

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

**HIGH ACHIEVING
MIDDLE SCHOOLS**

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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!*

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**!

IV. 2012 OEP AWARDS: HIGH ACHIEVING MIDDLE SCHOOLS

This section provides a deeper look at the high achieving middle schools and grades¹ within 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 presents the high achieving schools for the noted grade and subject. These tables include the region in which the school is located, the number of test takers, the percent of students scoring at the proficient and advanced levels, and the GPA of the school in that particular subject. Because we already listed our overall top performing middle schools in Section I of the OEP Awards, we move directly into listing the top performing middle schools by grade. We then highlight the top performing middle schools and grades within schools in each region².

¹ In this section, we highlight the top performing grade levels for grades six through eight. We did not distinguish between elementary or middle school, but simply highlight the top grade levels overall. Therefore, an elementary or high school may be listed if it includes one of these grades. The next section will cover grades six through eight.

² Schools are divided into five regions in Arkansas: Northwest (NW), Northeast (NE), Central (CN), Southwest (SW), and Southeast (SE).

O. Middle School Math by Grade, 2012

Table 42: Top 10 Arkansas Schools: Grade Six **Math** Achievement

	School (District)	Region	# of Test Takers	% Proficient/Advanced	GPA
1	Mount Pleasant Elem. School (Melbourne)	NE	20	100%	3.95
2	Academy of Service and Technology (Vilonia)	CN	55	94%	3.77
2	Pea Ridge Middle School (Pea Ridge)	NW	120	96%	3.77
4	Leslie Elem. School (Searcy County)	NW	12	100%	3.75
5	Sulphur Rock Elem. School (Batesville)	NE	44	93%	3.73
6	Ruth Barker Middle School (Bentonville)	NW	383	94%	3.69
7	County Line Elem. School (County Line)	NW	33	91%	3.67
8	Ruth Doyle Intermediate School (Conway)	CN	379	93%	3.66
9	Buffalo Is. Central West Elem. (Buffalo Island Central)	NE	28	93%	3.65
10	Salem Elem. School (Salem)	NE	58	93%	3.63

Table 43: Top 10 Arkansas Schools: Grade Seven **Math** Achievement

	School (District)	Region	# of Test Takers	% Proficient/Advanced	GPA
1	Emerson High School (Emerson-Taylor)	SW	19	100%	3.84
2	Washington Junior High School (Bentonville)	NW	513	97%	3.74
3	Valley Springs Middle School (Valley Springs)	NW	66	99%	3.65
4	Bergman Middle School (Bergman)	NW	108	94%	3.61
4	East Hills Middle School (Greenwood)	NW	261	94%	3.61
6	Parkers Chapel High School (Parkers Chapel)	SW	58	93%	3.60
7	Pea Ridge Middle School (Pea Ridge)	NW	149	94%	3.58
8	McNair Middle School (Fayetteville)	NW	348	95%	3.57
8	Swifton Middle School (Jackson County)	NE	48	94%	3.57
10	Lincoln Junior High School (Bentonville)	NW	581	92%	3.56

Table 44: Top 10 Arkansas Schools: Grade Eight **Math** Achievement

	School (District)	Region	# of Test Takers	% Proficient/Advanced	GPA
1	Haas Hall Academy (Haas Hall)	NW	55	100%	3.78
2	Atkins Middle School (Atkins)	NW	90	90%	3.46
3	Washington Junior High School (Bentonville)	NW	542	90%	3.43
4	Lincoln Junior High School (Bentonville)	NW	497	90%	3.37
4	Tuckerman High School (Jackson County)	NE	62	92%	3.37
6	Pea Ridge Middle School (Pea Ridge)	NW	111	89%	3.30
7	Carl Stuart Middle School (Conway)	CN	380	87%	3.29
8	Kingston High School (Jasper)	NW	12	84%	3.28
8	Rural Special High School (Mountain View)	NE	13	84%	3.28
8	Woodland Junior High School (Fayetteville)	NW	337	87%	3.28

