elem. School (Des Arc)	SE	P-6	76%	92%	3.58
10	Eastside Elem. School (Rogers)	NW	K-5	72%	95%	3.57
10	Ida Burns Elem. School (Conway)	CN	K-4	66%	94%	3.57
12	Eagle Heights Elem. School (Harrison)	NW	K-4	71%	89%	3.56
13	Cherokee Elem. School (Highland)	NE	K-4	71%	92%	3.55
13	Green Forest Elem. School (Green Forest)	NW	K-3	88%	90%	3.55
15	Tuckerman Elem. School (Jackson County)	NE	K-4	67%	93%	3.54
16	Atkins Elem. School (Atkins)	NW	K-4	68%	89%	3.52
16	Grace Hill Elem. School (Rogers)	NW	K-5	84%	91%	3.52
16	Holly Harshman Elem. School (Mena)	SW	3-5	71%	92%	3.52
16	Sidney Deener Elem School (Searcy)	NE	K-3	66%	88%	3.52
20	Riverside West Elem School (Riverside)	NE	K-6	67%	90%	3.51
21	Arrie Goforth Elem. (Norfolk)	NW	K-6	85%	91%	3.50
21	Gardner Magnet School (Hot Springs)	CN	K-4	84%	89%	3.50
23	Marshall Elem. School (Searcy County)	NW	K-6	74%	92%	3.49
23	Wickes Elem. School (Cossatot River)	SW	P-6	73%	90%	3.49
25	Amanda Gist Elem. School (Cotter)	NW	K-6	74%	89%	3.48

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. The percent proficient/advanced value shown is rounded. Ranks are based on actual values.

³ The GPA rating is a score derived from an average where, an advanced score is counted as a 4.0 like an "A", proficient score as a 3.0, like a "B", basic score as a 2.0, like a "C", and below basic as a 1.0, like a grade of "D".

Table 8: Top 25 “High-Poverty” Middle Schools in Arkansas Based on Benchmark Math Achievement

	School (District)	Region	Grades Served	% FRL	% Proficient/Advanced	GPA
1	Marshall High School (Searcy)	NW	7-12	68%	89%	3.35
2	Morrilton Intermediate School (South Conway)	NW	4-6	70%	86%	3.34
3	Clinton Intermediate School (Clinton)	NW	4-6	69%	85%	3.31
4	Kraus Middle School (Clarksville)	NW	5-6	71%	84%	3.30
4	Nashville Elementary School (Nashville)	SW	4-6	67%	84%	3.30
6	Green Forest Intermediate School (Green Forest)	NW	4-8	80%	83%	3.28
7	Highland Middle School (Highland)	NE	5-7	70%	87%	3.27
7	Nettleton Middle School (Nettleton)	NE	6	67%	80%	3.27
9	De Queen Middle School (DeQueen)	SW	6-7	78%	84%	3.22
10	Gentry Middle School (Gentry)	NW	6-8	66%	82%	3.21
11	Danville Middle School (Danville)	NW	6-8	72%	79%	3.19
12	Clarksville Junior High School (Clarksville)	NW	7-9	67%	82%	3.18
13	Jessieville Middle School (Jessieville)	CN	6-8	70%	83%	3.17
14	Helen Tyson Middle School (Springdale)	NW	6-7	72%	79%	3.16
15	Eureka Springs Middle School (Eureka Springs)	NW	5-8	66%	78%	3.15
15	Newport Junior High School (Newport)	NE	7-8	73%	83%	3.15
17	Bald Knob Middle School (Bald Knob)	NE	5-8	66%	78%	3.11
18	Wilson Intermediate School (Malvern)	CN	5-6	75%	76%	3.10
19	Des Arc High School (Des Arc)	SE	7-12	66%	76%	3.09
19	Malvern Junior High School (Malvern)	CN	7-8	71%	81%	3.09
19	Timbo High School (Mountain View)	NE	7-12	77%	82%	3.09
22	Centerpoint High School (Centerpoint)	SW	6-12	67%	76%	3.08
23	Hoxie High School (Hoxie)	NE	7-12	70%	81%	3.07
23	Oark High School (Jasper)	NW	7-12	77%	78%	3.07
25	Marked Tree Middle School (Marked Tree)	NE	6-8	81%	73%	3.06
25	Oak Grove Middle School (Paragould)	NE	5-6	68%	73%	3.06

