# Office for Education Policy 

## ARKANSAS EDUCATION REPORT

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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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## Table of Contents

Introduction Error! Bookmark not defined.
VII. 2013 OEP Awards: Most Improved High Schools Between 2007 and 2013 ..... 107
FF. Algebra End-of-Course Exam ..... 109
GG. Geometry End-of-Course Exam ..... 114
HH. Biology End-of-Course Exam ..... 118
II. Grade 11 Literacy Exam ..... 121
Appendix ..... A1

## 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 Outstanding Educational Performance 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 <br> 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. ${ }^{1}$ 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.

[^0]
## 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 $7^{\text {th }}$ or $8^{\text {th }}$ 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 $9^{\text {th }}$ grade students. Due to these differences, these awards are split into three categories:

- High School (schools that serve $9^{\text {th }}$ grade and above)
- Junior High and Comprehensive High School (schools that serve $8^{\text {th }}$ and $9^{\text {th }}$ grade)
- Middle School (schools that serve $8^{\text {th }}$ 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 Schools ${ }^{2}$ Based on EOC Algebra Achievement from 2006-07/2007-08 to 2011-12/2012-13

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

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

[^1]Table 130: Top 10 Most Improved Schools Junior High Schools and Comprehensive High Schools ${ }^{7}$ Based on EOC Algebra Achievement from 2006-07/2007-08 to 2011-12/2012-13

|  | School (District) | Region | Grades Served | $\begin{gathered} \% \\ \text { FRL } \end{gathered}$ | Proficient/ Advanced \% Initial $\rightarrow$ End | $\xrightarrow[\text { GPA }]{\text { Initial } \rightarrow} \text { End }$ | GPA <br> Growth |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | State Average | - |  | 60\% | 64\% $\rightarrow$ 75\% | $\mathbf{2 . 7 9 \rightarrow 3 . 0 1 ~}$ | +0.22 |
| 1 | Haas Hall Academy (Haas Hall Academy) | NW | 8-12 | - | $65 \% \rightarrow 100 \%$ | $2.79 \rightarrow 3.98$ | +1.19 |
| 2 | White Hall Junior High School (White Hall) | CN | 7-9 | 39\% | $73 \% \rightarrow 100 \%$ | $3.03 \rightarrow 4.0$ | +0.98 |
| 3 | Corning High School (Corning) | NE | 7-12 | 63\% | $52 \% \rightarrow 95 \%$ | $2.59 \rightarrow 3.48$ | +0.89 |
| 4 | Earle High School (Earle) | NE | 7-12 | 94\% | $13 \% \rightarrow 50 \%$ | $1.61 \rightarrow 2.45$ | +0.85 |
| 5 | Mammoth Spring High School (Mammoth Spring) | NE | 7-12 | 61\% | $48 \% \rightarrow 89 \%$ | $2.53 \rightarrow 3.31$ | +0.79 |
| 6 | Mt. Vernon/Enola High School (Mt. Vernon-Enola) | CN | 7-12 | 52\% | 60\% $\rightarrow 97 \%$ | $2.73 \rightarrow 3.50$ | +0.78 |
| 7 | Clarendon High School (Clarendon) | SE | 7-12 | 83\% | $43 \% \rightarrow 76 \%$ | $2.29 \rightarrow 3.01$ | +0.73 |
| 8 | Hermitage High School (Hermitage) | SE | 7-12 | 69\% | $32 \% \rightarrow 64 \%$ | $2.06 \rightarrow 2.76$ | +0.70 |
| 8 | Marshall High School (Searcy County) | NW | 7-12 | 68\% | 65\% $\rightarrow 96 \%$ | $2.90 \rightarrow 3.59$ | +0.70 |
| 10 | Hughes High School (Hughes) | NE | 7-12 | 80\% | $40 \% \rightarrow 82 \%$ | $2.38 \rightarrow 3.06$ | +0.69 |

[^2]Table 131: Top 10 Most Improved Middle Schools ${ }^{8}$ Based on EOC Algebra Achievement from 2006-07/2007-08 to 2011-12/2012-13

