

ARKANSAS EDUCATION REPORT
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**OUTSTANDING EDUCATIONAL PERFORMANCE AWARDS:
HIGHLIGHTING HIGH-ACHIEVING ARKANSAS SCHOOLS, 2013**

**MOST IMPROVED ELEMENTARY AND MIDDLE SCHOOLS:
BENCHMARK GROWTH 2007 TO 2013**

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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.

Last year, we first introduced 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.

The percent proficient and advanced measure disregards real information provided by student scores that are placed into the four different performance categories: below basic, basic, proficient, and advanced. Additionally, this mark 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 such purposes, 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!**

VI. 2013 OEP AWARDS: MOST IMPROVED ELEMENTARY AND MIDDLE SCHOOLS BETWEEN 2007 AND 2013

In this report, we rank schools by greatest improvement, where our measure of improvement is simply the difference between the ending score and the starting score over this time period. This set of OEP Awards is given to the elementary and middle schools with the greatest improvement in math and literacy. Once again, we also highlight the five most improved elementary and middle schools in each region in the two subject areas.

The score we use in this section is again the GPA rating system described earlier. With the GPA measure, schools are given credit for the number of advanced, proficient, basic, and below basic students.¹ We focus on growth in GPA scores over a multi-year span. Thanks to the availability of many years of testing data, we were able to construct a growth score that is less susceptible to the potential instability of year-to-year changes due to an abnormally high or low score in either of the two observed years. To smooth out abnormally high or low scores in one particular year, we use multi-year averages for both the beginning score and the ending score over the five year time period. Specifically, our starting score is the average score from the 2006-07 and 2007-08 school years; our ending score is the average of the two most recent school years (2011-12 and 2012-13).

Each table presents the most improved schools for the noted grade and subject. These tables include the region in which the school is located, the percent of the school and district name, the grades served, region, and level of poverty (Free-and-Reduced Lunch rates), in addition to two measures of academic growth over roughly the past half-decade. To demonstrate academic growth, we not only show the GPA increase used to compile the rankings, but we also show the point increase in the percent of students achieving at the proficient or advanced levels over that same time period.

On the Office for Education Policy website, you can access the complete growth database: <http://www.officeforeducationpolicy.org/arkansas-schools-data/>. This database is especially helpful because it lists each school's annual benchmark results since the 2006-07 academic year. Schools can be compared by region, Free-and-Reduced Lunch (FRL) status, or by the similar schools index rating.

Due to the time span of the data, there are currently operating schools not included in this report, because these schools did not exist in the 2006-07 or 2007-08 school years. Therefore, we have created an additional database that covers growth over a shorter period of time. The three-year database highlights growth by taking the difference between an average of the 2011-12 and 2012-13 school years and an average of the 2008-09 and 2009-10 school years. We recommend you examine the database and see the growth that Arkansas' elementary and middle schools have made.

¹ 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".

BB. Elementary Schools, Mathematics

Table 105: Top 20 Most Improved Elementary Schools Based on Benchmark **Mathematics** Achievement from 2006-07/2007-08 to 2011-12/2012-13

School (District)	Region	Grades Served	% FRL ²	Proficient/Advanced % Initial→End ³	GPA Initial→End ⁴	GPA Growth ⁵
State Average	-	-	67%	72%→80%	3.02→3.23	+0.21
1 Wilson Elementary School (Little Rock) ♦	CN	P-5	95%	26%→66%	1.88→2.89	+1.01
2 Trusty Elementary School (Ft. Smith) ♦	NW	K-6	96%	24%→64%	1.87→2.81	+0.94
3 Augusta Elementary School (Augusta) ♦	NE	P-7	88%	34%→71%	2.05→2.92	+0.87
4 Marvell Primary School (Marvell) ♦	SE	P-6	99%	40%→77%	2.25→3.11	+0.85
5 Hardin Elementary School (White Hall) ♦	CN	K-6	46%	62%→90%	2.72→3.56	+0.84
6 Union Elementary School (Texarkana)	SW	K-4	93%	46%→79%	2.36→3.19	+0.83
7 Lynch Drive Elementary School (North Little Rock)	CN	K-5	99%	26%→61%	1.86→2.67	+0.81
8 Harry C. Morrison Elementary School (Ft. Smith)	NW	P-6	96%	41%→75%	2.21→3.01	+0.79
9 Fairview Elementary School (Texarkana)	SW	K-4	86%	53%→85%	2.51→3.30	+0.78
10 Brookland Elementary School (Brookland)	NE	P-3	38%	69%→96%	2.92→3.70	+0.77
11 Vera Kilpatrick Elementary School (Texarkana) ♦	SW	K-4	85%	52%→84%	2.56→3.32	+0.76
12 Seventh Street Elementary School (North Little Rock)	CN	K-5	98%	41%→70%	2.20→2.94	+0.73
13 Earle Elementary School (Earle)	NE	K-6	96%	43%→71%	2.26→2.96	+0.70
13 Guy-Perkins Elementary School (Guy-Perkins)	CN	K-6	56%	67%→88%	2.78→3.48	+0.70
15 Jones Elementary School (Rogers)	NW	K-5	85%	63%→88%	2.72→3.42	+0.69
15 Sunnymede Elementary School (Ft. Smith)	NW	K-6	92%	50%→79%	2.47→3.16	+0.69
17 Howard Elementary School (Ft. Smith) ♦	NW	P-6	96%	37%→66%	2.15→2.82	+0.67
18 Thirty-Fourth Avenue Elementary School (Pine Bluff) ♦	CN	K-5	92%	39%→66%	2.16→2.81	+0.65

² Free-and-reduced lunch rates from the 2012-13 school year

³ Initial Proficient/Advanced % is an average of the 2006-07 and 2007-08 school years. End Proficient/Advanced % is an average of the 2011-12 and 2012-13 school years.

