



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

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

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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 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. 2013 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 2013. 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 2012-13 school year. The FRL figures listed for each school are based on Provision 2 FRL statistics, not the rounded statistics sometimes reported.¹

In 2012-13, approximately 58% of the state’s elementary schools (293 of 503) and approximately 45% of middle schools (167 of 369) served student populations with 66% or more students eligible for FRL. While schools only had to have an FRL rate of 66% to be considered for a “Beating the Odds” award, the average FRL rate of the “high-poverty” schools included in this analysis was 81%.

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.

¹The Provision 2 % FRL represents the actual percent of students qualifying for Free or Reduced lunch 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.

D. Benchmark Scores in Mathematics, 2013

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

	School (District)	Region ¹	Grades Served	% FRL	% Proficient/Advanced	GPA ²
1	Centerpoint Primary School (Centerpoint) ♦	SE	P-3	71%	98%	3.79
2	Eagle Heights Elementary School (Harrison) ♦	NW	K-4	67%	93%	3.70
3	Salem Elementary School (Salem)	NE	K-6	67%	94%	3.66
4	Eudora Elementary School (Lakeside – Chicot County) ♦	SE	P-3	92%	95%	3.65
4	Woodland Heights Elementary School (Harrison) ♦	NW	K-4	80%	89%	3.65
6	Cowsert Elementary School (Clinton) ♦	NW	K-3	73%	92%	3.63
7	Eastside Elementary School (Rogers) ♦	NW	K-5	75%	94%	3.59
8	Norfolk Elementary School (Norfolk) ♦	NW	K-6	82%	93%	3.58
9	Evening Shade Elementary School (Cave City) ♦	NE	K-4	95%	92%	3.57
9	Cherokee Elementary School (Highland) ♦	NE	K-4	74%	91%	3.57
11	DeQueen Elementary School (DeQueen) ♦	SW	3-5	77%	94%	3.56
11	Mammoth Spring Elementary School (Mammoth Spring)	NE	K-6	70%	92%	3.56
12	Des Arc Elementary School (Des Arc) ♦	SW	P-6	76%	90%	3.55
13	Green Forest Elementary School (Green Forest) ♦	NW	K-3	87%	89%	3.52
13	Holly Harshman Elementary School (Mena) ♦	SW	3-5	67%	90%	3.52
15	Gardner Magnet School (Hot Springs) ♦	CN	K-4	89%	89%	3.51
16	Amanda Gist Elementary School (Cotter) ♦	NW	K-6	73%	91%	3.50
17	Morrilton Elementary School (South Conway County) ♦	NW	2-3	72%	87%	3.49
18	Wickes Elementary School (Cossatot River) ♦	SW	P-6	73%	89%	3.48
18	Two Rivers Elementary (Two Rivers)	NW	K-4	86%	90%	3.48
18	Ida Burns Elementary School (Conway) ♦	CN	K-4	70%	90%	3.48
21	Theodore Jones Elementary School (Conway)	CN	K-4	75%	90%	3.47
21	John Tyson Elementary School (Springdale)	NW	K-4	70%	91%	3.47

	School (District)	Region¹	Grades Served	% FRL	% Proficient/Advanced	GPA²
23	Lincoln Elementary School (Lincoln)	NW	P-4	70%	88%	3.46
24	Cavanaugh Elementary School (Fort Smith)	NW	K-6	73%	88%	3.45
25	Van Cove Elementary School (Cossatot River)	SW	P-6	84%	90%	3.44

◆ Indicates school placed on list in 2011-12.