P. Middle School Literacy by Grade, 2012

Table 45: Top 10 Arkansas Schools: Grade Six *Literacy* Achievement

	School (District)	Region	# of Test Takers	% Proficient/Advanced	GPA
1	Mount Pleasant Elem. School (Melbourne)	NE	20	95%	3.70
2	Leslie Elem. School (Searcy County)	NW	12	100%	3.67
3	Arrie Goforth Elem. (Norfolk)	NW	41	95%	3.64
4	Wonderview Elem. School (Wonderview)	NW	34	94%	3.62
5	McNair Middle School (Fayetteville)	NW	356	93%	3.59
6	Richland Elem. School (West Memphis)	NE	75	96%	3.58
6	Riverside West Elem. School (Riverside)	NE	44	94%	3.58
8	Salem Elem. School (Salem)	NE	58	92%	3.56
9	Pottsville Middle Grades (Pottsville)	NW	125	91%	3.54
10	John P. Woods Elem. School (Fort Smith)	NW	81	92%	3.53
10	Valley View Elem. School (Valley View)	NE	204	94%	3.53

Table 46: Top 10 Arkansas Schools: Grade Seven *Literacy* Achievement

	School (District)	Region	# of Test Takers	% Proficient/Advanced	GPA
1	Umpire High School (Cossatot)	SW	15	100%	3.73
1	Valley Springs Middle School (Valley Springs)	NW	66	97%	3.73
3	Valley View High School (Valley View)	NE	192	97%	3.70
4	McNair Middle School (Fayetteville)	NW	348	94%	3.65
5	Washington Junior High School (Bentonville)	NW	513	95%	3.63
6	Ahlf Junior High School (Searcy)	NE	301	93%	3.56
6	Weiner High School (Harrisburg)	NE	27	89%	3.56
8	Lincoln Junior High School (Bentonville)	NW	581	94%	3.55
9	L. A. Chaffin Junior High School (Fort Smith)	NW	256	90%	3.54
10	Kirksey Middle School (Rogers)	NW	290	92%	3.52

Table 47: Top 10 Arkansas Schools: Grade Eight **Literacy** Achievement

	School (District)	Region	# of Test Takers	% Proficient/ Advanced	GPA
1	Haas Hall Academy (Haas Hall)	NW	55	100%	3.93
2	Rural Special High School (Mountain View)	NE	13	100%	3.77
3	Timbo High School (Mountain View)	NE	12	100%	3.67
4	Lincoln Junior High School (Bentonville)	NW	497	95%	3.60
5	Valley Springs Middle School (Valley Springs)	NW	77	94%	3.59
6	Washington Junior High School (Bentonville)	NW	542	94%	3.57
7	Valley View High School (Valley View)	NE	204	96%	3.54
8	Mountain View Middle School (Mountain View)	NE	102	96%	3.53
9	Lisa Academy (Lisa)	CN	124	95%	3.49
10	Elkins Middle School (Elkins)	NW	102	89%	3.48

Q. Middle School Combined³ Math and Literacy by Grade, 2012

Table 48: Top 10 Arkansas Schools: Grade Six *Combined Math and Literacy Achievement*

	School (District)	Region	# of Test Takers	% Proficient/Advanced	GPA
1	Mount Pleasant Elem. School (Melbourne)	NE	20	98%	3.83
2	Leslie Elem. School (Searcy County)	NW	12	100%	3.71
3	Academy of Service and Technology (Vilonia)	CN	55	91%	3.62
3	Sulphur Rock Elem. School (Batesville)	NE	44	92%	3.62
5	Salem Elem. School (Salem)	NE	58	93%	3.60
6	McNair Middle School (Fayetteville)	NW	356	92%	3.59
6	Richland Elem. School (West Memphis)	NE	75	94%	3.59
8	Ruth Doyle Intermediate School (Conway)	CN	379	92%	3.58
8	Valley View Elem. School (Valley View)	NE	204	93%	3.58
10	Ouachita Elem. School (Ouachita)	CN	39	93%	3.57
10	Ruth Barker Middle School (Bentonville)	NW	383	91%	3.57

Table 49: Top 10 Arkansas Schools: Grade Seven *Combined Math and Literacy Achievement*

	School (District)	Region	# of Test Takers	% Proficient/Advanced	GPA
1	Valley Springs Middle School (Valley Springs)	NW	66	98%	3.69
1	Washington Junior High School (Bentonville)	NW	513	96%	3.69
3	Emerson High School (Emerson-Taylor)	SW	19	98%	3.66
4	McNair Middle School (Fayetteville)	NW	348	95%	3.61
5	East Hills Middle School (Greenwood)	NW	261	93%	3.56
5	Lincoln Junior High School (Bentonville)	NW	581	93%	3.56
7	Ahlf Junior High School (Searcy)	NE	301	92%	3.55
8	Bergman Middle School (Bergman)	NW	108	93%	3.54
8	Valley View High School (Valley View)	NE	192	93%	3.54
10	Parkers Chapel High School (Parkers Chapel)	SW	58	92%	3.51
10	Carl Stuart Middle School (Conway)	CN	361	91%	3.51

³ Combined score is a simple average of students proficient or advanced on Math and Literacy.