⁴ Initial GPA is an average of the 2006-07 and 2007-08 school years. End GPA is an average of the 2011-12 and 2012-13 school years.

⁵ Due to rounding of numbers, there may be slight differences between the overall growth GPA and the GPA Initial→End column. Refer to the OEP growth database for exact numbers.

School (District)	Region	Grades Served	% FRL ⁶	Proficient/Advanced % Initial→End ⁷	GPA Initial→End ⁸	GPA Growth ⁹
18 Centerpoint Intermediate School (Centerpoint) ♦	SW	4-5	68%	56%→85%	2.57→3.22	+0.65
20 Angie Grant Elementary School (Benton) ♦	CN	K-5	68%	64%→88%	2.77→3.41	+0.64
20 George Elementary School (Springdale)	NW	K-5	86%	51%→77%	2.49→3.13	+0.64

♦ Indicates school placed on same list in 2011-12.

⁶ Free-and-reduced lunch rates from the 2012-13 school year

⁷ Initial Proficient/Advanced % is an average of the 2006-07 and 2007-08 school years. End Proficient/Advanced % is an average of the 2011-12 and 2012-13 school years.

⁸ Initial GPA is an average of the 2006-07 and 2007 school years. End GPA is an average of the 2011-12 and 2012-13 school years.

⁹ Due to rounding of numbers, there may be slight differences between the overall growth GPA and the GPA Initial→End column. Refer to the OEP growth database for exact numbers.

Tables 106-110: Top 5 Most Improved Elementary Schools in Arkansas by Region, Benchmark Mathematics Achievement from 2006-07/2007-08 to 2011-12/2012-13



Table 106: Top 5 Most Improved Elementary Schools in **Northwest** Arkansas Benchmark Mathematics Achievement from 2006-07/2007-08 to 2011-12/2012-13

	School (District)	Grades Served	% FRL	Proficient/Advanced % Initial→End	GPA Initial→End	GPA Growth
1	Trusty Elementary School (Fort Smith) ♦	K-6	96%	24%→64%	1.87→2.81	+0.94
2	Harry C. Morrison Elementary School (Fort Smith) ♦	P-6	96%	41%→75%	2.21→3.01	+0.79
3	Jones Elementary School (Rogers) ♦	K-5	85%	63%→88%	2.72→3.42	+0.69
3	Sunnymede Elementary School (Fort Smith)	K-6	92%	50%→79%	2.47→3.16	+0.69
5	Howard Elementary School (Fort Smith) ♦	P-6	96%	37%→66%	2.15→2.82	+0.67



Table 107: Top 5 Most Improved Elementary Schools in **Northeast** Arkansas Benchmark Mathematics Achievement from 2006-07/2007-08 to 2011-12/2012-13

	School (District)	Grades Served	% FRL	Proficient/Advanced % Initial→End	GPA Initial→End	GPA Growth
1	Augusta Elementary School (Augusta) ♦	P-7	88%	34%→71%	2.05→2.92	+0.87
2	Brookland Elementary School (Brookland)	P-3	38%	69%→96%	2.92→3.70	+0.77
3	Earle Elementary School (Earle)	K-6	96%	43%→71%	2.26→2.96	+0.70
4	SMC Elementary at Luxora (South Mississippi County) ♦	P-4	100%	51%→79%	2.52→3.15	+0.62
5	Evening Shade Math & Science Academy (Cave City) ♦	K-4	95%	72%→93%	3.07→3.65	+0.58



Table 108: Top 5 Most Improved Elementary Schools in **Central** Arkansas Benchmark **Mathematics** Achievement from 2006-07/2007-08 to 2011-12/2012-13

School (District)	Grades Served	% FRL	Proficient/Advanced % Initial→End	GPA Initial→End	GPA Growth
1 Wilson Elementary School (Little Rock) ♦	P-5	95%	26%→66%	1.88→2.89	+1.01
2 Hardin Elementary School (White Hall) ♦	K-6	46%	62%→90%	2.72→3.56	+0.84
3 Lynch Drive Elementary School (North Little Rock)	K-5	99%	26%→61%	1.86→2.67	+0.81
4 Seventh Street Elementary School (North Little Rock)	K-5	98%	41%→70%	2.20→2.94	+0.73
5 Guy-Perkins Elementary School (Guy-Perkins)	K-6	56%	67%→88%	2.78→3.48	+0.70



Table 109: Top 5 Most Improved Elementary Schools in **Southwest** Arkansas Benchmark **Mathematics** Achievement from 2006-07/2007-08 to 2011-12/2012-13

