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OUTSTANDING EDUCATIONAL PERFORMANCE AWARDS: HIGHLIGHTING HIGH ACHIEVING ARKANSAS SCHOOLS, 2013

HIGHLIGHTING MOST IMPROVED SCHOOLS: END-OF-COURSE EXAM 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

VII. 2013 OEP AWARDS: MOST IMPROVED HIGH SCHOOLS BETWEEN 2007 AND 2013

In this set of OEP Award, schools are awarded based on improvement on End-of-Course exams in Algebra, Geometry, Biology, and Grade 11 Literacy. 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. We also highlight the five most improved schools in each region in each of the subject areas.

In this section, we use the GPA rating system described in the introduction. With the GPA measure, schools are given credit for the number of advanced, proficient, basic, and below basic students. 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. The starting score is the average score from the 2006-07 and 2007-08 school years; and the ending score is the average of the two most recent school years (2011-12 and 2012-13). 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.

Each table presents the most improved schools for the noted End-of-Course Exam. The tables include the region in which the school is located, 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 End-of-Course Exam results since the 2006-07 academic year. Schools can be compared by Free-and-Reduced Lunch (FRL) status or by region. We recommend you examine the database and see the growth that Arkansas' 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".

FF. Algebra End-of-Course Exam

Algebra is generally taken during the ninth grade; however, some students may elect to take this course earlier if they have taken prerequisite classes. Thus, the most advanced students take the course and the test in the 7th or 8th grade. Because of the likely academic differences between students who take algebra in the 8th and 9th grades, middle and junior high schools tend to have higher proficiency levels than do schools which serve 9th grade students. Due to these differences, these awards are split into three categories:

- High School (schools that serve 9th grade and above)
- Junior High and Comprehensive High School (schools that serve 8th and 9th grade)
- Middle School (schools that serve 8th grade and below)

For the purposes of this report, all school types (high schools, junior high and comprehensive high schools, middle schools) were considered for the awards by region.

Table 129: Top 10 Most Improved High Schools² Based on EOC Algebra Achievement from 2006-07/2007-08 to 2011-12/2012-13

| | School (District) | Region | Grades Served | % FRL³ | Proficient/ Advanced % Initial→ End ⁴ | GPA Initial→ End ⁵ | GPA Growth |
|----|--|--------|------------------|-----------|---|----------------------------------|---------------|
| | State Average | - | - | 60% | 54%→68% | 2.57→2.82 | +0.27 |
| 1 | Jacksonville High School (Pulaski County) | CN | 9-12 | 61% | 21%→71% | 1.82→2.82 | +1.00 |
| 2 | Sheridan High School (Sheridan) ♦ | CN | 9-12 | 47% | 37%→85% | 2.31→3.26 | +0.95 |
| 3 | Palestine-Wheatley Senior High (Palestine/Wheatley) | NE | 9-12 | 99% | 34%→87% | 2.21→3.15 | +0.94 |
| 4 | Van Buren High School (Van Buren) | NW | 10-12 | 50% | 22%→65% | 1.89→2.76 | +0.88 |
| 5 | Fountain Lake High School (Fountain Lake) | CN | 9-12 | 50% | 52%→91% | 2.46→3.27 | +0.82 |
| 6 | Berryville High School (Berryville) ♦ | NW | 9-12 | 44% | 53%→86% | 2.51→3.31 | +0.80 |
| 7 | Eureka Springs High School (Eureka Springs) | NW | 9-12 | 59% | 39%→81% | 2.35→3.11 | +0.77 |
| 8 | Gravette High School (Gravette) | NW | 9-12 | 40% | 59%→93% | 2.68→3.38 | +0.70 |
| 8 | Osceola High School (Osceola) | NE | 9-12 | 87% | 21%→59% | 1.87→2.56 | +0.70 |
| 10 | Fouke High School (Fouke) | SW | 9-12 | 53% | 45%→80% | $2.42 \rightarrow 3.11$ | +0.69 |
| 10 | Pea Ridge High School (Pea Ridge) | NW | 9-12 | 41% | 35%→77% | 2.25→2.93 | +0.69 |

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

 2 A school was designated High School if it served students in the 9^{th} grade and did not serve 8^{th} grade students. 3 Free-and-reduced lunch rates from the 2012-13 school year

⁴ 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.

⁵ 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.

⁶ 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.

Table 130: Top 10 Most Improved Schools Junior High Schools and Comprehensive High Schools⁷ Based on **EOC Algebra** 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 | - | - | 60% | 64%→75% | 2.79→3.01 | +0.22 |
| 1 | Haas Hall Academy (Haas Hall Academy) | NW | 8-12 | - | 65%→100% | 2.79→3.98 | +1.19 |
| 2 | White Hall Junior High School (White Hall) | CN | 7-9 | 39% | 73%→100% | 3.03→4.0 | +0.98 |
| 3 | Corning High School (Corning) | NE | 7-12 | 63% | 52%→95% | 2.59→3.48 | +0.89 |
| 4 | Earle High School (Earle) | NE | 7-12 | 94% | 13%→50% | 1.61→2.45 | +0.85 |
| 5 | Mammoth Spring High School (Mammoth Spring) | NE | 7-12 | 61% | 48%→89% | 2.53→3.31 | +0.79 |
| 6 | Mt. Vernon/Enola High School (Mt. Vernon-Enola) | CN | 7-12 | 52% | 60%→97% | 2.73→3.50 | +0.78 |
| 7 | Clarendon High School (Clarendon) | SE | 7-12 | 83% | 43%→76% | 2.29→3.01 | +0.73 |
| 8 | Hermitage High School (Hermitage) ♦ | SE | 7-12 | 69% | 32%→64% | 2.06→2.76 | +0.70 |
| 8 | Marshall High School (Searcy County) | NW | 7-12 | 68% | 65%→96% | 2.90→3.59 | +0.70 |
| 10 | Hughes High School (Hughes) | NE | 7-12 | 80% | 40%→82% | 2.38→3.06 | +0.69 |

⁷ A school was designated a Junior High School or Comprehensive High School if it serves students in 8th and 9th grades.