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

² 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	St. Joe High School (Ozark Mountain)	NW	7-12	74%	88%	3.41
2	Nashville Elem. School (Nashville) ♦	SW	4-6	71%	83%	3.31
3	Marshall High School (Searcy County) ♦	NW	7-12	68%	83%	3.26
3	Helen Tyson Middle School (Springdale) ♦	NW	6-7	67%	81%	3.26
5	Clinton Intermediate School (Clinton) ♦	NW	4-6	73%	80%	3.22
6	DeQueen Middle School (DeQueen) ♦	SW	6-7	72%	81%	3.21
6	Highland Middle School (Highland) ♦	NE	5-7	71%	81%	3.21
8	Newport Junior High School (Newport) ♦	NE	7-8	76%	83%	3.17
9	J.O. Kelly Middle School (Springdale)	NW	6-7	85%	78%	3.16
9	Green Forest Intermediate School (Green Forest) ♦	NW	4-8	81%	80%	3.16
11	Marked Tree Middle School (Marked Tree) ♦	NE	6-8	80%	80%	3.15
12	McRae Middle School (Prescott)	SW	5-6	78%	80%	3.14
13	Kraus Middle School (Clarksville) ♦	NW	5-6	68%	79%	3.11
14	Nevada High School (Nevada)	SW	7-12	74%	77%	3.10
14	Centerpoint Middle School (Centerpoint) ♦	SW	6-12	68%	77%	3.10
16	Swifton Middle School (Jackson County)	NE	5-7	68%	76%	3.08
17	Lincoln Middle School (Lincoln)	NW	5-7	75%	75%	3.07
18	Danville Middle School (Danville) ♦	NW	6-8	77%	78%	3.04
18	Booneville Junior High School (Booneville)	NW	7-9	68%	81%	3.04
20	McCrary High School (McCrary)	NE	7-12	67%	74%	3.03
20	Mena Middle School (Mena)	SW	6-8	66%	75%	3.03
22	Omaha High School (Omaha)	NW	7-12	69%	79%	3.02
22	Central Elementary School (Magnolia)	SW	4-6	69%	72%	3.02
22	Nemo Vista Middle School (Nemo Vista)	NW	6-8	66%	77%	3.02
25	Clarksville Junior High School (Clarksville) ♦	NW	7-9	69%	77%	3.01
25	Horatio High School (Horatio)	SW	7-12	70%	79%	3.01

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 3.20², and the average of the top 25 “high-poverty” elementary schools is well above that at 3.54.

Along with these top 25 schools, many other schools are beating the odds. On the math benchmark, 156 out of the 293 “high-poverty” elementary schools have at least 75% of students score proficient or advanced. There are 109 “high-poverty” elementary schools that have a math GPA at or above the statewide elementary math GPA average of 3.20. Two 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. **Centerpoint Elementary School** (Centerpoint) and **Eagle Heights Elementary School** (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 2.82, and the average of the top 25 “high-poverty” schools is well above that at 3.14.

On the math benchmark, 30 out of 167 “high-poverty” middle schools have at least 75% of students score proficient or advanced. There are 55 “high-poverty” middle schools with a math GPA at or above the statewide middle school math GPA average of 2.82. This year there are two Top 25 “high-poverty” middle schools that are also on the “Overall Math Top 25 Schools” list. **St. Joe High School** (Ozark Mountain) and **Nashville Elementary School** (Nashville) are among the highest-achieving schools serving disadvantaged student populations and are among the highest-performing schools in the state.

The Northwest region stood out on the “high-poverty” top 25 lists. In the elementary ratings, 10 schools are from the Northwest region, and in the middle school ratings, 12 schools are from the Northwest 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.