School (District)	Grades Served	% FRL	Proficient/Advanced % Initial→End	GPA Initial→End	GPA Growth
1 Union Elementary School (Texarkana)	K-4	93%	46%→79%	2.36→3.19	+0.83
2 Fairview Elementary School (Texarkana) ♦	K-4	86%	53%→85%	2.51→3.30	+0.78
3 Vera Kilpatrick Elementary School (Texarkana) ♦	K-4	85%	52%→84%	2.56→3.32	+0.76
4 Centerpoint Intermediate School (Centerpoint) ♦	4-5	68%	56%→85%	2.57→3.22	+0.65
5 Bradley Elementary School (Bradley)	K-6	74%	61%→88%	2.78→3.41	+0.63



*Table 110: Top 5 Most Improved Elementary Schools in Southeast Arkansas
Benchmark **Mathematics** Achievement from 2006-07/2007-08 to 2011-12/2012-13*

School (District)	Grades Served	% FRL	Proficient/Advanced % Initial→End	GPA Initial→End	GPA Growth
1 Marvell Primary School (Marvell) ♦	P-6	99%	40%→77%	2.25→3.11	+0.85
2 McGehee Elementary School (McGehee)	K-6	80%	55%→79%	2.60→3.18	+0.58
3 Des Arc Elementary School (Des Arc)	P-6	76%	73%→91%	3.00→3.57	+0.57
4 Wilmot Elementary School (Hamburg)	P-5	69%	45%→67%	2.28→2.82	+0.54
5 C. B. Partee Elementary School (Brinkley) ♦	K-6	81%	64%→87%	2.84→3.37	+0.53

CC. Elementary Schools, Literacy

Table 111: Top 22 Most Improved Elementary Schools Based on Benchmark Literacy Achievement from 2006-07/2007-08 to 2011-12/2012-13

School (District)	Region	Grades Served	% FRL	Proficient/Advanced % Initial→End	GPA Initial→End	GPA Growth
State Average	-	-	67%	63%→82%	2.79→3.27	+0.49
1 Lynch Drive Elementary School (North Little Rock) ♦	CN	K-5	99%	21%→74%	1.89→2.97	+1.07
2 SMC Elementary at Luxora (South Mississippi County) ♦	NE	P-4	100%	36%→85%	2.25→3.28	+1.03
3 Lepanto Elementary (East Poinsett) ♦	NE	K-4	81%	42%→85%	2.31→3.33	+1.02
4 Jones Elementary School (Rogers) ♦	NW	K-5	85%	49%→91%	2.46→3.47	+1.00
4 Trusty Elementary School (Fort Smith) ♦	NW	K-6	96%	21%→69%	1.89→2.89	+1.00
6 Oak Grove Elementary School (Pulaski County) ♦	CN	P-5	70%	36%→77%	2.17→3.16	+0.99
6 Vera Kilpatrick Elementary School (Texarkana) ♦	SW	K-4	85%	41%→83%	2.29→3.28	+0.99
8 Union Elementary School (Texarkana)	SW	K-4	93%	36%→77%	2.12→3.10	+0.97
9 Palestine-Wheatley Elementary School (Palestine/Wheatley)	NE	K-4	86%	40%→81%	2.24→3.16	+0.91
10 No. Heights Elementary School (North Little Rock) ♦	CN	K-5	97%	35%→76%	2.18→3.08	+0.90
11 Grace Hill Elementary School (Rogers) ♦	NW	K-5	87%	55%→89%	2.60→3.49	+0.89
12 Lakeside Upper Elementary School (Lakeside)	SE	3-5	84%	37%→79%	2.29→3.17	+0.88
13 Hardin Elementary School (White Hall)	CN	K-6	46%	61%→95%	2.75→3.63	+0.87
14 Seventh Street Elementary School (North Little Rock)	CN	K-5	98%	35%→75%	2.17→3.04	+0.86
14 Joe T. Robinson Elementary School (Pulaski County)	CN	P-5	65%	59%→94%	2.70→3.56	+0.86
16 Westwood Elementary School (Springdale)	NW	K-5	81%	49%→82%	2.38→3.24	+0.85
16 Landmark Elementary School (Pulaski County)	CN	P-5	78%	42%→78%	2.32→3.17	+0.85
16 Glenview Elementary School (North Little Rock) ♦	CN	K-5	96%	53%→85%	2.52→3.37	+0.85
16 Harry C. Morrison Elementary School (Fort Smith)	NW	P-6	96%	33%→75%	2.18→3.03	+0.85
20 Mabelvale Elementary School (Little Rock) ♦	CN	P-5	91%	33%→75%	2.12→2.97	+0.84

	School (District)	Region	Grades Served	% FRL	Proficient/Advanced % Initial→End	GPA Initial→End	GPA Growth
20	Guy-Perkins Elementary School (Guy-Perkins)	CN	K-6	56%	52%→88%	2.57→3.41	+0.84

Tables 112-116: Top 5 Most Improved Elementary Schools in Arkansas by Region, Benchmark Literacy Achievement from 2006-07/2007-08 to 2011-12/2012-13