Elementary and Middle School Math Scores

There is great reason to applaud the top 25 “high-poverty” elementary schools on math performance. The statewide math elementary GPA average is 3.27², and the average of the top 25 “high-poverty” schools is well above that at 3.56.

Along with these top 25 schools, many other schools are beating the odds. On the math benchmark, 189 out of the 300 “high-poverty” elementary schools have at least 75% of students score proficient or advanced. There are 110 “high-poverty” elementary schools that have a math GPA at or above the statewide elementary math GPA average of 3.27. Four elementary schools are not only among the highest achieving schools serving disadvantaged student populations, but are also among the highest performing schools in the state. **Eudora Elementary** (Lakeside – Chicot County), **Evening Shade Math & Science Academy** (Cave City), **Centerpoint Primary School** (Centerpoint), and **Woodland Heights Elementary** (Harrison) are also in the Top 25 overall elementary math category.

There is also great reason to praise the top 25 “high-poverty” middle schools in the state. The statewide math middle school GPA average is 3.01, and the average of the top 25 “high-poverty” schools is above that at 3.20.

On the math benchmark, 38 out of 157 “high-poverty” middle schools have at least 75% of students score proficient or advanced. There are 36 “high-poverty” middle schools with a math GPA at or above the statewide middle school math GPA average of 3.01. This year there are no Top 25 “high-poverty” middle schools that are also on the “Overall Math Top 25 Schools” list.

Two regions stood out on the “high-poverty” top 25 lists. In the elementary ratings, 12 schools are from the Northwest region, and five schools are from the Northeast region. In the middle school ratings, 11 schools are from the Northwest region, and eight schools are from the Northeast region. The Northwest region is not generally associated with “high-poverty;” however, there are a number of districts in this category. Many of these schools in Northwest Arkansas have student populations with 66%-75% of students eligible for FRL (though there are some exceptions), while schools in other regions (particularly the Southeast region) have student populations with 80% or more students eligible for FRL.

The elementary and middle schools on the math Top 25 “high-poverty” lists have a lower percentage of minority students compared to the state and compared to the rest of the “high-poverty” schools. The top 25 “high-poverty” elementary schools have an average of 28% minority students, which is lower than both the statewide average (36%) and the complete list of “high-poverty” elementary schools (49%). Additionally, the top 25 “high-poverty” middle schools have an average of 30% minority students, as compared to both the statewide average (33%) and the complete list of “high-poverty elementary schools (52%).

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 performers by grade in the “high-poverty” schools across the state.

² All averages are weighted by the number of students tested.