Table 50: Top 10 Arkansas Schools: Grade Eight Combined Math and Literacy Achievement

	School (District)	Region	# of Test Takers	% Proficient/Advanced	GPA
1	Haas Hall Academy (Haas Hall)	NW	55	100%	3.86
2	Rural Special High School (Mountain View)	NE	13	92%	3.53
3	Washington Junior High School (Bentonville)	NW	542	92%	3.50
4	Lincoln Junior High School (Bentonville)	NW	497	93%	3.49
5	Atkins Middle School (Atkins)	NW	90	89%	3.39
6	Timbo High School (Mountain View)	NE	12	92%	3.38
6	Woodland Junior High School (Fayetteville)	NW	337	89%	3.38
8	Carl Stuart Middle School (Conway)	CN	380	90%	3.36
9	Greenwood Junior High School (Greenwood)	NW	269	89%	3.35
9	Lisa Academy (Lisa)	CN	124	89%	3.35
9	Kingston High School (Jasper)	NW	12	88%	3.35
9	Pea Ridge Middle School (Pea Ridge)	NW	111	90%	3.35

The sections below present the high achieving middle schools for the noted grade and subject in each region in 2012.



R. Northwest Region, Middle School Schools, 2012

Table 51: Top 5 Overall Middle School Schools in Northwest Arkansas Based on Benchmark Math Achievement

School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	% Proficient/Advanced	GPA
1 Haas Hall Academy (Haas Hall)	8-12	55	100%	3.78
2 Ruth Barker Middle School (Bentonville)	5-6	768	94%	3.66
3 McNair Middle School (Fayetteville)	6-7	704	92%	3.58
3 Washington Junior High School (Bentonville)	7-8	1,055	93%	3.58
5 Pea Ridge Middle School (Pea Ridge)	6-8	380	93%	3.56

Table 52: Top 3 Schools by Grade Level in Northwest Arkansas Based on Benchmark Math Achievement

School (District)	# of Test Takers	% Proficient/Advanced	GPA
6th Grade			
1 Pea Ridge Middle School (Pea Ridge)	120	96%	3.77
2 Leslie Elem. School (Searcy County)	12	100%	3.75
3 Ruth Barker Middle School (Bentonville)	383	94%	3.69
7th Grade			
1 Washington Junior High School (Bentonville)	513	97%	3.74
2 Valley Springs Middle School (Valley Springs)	66	99%	3.65
3 Bergman Middle School (Bergman)	108	94%	3.61
3 East Hills Middle School (Greenwood)	261	94%	3.61
8th Grade			
1 Haas Hall Academy (Haas)	55	100%	3.78
2 Atkins Middle School (Atkins)	90	90%	3.46
3 Washington Junior High School (Bentonville)	542	90%	3.43

Table 53: Top 5 Overall Middle School Schools in Northwest Arkansas Based on Benchmark Literacy Achievement

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	% Proficient/Advanced	GPA
1	Haas Hall Academy (Haas Hall)	8-12	55	100%	3.93
2	Pottsville Middle Grades (Pottsville)	4-6	392	94%	3.63
3	McNair Middle School (Fayetteville)	6-7	704	93%	3.62
4	Washington Junior High School (Bentonville)	7-8	1,055	94%	3.60
5	Ruth Barker Middle School (Bentonville)	5-6	768	92%	3.58

Table 54: Top 3 Schools by Grade Level in Northwest Arkansas Based on Benchmark Literacy Achievement