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 Eagle Heights Elementary School (Harrison)	67%	NW	97%	3.88
2 Deer Elementary School (Deer/Mt. Judea)	69%	NW	100%	3.86
2 Salem Elementary School (Salem)	67%	NE	98%	3.86
4 Caddo Hills Elementary School (Caddo Hills)	83%	SW	95%	3.85
4 Hoxie Elementary School (Hoxie)	77%	NE	98%	3.85
4 Norfolk Elementary School (Norfolk)	82%	NW	100%	3.85
4 Oscar Hamilton Elementary School (Foreman)	74%	SW	97%	3.85
4th Grade				
1 Evening Shade Elementary (Cave City)	95%	NE	94%	3.76
2 Jackson Elementary School (West Memphis)	81%	NE	95%	3.75
2 Mammoth Spring Elementary School (Mammoth Spring)	70%	NE	94%	3.75
4 Bragg Elementary School (West Memphis)	68%	NE	93%	3.71
4 Van-Cove Elementary (Cossatot River)	84%	SW	100%	3.71
5th Grade				
1 Holly Harshman Elementary School (Mena)	67%	SW	93%	3.56
2 Salem Elementary School (Salem)	67%	NE	91%	3.52
3 Acorn Elementary School (Ouachita River)	72%	SW	93%	3.47
4 Eastside Elementary School (Rogers)	75%	NW	94%	3.46
5 Amanda Gist Elementary School (Cotter) ♦	73%	NW	86%	3.41
6th Grade				
1 Des Arc Elementary School (Des Arc)	76%	SE	95%	3.73
2 Salem Elementary School (Salem)	67%	NE	93%	3.67
3 Buffalo Is. Central West Elementary (Buffalo Island)	73%	NE	92%	3.63
3 Kingston Elementary School (Jasper)	72%	NW	94%	3.63
5 McCrory Elementary School (McCrory)	66%	NE	93%	3.61
7th Grade				
1 St. Joe High School (Ozark Mountain)	85%	NW	88%	3.41
2 Marshall High School (Searcy County) ♦	68%	NW	87%	3.35
3 Newport Junior High School (Newport) ♦	76%	NE	88%	3.29
4 Nevada High School (Nevada)	74%	SW	83%	3.27
5 KIPP Blytheville College Preparatory School (KIPP Delta Public Schools)	77%	SE	78%	3.24
8th Grade				
1 Marked Tree Middle School (Marked Tree)	80%	NE	88%	3.35
2 Marshall High School (Searcy County) ♦	68%	NW	80%	3.19
3 Green Forest Intermediate School (Green Forest)	81%	NW	84%	3.11
4 McCrory High School (McCrory)	67%	NE	77%	3.09
5 Cave City Middle School (Cave City)	72%	NE	76%	3.05

E. Benchmark Scores in Literacy, 2013

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	Norfolk Elementary School (Norfolk) ♦	NW	K-6	82%	95%	3.71
2	Eastside Elementary School (Rogers) ♦	NW	K-5	75%	94%	3.65
3	Salem Elementary School (Salem)	NE	K-6	67%	92%	3.63
4	Eagle Heights Elementary School (Harrison) ♦	NW	K-4	67%	89%	3.60
5	St. Paul Elementary School (Huntsville)	NW	K-6	81%	95%	3.59
5	Woodland Heights Elementary School (Harrison) ♦	NW	K-4	80%	93%	3.59
7	Centerpoint Primary School (Centerpoint)	SW	P-3	71%	96%	3.57
8	John Tyson Elementary School (Springdale) ♦	NW	K-5	70%	91%	3.53
8	Paron Elementary School (Bryan)	CN	K-5	68%	94%	3.53
10	Van Cove Elementary School (Cossatot River)	SW	P-6	84%	91%	3.52
11	Prescott Elementary School (Prescott)	SW	K-4	82%	89%	3.51
11	Mammoth Spring Elementary School (Mammoth) ♦	NE	K-6	70%	92%	3.51
13	Bonnie Grimes Elementary School (Rogers) ♦	NW	K-5	82%	90%	3.50
14	Old Wire Elementary School (Rogers)	NW	K-5	82%	94%	3.49
15	DeQueen Elementary School (DeQueen) ♦	SW	3-5	77%	91%	3.47
15	Frank Tillery Elementary School (Rogers)	NW	K-5	76%	90%	3.47
15	Manila Elementary School (Manila)	NE	P-4	66%	88%	3.47
18	Holly Harshman Elementary School (Mena) ♦	SW	3-5	67%	91%	3.46
18	McCrary Elementary School (McCrary)	SW	K-6	66%	89%	3.46
20	Jones Elementary School (Rogers) ♦	NW	K-5	85%	90%	3.45
21	Cavanaugh Elementary School (Fort Smith) ♦	NW	K-6	73%	90%	3.43
21	Atkins Elementary School (Atkins)	NW	K-4	69%	88%	3.43
23	Des Arc Elementary School (Des Arc)	SE	P-6	76%	88%	3.42
23	Morrilton Elementary School (Southwest Conway County)	NW	2-3	72%	88%	3.42
25	Cherokee Elementary School (Highland)	NE	K-4	74%	86%	3.41
25	Wickes Elementary School (Cossatot River)	SW	P-6	73%	88%	3.41
25	Nashville Primary School (Nashville) ♦	SW	K-3	68%	86%	3.41
25	Grace Hill Elementary School (Rogers) ♦	NW	K-5	87%	86%	3.41