Table 112: Top 5 Most Improved Elementary Schools in **Northwest** Arkansas Benchmark Literacy Achievement from 2006-07/2007-08 to 2011-12/2012-13

School (District)	Grades Served	% FRL	Proficient/Advanced % Initial→End	GPA Initial→End	GPA Growth
1 Jones Elementary School (Rogers) ♦	K-5	85%	49%→91%	2.46→3.47	+1.00
1 Trusty Elementary School (Fort Smith) ♦	K-6	96%	21%→69%	1.89→2.89	+1.00
3 Grace Hill Elementary School (Rogers) ♦	K-5	87%	55%→89%	2.60→3.49	+0.89
4 Westwood Elementary School (Springdale)	K-5	81%	49%→82%	2.38→3.24	+0.85
4 Harry C. Morrison Elementary School (Fort Smith)	P-6	96%	33%→75%	2.18→3.03	+0.85



Table 113: Top 5 Most Improved Elementary Schools in **Northeast** Arkansas Benchmark Literacy Achievement from 2006-07/2007-08 to 2011-12/2012-13

School (District)	Grades Served	% FRL	Proficient/Advanced % Initial→End	GPA Initial→End	GPA Growth
1 SMC Elementary at Luxora (South Mississippi County) ♦	P-4	100%	36%→85%	2.25→3.28	+1.03
2 Lepanto Elementary (East Poinsett) ♦	K-4	81%	42%→85%	2.31→3.33	+1.02
3 Palestine-Wheatley Elementary School (Palestine/Wheatley)	K-4	86%	40%→81%	2.24→3.16	+0.91
4 Augusta Elementary School (Augusta)	P-7	88%	36%→75%	2.18→3.01	+0.83
5 Earle Elementary School (Earle)	K-6	96%	40%→81%	2.27→3.09	+0.81



Table 114: Top 5 Most Improved Elementary Schools in *Central* Arkansas Benchmark Literacy Achievement from 2006-07/2007-08 to 2011-12/2012-13

School (District)	Grades Served	% FRL	Proficient/Advanced % Initial→End	GPA Initial→End	GPA Growth
1 Lynch Drive Elementary School (North Little Rock) ♦	K-5	99%	21%→74%	1.89→2.97	+1.07
2 Oak Grove Elementary School (Pulaski County) ♦	P-5	70%	36%→77%	2.17→3.16	+0.99
3 No. Heights Elementary School (North Little Rock) ♦	K-5	97%	35%→76%	2.18→3.08	+0.90
4 Hardin Elementary School (White Hall)	K-6	46%	61%→95%	2.75→3.63	+0.87
5 Seventh Street Elementary School (North Little Rock)	K-5	98%	35%→75%	2.17→3.04	+0.86
5 Joe T. Robinson Elementary School (Pulaski County)	P-5	65%	59%→94%	2.70→3.56	+0.86



Table 115: Top 5 Most Improved Elementary Schools in *Southwest* Arkansas Benchmark Literacy Achievement from 2006-07/2007-08 to 2011-12/2012-13

School (District)	Grades Served	% FRL	Proficient/Advanced % Initial→End	GPA Initial→End	GPA Growth
1 Vera Kilpatrick Elementary School (Texarkana) ♦	K-4	85%	41%→83%	2.29→3.28	+0.99
2 Union Elementary School (Texarkana)	K-4	93%	36%→77%	2.12→3.10	+0.97
3 C. D. Franks Elementary School (Ashdown) ♦	2-3	69%	47%→77%	2.39→3.19	+0.80
4 Nashville Primary School (Nashville) ♦	K-3	68%	58%→87%	2.66→3.46	+0.80
5 Centerpoint Primary School (Centerpoint)	P-3	71%	55%→90%	2.62→3.42	+0.80



*Table 116: Top 5 Most Improved Elementary Schools in Southeast Arkansas
Benchmark Literacy Achievement from 2006-07/2007-08 to 2011-12/2012-13*

School (District)	Grades Served	% FRL	Proficient/Advanced % Initial→End	GPA Initial→End	GPA Growth
1 Lakeside Upper Elementary School (Lakeside) ♦	3-5	84%	37%→79%	2.29→3.17	+0.88
2 Marvell Primary School (Marvell)	P-6	99%	38%→76%	2.25→3.03	+0.78
3 McGehee Elementary School (McGehee)	K-6	80%	48%→80%	2.47→3.21	+0.74
4 Park Avenue Elementary (Stuttgart) ♦	K-4	70%	48%→77%	2.43→3.15	+0.72
5 Gillett Elementary School (DeWitt)	P-5	53%	69%→95%	2.97→3.68	+0.71

DD. Middle Schools, Math

Table 117: Top 20 Most Improved Middle Schools Based on Benchmark **Mathematics** Achievement from 2006-07/2007-08 to 2011-12/2012-13