Table 131: Top 10 Most Improved Middle Schools⁸ Based on **EOC Algebra** 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 | - | - | 60 | 93%→95% | 3.53→3.62 | +0.11 |
| 1 | Oakdale Middle School (Rogers) ♦ | NW | 6-8 | 69% | 74%→100% | 3.02→4.0 | +0.99 |
| 2 | Mabelvale Middle School (Little Rock) | CN | 6-8 | 84% | 69%→100% | 2.77→3.71 | +0.95 |
| 3 | Blytheville Middle School (Blytheville) | 2 | 7-8 | 83% | 88%→100% | 3.22→3.92 | +0.70 |
| 4 | Maumelle Middle School (Pulaski County) ♦ | CN | 6-8 | 45% | 81%→99% | 2.96→3.63 | +0.68 |
| 4 | Pea Ridge Middle School (Pea Ridge) ♦ | NW | 6-8 | 44% | 80%→100% | 3.08→3.75 | +0.68 |
| 6 | Elmwood Middle School (Rogers) ♦ | NW | 6-8 | 58% | 86%→100% | 3.32→3.96 | +0.65 |
| 7 | Pulaski Heights Middle School (Little Rock) ♦ | CN | 6-8 | 44% | 88%→100% | 3.29→3.91 | +0.63 |
| 8 | Lonoke Middle School (Lonoke) | CN | 6-8 | 57% | 95%→100% | 3.49→3.96 | +0.48 |
| 9 | Bismarck Middle School (Bismarck) | CN | 5-8 | 62% | 100%→100% | 3.52→3.93 | +0.41 |
| 10 | Mann Magnet Middle School (Little Rock) ♦ | CN | 6-8 | 61% | 94%→100% | 3.58→3.93 | +0.36 |

⁸ A school was designated 8th Grade Middle School if it served students in grades 8 (and/or any grades below).

Tables 132-136: Top 5 Most Improved Schools in Arkansas by Region, **EOC Algebra** Achievement from 2006-07/2007-08 to 2011-12/2012-13



Table 132: Top 5 Most Improved Schools in Northwest Arkansas, EOC Algebra 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 | Haas Hall Academy (Haas Hall | 8-12 | - | 65%→100% | 2.79→3.98 | +1.19 |
| | Academy) | | | | | |
| 2 | Oakdale Middle School (Rogers) | 6-8 | 69% | 74%→100% | $3.02 \rightarrow 4.0$ | +0.99 |
| 3 | Van Buren High School (Van Buren) | 10-12 | 50% | 22%→65% | $1.89 \rightarrow 2.76$ | +0.88 |
| 4 | Berryville High School (Berryville) | 9-12 | 44% | 53%→86% | $2.51 \rightarrow 3.31$ | +0.80 |
| 5 | Eureka Springs High School (Eureka | 9-12 | 59% | 39%→81% | 2.35→3.11 | +0.77 |
| | Springs) | | | | | |



Table 133: Top 5 Most Improved Schools in **Northeast** Arkansas, **EOC Algebra** 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 | Palestine-Wheatley Senior High | 9-12 | 99% | 34%→87% | $2.21 \rightarrow 3.15$ | +0.94 |
| | (Palestine-Wheatley) | | | | | |
| 2 | Corning High School (Corning) | 7-12 | 63% | 52%→95% | $2.59 \rightarrow 3.48$ | +0.89 |
| 3 | Earle High School (Earle) | 7-12 | 94% | 13%→50% | 1.61→2.45 | +0.85 |
| 4 | Mammoth Spring High School | 7-12 | 61% | 48%→89% | $2.53 \rightarrow 3.31$ | +0.79 |
| | (Mammoth Spring) | | | | | |
| 5 | Blytheville Middle School (Blytheville) | 7-8 | 83% | 88%→100% | $3.22 \rightarrow 3.92$ | +0.70 |



Table 134: Top 5 Most Improved Schools in **Central** Arkansas, **EOC Algebra** 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 | Jacksonville High School (Pulaski County Special) | 9-12 | 61% | 21%→71% | 1.82→2.82 | +1.00 |
| 2 | White Hall Junior High School (White Hall) | 7-9 | 39% | 73%→100% | 3.03→4.00 | +0.98 |
| 3 | Sheridan High School (Sheridan) | 9-12 | 47% | 37%→85% | 2.31→3.26 | +0.95 |
| 4 | Mabelvale Middle School (Little Rock) | 6-8 | 84% | 69%→100% | $2.77 \rightarrow 3.71$ | +0.95 |
| 5 | Fountain Lake High School (Fountain Lake) | 9-12 | 50% | 52%→91% | 2.46→3.27 | +0.82 |



Table 135: Top 5 Most Improved Schools in **Southwest** Arkansas, **EOC Algebra** 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 | Fouke High School (Fouke) | 9-12 | 53% | 45%→80% | 2.42→3.11 | +0.69 |
| 2 | Emerson High School | | | | | |
| | (Emerson-Taylor) ♦ | 7-12 | 46% | 68%→100% | $2.81 \rightarrow 3.47$ | +0.67 |
| 3 | Mineral Springs High School (Mineral | | | | | |
| | Springs) | 7-12 | 89% | 42%→66% | $2.38 \rightarrow 2.93$ | +0.55 |
| 4 | Mount Ida High School (Mount Ida) | 7-12 | 59% | 72%→96% | $2.96 \rightarrow 3.48$ | +0.53 |
| 5 | Ashdown High School (Ashdown) ♦ | 9-12 | 49% | 36%→63% | $2.34 \rightarrow 2.84$ | +0.51 |



Table 136: Top 5 Most Improved Schools in **Southeast** Arkansas, **EOC Algebra** 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 | Clarendon High School (Clarendon) ♦ | 7-12 | 83% | 43%→76% | 2.29→3.01 | +0.73 |
| 2 | Hermitage High School (Hermitage) ♦ | 7-12 | 69% | 32%→64% | $2.06 \rightarrow 2.76$ | +0.70 |
| 3 | Hamburg High School (Hamburg) | 9-12 | 72% | 8%→56% | 1.90→2.57 | +0.67 |
| 4 | Lakeside High School (Lakeside-Chicot County) | 9-12 | 78% | 17%→53% | 1.78→2.40 | +0.63 |
| 5 | Warren High School (Warren) ♦ | 9-12 | 77% | 41%→75% | $2.27 \rightarrow 2.88$ | +0.62 |