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	Umpire High School (Cossatot River) ♦	SW	7-12	86%	100%	3.53
2	Clinton Intermediate School (Clinton) ♦	NW	4-6	73%	89%	3.38
3	Marshall High School (Searcy County) ♦	NW	7-12	68%	89%	3.35
4	McRae Middle School (Prescott) ♦	SW	5-6	78%	82%	3.31
4	DeQueen Junior High (DeQueen)	SW	8-9	74%	87%	3.31
6	Nashville Elementary School (Nashville) ♦	SW	4-6	71%	84%	3.30
7	Kraus Middle School (Clarksville) ♦	NW	5-6	68%	85%	3.29
8	Caddo Hills High School (Caddo Hills)	SW	7-12	78%	88%	3.28
8	Hector High School (Hector)	NW	7-12	71%	91%	3.28
10	Green Forest Intermediate School (Green Forest) ♦	NW	4-8	81%	84%	3.27
11	DeQueen Middle School (DeQueen)	SW	6-7	72%	85%	3.26
12	Jasper High School (Jasper)	NW	7-12	72%	86%	3.25
12	Nemo Vista Middle School (Nemo Vista) ♦	NW	6-8	66%	86%	3.25
14	Black Rock High School (Lawrence County)	NE	7-12	72%	83%	3.24
15	Lincoln Middle School (Lincoln)	NW	5-7	75%	81%	3.23
15	Cabe Middle School (Gurdon)	SW	5-8	75%	84%	3.23
17	Norfolk High School (Norfolk) ♦	NW	7-12	81%	80%	3.22
17	Omaha High School (Omaha)	NW	7-12	69%	88%	3.22
17	Booneville Junior High School (Booneville)	NW	7-9	68%	83%	3.22
17	Helen Tyson Middle School (Springdale)	NW	6-7	67%	82%	3.22
21	Oakdale Middle School (Rogers)	NW	6-8	69%	84%	3.21
22	Gentry Middle School (Gentry) ♦	NW	6-8	68%	83%	3.20
23	Cave City Middle School (Cave City) ♦	NE	7-8	72%	81%	3.19
23	Clarksville Junior High School (Clarksville) ♦	NW	7-9	69%	84%	3.19
25	Drew Central Middle School (Drew Central)	SE	5-8	75%	80%	3.17
25	Yellville-Summit High School (Yellville-Summit)	NW	7-12	66%	81%	3.17

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 3.24³, and the literacy GPA average of the top 25 “high-poverty” schools is well above that at 3.50.

Along with these top 25 schools, many other schools are beating the odds. On the literacy benchmark, 141 of the 293 “high-poverty” elementary schools had at least 79% of students score proficient or advanced. There are 103 “high-poverty” elementary schools that have a literacy GPA at or above the statewide elementary literacy GPA average of 3.24. Two 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. **Norfolk Elementary School** (Norfolk) and **Eastside Elementary School** (Rogers) 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 3.05, and the literacy GPA average of the top 25 “high-poverty” schools is above that at 3.26.

On the literacy benchmark, 47 out of 167 “high-poverty” middle schools have at least 75% of students score proficient or advanced. There are 50 “high-poverty” middle schools with a literacy GPA at or above the statewide middle school literacy GPA average of 3.05. **Umpire High School** (Cossatot River) is also on the **Top 25 overall** middle school literacy category.

One region stood out among the “high-poverty” top 25 lists. The Northwest region has 13 elementary schools and 16 middle schools on this list. The Southwest region stood out as well, having 6 elementary and 7 middle schools on this list.