|  | School (District) | Region | Grades <br> Served | \% <br> FRL | Proficient/ <br> Advanced \% <br> Initial $\rightarrow$ End | GPA <br> Initial $\rightarrow$ <br> End | GPA <br> Growth |
| :--- | :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\mathbf{1}$ | State Average | - | - | $\mathbf{6 0}$ | $\mathbf{9 3 \% \rightarrow \mathbf { 5 \% }}$ | $\mathbf{3 . 5 3 \rightarrow 3 . 6 2}$ | $+\mathbf{0 . 1 1}$ |
| $\mathbf{2}$ | Oakdale Middle School <br> (Rogers) | NW | $6-8$ | $69 \%$ | $74 \% \rightarrow 100 \%$ | $3.02 \rightarrow 4.0$ | +0.99 |
| Mabelvale Middle School <br> (Little Rock) | CN | $6-8$ | $84 \%$ | $69 \% \rightarrow 100 \%$ | $2.77 \rightarrow 3.71$ | +0.95 |  |
| $\mathbf{3}$ | Blytheville Middle School <br> (Blytheville) | 2 | $7-8$ | $83 \%$ | $88 \% \rightarrow 100 \%$ | $3.22 \rightarrow 3.92$ | +0.70 |
| $\mathbf{4}$ | Maumelle Middle School <br> (Pulaski County) | CN | $6-8$ | $45 \%$ | $81 \% \rightarrow 99 \%$ | $2.96 \rightarrow 3.63$ | +0.68 |
| $\mathbf{4}$ | Pea Ridge Middle School (Pea <br> Ridge) | NW | $6-8$ | $44 \%$ | $80 \% \rightarrow 100 \%$ | $3.08 \rightarrow 3.75$ | +0.68 |
| $\mathbf{6}$ | Elmwood Middle School <br> (Rogers) | NW | $6-8$ | $58 \%$ | $86 \% \rightarrow 100 \%$ | $3.32 \rightarrow 3.96$ | +0.65 |
| $\mathbf{7}$ | Pulaski Heights Middle School <br> (Little Rock) | CN | $6-8$ | $44 \%$ | $88 \% \rightarrow 100 \%$ | $3.29 \rightarrow 3.91$ | +0.63 |
| $\mathbf{8}$ | Lonoke Middle School <br> (Lonoke) | CN | $6-8$ | $57 \%$ | $95 \% \rightarrow 100 \%$ | $3.49 \rightarrow 3.96$ | +0.48 |
| $\mathbf{9}$ | Bismarck Middle School <br> (Bismarck) | CN | $5-8$ | $62 \%$ | $100 \% \rightarrow 100 \%$ | $3.52 \rightarrow 3.93$ | +0.41 |
| $\mathbf{1 0}$ | Mann Magnet Middle School <br> (Little Rock) | CN | $6-8$ | $61 \%$ | $94 \% \rightarrow 100 \%$ | $3.58 \rightarrow 3.93$ | +0.36 |

[^3]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 <br> Served | \% <br> FRL | Proficient/ <br> Advanced \% <br> Initial $\rightarrow$ <br> End | GPA <br> Initial $\rightarrow$ <br> End | GPA <br> Growth |
| :--- | :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\mathbf{1}$ | Haas Hall Academy (Haas Hall | $8-12$ | - | $65 \% \rightarrow 100 \%$ | $2.79 \rightarrow 3.98$ | +1.19 |
|  | Academy) | $6-8$ | $69 \%$ | $74 \% \rightarrow 100 \%$ | $3.02 \rightarrow 4.0$ | +0.99 |
| $\mathbf{2}$ | Oakdale Middle School (Rogers) | $10-12$ | $50 \%$ | $22 \% \rightarrow 65 \%$ | $1.89 \rightarrow 2.76$ | +0.88 |
| $\mathbf{3}$ | Van Buren High School (Van Buren) | $9-12$ | $44 \%$ | $53 \% \rightarrow 86 \%$ | $2.51 \rightarrow 3.31$ | +0.80 |
| $\mathbf{4}$ | Berryville High School (Berryville) | $9-12$ | $59 \%$ | $39 \% \rightarrow 81 \%$ | $2.35 \rightarrow 3.11$ | +0.77 |
| $\mathbf{5}$ | Eureka Springs High School (Eureka |  |  |  |  |  |