GG. Geometry End-of-Course Exam

Geometry is generally taken during the tenth grade; however, some students may elect to take the course earlier if they have taken prerequisite classes. This typically results in the most advanced students taking the exam in 8th or 9th grade. Because of the likely academic differences between students who take geometry in earlier grades, junior high schools tend to have higher proficiency levels than do schools which serve only 10th grade students. For this reason, schools have been split into two groups:

- High School: primarily 9th -12th grades (includes Comprehensive High Schools serving 7th-12th grades)
- Junior High School: primarily 8th-9th grades (and/or any grades below)

For the purposes of this report, all schools were considered for the awards by region.

Table 137: Top 20 Most Improved High Schools 9 Based on **EOC Geometry** Achievement from 2006-07/2007-08 to 2011-12/2012-13

| | School (District) | Region | Grades Served | % FRL | Proficient/ Advanced % Initial→ End ¹⁰ | GPA Initial→ End ¹¹ | GPA Growth |
|----|---|--------|------------------|----------|--|--------------------------------------|---------------|
| | State Average | - | - | 60% | 58%→70% | +2.67→2.88 | +0.23 |
| 1 | Rogers High School (Rogers) ◆ | NW | 9-12 | 50% | 45%→87% | 2.44→2.86 | +0.86 |
| 2 | West Side High School (West Side) ♦ | NE | 7-12 | 56% | 59%→90% | 2.55→2.79 | +0.84 |
| 3 | Harmony Grove High School (Harmony Grove Saline County) ◆ | CN | 9-12 | 33% | 57%→92% | 2.65→2.80 | +0.78 |
| 4 | Academics Plus High School (Academics Plus) | CN | 7-12 | 29% | 29%→67% | 2.11→3.32 | +0.76 |
| 5 | Cutter-Morning Star High School (Cutter Morning Star) ◆ | CN | 7-12 | 67% | 31%→69% | 2.09→3.38 | +0.71 |
| 6 | Lakeside High School (Lakeside—Chicot County) ♦ | SE | 9-12 | 78% | 35%→67% | 2.14→3.14 | +0.66 |
| 7 | Marshall High School (Searcy County) ♦ | NW | 7-12 | 68% | 61%→91% | 2.68→3.31 | +0.64 |
| 7 | Manila High School (Manila) | NE | 9-12 | 60% | 59%→91% | 2.74→3.29 | +0.64 |
| 7 | Farmington High School (Farmington) | NW | 9-12 | 33% | 47%→81% | 2.50→3.01 | +0.64 |
| 10 | Eureka Springs High School (Eureka Springs) | NW | 9-12 | 59% | 62%→86% | 2.68→3.18 | +0.63 |
| 11 | Cave City High School (Cave City) | NE | 9-12 | 68% | 54%→87% | 2.67→2.34 | +0.62 |
| 11 | Nettleton High School (Nettleton) | NE | 9-12 | 54% | 42%→75% | 2.40→3.06 | +0.62 |
| 13 | _Haas Hall (Haas Hall) | NW | 8-12 | - | 78%→98% | 3.14→3.75 | +0.61 |
| 14 | Pangburn High School (Pangburn) | NE | 7-12 | 51% | 55%→92% | 2.60→3.30 | +0.59 |
| 14 | Earle High School (Earle) ♦ | NE | 7-12 | 94% | 14%→42% | 1.76→2.83 | +0.59 |
| 16 | Newport High School (Newport) | NE | 9-12 | 62% | 47%→81% | 2.49→2.60 | +0.57 |
| 17 | Emerson High School (Emerson-Taylor) | SW | 7-12 | 46% | 57%→82% | 2.74→3.34 | +0.56 |
| 18 | Gurdon High School (Gurdon) ♦ | SW | 9-12 | 72% | 41%→65% | 2.28→2.98 | +0.55 |
| 18 | Dermott High School (Dermott) ♦ | SE | 7-12 | 94% | 22%→56% | 2.05→2.60 | +0.55 |
| 18 | St. Paul High School (Huntsville) | NW | 7-12 | 79% | 68%→92% | 2.79→3.34 | +0.55 |

 $^{^9}$ A school was designated High School if it primarily serves students in grades 9-12. 10 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.

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.

| 18 | Corning High School (Corning) | NE | 7-12 | 63% | 46%→79% | 2.44→2.98 | +0.55 |
|------|---------------------------------|----------|--------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|------------------------|-------|
| Tab | le 138: Top 10 Most Improved Ju | nior Hig | gh Schools ¹² | ² Based o | on EOC Geom e | e try Achieveme | nt |
| fron | n 2006-07/2007-08 to 2011-12/20 | 12-13 | | | | | |

| | School (District) | Region | Grades Served | % FRL | Proficient/ Advanced % Initial→End | GPA Initial→ End | GPA Growth |
|---|--|--------|------------------|----------|--|------------------------|---------------|
| | State Average | - | - | 60% | 98%→95% | 3.63→3.59 | +0.02 |
| 1 | L. A. Chaffin Junior High School (Fort Smith) ♦ | NW | 7-9 | 47% | 97%→100% | 3.54→3.91 | +0.37 |
| 2 | Dora Kimmons Junior High School (Fort Smith) ♦ | NW | 7-9 | 93% | 75%→92% | 3.02→3.34 | +0.32 |
| 3 | Ramay Junior High School (Fayetteville) | NW | 8-9 | 55% | 99%→100% | 3.57→3.83 | +0.26 |
| 4 | Hot Springs Middle School (Hot Springs) | CN | 7-8 | 82% | 100%→98% | 3.51→3.68 | +0.17 |
| 5 | Greene County Tech Junior High School (Greene County Tech) | NE | 8-9 | 50% | 98%→100% | 3.64→3.80 | +0.16 |
| 6 | Greenwood Junior High School (Greenwood) | NW | P-9 | 35% | 100%→100% | 3.62→3.76 | +0.14 |
| 7 | Booneville Junior High School (Booneville) | NW | 7-9 | 68% | 100%→100% | 3.56→3.66 | +0.11 |
| 8 | Ozark Junior High School (Ozark) ♦ | NW | 8-9 | 52% | 94%→98% | 3.54→3.64 | +0.10 |
| 9 | Vilonia Junior High School (Vilonia) ♦ | CN | 8-9 | 38% | 100%→100% | 3.81→3.90 | +0.09 |
| 9 | Pocahontas Junior High School (Pocahontas) | NE | 7-9 | 57% | 99%→98% | 3.43→3.51 | +0.09 |

