

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

**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.

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!**

IV. 2013 OEP AWARDS: HIGH-ACHIEVING MIDDLE SCHOOLS

This section provides a deeper look at the high achieving middle schools and grades based on the Arkansas Benchmark exam.¹ The Benchmark exams in math and literacy were administered to students in grades 3-8 in April 2013.

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 schools by grade. We then highlight the top performing middle schools and grades within schools in each region.²

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, 2013

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

	School (District)	Region	# of Test Takers	% Proficient/Advanced	GPA
1	Pea Ridge Middle School (Pea Ridge) ♦	NW	131	98%	3.80
2	Des Arc Elementary School (Des Arc)	SE	45	95%	3.73
3	Mount Pleasant Elementary School (Melbourne) ♦	NE	14	93%	3.72
4	Academy of Service and Technology (Vilonia) ♦	CN	50	92%	3.70
4	Glen Rose Middle School (Glen Rose)	CN	68	94%	3.70
6	Salem Elementary School (Salem) ♦	NE	53	93%	3.67
6	Euper Lane Elementary School (Fort Smith)	NW	56	90%	3.67
6	Rural Special Elementary School (Mountain View)	NW	12	92%	3.67
9	Richland Elementary School (West Memphis)	NE	82	96%	3.65
9	Mt. Vernon/Enola Elementary School (Mt. Vernon-Enola)	CN	26	96%	3.65

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

	School (District)	Region	# of Test Takers	% Proficient/Advanced	GPA
1	Valley View High School (Valley View)	NE	198	91%	3.51
2	Valley Springs Middle School (Valley Springs) ♦	NW	75	95%	3.46
2	McNair Middle School (Fayetteville) ♦	NW	354	92%	3.46
4	Bergman Middle School (Bergman) ♦	NW	82	89%	3.43
5	Benton Middle School (Benton)	CN	385	88%	3.42
6	St. Joe High School (Ozark Mountain)	NW	17	88%	3.41
6	Ahlf Junior High School (Searcy)	NE	321	88%	3.41
8	Ruth Doyle Intermediate School (Conway)	CN	162	85%	3.39
9	Gary E. Cobb Middle School (Genoa Central)	SW	98	89%	3.37
10	Pea Ridge Middle School (Pea Ridge)	NW	119	91%	3.35
10	Marshall High School (Searcy County)	NW	67	87%	3.35

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 Academy) ♦	NW	49	100%	3.88
2	Tuckerman High School (Jackson County) ♦	NE	49	88%	3.35
2	Marked Tree Middle School (Marked Tree)	NE	43	88%	3.35
4	Woodland Junior High School (Fayetteville) ♦	NW	370	87%	3.34
5	Lincoln Junior High School (Bentonville) ♦	NW	572	88%	3.30
5	Valley View High School (Valley View)	NE	201	90%	3.30
7	Pea Ridge Middle School (Pea Ridge) ♦	NW	140	85%	3.28
8	Washington Junior High School (Bentonville) ♦	NW	552	85%	3.27
8	Valley Springs Middle School (Valley Springs)	NW	61	85%	3.27
10	Emerson High School (Emerson-Taylor)	SW	17	77%	3.26

P. Middle School Literacy by Grade, 2013

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

	School (District)	Region	# of Test Takers	% Proficient/Advanced	GPA
1	Rural Special Elementary School (Mountain View)	NE	12	100%	3.75
2	Norfolk Elementary School (Norfolk)	NW	38	92%	3.66
3	Buffalo Is. Central West Elementary (Buffalo Island Central)	NE	38	92%	3.55
3	John P. Woods Elementary School (Fort Smith) ♦	NW	55	91%	3.55
5	Richland Elementary School (West Memphis) ♦	NE	82	91%	3.54
6	Salem Elementary School (Salem) ♦	NE	53	93%	3.52
7	Mt. Vernon/Enola Elementary School (Mt. Vernon-Enola)	CN	26	89%	3.49
8	Des Arc Elementary School (Des Arc)	SE	45	95%	3.46
8	Euper Lane Elementary School (Fort Smith)	NW	56	84%	3.46
10	Bright Field Middle School (Bentonville)	NW	262	90%	3.45