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 <br> Served | \% <br> FRL | Proficient/ <br> Advanced \% <br> Initial $\rightarrow$ <br> End | GPA <br> Initial $\rightarrow$ <br> End | GPA <br> Growth |
| :--- | :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\mathbf{1}$ | Palestine-Wheatley Senior High <br> (Palestine-Wheatley) | $9-12$ | $99 \%$ | $34 \% \rightarrow 87 \%$ | $2.21 \rightarrow 3.15$ | +0.94 |
| $\mathbf{2}$ | Corning High School (Corning) | $7-12$ | $63 \%$ | $52 \% \rightarrow 95 \%$ | $2.59 \rightarrow 3.48$ | +0.89 |
| $\mathbf{3}$ | Earle High School (Earle) | $7-12$ | $94 \%$ | $13 \% \rightarrow 50 \%$ | $1.61 \rightarrow 2.45$ | +0.85 |
| $\mathbf{4}$ | Mammoth Spring High School <br> (Mammoth Spring) | $7-12$ | $61 \%$ | $48 \% \rightarrow 89 \%$ | $2.53 \rightarrow 3.31$ | +0.79 |
| $\mathbf{5}$ | Blytheville Middle School (Blytheville) | $7-8$ | $83 \%$ | $88 \% \rightarrow 100 \%$ | $3.22 \rightarrow 3.92$ | +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 <br> Served | $\begin{gathered} \% \\ \text { FRL } \end{gathered}$ | Proficient/ Advanced \% Initial $\rightarrow$ End | $\begin{gathered} \text { GPA } \\ \text { Initial } \rightarrow \\ \text { End } \end{gathered}$ | GPA <br> Growth |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | Jacksonville High School (Pulaski County Special) | 9-12 | 61\% | 21\% $\rightarrow 71 \%$ | $1.82 \rightarrow 2.82$ | +1.00 |
| 2 | White Hall Junior High School (White Hall) | 7-9 | 39\% | $73 \% \rightarrow 100 \%$ | $3.03 \rightarrow 4.00$ | +0.98 |
| 3 | Sheridan High School (Sheridan) | 9-12 | 47\% | $37 \% \rightarrow 85 \%$ | $2.31 \rightarrow 3.26$ | +0.95 |
| 4 | Mabelvale Middle School (Little Rock) | 6-8 | 84\% | 69\% $\rightarrow$ 100\% | $2.77 \rightarrow 3.71$ | +0.95 |
| 5 | Fountain Lake High School (Fountain Lake) | 9-12 | 50\% | $52 \% \rightarrow 91 \%$ | $2.46 \rightarrow 3.27$ | +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 <br> Served | \% <br> FRL | Proficient// <br> Advanced \% <br> Initial $\rightarrow$ <br> End | GPA <br> Initial $\rightarrow$ <br> End | GPA <br> Growth |
| :--- | :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\mathbf{1}$ | Fouke High School (Fouke) | $9-12$ | $53 \%$ | $45 \% \rightarrow 80 \%$ | $2.42 \rightarrow 3.11$ | +0.69 |
| $\mathbf{2}$ | Emerson High School |  |  |  |  |  |
| (Emerson-Taylor) |  |  |  |  |  |  |

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 <br> Served | \% <br> FRL | Proficient// <br> Advanced \% <br> Initial $\rightarrow$ <br> End | GPA <br> Initial $\rightarrow$ <br> End | GPA <br> Growth |
| :--- | :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\mathbf{1}$ | Clarendon High School (Clarendon) | $7-12$ | $83 \%$ | $43 \% \rightarrow 76 \%$ | $2.29 \rightarrow 3.01$ | +0.73 |
| $\mathbf{2}$ | Hermitage High School (Hermitage) | $7-12$ | $69 \%$ | $32 \% \rightarrow 64 \%$ | $2.06 \rightarrow 2.76$ | +0.70 |
| $\mathbf{3}$ | Hamburg High School (Hamburg) | $9-12$ | $72 \%$ | $8 \% \rightarrow 56 \%$ | $1.90 \rightarrow 2.57$ | +0.67 |
| $\mathbf{4}$ | Lakeside High School (Lakeside-Chicot | $9-12$ | $78 \%$ | $17 \% \rightarrow 53 \%$ | $1.78 \rightarrow 2.40$ | +0.63 |
|  |  | $9-12$ | $77 \%$ | $41 \% \rightarrow 75 \%$ | $2.27 \rightarrow 2.88$ | +0.62 |
| $\mathbf{5}$ | Warren High School (Warren) |  |  |  |  |  |

## 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 $8^{\text {th }}$ or $9^{\text {th }}$ 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 $10^{\text {th }}$ grade students. For this reason, schools have been split into two groups:

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

[^4]| $\mathbf{1 8}$ | Corning High School (Corning) | NE | $7-12$ | $63 \%$ | $46 \% \rightarrow 79 \%$ | $2.44 \rightarrow 2.98$ | +0.55 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :---: | :--- | :---: | :---: |
| Table 138: Top 10 Most Improved Junior High Schools <br> from 2006-07/2007-08 to 2011-12/2012-13 | Based | on EOC Geometry Achievement |  |  |  |  |  |