	School (District)	Region	Grades Served	% FRL	Proficient/Advanced % Initial→End	GPA Initial→End	GPA Growth
	State Average	-	-	61%	59%→71%	2.60→2.90	+0.31
1	Pea Ridge Middle School (Pea Ridge) ♦	NW	6-8	44%	57%→92%	2.57→3.52	+0.95
2	Tuckerman High School (Jackson County) ♦	NE	8-12	64%	55%→90%	2.48→3.36	+0.88
3	Newport Junior High School (Newport)	NE	7-8	76%	48%→83%	2.33→3.16	+0.83
4	Omaha High School (Omaha)	NW	7-12	69%	37%→76%	2.18→2.99	+0.81
5	Redfield Junior High School (White Hall)	CN	7-9	52%	47%→77%	2.25→3.04	+0.79
5	Robert F. Morehead Middle School (Dollarway) ♦	CN	6-8	92%	19%→52%	1.63→2.42	+0.79
7	Kirby High School (Kirby)	SW	7-12	63%	40%→71%	2.12→2.87	+0.75
8	Marvell High School (Marvell)	SE	7-12	96%	19%→48%	1.60→2.33	+0.73
9	Kingston High School (Jasper) ♦	NW	7-12	60%	58%→82%	2.48→3.18	+0.70
10	Nevada High School (Nevada)	SW	7-12	74%	43%→74%	2.30→2.99	+0.69
11	Pocahontas Junior High School (Pocahontas) ♦	NE	7-9	57%	53%→80%	2.49→3.17	+0.68
12	Horatio High School (Horatio)	SW	7-12	70%	46%→73%	2.23→2.90	+0.67
13	Gosnell High School (Gosnell) ♦	NE	7-12	64%	49%→79%	2.38→3.04	+0.66
13	Crossett Middle School (Crossett) ♦	SE	5-8	63%	33%→60%	1.97→2.63	+0.66
15	Mammoth Spring High School (Mammoth Spring)	NE	7-12	61%	54%→79%	2.48→3.14	+0.65
15	White Co. Central High School (White County Central)	NE	7-12	57%	52%→80%	2.39→3.05	+0.65
15	Calico Rock High School (Calico Rock)	NE	7-12	60%	54%→84%	2.44→3.10	+0.65
18	East Poinsett Co. High School (East Poinsett)	NE	7-12	73%	36%→64%	2.04→2.67	+0.63
19	Concord High School (Concord) ♦	NE	7-12	60%	57%→84%	2.54→3.16	+0.62
19	Clarendon High School (Clarendon)	SE	7-12	83%	17%→37%	1.51→2.13	+0.62

♦ Indicates school placed on same list in 2011-12.

Tables 118-122: Top 5 Most Improved Middle Schools in Arkansas by Region, Benchmark Mathematics Achievement from 2006-07/2007-08 to 2011-12/2012-13



Table 118: Top 5 Most Improved Middle Schools in Northwest Arkansas Benchmark Mathematics Achievement from 2006-07/2007-08 to 2011-12/2012-13

School (District)	Grades Served	% FRL	Proficient/Advanced % Initial→End	GPA Initial→End	GPA Growth
1 Pea Ridge Middle School (Pea Ridge) ♦	6-8	44%	57%→92%	2.57→3.52	+0.95
2 Omaha High School (Omaha)	7-12	69%	37%→76%	2.18→2.99	+0.81
3 Kingston High School (Jasper) ♦	7-12	60%	58%→82%	2.48→3.18	+0.70
4 Elmwood Middle School (Rogers)	6-8	58%	61%→82%	2.60→3.20	+0.61
5 Bruno-Pyatt High School (Ozark Mountain) ♦	7-12	79%	42%→73%	2.22→2.82	+0.60
5 Flippin Middle School (Flippin) ♦	6-8	74%	51%→77%	2.42→3.03	+0.60



Table 119: Top 5 Most Improved Middle Schools in Northeast Arkansas Benchmark Mathematics Achievement from 2006-07/2007-08 to 2011-12/2012-13

School (District)	Grades Served	% FRL	Proficient/Advanced % Initial→End	GPA Initial→End	GPA Growth
1 Tuckerman High School (Jackson County) ♦	8-12	64%	55%→90%	2.48→3.36	+0.88
2 Newport Junior High School (Newport)	7-8	76%	48%→83%	2.33→3.16	+0.83
3 Pocahontas Junior High School (Pocahontas) ♦	7-9	57%	53%→80%	2.49→3.17	+0.68
4 Gosnell High School (Gosnell) ♦	7-12	64%	49%→79%	2.38→3.04	+0.66
5 Mammoth Spring High School (Mammoth Spring)	7-12	61%	54%→79%	2.48→3.14	+0.65
5 White Co. Central High School (White County Central)	7-12	57%	52%→80%	2.39→3.05	+0.65
5 Calico Rock High School (Calico Rock)	7-12	60%	54%→84%	2.44→3.10	+0.65



Table 120: Top 5 Most Improved Middle Schools in **Central** Arkansas Benchmark Mathematics Achievement from 2006-07/2007-08 to 2011-12/2012-13