We have been highlighting these schools based on the school-wide average. However, there are several grade levels within these schools that stand out for exceptional performance. The next table will highlight the high 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 Carnall Elementary School (Fort Smith)	89%	NW	96%	3.80
2 Hoxie Elementary School (Hoxie)	77%	NE	96%	3.79
2 Norfolk Elementary School (Norfolk) ♦	82%	NW	100%	3.79
2 St. Paul Elementary School (Huntsville)	81%	NW	96%	3.79
5 County Line Elementary School (County Line)	68%	NW	97%	3.78
4th Grade				
1 Van-Cove Elementary School (Cossatot)	84%	SW	96%	3.84
2 Eastside Elementary School (Rogers) ♦	75%	NW	95%	3.79
3 Kingsland Elementary School (Cleveland)	79%	SE	91%	3.73
4 Woodland Heights Elementary School (Harrison) ♦	80%	NW	100%	3.67
5 Norfolk Elementary School (Norfolk)	82%	NW	94%	3.65
5 McCrory Elementary School (McCrory)	66%	NE	92%	3.65
5th Grade				
1 Weiner Elementary School (Harrisburg)	69%	NE	100%	3.83
1 Kirby Elementary School (Kirby)	69%	SW	100%	3.83
3 Salem Elementary School (Salem)	67%	NE	96%	3.80
4 Norfolk Elementary School (Norfolk)	82%	NW	92%	3.77
5 Holly Harshman Elementary School (Mena)	67%	SW	94%	3.62
6th Grade				
1 Norfolk Elementary School (Norfolk)	82%	NW	92%	3.66
2 Buffalo Is. Central West Elementary (Buffalo Island Central)	73%	NE	92%	3.55
3 Salem Elementary School (Salem)	67%	NE	93%	3.52
4 Des Arc Elementary School (Des Arc)	76%	SE	95%	3.46
5 Mammoth Spring Elementary School (Mammoth Spring)	70%	NE	90%	3.43
7th Grade				
1 Deer High School (Deer/Mt. Judea)	71%	NW	89%	3.45
2 Marshall High School (Searcy County) ♦	68%	NW	87%	3.40
3 Nemo Vista Middle School (Nemo Vista)	66%	NW	89%	3.36
4 Helen Tyson Middle School (Springdale)	67%	NW	87%	3.35
5 DeQueen Middle School (DeQueen)	72%	SW	85%	3.34
5 Caddo Hills High School (Caddo Hills)	78%	SW	88%	3.34
8th Grade				
1 Umpire High School (Cossatot River)	86%	SW	100%	3.53
2 Marked Tree Middle School (Marked Tree)	80%	NE	88%	3.39
3 Green Forest Intermediate School (Green Forest)	81%	NW	85%	3.34
4 Hector High School (Hector) ♦	71%	NW	92%	3.33
5 Marshall High School (Searcy County)	68%	NW	90%	3.31

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. No middle schools are in this category for 2013.

Table 13: “Highest-poverty” Elementary Schools above the state elementary GPA math average (3.20)

School (District)	% FRL	Region	% Proficient/Advanced	GPA
Eudora Elementary School (Lakeside – Chicot County) ♦	92%	SE	95%	3.65
Evening Shade Elementary School (Cave City)	95%	NE	92%	3.57
Union Elementary School (Texarkana)	93%	SW	83%	3.30
KIPP Delta Elementary Literacy Academy (KIPP Delta Public Schools) ♦	91%	SE	87%	3.28
Oark Elementary School (Jasper)	92%	NW	75%	3.25
Sunnymede Elementary School (Ft. Smith)	92%	NW	83%	3.22

Table 14: “Highest-poverty” Elementary Schools above the state elementary GPA literacy average (3.24)

School (District)	% FRL	Region	% Proficient/Advanced	GPA
Eudora Elementary School (Lakeside – Chicot County) ♦	92%	SE	80%	3.35
Glenview Elementary School (North Little Rock) ♦	96%	CN	81%	3.31
Union Elementary School (Texarkana)	93%	SW	83%	3.26

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 similarly 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 school's 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
1-4		4-6
1-5		4-8
1-6		5-6
1-8		5-7
2-3		5-8
2-4		5-9
2-5		5-12
2-6		6
3-4		6-12
3-5		6-7
3-6		6-8
4-5		7-12
5		7-8
K-3		7-9
K-4		8
K-5		8-9
K-6		K-12
K-7		8-12
K-8		
P-2		
P-3		
P-4		
P-5		
P-6		
P-7		
P-8		