[^5]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 <br> Served | \% <br> FRL | Proficient/ <br> Advanced \% <br> Initial $\rightarrow$ <br> End | GPA <br> Initial $\rightarrow$ <br> End | GPA <br> Growth |
| :--- | :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\mathbf{1}$ | Rogers High School (Rogers) | $9-12$ | $50 \%$ | $45 \% \rightarrow 87 \%$ | $2.44 \rightarrow 3.30$ | +0.86 |
| $\mathbf{2}$ | Marshall High School (Searcy County) | $7-12$ | $68 \%$ | $61 \% \rightarrow 91 \%$ | $2.68 \rightarrow 3.32$ | +0.64 |
| $\mathbf{2}$ | Farmington High School (Farmington) | $9-12$ | $33 \%$ | $47 \% \rightarrow 81 \%$ | $2.50 \rightarrow 3.14$ | +0.64 |
| $\mathbf{4}$ | Eureka Springs High School (Eureka <br> Springs) <br> Haas Hall Academy (Haas Hall <br> Academy) | $8-12$ | $59 \%$ | $62 \% \rightarrow 86 \%$ | $2.68 \rightarrow 3.31$ | +0.63 |

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 <br> Served | \% <br> FRL | Proficient/ <br> Advanced \% <br> Initial $\rightarrow$ <br> End | GPA <br> Initial $\rightarrow$ <br> End | GPA <br> Growth |
| :--- | :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\mathbf{1}$ | West Side High School (West Side) | $7-12$ | $56 \%$ | $59 \% \rightarrow 90 \%$ | $2.55 \rightarrow 3.39$ | +0.84 |
| $\mathbf{2}$ | Manila High School (Manila) | $9-12$ | $60 \%$ | $59 \% \rightarrow 91 \%$ | $2.74 \rightarrow 3.38$ | +0.64 |
| $\mathbf{3}$ | Cave City High School (Cave City) | $9-12$ | $68 \%$ | $54 \% \rightarrow 87 \%$ | $2.67 \rightarrow 3.29$ | +0.62 |
| $\mathbf{3}$ | Nettleton High School (Nettleton) | $9-12$ | $54 \%$ | $42 \% \rightarrow 75 \%$ | $2.40 \rightarrow 3.01$ | +0.62 |
| $\mathbf{5}$ | Pangburn High School (Pangburn) | $7-12$ | $51 \%$ | $55 \% \rightarrow 92 \%$ | $2.60 \rightarrow 3.18$ | +0.59 |
| $\mathbf{5}$ | Earle High School (Earle) | $7-12$ | $94 \%$ | $14 \% \rightarrow 42 \%$ | $1.76 \rightarrow 2.34$ | +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 | $\begin{gathered} \% \\ \text { FRL } \end{gathered}$ | Proficient/ Advanced \% Initial $\rightarrow$ End | $\begin{gathered} \text { GPA } \\ \text { Initial } \rightarrow \\ \text { End } \end{gathered}$ | GPA Growth |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | Harmony Grove High School (Harmony Grove-Saline County) | 9-12 | 33\% | $57 \% \rightarrow 92 \%$ | $2.65 \rightarrow 3.42$ | +0.78 |
| 2 | Academics Plus High School (Academics Plus) | 7-12 | 29\% | 29\% $\rightarrow 67 \%$ | $2.11 \rightarrow 2.86$ | +0.76 |
| 3 | Cutter-Morning Star High School (Cutter Morning Star) | 7-12 | 67\% | $31 \% \rightarrow 69 \%$ | $2.09 \rightarrow 2.79$ | +0.71 |
| 4 | Mayflower High School (Mayflower) | 9-12 | 52\% | 45\% $\rightarrow 74 \%$ | $2.38 \rightarrow 2.91$ | +0.54 |
| 4 | Mt. Vernon/Enola High School (Mt. Vernon-Enola) | 7-12 | 52\% | $78 \% \rightarrow 92 \%$ | $2.95 \rightarrow 3.49$ | +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 <br> Served | \% <br> FRL | Proficient// <br> Advanced \% <br> Initial $\rightarrow$ <br> End | GPA <br> Initial $\rightarrow$ <br> End | GPA <br> Growth |
| :--- | :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\mathbf{1}$ | Emerson High School (Emerson-Taylor) | $7-12$ | $46 \%$ | $57 \% \rightarrow 82 \%$ | $2.74 \rightarrow 3.30$ | +0.56 |
| $\mathbf{2}$ | Gurdon High School (Gurdon) | $9-12$ | $72 \%$ | $41 \% \rightarrow 65 \%$ | $2.28 \rightarrow 2.83$ | +0.55 |
| $\mathbf{3}$ | Ashdown High School (Ashdown) | $9-12$ | $49 \%$ | $30 \% \rightarrow 59 \%$ | $2.09 \rightarrow 2.63$ | +0.54 |
| $\mathbf{4}$ | Lafayette County High School (Lafayette |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | County) | $7-12$ | $78 \%$ | $24 \% \rightarrow 53 \%$ | $1.93 \rightarrow 2.45$ | +0.52 |
| $\mathbf{5}$ | Mount Ida High School (Mount Ida) | $7-12$ | $59 \%$ | $65 \% \rightarrow 88 \%$ | $2.76 \rightarrow 3.27$ | +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 <br> Served | \% <br> FRL | Proficient/ <br> Advanced <br> \% Initial $\rightarrow$ <br> End | GPA <br> Initial $\rightarrow$ <br> End | GPA <br> Growth |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\mathbf{1}$ | Lakeside High School (Lakeside-Chicot |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | County) | $9-12$ | $78 \%$ | $35 \% \rightarrow 67 \%$ | $2.14 \rightarrow 2.80$ | +0.66 |
| $\mathbf{2}$ | Dermott High School (Dermott) | $7-12$ | $94 \%$ | $22 \% \rightarrow 56 \%$ | $2.05 \rightarrow 2.60$ | +0.55 |
| $\mathbf{3}$ | Hermitage High School (Hermitage) | $7-12$ | $69 \%$ | $45 \% \rightarrow 67 \%$ | $2.29 \rightarrow 2.80$ | +0.51 |
| $\mathbf{4}$ | Clarendon High School (Clarendon) | $7-12$ | $83 \%$ | $29 \% \rightarrow 54 \%$ | $2.12 \rightarrow 2.60$ | +0.48 |
| $\mathbf{5}$ | Marvell High School (Marvell) | $7-12$ | $96 \%$ | $33 \% \rightarrow 56 \%$ | $2.28 \rightarrow 2.73$ | +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 $8^{\text {th }}$ or $9^{\text {th }}$ 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 $10^{\text {th }}$ grade students. For this reason, schools have been split into two groups:

- High School: primarily $9^{\text {th }}-12^{\text {th }}$ grades (includes Comprehensive High Schools serving $7^{\text {th }}-12^{\text {th }}$ grades)
- Junior High School: primarily $8^{\text {th }}-9^{\text {th }}$ 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 Schools ${ }^{13}$ Based on EOC Biology Achievement from 2007-08/2008-09 to 2011-12/2012-13

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

[^6]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 <br> Served | \% <br> FRL | Proficient/ <br> Advanced \% <br> Initial $\rightarrow$ <br> End | GPA <br> Initial $\rightarrow$ <br> End | GPA <br> Growth |
| :--- | :--- | ---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\mathbf{1}$ | Western Yell Co. High School (Western | $7-12$ | $75 \%$ | $12 \% \rightarrow 45 \%$ | $1.72 \rightarrow 2.45$ | +0.74 |
|  | Yell County) | $8-9$ | $77 \%$ | $73 \% \rightarrow 95 \%$ | $2.82 \rightarrow 3.44$ | +0.62 |
| $\mathbf{2}$ | George Junior High School (Springdale) | $7-12$ | $68 \%$ | $37 \% \rightarrow 61 \%$ | $2.21 \rightarrow 2.75$ | +0.54 |
| $\mathbf{3}$ | Marshall High School (Searcy County) | $9-12$ | $44 \%$ | $34 \% \rightarrow 58 \%$ | $2.14 \rightarrow 2.67$ | +0.53 |
| $\mathbf{4}$ | Berryville High School (Berryville) | $7-12$ | $51 \%$ | $39 \% \rightarrow 67 \%$ | $2.28 \rightarrow 2.79$ | +0.52 |
| $\mathbf{5}$ | Alpena High School (Alpena) | $9-12$ | $50 \%$ | $34 \% \rightarrow 55 \%$ | $2.07 \rightarrow 2.59$ | +0.52 |
| $\mathbf{5}$ | Rogers High School (Rogers) |  |  |  |  |  |