School (District)	Grades Served	% FRL	Proficient/Advanced % Initial→End	GPA Initial→End	GPA Growth
1 Redfield Junior High School (White Hall) ♦	7-9	52%	47%→77%	2.25→3.04	+0.79
1 Robert F. Morehead Middle School (Dollarway) ♦	6-8	92%	19%→52%	1.63→2.42	+0.79
3 Mt. Vernon/Enola High School (Mt. Vernon-Enola)	7-12	52%	60%→81%	2.57→3.19	+0.61
4 Jack Robey Junior High School (Pine Bluff)	8-9	83%	15%→38%	1.47→2.06	+0.60
5 Guy-Perkins High School (Guy-Perkins)	7-12	58%	49%→74%	2.33→2.92	+0.59



Table 121: Top 5 Most Improved Middle Schools in **Southwest** Arkansas Benchmark Mathematics Achievement from 2006-07/2007-08 to 2011-12/2012-13

School (District)	Grades Served	% FRL	Proficient/Advanced % Initial→End	GPA Initial→End	GPA Growth
1 Kirby High School (Kirby)	7-12	63%	40%→71%	2.12→2.87	+0.75
2 Nevada High School (Nevada)	7-12	74%	43%→74%	2.30→2.99	+0.69
3 Horatio High School (Horatio)	7-12	70%	46%→73%	2.23→2.90	+0.67
4 Centerpoint High School (Centerpoint) ♦	6-12	68%	56%→77%	2.50→3.09	+0.59
4 Foreman High School (Foreman)	7-12	65%	47%→69%	2.32→2.91	+0.59



Table 122: Top 5 Most Improved Middle Schools in Southeast Arkansas Benchmark Mathematics Achievement from 2006-07/2007-08 to 2011-12/2012-13

School (District)	Grades Served	% FRL	Proficient/Advanced % Initial→End	GPA Initial→End	GPA Growth
1 Marvell High School (Marvell)	7-12	96%	19%→48%	1.60→2.33	+0.73
2 Crossett Middle School (Crossett) ♦	5-8	63%	33%→60%	1.97→2.63	+0.66
3 Clarendon High School (Clarendon)	7-12	83%	17%→37%	1.51→2.13	+0.62
4 Rison High School (Cleveland County)	7-12	52%	52%→72%	2.40→2.95	+0.54
5 Hamburg Middle School (Hamburg)	6-8	78%	53%→69%	2.40→2.89	+0.49

EE. Middle Schools, Literacy

Table 123: Top 20 Most Improved Middle Schools Based on Benchmark **Literacy** Achievement from 2006-07/2007-08 to 2011-12/2012-13

School (District)	Region	Grades Served	% FRL	Proficient/ Advanced % Initial→ End	GPA Initial→ End	GPA Growth
State Average	-	-	61%	62%→78%	2.74→3.11	+0.37
1 St. Paul High School (Huntsville)	NW	7-12	79%	47%→78%	2.40→3.19	+0.79
2 Green Forest Intermediate School (Green Forest) ♦	NW	4-8	81%	51%→86%	2.56→3.29	+0.73
3 Hughes High School (Hughes)	NE	7-12	80%	30%→76%	2.16→2.85	+0.69
4 Robert F. Morehead Middle School (Dollarway)	CN	6-8	92%	25%→59%	1.97→2.64	+0.67
5 Dierks High School (Dierks)	SW	7-12	56%	63%→88%	2.75→3.41	+0.65
5 Cabe Middle School (Gurdon) ♦	SW	5-8	75%	52%→84%	2.58→3.24	+0.65
5 Nashville Elementary School (Nashville) ♦	SW	4-6	71%	56%→84%	2.67→3.32	+0.65
8 Pangburn High School (Pangburn)	NE	7-12	51%	54%→87%	2.58→3.23	+0.64
9 Bruno-Pyatt High School (Ozark Mountain) ♦	NW	7-12	79%	50%→87%	2.56→3.18	+0.62
9 McRae Middle School (Prescott)	SW	5-6	78%	59%→83%	2.66→3.28	+0.62
9 Western Grove High School (Ozark Mountain)	NW	7-12	68%	49%→80%	2.54→3.16	+0.62
12 Paris Middle School (Paris)	NW	5-8	62%	62%→87%	2.70→3.32	+0.61
12 Washington Middle School (El Dorado)	SW	5-6	63%	52%→80%	2.60→3.21	+0.61
12 Ouachita High School (Ouachita)	CN	7-12	40%	57%→86%	2.63→3.24	+0.61
12 Jack Robey Junior High School (Pine Bluff)	CN	8-9	83%	31%→59%	2.03→2.64	+0.61
16 Wonder Junior High School (West Memphis)	NE	7-9	88%	35%→68%	2.21→2.82	+0.60
16 Marshall High School (Searcy County) ♦	NW	7-12	68%	65%→90%	2.79→3.39	+0.60
18 Omaha High School (Omaha)	NW	7-12	69%	52%→86%	2.63→3.22	+0.59
18 Oark High School (Jasper)	NW	7-12	77%	51%→80%	2.54→3.13	+0.59
20 Blytheville Intermediate School (Blytheville)	NE	5-6	82%	26%→56%	2.04→2.62	+0.58
20 De Queen Middle School (De Queen)	SW	6-7	72%	59%→84%	2.66→3.24	+0.58
20 Mt. Vernon/Enola High School (Mt. Vernon-Enola)	CN	7-12	52%	63%→88%	2.71→3.29	+0.58