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

School (District)	% FRL	Region	% Proficient/Advanced	GPA
3rd Grade				
1 Bearden Elem. School (Bearden)	81%	SW	98%	3.98
2 Evening Shade Math & Science Academy (Cave City)	89%	NE	100%	3.90
3 Ode Maddox Elem. School (Ouachita River)	76%	SW	100%	3.86
4 Hoxie Elem. School (Hoxie)	79%	NE	98%	3.84
5 De Queen Elem. School (De Queen)	79%	NE	96%	3.83
5 Glenview Elem. School (North Little Rock)	96%	CN	100%	3.83
4th Grade				
1 Weaver Elem. School (West Memphis)	92%	NE	99%	3.74
2 Riverside West Elem. School (Riverside)	67%	NE	97%	3.73
3 Bradley Elem. School (Bradley)	81%	SW	100%	3.68
4 Wickes Elem. School (Cossatot River)	73%	SW	96%	3.65
5 Eastside Elem. School (Rogers)	72%	NW	97%	3.63
5 Omaha Elem. School (Omaha)	78%	NW	86%	3.63
5th Grade				
1 Des Arc Elem. School (Des Arc)	76%	SE	98%	3.82
2 Kingston Elem. School (Jasper)	77%	NW	90%	3.66
3 Amanda Gist Elem. School (Cotter)	74%	NW	94%	3.59
4 De Queen Elem. School (De Queen)	79%	SW	90%	3.52
5 Arrie Goforth Elem. (Norfork)	85%	NW	90%	3.48
6th Grade				
1 Leslie Elem. School (Searcy County)	81%	NW	81%	3.75
2 West Magnet School (Batesville)	74%	NE	74%	3.59
3 Bradley Elem. School (Bradley)	81%	SW	81%	3.56
4 Junction City Elem. School (Junction City)	72%	SW	72%	3.55
5 Cutter-Morning Star Elem. School (Cutter Morning Star)	70%	CN	70%	3.53
7th Grade				
1 Marked Tree Middle School	81%	NE	91%	3.54
2 Newport Junior High School	73%	NE	91%	3.48
3 Green Forest Intermediate School	80%	NW	91%	3.47
4 Marshall High School	68%	NW	90%	3.44
5 Caddo Hills High School (Caddo Hills)	81%	SW	85%	3.34
5 Centerpoint High School (Centerpoint)	67%	SW	85%	3.34
8th Grade				
1 Marshall High School (Searcy County)	68%	NW	88%	3.21
2 Gentry Middle School (Gentry)	66%	NW	84%	3.18
3 Oark High School (Jasper)	77%	NW	81%	3.15
4 Clarksville Junior High School (Clarksville)	67%	NW	80%	3.12
5 Timbo High School (Mountain View)	77%	NE	83%	3.08

E. Benchmark Scores in Literacy, 2012

Table 10: Top 25 “High-Poverty” Elementary Schools in Arkansas Based on Benchmark Literacy Achievement

	School (District)	Region	Grades Served	% FRL	% Proficient/Advanced	GPA
1	Woodland Heights Elem. School (Harrison)	NW	K-4	74%	98%	3.77
2	Arrie Goforth Elem. (Norfork)	NW	K-6	85%	96%	3.70
3	Eagle Heights Elem. School (Harrison)	NW	K-4	71%	93%	3.68
4	Riverside West Elem. School (Riverside)	NE	K-6	67%	91%	3.61
5	Cowsert Elem. School (Clinton)	NW	K-3	73%	89%	3.59
6	Eastside Elem. School (Rogers)	NW	K-5	72%	92%	3.58
6	Lamar Elem. School (Lamar)	NW	K-4	66%	93%	3.58
8	De Queen Elem. School (DeQueen)	SW	3-5	79%	93%	3.57
8	Grace Hill Elem. School (Rogers)	NW	K-5	84%	92%	3.57
10	Bonnie Grimes Elem. School (Rogers)	NW	K-5	81%	92%	3.55
10	Holly Harshman Elem. School (Mena)	SW	3-5	71%	92%	3.55
10	Mammoth Spring Elem. School (Mammoth)	NE	K-6	72%	92%	3.55
13	Cavanaugh Elem. School (Fort Smith)	NW	K-6	74%	94%	3.54
13	John Tyson Elem. School (Springdale)	NW	K-5	67%	91%	3.54
13	Leslie Elem. School (Searcy County)	NW	K-6	81%	91%	3.54
16	Hector Elem. School (Hector)	NW	K-6	79%	95%	3.53
17	Gurdon Primary School (Gurdon)	SW	K-4	78%	88%	3.52
18	Green Forest Elem. School (Green Forest)	NW	K-3	88%	90%	3.51
19	Nashville Primary School (Nashville)	SW	K-3	74%	88%	3.50
19	Union Elem. School (El Dorado)	SW	K-4	71%	89%	3.50
21	Nemo Vista Elem. School (Nemo Vista)	NW	K-5	67%	89%	3.49
21	Sallie Cone Elem. School (Conway)	CN	K-4	83%	88%	3.49
23	SMC Elem. at Luxora (South Mississippi)	NE	P-4	99%	95%	3.49
24	Eureka Springs Elem. School (Eureka Springs)	NW	K-4	69%	90%	3.48
24	Jones Elem. School (Rogers)	NW	K-5	84%	92%	3.48