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 <br> Served | Proficient/ <br> FRL <br> Advanced \% <br> Initial $\rightarrow$ <br> End | GPA <br> Initial $\rightarrow$ <br> End | GPA <br> Growth |  |
| :--- | :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\mathbf{1}$ | Armorel High School (Armorel) | $7-12$ | $35 \%$ | $14 \% \rightarrow 47 \%$ | $1.74 \rightarrow 2.44$ | +0.71 |
| $\mathbf{2}$ | Corning High School (Corning) | $7-12$ | $63 \%$ | $14 \% \rightarrow 39 \%$ | $1.67 \rightarrow 2.32$ | +0.65 |
| $\mathbf{3}$ | Marmaduke High School (Marmaduke) | $7-12$ | $59 \%$ | $40 \% \rightarrow 64 \%$ | $2.20 \rightarrow 2.83$ | +0.64 |
| $\mathbf{3}$ | West Side High School (West Side) | $7-12$ | $56 \%$ | $21 \% \rightarrow 58 \%$ | $1.96 \rightarrow 2.59$ | +0.64 |
| $\mathbf{5}$ | Greene County Tech High School <br> (Greene County Tech) | $10-12$ | $43 \%$ | $33 \% \rightarrow 54 \%$ | $2.00 \rightarrow 2.54$ | +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 <br> Served | \% <br> FRL | Proficient/ <br> Advanced \% <br> Initial $\rightarrow$ <br> End | GPA <br> Initial $\rightarrow$ <br> End | GPA <br> Growth |
| :--- | :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\mathbf{1}$ | Carlisle High School (Carlisle) | $7-12$ | $53 \%$ | $19 \% \rightarrow 79 \%$ | $1.77 \rightarrow 2.70$ | +0.93 |
| $\mathbf{2}$ | Glen Rose High School (Glen Rose) | $9-12$ | $49 \%$ | $29 \% \rightarrow 62 \%$ | $2.07 \rightarrow 2.67$ | +0.60 |
| $\mathbf{3}$ | Mt. Vernon/Enola High School (Mt. | $7-12$ | $52 \%$ | $33 \% \rightarrow 57 \%$ | $2.09 \rightarrow 2.67$ | +0.59 |
| Vernon-Enola) | $7-12$ | $67 \%$ | $21 \% \rightarrow 48 \%$ | $1.91 \rightarrow 2.46$ | +0.56 |  |
| Cutter-Morning Star High School (Cutter <br> Morning Star) | $9-12$ | $81 \%$ | $3 \% \rightarrow 12 \%$ | $1.27 \rightarrow 1.62$ | +0.35 |  |
| McClellan Magnet High School (Little <br> Rock) |  |  |  |  |  |  |

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 <br> Served | \% <br> FRL | Proficient/ <br> Advanced \% <br> Initial $\rightarrow$ End | GPA <br> Initial $\rightarrow$ <br> End | GPA <br> Growth |
| :--- | :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\mathbf{1}$ | Hampton High School (Hampton) | $7-12$ | $66 \%$ | $20 \% \rightarrow 37 \%$ | $1.72 \rightarrow 2.34$ | +0.62 |
| $\mathbf{2}$ | Prescott High School (Prescott) | $7-12$ | $69 \%$ | $14 \% \rightarrow 36 \%$ | $1.70 \rightarrow 2.18$ | +0.48 |
| $\mathbf{3}$ | Dierks High School (Dierks) | $7-12$ | $56 \%$ | $11 \% \rightarrow 39 \%$ | $1.76 \rightarrow 2.23$ | +0.47 |
| $\mathbf{3}$ | Magnolia High School (Magnolia) | $10-12$ | $58 \%$ | $24 \% \rightarrow 44 \%$ | $1.91 \rightarrow 2.38$ | +0.47 |
| $\mathbf{5}$ | Emerson High School (Emerson-Taylor) | $7-12$ | $46 \%$ | $45 \% \rightarrow 63 \%$ | $2.30 \rightarrow 2.76$ | +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 <br> Served | \% <br> FRL | Proficient/ <br> Advanced \% <br> Initial $\rightarrow$ <br> End | GPA <br> Initial $\rightarrow$ <br> End | GPA <br> Growth |
| :--- | :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\mathbf{1}$ | Clarendon High School (Clarendon) | $7-12$ | $83 \%$ | $17 \% \rightarrow 42 \%$ | $1.64 \rightarrow 2.25$ | +0.61 |
| $\mathbf{2}$ | Rison High School (Cleveland County) | $7-12$ | $52 \%$ | $33 \% \rightarrow 60 \%$ | $2.12 \rightarrow 2.70$ | +0.58 |
| $\mathbf{3}$ | Star City High School (Star City) | $9-12$ | $58 \%$ | $27 \% \rightarrow 40 \%$ | $1.92 \rightarrow 2.31$ | +0.40 |
| $\mathbf{3}$ | Lakeside High School (Lakeside-Chicot | $9-12$ | $78 \%$ | $15 \% \rightarrow 28 \%$ | $1.60 \rightarrow 2.00$ | +0.40 |
|  | County) | $7-12$ | $94 \%$ | $5 \% \rightarrow 17 \%$ | $1.35 \rightarrow 1.74$ | +0.39 |
| $\mathbf{5}$ | Dermott High School (Dermott) |  |  |  |  |  |