Tables 124-128: Top 5 Most Improved Middle Schools in Arkansas by Region, Benchmark Literacy Achievement from 2006-07/2007-08 to 2011-12/2012-13



Table 124: Top 5 Most Improved Middle Schools in Northwest Arkansas Benchmark Literacy Achievement from 2006-07/2007-08 to 2011-12/2012-13

School (District)	Grades Served	% FRL	Proficient/Advanced % Initial→End	GPA Initial→End	GPA Growth
1 St. Paul High School (Huntsville)	7-12	79%	47%→59%	2.40→3.19	+0.79
2 Green Forest Intermediate School (Green Forest) ♦	4-8	81%	51%→82%	2.56→3.29	+0.73
3 Bruno-Pyatt High School (Ozark Mountain) ♦	7-12	79%	50%→73%	2.56→3.18	+0.62
3 Western Grove High School (Ozark Mountain)	7-12	68%	49%→75%	2.54→3.16	+0.62
5 Paris Middle School (Paris)	5-8	62%	62%→82%	2.70→3.32	+0.61



Table 125: Top 5 Most Improved Middle Schools in Northeast Arkansas Benchmark Literacy Achievement from 2006-07/2007-08 to 2011-12/2012-13

School (District)	Grades Served	% FRL	Proficient/Advanced % Initial→End	GPA Initial→End	GPA Growth
1 Hughes High School (Hughes)	7-12	80%	30%→40%	2.16→2.85	+0.69
2 Pangburn High School (Pangburn) ♦	7-12	51%	54%→73%	2.58→3.23	+0.64
3 Wonder Junior High School (West Memphis)	7-9	88%	35%→46%	2.21→2.82	+0.60
4 Blytheville Intermediate School (Blytheville)	5-6	82%	26%→47%	2.04→2.62	+0.58
5 Hoxie High School (Hoxie) ♦	7-12	68%	55%→70%	2.59→3.14	+0.55
5 Gosnell High School (Gosnell) ♦	7-12	64%	56%→79%	2.63→3.18	+0.55



Table 126: Top 5 Most Improved Middle Schools in *Central* Arkansas Benchmark *Literacy* Achievement from 2006-07/2007-08 to 2011-12/2012-13

School (District)	Grades Served	% FRL	Proficient/Advanced % Initial→End	GPA Initial→End	GPA Growth
1 Robert F. Morehead Middle School (Dollarway)	6-8	92%	25%→59%	1.97→2.64	+0.67
2 Ouachita High School (Ouachita)	7-12	40%	57%→86%	2.63→3.24	+0.61
2 Jack Robey Junior High School (Pine Bluff)	8-9	83%	31%→59%	2.03→2.64	+0.61
4 Mt. Vernon/Enola High School (Mt. Vernon-Enola)	7-12	52%	63%→88%	2.71→3.29	+0.58
5 Southeast Middle School (Pine Bluff) ♦	6-7	85%	28%→56%	2.13→2.67	+0.54



Table 127: Top 5 Most Improved Middle Schools in *Southwest* Arkansas Benchmark *Literacy* Achievement from 2006-07/2007-08 to 2011-12/2012-13

School (District)	Grades Served	% FRL	Proficient/Advanced % Initial→End	GPA Initial→End	GPA Growth
1 Dierks High School (Dierks) ♦	7-12	56%	63%→88%	2.75→3.41	+0.65
1 Cabe Middle School (Gurdon) ♦	5-8	75%	52%→84%	2.58→3.24	+0.65
1 Nashville Elementary School (Nashville) ♦	4-6	71%	56%→84%	2.67→3.32	+0.65
4 McRae Middle School (Prescott)	5-6	78%	59%→83%	2.66→3.28	+0.62
5 Washington Middle School (El Dorado)	5-6	63%	52%→80%	2.60→3.21	+0.61



Table 128: Top 5 Most Improved Middle Schools in Southeast Arkansas Benchmark Literacy Achievement from 2006-07/2007-08 to 2011-12/2012-13

School (District)	Grades Served	% FRL	Proficient/Advanced % Initial→End	GPA Initial→End	GPA Growth
1 Crossett Middle School (Crossett) ♦	5-8	63%	44%→72%	2.44→2.99	+0.55
2 Meekins Middle School (Stuttgart)	5-6	62%	51%→75%	2.54→3.09	+0.54
3 Lakeside Middle School (Lakeside)	6-8	85%	43%→71%	2.37→2.87	+0.49
4 Warren Middle School (Warren)	6-8	75%	50%→72%	2.52→2.96	+0.44
5 DeWitt Middle School (DeWitt)	6-8	68%	54%→73%	2.58→3.00	+0.42

Conclusion: What did the Rankings Reveal?

Statewide Growth

It is always a pleasure to recognize successful schools, thus, we would like to congratulate **ALL** of the schools on the **Most Improved** lists. Additionally, it is important to step back and see how the state has grown on the Benchmark Exam since the 2006-07 school year. Some of this growth may be attributed to increased familiarity with the Benchmark exam, though not all growth can be attributed to that. Indeed, it is important to recognize the hard work of these students and schools. The figures below display Arkansas Benchmark Exam growth over this time span. In both math and literacy, fewer students scored below basic and basic. Furthermore, in both subjects, roughly the same fraction of students scored in the single category of proficient, while more students across the state earned an advanced score.