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

	School (District)	Region	# of Test Takers	% Proficient/Advanced	GPA
1	Valley View High School (Valley View) ♦	NE	198	95%	3.63
2	McNair Middle School (Fayetteville) ♦	NW	354	94%	3.61
3	Washington Junior High School (Bentonville) ♦	NW	578	92%	3.51
4	Gary E. Cobb Middle School (Genoa Central)	SW	98	93%	3.49
5	Kirksey Middle School (Rogers)	NW	284	89%	3.47
5	Lincoln Junior High School (Bentonville) ♦	NW	565	89%	3.47
7	Deer High School (Deer/Mt. Judea)	NW	18	89%	3.45
7	Lingle Middle School (Rogers)	NW	233	89%	3.45
7	Pottsville Junior High School (Pottsville)	NW	130	90%	3.45
10	Ahlf Junior High School (Searcy) ♦	NE	321	90%	3.44
10	Kingston High School (Jasper)	NW	16	94%	3.44
10	Paris Middle School (Paris)	NW	79	87%	3.44
10	Elmwood Middle School (Rogers)	NW	248	90%	3.44

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 Academy) ♦	NW	49	100%	3.94
2	Valley Springs Middle School (Valley Springs) ♦	NW	61	97%	3.64
3	Valley View High School (Valley View) ♦	NE	201	97%	3.60
4	Benton County School of the Arts (Benton County School of the Arts)	NW	61	92%	3.55
5	Umpire High School (Cossatot River)	SW	15	100%	3.53
6	Bergman Middle School (Bergman)	NW	107	95%	3.50
7	Washington Junior High School (Bentonville) ♦	NW	552	93%	3.49
8	Lincoln Junior High School (Bentonville) ♦	NW	572	91%	3.47
8	Dierks High School (Dierks)	SW	46	92%	3.47
10	Gary E. Cobb Middle School (Genoa Central)	SW	88	92%	3.45

Q. Middle School Combined³ Math and Literacy by Grade, 2013

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

	School (District)	Region	# of Test Takers	% Proficient/Advanced	GPA
1	Rural Special Elementary School (Mountain View)	NE	12	96%	3.71
2	Norfolk Elementary School (Norfolk)	NW	38	93%	3.63
3	Richland Elementary School (West Memphis) ♦	NE	82	94%	3.60
3	Salem Elementary School (Salem) ♦	NE	53	93%	3.60
3	Des Arc Elementary School (Des Arc)	SE	45	95%	3.60
6	Buffalo Is. Central West Elementary (Buffalo Island Central)	NE	38	92%	3.59
7	Mount Pleasant Elementary School (Melbourne)	NE	14	97%	3.58
8	Mt. Vernon/Enola Elementary School (Mt. Vernon-Enola)	CN	26	93%	3.57
8	Euper Lane Elementary School (Fort Smith)	NW	56	87%	3.57
10	Pea Ridge Middle School (Pea Ridge)	NW	131	92%	3.54

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

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

	School (District)	Region	# of Test Takers	% Proficient/Advanced	GPA
1	Valley View High School (Valley View) ♦	NE	198	93%	3.57
2	McNair Middle School (Fayetteville) ♦	NW	354	93%	3.54
3	Gary E. Cobb Middle School (Genoa Central)	SW	98	91%	3.43
3	Bergman Middle School (Bergman) ♦	NW	82	90%	3.43
3	Ahlf Junior High School (Searcy) ♦	NE	321	89%	3.43
6	Washington Junior High School (Bentonville) ♦	NW	578	89%	3.42
6	Benton Middle School (Benton)	CN	385	89%	3.42
8	Valley Springs Middle School (Valley Springs) ♦	NW	75	92%	3.41
9	Ruth Doyle Intermediate School (Conway)	CN	162	87%	3.40
10	Kingston High School (Jasper)	NW	16	91%	3.38
10	Marshall High School (Searcy County)	NW	67	87%	3.38