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

[^7]|  | School (District) | Region | Grades <br> Served | \% <br> FRL | Proficient/ <br> Advanced $\%$ <br> Initial $\rightarrow$ <br> End $^{\mathbf{1 8}}$ | GPA <br> Initial $\rightarrow$ <br> End | GPA <br> Growth |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| $\mathbf{2 0}$ | Greenbrier High School <br> (Greenbrier) | CN | $10-12$ | $24 \%$ | $56 \% \rightarrow 80 \%$ | $2.47 \rightarrow 3.06$ | +0.59 |
| $\mathbf{2 0}$ | Haas Hall Academy (Haas Hall <br> Academy) | NW | $8-12$ | $1 \%$ | $94 \% \rightarrow 99 \%$ | $2.94 \rightarrow 3.53$ | +0.59 |
| $\mathbf{l}$Pangburn High School <br> (Pangburn) | NE | $7-12$ | $51 \%$ | $42 \% \rightarrow 77 \%$ | $2.29 \rightarrow 2.87$ | +0.59 |  |

$\bullet$ Indicates school placed on same list in 2011-12.

[^8]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 <br> Served | \% <br> FRL | Proficient/ <br> Advanced <br> \% Initial $\rightarrow$ <br> End | GPA <br> Initial $\rightarrow$ <br> End | GPA <br> Growth |
| :--- | :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\mathbf{1}$ | St. Paul High School (Huntsville) | $7-12$ | $79 \%$ | $36 \% \rightarrow 78 \%$ | $2.23 \rightarrow 2.98$ | +0.76 |
| $\mathbf{2}$ | Lamar High School (Lamar) | $9-12$ | $61 \%$ | $54 \% \rightarrow 90 \%$ | $2.51 \rightarrow 3.21$ | +0.70 |
| $\mathbf{3}$ | Booneville High School (Booneville) | $10-12$ | $57 \%$ | $36 \% \rightarrow 78 \%$ | $2.30 \rightarrow 2.93$ | +0.63 |
| $\mathbf{4}$ | Deer High School (Deer/Mt. Judea) * | $7-12$ | $71 \%$ | $53 \% \rightarrow 79 \%$ | $2.39 \rightarrow 3.02$ | +0.63 |
| $\mathbf{5}$ | Jasper High School (Jasper) | $7-12$ | $72 \%$ | $31 \% \rightarrow 69 \%$ | $2.16 \rightarrow 2.78$ | +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 <br> Served | \% <br> FRL | Proficient/ <br> Advanced \% <br> Initial $\rightarrow$ <br> End | GPA <br> Initial $\rightarrow$ <br> End | GPA <br> Growth |
| :--- | :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\mathbf{1}$ | Palestine-Wheatley Senior High $9-12$ <br> (Palestine/Wheatley)  | $99 \%$ | $25 \% \rightarrow 73 \%$ | $1.99 \rightarrow 2.91$ | +0.92 |  |
| $\mathbf{2}$ | Viola High School (Viola) | $7-12$ | $56 \%$ | $45 \% \rightarrow 83 \%$ | $2.41 \rightarrow 3.14$ | +0.73 |
| $\mathbf{3}$ | Harrisburg High School (Harrisburg) | $9-12$ | $73 \%$ | $28 \% \rightarrow 71 \%$ | $2.12 \rightarrow 2.83$ | +0.72 |
| $\mathbf{4}$ | Southside High School (Southside) | $9-12$ | $52 \%$ | $47 \% \rightarrow 76 \%$ | $2.34 \rightarrow 2.95$ | +0.61 |
| $\mathbf{5}$ | Pangburn High School (Pangburn) | $7-12$ | $51 \%$ | $42 \% \rightarrow 77 \%$ | $2.29 \rightarrow 2.87$ | +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 <br> Served | Proficient/ <br> FRL <br> Advanced \% <br> Initial $\rightarrow$ <br> End | GPA <br> Initial $\rightarrow$ <br> End | GPA <br> Growth |  |
| :--- | :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\mathbf{1}$ | Cutter-Morning Star High School (Cutter | $7-12$ | $67 \%$ | $23 \% \rightarrow 73 \%$ | $2.06 \rightarrow 2.92$ | +0.87 |
|  | Morning Star) |  |  |  |  |  |
| $\mathbf{2}$ | Guy-Perkins High School (Guy-Perkins) | $7-12$ | $58 \%$ | $39 \% \rightarrow 76 \%$ | $2.23 \rightarrow 2.94$ | +0.71 |
| $\mathbf{3}$ | Bismarck High School (Bismarck) | $9-12$ | $57 \%$ | $48 \% \rightarrow 80 \%$ | $2.41 \rightarrow 3.03$ | +0.62 |
| $\mathbf{3}$ | Carlisle High School (Carlisle) | $7-12$ | $53 \%$ | $44 \% \rightarrow 74 \%$ | $2.33 \rightarrow 2.95$ | +0.62 |
| $\mathbf{5}$ | Greenbrier High School (Greenbrier) | $10-12$ | $24 \%$ | $56 \% \rightarrow 80 \%$ | $2.47 \rightarrow 3.06$ | +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 <br> Served | \% <br> FRL | Proficient/ <br> Advanced \% <br> Initial $\rightarrow$ End | GPA <br> Initial $\rightarrow$ <br> End | GPA <br> Growth |