¹² A school was designated a Junior High School if it serves students in grades primarily 7-8 (maximum grade of 9)

Tables 139-143: Top 5 Most Improved Schools in Arkansas by Region, **EOC Geometry** Achievement from 2006-07/2007-08 to 2011-12/2012-13



Table 139: Top 5 Most Improved Schools in Northwest Arkansas, EOC Geometry 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 | Rogers High School (Rogers) ♦ | 9-12 | 50% | 45%→87% | 2.44→3.30 | +0.86 |
| 2 | Marshall High School (Searcy County) ◆ | 7-12 | 68% | 61%→91% | $2.68 \rightarrow 3.32$ | +0.64 |
| 2 | Farmington High School (Farmington) | 9-12 | 33% | 47%→81% | $2.50 \rightarrow 3.14$ | +0.64 |
| 4 | Eureka Springs High School (Eureka Springs) | 9-12 | 59% | 62%→86% | 2.68→3.31 | +0.63 |
| 5 | Haas Hall Academy (Haas Hall Academy) | 8-12 | 1% | 78%→98% | 3.14→3.75 | +0.61 |



Table 140: Top 5 Most Improved Schools in Northeast Arkansas, EOC Geometry 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 | West Side High School (West Side) ♦ | 7-12 | 56% | 59%→90% | $2.55 \rightarrow 3.39$ | +0.84 |
| 2 | Manila High School (Manila) | 9-12 | 60% | 59%→91% | $2.74 \rightarrow 3.38$ | +0.64 |
| 3 | Cave City High School (Cave City) | 9-12 | 68% | 54%→87% | $2.67 \rightarrow 3.29$ | +0.62 |
| 3 | Nettleton High School (Nettleton) | 9-12 | 54% | 42%→75% | $2.40 \rightarrow 3.01$ | +0.62 |
| 5 | Pangburn High School (Pangburn) | 7-12 | 51% | 55%→92% | 2.60→3.18 | +0.59 |
| 5 | Earle High School (Earle) | 7-12 | 94% | 14%→42% | $1.76 \rightarrow 2.34$ | +0.59 |



Table 141: Top 5 Most Improved Schools in **Central** Arkansas, **EOC Geometry** 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 | Harmony Grove High School (Harmony Grove—Saline County) ♦ | 9-12 | 33% | 57%→92% | 2.65→3.42 | +0.78 |
| 2 | Academics Plus High School (Academics Plus) | 7-12 | 29% | 29%→67% | 2.11→2.86 | +0.76 |
| 3 | Cutter-Morning Star High School (Cutter Morning Star) ♦ | 7-12 | 67% | 31%→69% | 2.09→2.79 | +0.71 |
| 4 | Mayflower High School (Mayflower) | 9-12 | 52% | 45%→74% | $2.38 \rightarrow 2.91$ | +0.54 |
| 4 | Mt. Vernon/Enola High School (Mt. Vernon-Enola) | 7-12 | 52% | 78%→92% | 2.95→3.49 | +0.54 |



Table 142: Top 5 Most Improved Schools in **Southwest** Arkansas, **EOC Geometry** 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 | Emerson High School (Emerson-Taylor) | 7-12 | 46% | 57%→82% | 2.74→3.30 | +0.56 |
| 2 | Gurdon High School (Gurdon) ♦ | 9-12 | 72% | 41%→65% | $2.28 \rightarrow 2.83$ | +0.55 |
| 3 | Ashdown High School (Ashdown) | 9-12 | 49% | 30%→59% | 2.09→2.63 | +0.54 |
| 4 | Lafayette County High School (Lafayette | | | | | |
| | County) | 7-12 | 78% | 24%→53% | $1.93 \rightarrow 2.45$ | +0.52 |
| 5 | Mount Ida High School (Mount Ida) | 7-12 | 59% | 65%→88% | $2.76 \rightarrow 3.27$ | +0.51 |



Table 143: Top 5 Most Improved Schools in **Southeast** Arkansas, **EOC Geometry** 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 High School (Lakeside—Chicot | | | | | |
| | County) ♦ | 9-12 | 78% | 35%→67% | $2.14 \rightarrow 2.80$ | +0.66 |
| 2 | Dermott High School (Dermott) ◆ | 7-12 | 94% | 22%→56% | $2.05 \rightarrow 2.60$ | +0.55 |
| 3 | Hermitage High School (Hermitage) | 7-12 | 69% | 45%→67% | $2.29 \rightarrow 2.80$ | +0.51 |
| 4 | Clarendon High School (Clarendon) | 7-12 | 83% | 29%→54% | $2.12 \rightarrow 2.60$ | +0.48 |
| 5 | Marvell High School (Marvell) | 7-12 | 96% | 33%→56% | $2.28 \rightarrow 2.73$ | +0.46 |

HH. Biology End-of-Course Exam

Biology is generally taken during the tenth grade; however, some students may elect to take the course earlier if they have taken prerequisite classes. This typically results in the most advanced students taking the exam in 8th or 9th grade. Because of the likely academic differences between students who take biology in earlier grades, junior high schools tend to have higher proficiency levels than do schools which serve only 10th grade students. For this reason, schools have been split into two groups:

- High School: primarily 9th -12th grades (includes Comprehensive High Schools serving 7th-12th grades)
- Junior High School: primarily 8th-9th grades (and/or any grades below)

For the purposes of this report, all schools were included for the awards by region.