Table 11: Top 25 “High-Poverty” Middle Schools in Arkansas Based on Benchmark Literacy Achievement

	School (District)	Region	Grades Served	% FRL	% Proficient/Advanced	GPA
1	Hector High School (Hector)	NW	7-12	71%	95%	3.45
2	Umpire High School (Cossatot River)	SW	7-12	72%	89%	3.43
3	Marshall High School (Searcy County)	NW	7-12	68%	91%	3.42
4	Gentry Middle School (Gentry)	NW	6-8	66%	87%	3.41
4	Kraus Middle School (Clarksville)	NW	5-6	71%	91%	3.41
6	Cave City Middle School (Cave City)	NE	7-8	71%	91%	3.40
7	Clinton Intermediate School (Clinton)	NW	4-6	69%	87%	3.39
7	Morrilton Intermediate School (South Conway)	NW	4-6	70%	89%	3.39
9	Timbo High School (Mountain View)	NE	7-12	77%	89%	3.36
10	Lamar Middle School (Lamar)	NW	5-8	68%	85%	3.33
10	Nashville Elementary School (Nashville)	SW	4-6	67%	84%	3.33
10	Nettleton Middle School (Nettleton)	NE	6	67%	85%	3.33
10	Norfolk High School (Norfolk)	NW	7-12	78%	88%	3.33
14	Jessieville Middle School (Jessieville)	CN	6-8	70%	85%	3.31
15	Foreman High School (Foreman)	SW	7-12	67%	83%	3.30
15	Green Forest Intermediate School (Green Forest)	NW	4-8	80%	88%	3.30
17	Bruno-Pyatt High School (Ozark Mountain)	NW	7-12	83%	86%	3.29
17	Clarksville Junior High School (Clarksville)	NW	7-9	67%	86%	3.29
17	Nemo Vista Middle School (Nemo Vista)	NW	6-8	66%	86%	3.29
20	Cave City Intermediate School (Cave City)	NE	5-6	73%	83%	3.28
20	Western Grove High School (Ozark Mountain)	NW	7-12	72%	84%	3.28
22	Oden High School (Ouachita River)	SW	7-12	67%	88%	3.27
23	Eureka Springs Middle School (Eureka Springs)	NW	5-8	66%	87%	3.26
23	Oark High School (Jasper)	NW	7-12	77%	83%	3.26
25	McRae Middle School (Prescott)	SW	5-6	77%	84%	3.25
25	Westside High School (Westside)	NW	7-12	67%	89%	3.25

Elementary and Middle School Literacy Scores

There is great reason to applaud the top 25 “high-poverty” elementary schools on literacy performance. The statewide literacy elementary GPA average is 3.30³, and the literacy GPA average of the top 25 “high-poverty” schools is well above that at 3.56.

Along with these top 25 schools, many other schools are beating the odds. On the literacy benchmark, 218 out of the 300 “high-poverty” elementary schools have 75% of students score proficient or advanced. There are 101 “high-poverty” elementary schools that have a literacy GPA at or above the statewide elementary literacy GPA average of 3.30. Three elementary schools are not only among the highest achieving schools serving disadvantaged student populations, but are also among the highest performing schools in the state. **Woodland Heights Elementary** (Harrison), **Arrie Goforth Elementary** (Norfolk), and **Eagle Heights Elementary** (Harrison) are also in the **Top 25 overall** elementary literacy category.

There is also great reason to praise the top 25 “high-poverty” middle schools in the state. The statewide literacy middle school GPA average is 3.17, and the literacy GPA average of the top 25 “high-poverty” schools is above that at 3.34.