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 Academy) ♦	NW	49	100%	3.91
2	Valley Springs Middle School (Valley Springs)	NW	61	91%	3.46
3	Valley View High School (Valley View)	NE	201	94%	3.45
4	Lincoln Junior High School (Bentonville) ♦	NW	572	90%	3.39
5	Washington Junior High School (Bentonville) ♦	NW	552	89%	3.38
5	Woodland Junior High School (Fayetteville) ♦	NW	370	88%	3.38
7	Marked Tree Middle School (Marked Tree)	NE	43	88%	3.37
8	Bergman Middle School (Bergman)	NW	107	88%	3.34
9	Ahlf Junior High School (Searcy)	NE	299	87%	3.33
10	Paris Middle School (Paris)	NW	97	89%	3.28
10	Bethel Middle School (Bryant)	CN	258	88%	3.28
10	Pea Ridge Middle School (Pea Ridge)	NW	140	88%	3.28
10	Taylor High School (Emerson-Taylor)	SW	22	80%	3.28

The sections below present the high achieving middle schools for the noted grade and subject in each region in 2013.



R. Northwest Region, Middle School Schools, 2013

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 Academy) ♦	8-12	49	100%	3.88
2 Pottsville Middle Grades (Pottsville)	4-6	378	92%	3.56
3 McNair Middle School (Fayetteville) ♦	6-7	689	92%	3.51
4 Pea Ridge Middle School (Pea Ridge) ♦	6-8	390	91%	3.48
5 East Hills Middle School (Greenwood)	6-7	591	87%	3.45

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) ♦	131	98%	3.80
2 Euper Lane Elementary School (Fort Smith)	56	90%	3.67
3 Kingston Elementary School (Jasper)	16	94%	3.63
7th Grade			
1 Valley Springs Middle School (Valley Springs) ♦	75	95%	3.46
1 McNair Middle School (Fayetteville)	354	92%	3.46
3 Bergman Middle School (Bergman)	82	89%	3.43
8th Grade			
1 Haas Hall Academy (Haas Hall Academy) ♦	49	100%	3.88
2 Woodland Junior High School (Fayetteville)	370	87%	3.34
3 Lincoln Junior High School (Bentonville)	572	88%	3.30

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 Academy) ♦	8-12	49	100%	3.94
2 Pottsville Middle Grades (Pottsville) ♦	4-6	378	94%	3.60
3 Bright Field Middle School (Bentonville)	5-6	557	93%	3.57
4 McNair Middle School (Fayetteville) ♦	6-7	689	91%	3.50
4 Washington Junior High School (Bentonville) ♦	7-8	1,130	92%	3.50

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 Norfolk Elementary School (Norfolk)	38	92%	3.66
2 John P. Woods Elementary School (Fort Smith)	55	91%	3.55
3 Euper Lane Elementary School (Fort Smith)	56	84%	3.46
7th Grade			
1 McNair Middle School (Fayetteville) ♦	354	94%	3.61
2 Washington Junior High School (Bentonville) ♦	578	92%	3.51
3 Kirksey Middle School (Rogers)	284	89%	3.47
3 Lincoln Junior High School (Bentonville)	565	89%	3.47
8th Grade			
1 Haas Hall Academy (Haas Hall Academy) ♦	49	100%	3.94
2 Valley Springs Middle School (Valley Springs) ♦	61	97%	3.64
3 Benton County School of the Arts (Benton County School of the Arts)	61	92%	3.55



S. Northeast Region, Middle School Schools, 2013

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 Nettleton Middle School (Nettleton)	6	266	88%	3.48
2 Valley View High School (Valley View)	7-12	399	90%	3.40
3 Tuckerman High School (Jackson County) ♦	8-12	49	88%	3.35
4 Ahlf Junior High School (Searcy) ♦	7-8	620	86%	3.33
5 Brookland Middle School (Brookland) ♦	4-6	446	85%	3.30

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 Elementary School (Melbourne) ♦	14	93%	3.72
2 Rural Special Elementary School (Mountain View)	12	92%	3.67
2 Salem Elementary School (Salem)	53	93%	3.67
7th Grade			
1 Valley View High School (Valley View)	198	91%	3.51
2 Ahlf Junior High School (Searcy) ♦	321	88%	3.41
3 Melbourne High School (Melbourne)	61	86%	3.34
8th Grade			
1 Tuckerman High School (Jackson County) ♦	49	88%	3.35
1 Marked Tree Middle School (Marked Tree)	43	88%	3.35
3 Valley View High School (Valley View)	201	90%	3.30