	School (District)	# of Test Takers	% Proficient/Advanced	GPA
6th Grade				
1	Leslie Elem. School (Searcy County)	12	100%	3.67
2	Arrie Goforth Elem. (Norfork)	41	95%	3.64
3	Wonderview Elem. School (Wonderview)	34	94%	3.62
7th Grade				
1	Valley Springs Middle School (Valley Springs)	66	97%	3.73
2	McNair Middle School (Fayetteville)	348	94%	3.65
3	Washington Junior High School (Bentonville)	513	95%	3.63
8th Grade				
1	Haas Hall Academy (Haas Hall)	55	100%	3.93
2	Lincoln Junior High School (Bentonville)	497	95%	3.60
3	Valley Springs Middle School (Valley Springs)	77	94%	3.59



S. Northeast Region, Middle School Schools, 2012

Table 55: Top 5 Overall Middle School Schools in *Northeast* Arkansas Based on Benchmark *Math* Achievement

School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	% Proficient/Advanced	GPA
1 Swifton Middle School (Jackson County)	5-7	177	91%	3.49
2 Ahlf Junior High School (Searcy)	7-8	577	87%	3.38
2 Brookland Middle School (Brookland)	4-6	400	86%	3.38
4 Tuckerman High School (Jackson County)	8-12	62	92%	3.37
5 Southwest Middle School (Searcy)	4-6	1,001	84%	3.34

Table 56: Top 3 Schools by Grade Level in *Northeast* Arkansas Based on Benchmark *Math* Achievement

School (District)	# of Test Takers	% Proficient/Advanced	GPA
6th Grade			
1 Mount Pleasant Elem. School (Melbourne)	20	100%	3.95
2 Sulphur Rock Elem. School (Batesville)	44	93%	3.73
3 Buffalo Is. Central West Elem. (Buffalo Island Central)	28	93%	3.65
7th Grade			
1 Swifton Middle School (Jackson County)	48	94%	3.57
2 Ahlf Junior High School (Searcy)	301	91%	3.54
2 Marked Tree Middle School (Marked Tree)	43	91%	3.54
8th Grade			
1 Tuckerman High School (Jackson County)	62	92%	3.37
2 Rural Special High School (Mountain View)	13	84%	3.28
3 Ahlf Junior High School (Searcy)	276	83%	3.21

Table 57: Top 5 Overall Middle School Schools in Northeast Arkansas Based on Benchmark Literacy Achievement

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	% Proficient/ Advanced	GPA
1	Valley View High School (Valley View)	7-12	396	96%	3.62
2	Southwest Middle School (Searcy)	4-6	1,001	90%	3.48
2	Weiner High School (Harrisburg)	7-12	43	89%	3.48
4	Ahlf Junior High School (Searcy)	7-8	577	91%	3.47
4	Brookland Middle School (Brookland)	4-6	400	89%	3.47
4	Mountain View Middle School (Mountain View)	6-8	308	90%	3.47

Table 58: Top 3 Schools by Grade Level in Northeast Arkansas Based on Benchmark Literacy Achievement

	School (District)	# of Test Takers	% Proficient/ Advanced	GPA
6th Grade				
1	Mount Pleasant Elem. School (Melbourne)	20	95%	3.70
2	Richland Elem. School (West Memphis)	75	96%	3.58
3	Riverside West Elem. School (Riverside)	44	94%	3.58
7th Grade				
1	Valley View High School (Valley View)	192	97%	3.70
2	Ahlf Junior High School (Searcy)	301	93%	3.56
3	Weiner High School (Harrisburg)	27	89%	3.56
8th Grade				
1	Rural Special High School (Mountain View)	13	100%	3.77
2	Timbo High School (Mountain View)	12	100%	3.67
3	Valley View High School (Valley View)	204	96%	3.54



T. Central Region, Middle School Schools, 2012

Table 59: Top 5 Overall Middle School Schools in **Central** Arkansas Based on Benchmark **Math** Achievement

School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	% Proficient/Advanced	GPA
1 Ruth Doyle Intermediate School (Conway)	5-6	788	92%	3.59
2 Academy of Service and Technology (Vilonia)	5-6	109	91%	3.58
3 Lakeside Middle School (Lakeside – Garland)	5-7	718	91%	3.48
3 Benton Middle School (Benton)	6-7	739	88%	3.45
5 Greenbrier Middle School (Greenbrier)	6-7	536	88%	3.43

Table 60: Top 3 Schools by Grade Level in **Central** Arkansas Based on Benchmark **Math** Achievement