On the literacy benchmark, 73 out of 157 “high-poverty” middle schools have 75% of students score proficient or advanced. There are 40 “high-poverty” middle schools with a literacy GPA at or above the statewide middle school literacy GPA average of 3.17. **Hector High School** (Hector) is also on the **Top 25 overall** middle school literacy category.

One region stood out among the “high-poverty” top 25 lists. In the elementary ratings, 16 elementary schools and 16 middle schools are from the Northwest region. On the math “high-poverty” top 25 lists, the Northeast region has a number of schools; however, on the literacy “high-poverty” lists the Northeast does not have as many schools (3 elementary and 4 middle schools). The Southeast region does have slightly more schools on the literacy top 25 lists (compared to the math top 25 lists) with 5 elementary and 5 middle schools.

The elementary and middle schools on the literacy top 25 “high-poverty” lists have a lower percentage of minority students compared to the rest of the “high-poverty” schools. The literacy top 25 “high-poverty” elementary schools have an average of 40% minority students, which is slightly higher than the statewide average (36%), but still lower than that of all “high-poverty” elementary schools (49%). The top 25 “high-poverty” middle schools have an average of 21% minority students, as compared to the statewide average (33%) and the complete list of “high-poverty” elementary schools (52%).

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 performers by grade in the “high-poverty” schools across the state.

³ All averages are weighted by the number of students tested.

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

School (District)	% FRL	Region	% Proficient/Advanced	GPA
3rd Grade				
1 Hoxie Elem. School (Hoxie)	79%	NE	98%	3.82
2 Mammoth Spring Elem. School (Mammoth Spring)	72%	NE	96%	3.76
3 Cavanaugh Elem. School (Fort Smith)	74%	NW	97%	3.73
3 Bruno-Pyatt Elem. School (Ozark)	85%	NW	100%	3.73
5 Woodland Heights Elem. School (Harrison)	74%	NW	95%	3.72
4th Grade				
1 Eastside Elem. School (Rogers)	72%	NW	99%	3.83
1 Kirby Elem. School (Kirby)	71%	SW	100%	3.83
3 Woodland Heights Elem. School (Harrison)	74%	NW	100%	3.82
4 Eagle Heights Elem. School (Harrison)	71%	NW	100%	3.78
5 Paron Elem. School (Bryant)	78%	CN	93%	3.66
5th Grade				
1 Arrie Goforth Elem. (Norfolk)	85%	NW	100%	3.90
2 Glenview Elem. School (North Little Rock)	96%	CN	100%	3.63
3 Marshall Elem. School (Searcy County)	74%	NW	95%	3.62
3 Riverside West Elem. School (Riverside)	67%	NE	92%	3.62
5 John Tyson Elem. School (Springdale)	67%	NW	97%	3.61
5 Magazine Elem. School (Magazine)	79%	NW	95%	3.61
5 Cavanaugh Elem. School (Fort Smith)	74%	NW	96%	3.61
6th Grade				
1 Leslie Elem. School (Searcy County)	81%	NW	100%	3.67
2 Arrie Goforth Elem. (Norfolk)	85%	NW	95%	3.64
3 Riverside West Elem. School (Riverside)	67%	NE	94%	3.58
4 Deer Elem. School (Deer/Mt. Judea)	75%	NW	89%	3.50
5 Black Rock Elem. School (Lawrence)	83%	NE	91%	3.46
7th Grade				
1 Umpire High School (Cossatot River)	72%	SW	100%	3.73
2 Marshall High School (Searcy County)	68%	NW	93%	3.49
2 Cave City Middle School (Cave City)	71%	NE	91%	3.49
4 Hector High School (Hector)	71%	NW	94%	3.46
5 Gentry Middle School (Gentry)	66%	NW	89%	3.43
5 Bruno-Pyatt High School (Ozark Mountain)	83%	NW	94%	3.43
8th Grade				
1 Timbo High School (Mountain View)	77%	NE	100%	3.67
2 Gentry Middle School (Gentry)	66%	NW	90%	3.44
3 Hector High School (Hector)	71%	NW	96%	3.43
4 Lamar Middle School (Lamar)	68%	NW	90%	3.40
5 Westside High School (Westside)	67%	NW	89%	3.37