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	399	96%	3.61
2 Brookland Middle School (Brookland) ♦	4-6	446	90%	3.48
3 Ahlf Junior High School (Searcy) ♦	7-8	620	90%	3.43
4 Southwest Middle School (Searcy) ♦	4-6	989	87%	3.41
5 Armorel High School (Armorel)	7-12	80	89%	3.38

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 Rural Special Elementary School (Mountain View)	12	100%	3.75
2 Buffalo Is. Central West Elementary (Buffalo Island Central)	38	92%	3.55
3 Richland Elementary School (West Memphis) ♦	82	91%	3.54
7th Grade			
1 Valley View High School (Valley View) ♦	198	95%	3.63
2 Ahlf Junior High School (Searcy) ♦	321	90%	3.44
3 Armorel High School (Armorel)	42	86%	3.39
8th Grade			
1 Valley View High School (Valley View) ♦	201	97%	3.60
2 Ahlf Junior High School (Searcy)	299	90%	3.41
3 Marked Tree Middle School (Marked Tree)	43	88%	3.39



T. Central Region, Middle School Schools, 2013

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	Academy of Service and Technology (Vilonia) ♦	5-6	103	87%	3.55
2	Lakeside Middle School (Lakeside – Garland County) ♦	5-7	696	88%	3.42
3	Benton Middle School (Benton) ♦	6-7	762	86%	3.39
3	Greenbrier Middle School (Greenbrier) ♦	6-7	506	86%	3.39
5	Cabot Middle School South (Cabot)	5-6	756	85%	3.36
5	Cabot Middle School North (Cabot)	5-6	850	86%	3.36

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) ♦	50	92%	3.70
1	Glen Rose Middle School (Glen Rose)	68	94%	3.70
3	Mt. Vernon/Enola Elementary School (Mt. Vernon-Enola)	26	96%	3.65
7th Grade				
1	Benton Middle School (Benton)	385	88%	3.42
2	Ruth Doyle Intermediate School (Conway)	162	85%	3.39
3	Carl Stuart Middle School (Conway) ♦	213	85%	3.33
8th Grade				
1	Bethel Middle School (Bryant)	258	84%	3.22
2	Lisa Academy North Middle School (Lisa Academy - North Little Rock)	49	88%	3.21
3	Benton Junior High School (Benton)	350	82%	3.13

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	Cabot Middle School South (Cabot) ♦	5-6	756	89%	3.47
2	Academy of Service and Technology (Vilonia) ♦	5-6	103	89%	3.46
3	Vilonia Junior High School (Vilonia)	8-9	228	90%	3.42
4	Lakeside Middle School (Lakeside – Garland County)	5-7	696	88%	3.39
4	Greenbrier Junior High School (Greenbrier)	8-9	269	87%	3.39

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	Mt. Vernon/Enola Elementary School (Mt. Vernon-Enola) ♦	26	89%	3.49
2	Greenbrier Middle School (Greenbrier)	246	90%	3.42
3	Cabot Middle School South (Cabot)	392	86%	3.36
3	eStem Middle School (eStem Middle Public Charter)	123	86%	3.36
7th Grade				
1	Lisa Academy (Lisa Academy) ♦	183	89%	3.43
2	Benton Middle School (Benton)	385	89%	3.41
2	Ruth Doyle Intermediate School (Conway)	162	88%	3.41
8th Grade				
1	Lisa Academy (Lisa Academy) ♦	144	90%	3.44
2	Vilonia Junior High School (Vilonia)	228	90%	3.42
3	Greenbrier Junior High School (Greenbrier)	269	87%	3.39



U. Southwest Region, Middle School Schools, 2013

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	Gary E. Cobb Middle School (Genoa Central) ♦	5-8	349	87%	3.34
2	Nashville Elementary School (Nashville) ♦	4-6	409	83%	3.31
3	Emerson High School (Emerson-Taylor) ♦	7-12	41	81%	3.27
4	De Queen Middle School (De Queen) ♦	6-7	351	81%	3.21
5	Taylor High School (Emerson-Taylor)	7-12	52	82%	3.17