The Biology EOC was first administered in the 2007-08 school year, and so for the purposes of this report, growth is measured from a baseline average of the 2007-08 and 2008-09 school years to an outcome average of the 2011-12 and 2012-13 school years.

Table 144: Top 20 Most Improved Schools¹³ Based on **EOC Biology** Achievement from 2007-08/2008-09 to 2011-12/2012-13

| | School (District) | Region | Grades Served | % FRL | Proficient/ Advanced % Initial→ End ¹⁴ | GPA Initial→ End ¹⁵ | GPA Growth |
|----|---|--------|------------------|----------|---|--------------------------------------|---------------|
| | State Average | - | - | 60% | 23%→30% | 1.86→2.07 | +0.21 |
| 1 | Carlisle High School (Carlisle) ◆ | CN | 7-12 | 53% | 19%→59% | 1.77→2.70 | +0.93 |
| 2 | Western Yell Co. High School (Western Yell County) ♦ | NW | 7-12 | 75% | 12%→45% | 1.72→2.45 | +0.74 |
| 3 | Armorel High School (Armorel) ♦ | NE | 7-12 | 35% | 14%→47% | 1.74→2.44 | +0.71 |
| 4 | Corning High School (Corning) ♦ | NE | 7-12 | 63% | 14%→39% | 1.67→2.32 | +0.65 |
| 5 | Marmaduke High School (Marmaduke) ♦ | NE | 7-12 | 59% | 40%→64% | 2.20→2.83 | +0.64 |
| 5 | West Side High School (West Side) | NE | 7-12 | 56% | 21%→58% | 1.96→2.59 | +0.64 |
| 7 | Hampton High School (Hampton) | SW | 7-12 | 66% | 20%→37% | 1.72→2.34 | +0.62 |
| 7 | George Junior High School (Springdale) | NW | 8-9 | 77% | 73%→95% | 2.82→3.44 | +0.62 |
| 9 | Clarendon High School (Clarendon) ♦ | SE | 7-12 | 83% | 17%→42% | 1.64→2.25 | +0.61 |
| 10 | Glen Rose High School (Glen Rose) ♦ | CN | 9-12 | 49% | 29%→62% | 2.07→2.67 | +0.60 |
| 11 | Mt. Vernon/Enola High School (Mt. Vernon-Enola) | CN | 7-12 | 52% | 33%→57% | 2.09→2.67 | +0.59 |
| 12 | Rison High School (Cleveland County) ♦ | SE | 7-12 | 52% | 33%→60% | 2.12→2.70 | +0.58 |
| 13 | Cutter-Morning Star High School (Cutter Morning Star) ◆ | CN | 7-12 | 67% | 21%→48% | 1.91→2.46 | +0.56 |
| 14 | Greene County Tech High School (Greene County Tech) | NE | 10-12 | 43% | 33%→54% | 2.00→2.54 | +0.54 |
| 14 | Marshall High School (Searcy County) | NW | 7-12 | 68% | 37%→61% | 2.21→2.75 | +0.54 |
| 16 | Berryville High School (Berryville) ♦ | NW | 9-12 | 44% | 34%→58% | 2.14→2.67 | +0.53 |
| 17 | Alpena High School (Alpena) | NW | 7-12 | 51% | 39%→67% | $2.28 \rightarrow 2.79$ | +0.52 |
| 17 | Rogers High School (Rogers) ◆ | NW | 9-12 | 50% | 34%→55% | 2.07→2.59 | +0.52 |
| 19 | County Line High School (County Line) | NW | 7-12 | 54% | 35%→63% | 2.21→2.72 | +0.51 |
| 19 | Mt. Judea High School (Deer/Mt. Judea) | NW | 7-12 | 78% | 17%→41% | 1.82→2.32 | +0.51 |

¹³ For the purposes of this award, schools of any grade level configuration are included, as there are very few junior highs that offered EOC Biology throughout this time span.

¹⁴ Initial Proficient/Advanced % is an average of the 2007-08 and 2008-09 school years, because the first Biology Exam was administered in

^{2007-08.} End Proficient/Advanced % is an average of the 2011-12 and 2012-13 school years.

15 Initial GPA is an average of the 2007-08 and 2008-09 school years. End GPA is an average of the 2011-12 and 2012-13 school years.

Tables 145-149: Top 5 Most Improved Schools in Arkansas by Region, **EOC Biology** Achievement from 2007-08/2008-09 to 2011-12/2012-13



Table 145: Top 5 Most Improved Schools in Northwest Arkansas, EOC Biology Achievement from 2007-08/2008-09 to 2011-12/2012-13

| | School (District) | Grades Served | % FRL | Proficient/ Advanced % Initial→ End | GPA Initial→ End | GPA Growth |
|---|--|------------------|----------|--|-------------------------|---------------|
| 1 | Western Yell Co. High School (Western | 7-12 | 75% | 12%→45% | 1.72→2.45 | +0.74 |
| | Yell County) ♦ | | | | | |
| 2 | George Junior High School (Springdale) | 8-9 | 77% | 73%→95% | $2.82 \rightarrow 3.44$ | +0.62 |
| 3 | Marshall High School (Searcy County) | 7-12 | 68% | 37%→61% | $2.21 \rightarrow 2.75$ | +0.54 |
| 4 | Berryville High School (Berryville) ◆ | 9-12 | 44% | 34%→58% | $2.14 \rightarrow 2.67$ | +0.53 |
| 5 | Alpena High School (Alpena) | 7-12 | 51% | 39%→67% | $2.28 \rightarrow 2.79$ | +0.52 |
| 5 | Rogers High School (Rogers) ◆ | 9-12 | 50% | 34%→55% | $2.07 \rightarrow 2.59$ | +0.52 |