F. Beating the Extreme Odds

For this section of the report, we are highlighting schools that have an even higher population of low-income students. Unlike the lists above, which feature only those schools with two-thirds (66%) of their students eligible for a free or reduced-price lunch (FRL), the schools on the following lists are schools with 90% or more FRL-eligible students.

Below are the schools with a 90% or above FRL rate, in which students scored above the statewide proficiency average in the selected subject area assessments. There are no middle schools in this category this year.

Table 13: “Highest-poverty” *Elementary Schools* above the state GPA *math* average (3.27)

School (District)	% FRL	Region	% Proficient/ Advanced	GPA
Eudora Elem. School (Lakeside – Chicot County)	93%	5	91%	3.77
KIPP Delta Elem. Literacy ACA (KIPP Delta)	93%	5	90%	3.44
Weaver Elem. School (West Memphis)	92%	2	86%	3.39
SMC Elem. at Luxora (South Mississippi County)	99%	2	90%	3.36
Glenview Elem. School (North Little Rock)	96%	3	87%	3.35
Wonder Elem. School (West Memphis)	97%	2	84%	3.28

Table 14: “Highest-poverty” *Elementary Schools* above the state GPA *literacy* average (3.30)

School (District)	% FRL	Region	% Proficient/ Advanced	GPA
SMC Elem. at Luxora (South Mississippi County)	99%	2	95%	3.49
Glenview Elem. School (North Little Rock)	96%	3	88%	3.42
Eudora Elem. School (Lakeside – Chicot County)	93%	5	87%	3.39
Wonder Elem. School (West Memphis)	97%	2	86%	3.34

This concludes the “**Beating the Odds**” Outstanding Educational Performance Awards. We would like to congratulate **ALL** of the schools on our High Achieving “High-Poverty” Schools in Arkansas Based on Performance on the Benchmark Exams lists. Our next installment, **High Achieving Elementary Schools**, takes a deeper look at elementary schools and highlights schools by grade levels and by regions.

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://www.arkansased.org/divisions/learning-services/student-assessment>). 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 provides 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 levels.

As previously discussed in the introduction, in order to calculate the GPA measure we treat the benchmark test scores similar to the existing grade point system.

Category	GPA Points Awarded
Advanced	4.0
Proficient	3.0
Basic	2.0
Below Basic	1.0

We calculated the GPA measure for every schools math, literacy, and combined math and literacy scores. The GPA measure is comprehensive in that it takes into account all of the test score levels (advanced, proficient, basic, and below basic), instead of lumping together advanced and proficient scores.

B. School Classification

For the OEP Awards, we classified schools based on the following rules:

- Elementary School: primarily grades 3-5 (minimum grade P, K, 1, 2, 3, or 4)
- Middle School: primarily grades 6-8 (minimum grade of 4, 5, or 6 and maximum grade of 7, 8, or 9)

There were also a few “comprehensive schools,” such as K-8 or K-12 schools, that we included as either middle schools or elementary schools based on their enrollment numbers. The following table lists every grade configuration and their classifications.

Table 15: School Classifications

Elementary Schools		Middle Schools
1-5		6
1-6		4-6
1-8		4-8
2-3		5-6
2-4		5-7
2-5		5-8
2-6		6-12
3-4		6-7
3-5		6-8
3-6		7-12
4-5		7-8
5*		7-9
K-3		8
K-4		8-9
K-5		K-12*
K-6		8-12*
K-7		
K-8		
P-2		
P-3		
P-4		
P-5		
P-6		
P-7		
P-8		

*Only one school categorized by this configuration