School (District)	# of Test Takers	% Proficient/Advanced	GPA
6th Grade			
1 Academy of Service and Technology (Vilonia)	55	94%	3.77
2 Ruth Doyle Intermediate School (Conway)	379	93%	3.66
3 Ouachita Elem. School (Ouachita)	39	93%	3.62
7th Grade			
1 Carl Stuart Middle School (Conway)	361	90%	3.54
2 Lakeside Middle School (Lakeside – Garland)	256	93%	3.47
3 Sheridan Middle School (Sheridan)	325	90%	3.43
8th Grade			
1 Carl Stuart Middle School (Conway)	380	87%	3.29
2 Sheridan Middle School (Sheridan)	319	83%	3.23
3 Lisa Academy (Lisa)	124	83%	3.21

Table 61: Top 5 Overall Middle School Schools in Central Arkansas Based on Benchmark Literacy Achievement

School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	% Proficient/Advanced	GPA
1 Ruth Doyle Intermediate School (Conway)	5-6	788	94%	3.61
2 Academy of Service and Technology (Vilonia)	5-6	109	92%	3.58
3 Cabot Middle School South (Cabot)	5-6	746	91%	3.48
4 Benton Junior High School (Benton)	8-9	374	93%	3.46
5 Lisa Academy (Lisa)	6-8	410	90%	3.45

Table 62: Top 3 Schools by Grade Level in Central Arkansas Based on Benchmark Literacy Achievement

School (District)	# of Test Takers	% Proficient/Advanced	GPA
6th Grade			
1 Ouachita Elem. School (Ouachita)	39	92%	3.51
2 Mt. Vernon/Enola Elem. School (Mt. Vernon/Enola)	36	89%	3.50
2 Ruth Doyle Intermediate School (Conway)	379	90%	3.50
7th Grade			
1 Lakeside Middle School (Lakeside – Garland)	256	91%	3.49
2 Greenbrier Middle School (Greenbrier)	260	91%	3.48
3 Lisa Academy (Lisa)	131	89%	3.48
8th Grade			
1 Lisa Academy (Lisa)	124	95%	3.49
2 Benton Junior High School (Benton)	374	93%	3.46
3 Bethel Middle School (Bryant)	302	92%	3.45



U. Southwest Region, Middle School Schools, 2012

Table 63: Top 5 Overall Middle School Schools in *Southwest* Arkansas Based on Benchmark *Math* Achievement

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	% Proficient/Advanced	GPA
1	Parkers Chapel High School (Parkers Chapel)	7-12	96	85%	3.32
2	Nashville Elem. School (Nashville)	4-6	421	84%	3.30
3	Gary E. Cobb Middle School (Genoa)	5-8	349	83%	3.23
3	De Queen Middle School (De Queen)	6-7	335	84%	3.22
5	Emerson High School (Emerson-Taylor)	7-12	44	73%	3.20
5	Goza Middle School (Arkadelphia)	6-8	444	81%	3.20

Table 64: Top 3 Schools by Grade Level in *Southwest* Arkansas Based on Benchmark *Math* Achievement

	School (District)	# of Test Takers	% Proficient/Advanced	GPA
6th Grade				
1	Bradley Elem. School (Bradley)	31	94%	3.56
2	Gary E. Cobb Middle School (Genoa)	91	94%	3.56
2	Junction City Elem. School (Junction City)	48	88%	3.55
7th Grade				
1	Emerson High School (Emerson-Taylor)	19	100%	3.84
2	Parkers Chapel High School (Parkers Chapel)	58	93%	3.60
3	Caddo Hills High School (Caddo Hills)	39	85%	3.34
3	Centerpoint High School (Centerpoint)	72	85%	3.34
8th Grade				
1	Goza Middle School (Arkadelphia)	156	81%	3.07
2	Oden High School (Ouachita River)	21	72%	2.98
3	Taylor High School (Emerson-Taylor)	28	85%	2.97

Table 65: Top 5 Overall Middle School Schools in Southwest Arkansas Based on Benchmark Literacy Achievement

School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	% Proficient/Advanced	GPA
1 Dierks High School (Dierks)	7-12	80	90%	3.46
2 Umpire High School (Cossatot)	7-12	28	89%	3.43
3 Parkers Chapel High School (Parkers Chapel)	7-12	96	88%	3.37
4 Emerson High School (Emerson-Taylor)	7-12	44	91%	3.34
5 Nashville Elem. School (Nashville)	4-6	421	84%	3.33