Table 146: Top 5 Most Improved Schools in **Northeast** Arkansas, **EOC Biology** Achievement from 2007-08/2008-09 to 2011-12/2012-13

| | School (District) | Grades Served | % FRL | Proficient/ Advanced % Initial→ End | GPA Initial→ End | GPA Growth |
|---|-------------------------------------|------------------|----------|--|-------------------------|---------------|
| 1 | Armorel High School (Armorel) ♦ | 7-12 | 35% | 14%→47% | 1.74→2.44 | +0.71 |
| 2 | Corning High School (Corning)◆ | 7-12 | 63% | 14%→39% | $1.67 \rightarrow 2.32$ | +0.65 |
| 3 | Marmaduke High School (Marmaduke) ♦ | 7-12 | 59% | 40%→64% | $2.20 \rightarrow 2.83$ | +0.64 |
| 3 | West Side High School (West Side) ◆ | 7-12 | 56% | 21%→58% | $1.96 \rightarrow 2.59$ | +0.64 |
| 5 | Greene County Tech High School | | | | | |
| | (Greene County Tech) | 10-12 | 43% | 33%→54% | 2.00→2.54 | +0.54 |



Table 147: Top 5 Most Improved Schools in **Central** Arkansas, **EOC Biology** Achievement from 2007-08/2008-09 to 2011-12/2012-13

| | School (District) | Grades Served | % FRL | Proficient/ Advanced % Initial→ End | GPA Initial→ End | GPA Growth |
|---|---|------------------|----------|--|-------------------------|---------------|
| 1 | Carlisle High School (Carlisle) | 7-12 | 53% | 19%→79% | 1.77→2.70 | +0.93 |
| 2 | Glen Rose High School (Glen Rose) ♦ | 9-12 | 49% | 29%→62% | $2.07 \rightarrow 2.67$ | +0.60 |
| 3 | Mt. Vernon/Enola High School (Mt. Vernon-Enola) ♦ | 7-12 | 52% | 33%→57% | 2.09→2.67 | +0.59 |
| 4 | Cutter-Morning Star High School (Cutter Morning Star) ♦ | 7-12 | 67% | 21%→48% | 1.91→2.46 | +0.56 |
| 5 | McClellan Magnet High School (Little Rock) | 9-12 | 81% | 3%→12% | 1.27→1.62 | +0.35 |



Table 148: Top 5 Most Improved Schools in **Southwest** Arkansas, **EOC Biology** Achievement from 2007-08/2008-09 to 2011-12/2012-13

| | School (District) | Grades Served | % FRL | Proficient/ Advanced % Initial→End | GPA Initial→ End | GPA Growth |
|---|--------------------------------------|------------------|----------|--|-------------------------|---------------|
| 1 | Hampton High School (Hampton) | 7-12 | 66% | 20%→37% | $1.72 \rightarrow 2.34$ | +0.62 |
| 2 | Prescott High School (Prescott) | 7-12 | 69% | 14%→36% | $1.70 \rightarrow 2.18$ | +0.48 |
| 3 | Dierks High School (Dierks) ♦ | 7-12 | 56% | 11%→39% | 1.76→2.23 | +0.47 |
| 3 | Magnolia High School (Magnolia) | 10-12 | 58% | 24%→44% | $1.91 \rightarrow 2.38$ | +0.47 |
| 5 | Emerson High School (Emerson-Taylor) | 7-12 | 46% | 45%→63% | $2.30 \rightarrow 2.76$ | +0.46 |



Table 149: Top 5 Most Improved Schools in **Southeast** Arkansas, **EOC Biology** Achievement from 2007-08/2008-09 to 2011-12/2012-13

| | School (District) | Grades Served | % FRL | Proficient/ Advanced % Initial→ End | GPA Initial→ End | GPA Growth |
|---|--|------------------|----------|--|-------------------------|---------------|
| 1 | Clarendon High School (Clarendon) ♦ | 7-12 | 83% | 17%→42% | 1.64→2.25 | +0.61 |
| 2 | Rison High School (Cleveland County) ♦ | 7-12 | 52% | 33%→60% | $2.12 \rightarrow 2.70$ | +0.58 |
| 3 | Star City High School (Star City) | 9-12 | 58% | 27%→40% | $1.92 \rightarrow 2.31$ | +0.40 |
| 3 | Lakeside High School (Lakeside –Chicot County) ♦ | 9-12 | 78% | 15%→28% | 1.60→2.00 | +0.40 |
| 5 | Dermott High School (Dermott) | 7-12 | 94% | 5%→17% | 1.35→1.74 | +0.39 |

II. Literacy End-of-Course Exam

Table 150: Top 20 Most Improved High Schools Based on Grade 11 Literacy Achievement from 2006-07/2007-08 to 2011-12/2012-13