| :--- | :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\mathbf{1}$ | Taylor High School (Emerson-Taylor) | $7-12$ | $35 \%$ | $60 \% \rightarrow 91 \%$ | $2.54 \rightarrow 3.22$ | +0.68 |
| $\mathbf{2}$ | Norphlet High School (Norphlet) | $7-12$ | $51 \%$ | $31 \% \rightarrow 77 \%$ | $2.21 \rightarrow 2.88$ | +0.67 |
| $\mathbf{3}$ | Murfreesboro High School (South Pike | $7-12$ | $60 \%$ | $34 \% \rightarrow 68 \%$ | $2.13 \rightarrow 2.76$ | +0.64 |
|  | County) |  |  |  |  |  |
| $\mathbf{4}$ | El Dorado High School (El Dorado) | $9-12$ | $57 \%$ | $41 \% \rightarrow 70 \%$ | $2.26 \rightarrow 2.86$ | +0.60 |
| $\mathbf{5}$ | Bradley High School (Bradley) | $7-12$ | $75 \%$ | $29 \% \rightarrow 58 \%$ | $2.00 \rightarrow 2.55$ | +0.55 |
| $\mathbf{5}$ | De Queen High School (DeQueen) | $10-12$ | $69 \%$ | $40 \% \rightarrow 72 \%$ | $2.34 \rightarrow 2.89$ | +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 <br> Served | \% <br> FRL | Proficient/ <br> Advanced \% <br> Initial $\rightarrow$ <br> End | GPA <br> Initial $\rightarrow$ <br> End | GPA <br> Growth |
| :--- | :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\mathbf{1}$ | Dermott High School (Dermott) | $7-12$ | $94 \%$ | $8 \% \rightarrow 39 \%$ | $1.82 \rightarrow 2.36$ | +0.54 |
| $\mathbf{1}$ | Dumas High School (Dumas) | $10-12$ | $78 \%$ | $30 \% \rightarrow 56 \%$ | $2.10 \rightarrow 2.64$ | +0.54 |
| $\mathbf{3}$ | Barton High School (Barton-Lexa) | $7-12$ | $73 \%$ | $34 \% \rightarrow 54 \%$ | $2.14 \rightarrow 2.59$ | +0.45 |
| $\mathbf{4}$ | Clarendon High School (Clarendon) | $7-12$ | $83 \%$ | $24 \% \rightarrow 45 \%$ | $2.03 \rightarrow 2.45$ | +0.42 |
| $\mathbf{4}$ | Monticello High School (Monticello) | $9-12$ | $48 \%$ | $45 \% \rightarrow 65 \%$ | $2.35 \rightarrow 2.77$ | +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-OfCourse 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 4: Arkansas Geometry 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 <br> 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 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $5-7$ |  | $8-12$ |
| $5-8$ |  | $9-12$ |
| $6-7$ |  | $10-12$ |
| $6-8$ |  | $9-12$ |
| $7-8$ |  | $7-10$ |
| $7-9$ |  | $6-12$ |
| 8 | $5-12$ |  |
| $8-9$ |  | $\mathrm{~K}-12$ |
| $4-8$ |  |  |
| $1-8$ |  |  |
| K-8 |  |  |


[^0]:    ${ }^{1}$ 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".

[^1]:    ${ }^{2}$ A school was designated High School if it served students in the $9^{\text {th }}$ grade and did not serve $8^{\text {th }}$ 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 $\rightarrow$ End column. Refer to the OEP growth database for exact numbers.

[^2]:    ${ }^{7}$ A school was designated a Junior High School or Comprehensive High School if it serves students in $8^{\text {th }}$ and $9^{\text {th }}$ grades.

[^3]:    ${ }^{8}$ A school was designated $8^{\text {th }}$ Grade Middle School if it served students in grades 8 (and/or any grades below)

[^4]:    ${ }^{9}$ 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.
    ${ }^{11}$ Initial GPA is an average of the 2006-07 and 2007-08 school years. End GPA is an average of the 2011-12 and 2012-13 school years.

[^5]:    ${ }^{12}$ A school was designated a Junior High School if it serves students in grades primarily 7-8 (maximum grade of 9)

[^6]:    ${ }^{13}$ 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.

[^7]:    ${ }^{16}$ 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.

[^8]:    ${ }^{18}$ 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 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.