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	Gary E. Cobb Middle School (Genoa Central) ♦	93	88%	3.56
2	Parkers Chapel Elementary School (Parkers Chapel) ♦	41	83%	3.49
3	De Queen Middle School (De Queen)	188	89%	3.48
7th Grade				
1	Gary E. Cobb Middle School (Genoa Central)	98	89%	3.37
2	Emerson High School (Emerson-Taylor) ♦	24	84%	3.28
3	Nevada High School (Nevada)	36	83%	3.27
8th Grade				
1	Emerson High School (Emerson-Taylor)	17	77%	3.26
2	Taylor High School (Emerson-Taylor) ♦	22	77%	3.18
3	Parkers Chapel High School (Parkers Chapel)	59	85%	3.14

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 Umpire High School (Cossatot River) ♦	7-12	15	100%	3.53
2 Gary E. Cobb Middle School (Genoa Central)	5-8	349	89%	3.40
3 Dierks High School (Dierks)	7-12	83	86%	3.35
4 McRae Middle School (Prescott)	5-6	139	82%	3.31
4 De Queen Junior High (De Queen)	8-9	168	87%	3.31
4 Acorn High School (Ouachita River)	7-12	64	88%	3.31

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 Gary E. Cobb Middle School (Genoa Central) ♦	93	85%	3.30
2 Umpire Elementary School (Cossatot River)	15	80%	3.27
3 Sparkman Elementary School (Harmony Grove – Ouachita County)	15	73%	3.26
7th Grade			
1 Gary E. Cobb Middle School (Genoa Central)	98	93%	3.49
2 Kirby High School (Kirby)	31	91%	3.40
3 Acorn High School (Ouachita River)	34	88%	3.38
8th Grade			
1 Umpire High School (Cossatot River)	15	100%	3.53
2 Dierks High School (Dierks) ♦	46	92%	3.47
3 Gary E. Cobb Middle School (Genoa Central)	88	92%	3.45



V. Southeast Region, Middle School Schools, 2013

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 Monticello Middle School (Monticello) ♦	6-8	512	74%	3.00
2 Meekins Middle School (Stuttgart)	5-6	261	72%	2.98
3 KIPP Blytheville College Preparatory School (KIPP Delta Public Schools) ♦	5-8	210	70%	2.97
4 Drew Central Middle School (Drew Central) ♦	5-8	289	72%	2.95
4 Rison High School (Cleveland County)	7-12	149	71%	2.95

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 Des Arc Elementary School (Des Arc)	45	95%	3.73
2 Hermitage Elementary School (Hermitage)	39	90%	3.51
3 Woodlawn Elementary School (Woodlawn)	38	89%	3.37
7th Grade			
1 KIPP Blytheville College Preparatory School (KIPP Delta Public Schools)	50	78%	3.24
2 Drew Central Middle School (Drew Central)	95	85%	3.22
3 Warren Middle School (Warren)	133	84%	3.21
8th Grade			
1 Hamburg Middle School (Hamburg)	146	68%	2.84
2 Monticello Middle School (Monticello)	167	71%	2.82
2 Hazen Elementary School (Hazen)	53	78%	2.82

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 Drew Central Middle School (Drew Central) ♦	7-12	289	80%	3.17
2 Meekins Middle School (Stuttgart)	6-8	261	77%	3.15
3 KIPP Delta College Preparatory School (KIPP Delta Public Schools)	6-8	302	81%	3.14
4 KIPP Blytheville College Preparatory School (KIPP Delta Public Schools) ♦	5-8	210	79%	3.13
5 Monticello Middle School (Monticello) ♦	5-8	512	78%	3.05

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 Des Arc Elementary School (Des Arc)	45	95%	3.46
2 Hermitage Elementary School (Hermitage)	39	77%	3.13
2 McGehee Elementary School (McGehee)	79	78%	3.13
7th Grade			
1 KIPP Blytheville College Preparatory School (KIPP Delta Public Schools)	50	90%	3.32
2 Hazen Elementary School (Hazen)	167	91%	3.23
3 Drew Central Middle School (Drew Central) ♦	52	81%	3.20
8th Grade			
1 Drew Central Middle School (Drew Central)	58	85%	3.25
1 KIPP Delta College Preparatory School (KIPP Delta Public Schools)	74	86%	3.25
3 Hazen Elementary School (Hazen)	53	83%	3.19

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
1-4		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		