| | School (District) | Region | Grades Served | % FRL | Proficient/ Advanced % Initial→ End ¹⁶ | GPA Initial→ End ¹⁷ | GPA Growth |
|----|---|--------|------------------|----------|---|--------------------------------------|---------------|
| | State Average | - | - | 60% | 35%→51% | 2.21→2.52 | +0.30 |
| 1 | Palestine-Wheatley Senior High (Palestine/Wheatley) ◆ | NE | 9-12 | 99% | 25%→73% | 1.99→2.91 | +0.92 |
| 2 | Cutter-Morning Star High School (Cutter Morning Star) ◆ | CN | 7-12 | 67% | 23%→73% | 2.06→2.92 | +0.87 |
| 3 | St. Paul High School (Huntsville) ♦ | NW | 7-12 | 79% | 36%→78% | 2.23→2.98 | +0.76 |
| 4 | Viola High School (Viola) ♦ | NE | 7-12 | 56% | 45%→83% | $2.41 \rightarrow 3.14$ | +0.73 |
| 5 | Harrisburg High School (Harrisburg) ♦ | NE | 9-12 | 73% | 28%→71% | 2.12→2.83 | +0.72 |
| 6 | Guy-Perkins High School (Guy-Perkins) ♦ | CN | 7-12 | 58% | 39%→76% | 2.23→2.94 | +0.71 |
| 7 | Lamar High School (Lamar) ♦ | NW | 9-12 | 61% | 54%→90% | 2.51→3.21 | +0.70 |
| 8 | Taylor High School (Emerson- Taylor) ♦ | SW | 7-12 | 35% | 60%→91% | 2.54→3.22 | +0.68 |
| 9 | Norphlet High School (Norphlet) ♦ | SW | 7-12 | 51% | 31%→77% | 2.21→2.88 | +0.67 |
| 10 | Murfreesboro High School (South Pike County) ♦ | SW | 7-12 | 60% | 34%→68% | 2.13→2.76 | +0.64 |
| 11 | Booneville High School (Booneville) ♦ | NW | 10-12 | 57% | 36%→78% | 2.30→2.93 | +0.63 |
| 11 | Deer High School (Deer/Mt. Judea) ♦ | NW | 7-12 | 71% | 53%→79% | 2.39→3.02 | +0.63 |
| 13 | Bismarck High School (Bismarck) ◆ | CN | 9-12 | 57% | 48%→80% | 2.41→3.03 | +0.62 |
| 13 | Carlisle High School (Carlisle) ♦ | CN | 7-12 | 53% | 44%→74% | $2.33 \rightarrow 2.95$ | +0.62 |
| 13 | Jasper High School (Jasper) ◆ | NW | 7-12 | 72% | 31%→69% | $2.16 \rightarrow 2.78$ | +0.62 |
| 16 | Bentonville High School (Bentonville) ◆ | NW | 9-12 | 28% | 70%→87% | 2.67→3.28 | +0.61 |
| 16 | Southside High School (Southside) ◆ | NE | 9-12 | 52% | 47%→76% | 2.34→2.95 | +0.61 |
| 16 | Berryville High School (Berryville) ♦ | NW | 9-12 | 44% | 47%→77% | 2.38→2.98 | +0.61 |
| 19 | El Dorado High School (El Dorado) ♦ | SW | 9-12 | 57% | 41%→70% | 2.26→2.86 | +0.60 |

 16 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.

17 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.

| | School (District) | Region | Grades Served | % FRL | Proficient/ Advanced % Initial→ End ¹⁸ | GPA Initial→ End ¹⁹ | GPA Growth |
|----|--|--------|------------------|----------|--|--------------------------------------|---------------|
| 20 | Greenbrier High School (Greenbrier) ◆ | CN | 10-12 | 24% | 56%→80% | 2.47→3.06 | +0.59 |
| 20 | Haas Hall Academy (Haas Hall Academy) ♦ | NW | 8-12 | 1% | 94%→99% | 2.94→3.53 | +0.59 |
| 20 | Pangburn High School (Pangburn) ◆ | NE | 7-12 | 51% | 42%→77% | 2.29→2.87 | +0.59 |

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

 $^{^{18} \,} Initial \, Proficient/Advanced \, \% \, \, is \, an \, average \, of \, the \, 2006-07 \, \, and \, 2007-08 \, \, school \, years. \, End \, Proficient/Advanced \, \% \, \, is \, an \, average \, of \, the \, 2011-12 \, \, average \, of \, the \, 2011-1$ and 2012-13 school years.

19 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.

Tables 151-155: Top 5 Most Improved Schools in Arkansas by Region, **Grade 11 Literacy** Achievement from 2006-07/2007-08 to 2011-12/2012-13



Table 151: Top 5 Most Improved Schools in Northwest Arkansas, Grade 11 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% | 36%→78% | 2.23→2.98 | +0.76 |
| 2 | Lamar High School (Lamar) ◆ | 9-12 | 61% | 54%→90% | $2.51 \rightarrow 3.21$ | +0.70 |
| 3 | Booneville High School (Booneville) ◆ | 10-12 | 57% | 36%→78% | 2.30→2.93 | +0.63 |
| 4 | Deer High School (Deer/Mt. Judea) ◆ | 7-12 | 71% | 53%→79% | $2.39 \rightarrow 3.02$ | +0.63 |
| 5 | Jasper High School (Jasper) ♦ | 7-12 | 72% | 31%→69% | 2.16→2.78 | +0.62 |



Table 152: Top 5 Most Improved Schools in Northeast Arkansas, Grade 11 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 | Palestine-Wheatley Senior High | 9-12 | 99% | 25%→73% | 1.99→2.91 | +0.92 |
| | (Palestine/Wheatley) ◆ | | | | | |
| 2 | Viola High School (Viola) ♦ | 7-12 | 56% | 45%→83% | $2.41 \rightarrow 3.14$ | +0.73 |
| 3 | Harrisburg High School (Harrisburg) ♦ | 9-12 | 73% | 28%→71% | 2.12→2.83 | +0.72 |
| 4 | Southside High School (Southside) ◆ | 9-12 | 52% | 47%→76% | $2.34 \rightarrow 2.95$ | +0.61 |
| 5 | Pangburn High School (Pangburn) ♦ | 7-12 | 51% | 42%→77% | $2.29 \rightarrow 2.87$ | +0.59 |



Table 153: Top 5 Most Improved Schools in **Central** Arkansas, **Grade 11 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 | Cutter-Morning Star High School (Cutter Morning Star) ◆ | 7-12 | 67% | 23%→73% | 2.06→2.92 | +0.87 |
| 2 | Guy-Perkins High School (Guy-Perkins) ♦ | 7-12 | 58% | 39%→76% | 2.23→2.94 | +0.71 |
| 3 | Bismarck High School (Bismarck) ♦ | 9-12 | 57% | 48%→80% | $2.41 \rightarrow 3.03$ | +0.62 |
| 3 | Carlisle High School (Carlisle) ◆ | 7-12 | 53% | 44%→74% | $2.33 \rightarrow 2.95$ | +0.62 |
| 5 | Greenbrier High School (Greenbrier)◆ | 10-12 | 24% | 56%→80% | 2.47→3.06 | +0.59 |