Table 66: Top 3 Schools by Grade Level in Southwest Arkansas Based on Benchmark Literacy Achievement

School (District)	# of Test Takers	% Proficient/Advanced	GPA
6th Grade			
1 Kirby Elem. School (Kirby)	37	89%	3.45
1 Van-Cove Elem. School (Cossatot)	27	89%	3.45
3 Gary E. Cobb Middle School (Genoa Central)	91	87%	3.43
7th Grade			
1 Umpire High School (Cossatot)	15	100%	3.73
2 Emerson High School (Emerson-Taylor)	19	95%	3.48
3 Dierks High School (Dierks)	45	89%	3.47
8th Grade			
1 Dierks High School (Dierks)	35	91%	3.45
2 Foreman High School (Foreman)	43	86%	3.33
2 Oden High School (Ouachita)	21	95%	3.33



V. Southeast Region, Middle School Schools, 2012

Table 67: Top 5 Overall Middle School Schools in *Southeast* Arkansas Based on Benchmark *Math* Achievement

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	% Proficient/Advanced	GPA
1	Star City Middle School (Star City)	6-8	397	82%	3.19
2	Monticello Middle School (Monticello)	6-8	505	78%	3.11
3	Des Arc High School (Des Arc)	7-12	90	76%	3.09
3	Woodlawn High School (Woodlawn)	7-12	92	80%	3.03
5	Drew Central Middle School (Drew Central)	5-8	319	72%	3.02
5	KIPP Blytheville College Preparatory School (KIPP Delta)	5-8	109	76%	3.02

Table 68: Top 3 Schools by Grade Level in *Southeast* Arkansas Based on Benchmark *Math* Achievement

	School (District)	# of Test Takers	% Proficient/Advanced	GPA
6th Grade				
1	Drew Central Middle School (Drew Central)	101	86%	3.48
2	Star City Middle School (Star City)	120	88%	3.48
3	C. B. Partee Elem. School (Brinkley)	42	88%	3.33
7th Grade				
1	Monticello Middle School (Monticello)	167	86%	3.31
2	Des Arc High School (Des Arc)	47	81%	3.28
3	Star City Middle School (Star City)	133	84%	3.22
8th Grade				
1	Star City Middle School (Star City)	144	75%	2.92
1	Woodlawn High School (Woodlawn)	40	78%	2.92
3	Des Arc High School (Des Arc)	43	70%	2.88

Table 69: Top 5 Overall Middle School Schools in Southeast Arkansas Based on Benchmark Literacy Achievement

School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	% Proficient/Advanced	GPA
1 Woodlawn High School (Woodlawn)	7-12	92	79%	3.18
2 Monticello Middle School (Monticello)	6-8	505	82%	3.17
3 Star City Middle School (Star City)	6-8	397	78%	3.16
3 Drew Central Middle School (Drew Central)	5-8	319	78%	3.14
5 KIPP Blytheville College Preparatory School (KIPP Delta)	5-8	109	81%	3.09
5 Rison High School (Cleveland County)	7-12	136	77%	3.09

Table 70: Top 3 Schools by Grade Level in Southeast Arkansas Based on Benchmark Literacy Achievement

School (District)	# of Test Takers	% Proficient/Advanced	GPA
6th Grade			
1 Drew Central Middle School (Drew Central)	101	79%	3.29
2 Star City Middle School (Star City)	120	79%	3.26
3 Barton Elem. School (Barton-Lexa)	61	82%	3.25
3 Hazen Elem. School (Hazen)	45	87%	3.25
7th Grade			
1 Hazen Elem. School (Hazen)	50	88%	3.34
2 Monticello Middle School (Monticello)	167	86%	3.25
3 Woodlawn High School (Woodlawn)	52	79%	3.21
3 Drew Central Middle School (Drew Central)	61	82%	3.21
8th Grade			
1 Monticello Middle School (Monticello)	161	83%	3.20
1 Stuttgart Junior High School (Stuttgart)	137	82%	3.20
3 Star City Middle School (Star City)	144	81%	3.15
3 Woodlawn High School (Woodlawn)	40	78%	3.15

This concludes the **High Achieving Middle School Schools** Outstanding Educational Performance Awards. We would like to congratulate **ALL** of the schools on our High Achieving lists. Our next installment, **High Achieving High Schools**, takes a deeper look at high 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 A: 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