Figure 1: Arkansas **Math** Benchmark Growth over time, 2006-07/2007-08 to 2011-12/2012-13

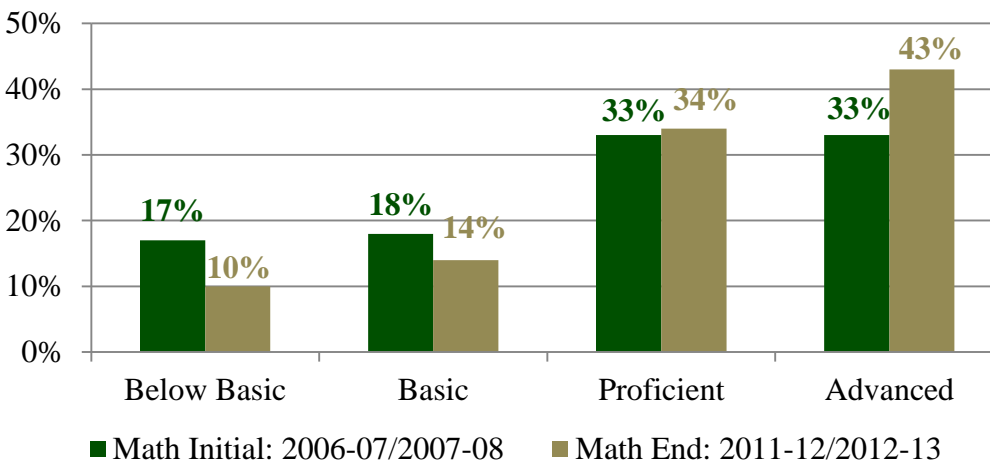
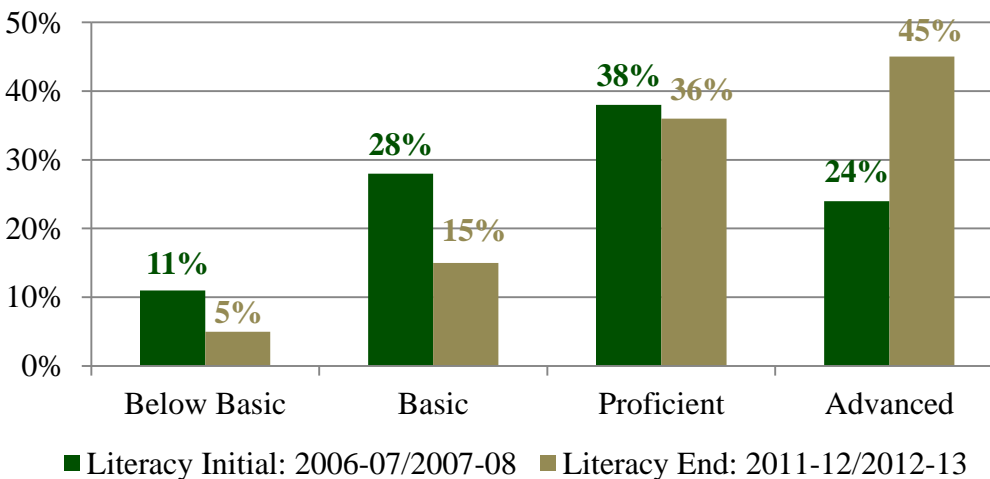


Figure 2: Arkansas **Literacy** Benchmark Growth over time, 2006-07/2007-08 to 2011-12/2012-13



As the rankings were compiled using the GPA measure, the rankings reflect the movement of students into higher categories across all four categories. If the percent of students scoring proficient or advanced was used to compile the awards, the rankings would be slightly different. We chose to use the GPA measure, as we believe it is a better indicator to highlight growth, as it accounts for the four categories.

The majority of the top 20 most -improved schools initially scored equal to or below the state averages and eventually grew to equal or eclipse the state averages. It is important to note that the majority of these schools were not the overall highest performing in the state in 2012-13. Most of the highest-performing schools (from 2006-07) have not experienced these amounts of considerable growth due to a ceiling-effect: these schools performed higher during the initial years, and so they did not have as much room to grow.

As previously mentioned, we encourage you to examine the OEP growth database (<http://www.uark.edu/ua/oep/resources.html>) to see the growth of all schools in the state.

High-Poverty Schools

In this section, there are a number of schools that serve high populations of lower-income students (as noted by the Free-and-Reduced Lunch percentages). For example, **Trusty Elementary**, in the Fort Smith School District, was on the top 20 lists for both elementary math and literacy for most improved. Trusty Elementary has a FRL rate of 96%, and it was the only elementary in the state to receive a School Improvement Grant in the past three years.

We at the OEP are pleased to recognize these schools and many others for moving their students forward.

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
1-4	6
1-5	4-6
1-6	4-8
1-8	5-6
2-3	5-7
2-4	5-8
2-5	5-9
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	8-12
K-6	K-12
K-7	
K-8	
P-2	
P-3	
P-4	
P-5	
P-6	
P-7	
P-8	