Table 154: Top 5 Most Improved Schools in **Southwest** Arkansas, **Grade 11 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 | Taylor High School (Emerson-Taylor) ♦ | 7-12 | 35% | 60%→91% | 2.54→3.22 | +0.68 |
| 2 | Norphlet High School (Norphlet) ◆ | 7-12 | 51% | 31%→77% | $2.21 \rightarrow 2.88$ | +0.67 |
| 3 | Murfreesboro High School (South Pike County) ♦ | 7-12 | 60% | 34%→68% | 2.13→2.76 | +0.64 |
| 4 | El Dorado High School (El Dorado) ♦ | 9-12 | 57% | 41%→70% | $2.26 \rightarrow 2.86$ | +0.60 |
| 5 | Bradley High School (Bradley) ♦ | 7-12 | 75% | 29%→58% | $2.00 \rightarrow 2.55$ | +0.55 |
| 5 | De Queen High School (DeQueen) ♦ | 10-12 | 69% | 40%→72% | $2.34 \rightarrow 2.89$ | +0.55 |



Table 155: Top 5 Most Improved Schools in **Southeast** Arkansas, **Grade 11 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 | Dermott High School (Dermott) ♦ | 7-12 | 94% | 8%→39% | 1.82→2.36 | +0.54 |
| 1 | Dumas High School (Dumas) ♦ | 10-12 | 78% | 30%→56% | $2.10 \rightarrow 2.64$ | +0.54 |
| 3 | Barton High School (Barton-Lexa) ♦ | 7-12 | 73% | 34%→54% | 2.14→2.59 | +0.45 |
| 4 | Clarendon High School (Clarendon) ♦ | 7-12 | 83% | 24%→45% | $2.03 \rightarrow 2.45$ | +0.42 |
| 4 | Monticello High School (Monticello) ♦ | 9-12 | 48% | 45%→65% | 2.35→2.77 | +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 overall on the End-of-Course Exams. Some of this growth may be attributed to increased familiarity with the exams. However, it is also quite clear that student performance is improving and Arkansas students are learning more and more in these key areas of Algebra, Geometry, Biology, and Literacy. Indeed, it is important to recognize the hard work of these students and schools.

The figures below display Arkansas End-of-Course Exam growth across the state. Algebra, Geometry, and Grade 11 Literacy scores from the 2006-07/2007-08 and the 2011-12/2012-13 school years are compared. Since Biology EOC was first administered in the 2007-08 school year, Biology scores from the 2007-08/2008-09 and 2011-12/2012-13 school years are compared.

Over time, in all four subjects, fewer students scored below basic and basic. Thus, in all subjects, more students scored proficient or advanced, with more students scoring advanced. Grade 11 Literacy had a large number of students move into the advanced category compared to the initial years, as fewer than 1% of students scored advanced in the initial years. The Biology End-Of-Course Exam had the least movement of students, most certainly due to the fact that a smaller time period is being examined.

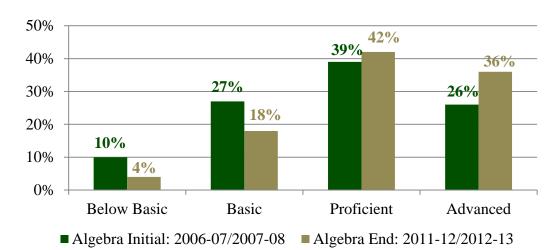
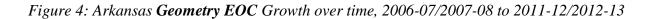


Figure 3: Arkansas Algebra EOC Growth over time, 2006-07/2007-08 to 2011-12/2012-13



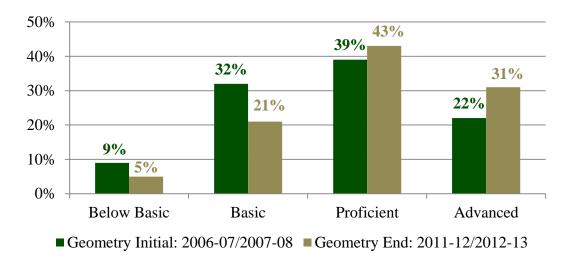


Figure 5: Arkansas Biology EOC Growth over time, 2008-09/2009-10 to 2011-12/2012-13

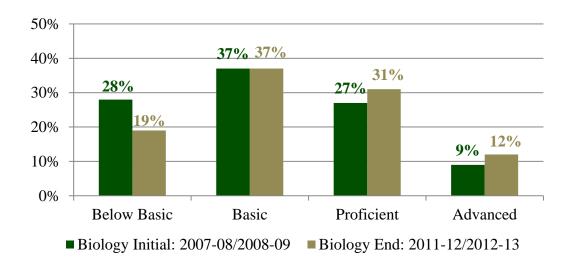
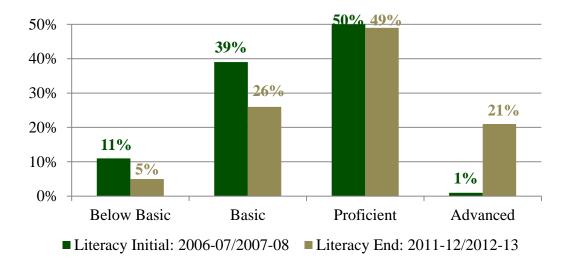


Figure 6: Arkansas **Grade 11 Literacy** Growth over time, 2006-07/2007-08 to 2011-12/2012-13



We at the OEP are pleased to recognize all the schools on the End-of-Course Exam Growth Awards.

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.

* * * * *

This concludes the **Most Improved High Schools** Outstanding Educational Performance Awards. This is the final installment of the Outstanding Educational Performance Awards for the 2012-13 school year. Congratulations to all the schools receiving awards this year! We look forward to recognizing more schools next year.

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.

C. School Classification – High School Awards

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

- Junior High: primarily grades 7 9 (maximum grade of 9)
- High School: primarily grades 9 12

For the Algebra EOC, schools are classified differently, as the test is taken at different levels. These classifications are explained in the Algebra EOC section.

Table B: School Classifications

| Junior High | High School |
|-------------|-------------|
| 5-7 | 8-12 |
| 5-8 | 9-12 |
| 6-7 | 10-12 |
| 6-8 | 11-12 |
| 7-8 | 9-10 |
| 7-9 | 7-12 |
| 8 | 6-12 |
| 8-9 | 5-12 |
| 4-8 | K-12 |
| 1-8 | |
| K-8 | |