

ARKANSAS EDUCATION REPORT
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**OUTSTANDING EDUCATIONAL PERFORMANCE AWARDS:
HIGHLIGHTING HIGH-ACHIEVING ARKANSAS SCHOOLS, 2014**

**HIGH-ACHIEVING
ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS BY GRADE LEVEL AND REGION**

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By:

**Charlene A. Reid
Gary W. Ritter**

**Office for Education Policy
University of Arkansas
211 Graduate Education Building
Fayetteville, AR 72701
Phone: (479) 575-3773
Fax: (479) 575-3196
E-mail: oe@uark.edu**

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INTRODUCTION

Since our founding in 2003, the mission of the Office for Education Policy has been looking at pressing issues through the lens of academic research and disseminating 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 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.

Two years ago, we first introduced an 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, the proficiency indicator suffers from being an “all-or-nothing” measure, in which a student is either proficient or not.

The proficiency 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. In the following weeks, we will focus on high-performing elementary schools, middle schools, and high schools in the various regions across the state. Then, 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). 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**
- **High-Achieving Elementary Schools By Grade Level and By Region**
- **High-Achieving Middle Schools By Grade Level and By Region**
- **High-Achieving High Schools**
- **Beating the Odds: High-Achieving Schools Serving Low-Income Communities**
- **Most Improved Schools**

Stay tuned over the next ten weeks to see which schools in your area are recognized for our **OEP Awards!**

II. 2014 OEP AWARDS: HIGH-ACHIEVING ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS BY GRADE LEVEL AND BY REGION

This section provides a deeper look at the high-achieving elementary schools and grades within schools based on the Arkansas Benchmark exam.¹ The Benchmark exams in math and literacy were administered to students in grades 3-8 in April 2014.

Because we already listed our overall top-performing elementary schools in Section I of the OEP Awards, we move directly into listing the top-performing elementary schools by grade. We then highlight the top-performing elementary schools and grades within schools in each region.² Each table presents the high-achieving schools for the noted grade and subject. These tables include the region in which the school is located, the number of test takers, the percent of students scoring at the proficient and advanced levels, and the GPA of the school in that particular subject.

¹ In this section, we highlight the top-performing grade levels for grades three through five. We did not distinguish between elementary or middle school but simply highlight the top grade levels overall. Therefore, a middle school may be listed if it includes one of these grades. The next installment of OEP Awards, High-Achieving Middle Schools by Region, will cover grades six through eight.

² Schools are divided into five regions in Arkansas: Northwest (NW), Northeast (NE), Central (CN), Southwest (SW), and Southeast (SE).

C. Elementary Math by Grade, 2014

Table 5: Top 10 Arkansas Schools: Grade Three **Math** Achievement

	School (District)	Region	# of Test Takers	% Proficient/Advanced	GPA
1	Skyline Heights Elementary School (Harrison)	NW	75	100%	3.92
2	Evening Shade Elementary School (Cave City)	NE	11	100%	3.91
3	Viola Elementary School (Viola)	NE	27	100%	3.89
4	Caddo Hills Elementary School (Caddo Hills)	SW	33	100%	3.88
4	Gillett Elementary School (DeWitt)	SE	16	94%	3.88
4	Salem Elementary School (Salem)	NE	50	98%	3.88
4	Spring Hill Elementary School (Spring Hill) ♦	SW	32	97%	3.88
8	Forest Heights Elementary School (Harrison)	NW	76	99%	3.86
9	Concord Elementary School (Concord)	NE	20	95%	3.85
9	Eagle Heights Elementary School (Harrison)	NW	39	98%	3.85

♦ Indicates school placed on list in 2012-13.

Table 6: Top 10 Arkansas Schools: Grade Four **Math** Achievement

	School (District)	Region	# of Test Takers	% Proficient/Advanced	GPA
1	Park Magnet School (Hot Springs) ♦	CN	44	100%	3.91
2	Mount Pleasant Elementary School (Melbourne) ♦	NE	26	100%	3.77
2	Norfolk Elementary School (Norfolk)	NW	26	96%	3.77
4	Vandergriff Elementary School (Fayetteville) ♦	NW	108	94%	3.76
5	Northwest Arkansas Classical Academy (Northwest Arkansas Classical Academy)	NW	45	94%	3.74
6	Euper Lane Elementary School (Fort Smith)	NW	53	97%	3.71
7	Central Park at Morning Star Elementary School (Bentonville)	NW	138	97%	3.70
8	Don Roberts Elementary School (Little Rock)	CN	149	93%	3.69
9	Academy of Technology (Vilonia)	CN	28	100%	3.68
10	Forest Park Elementary School (Little Rock)	CN	72	93%	3.67

Table 7: Top 10 Arkansas Schools: Grade Five **Math** Achievement

	School (District)	Region	# of Test Takers	% Proficient/Advanced	GPA
1	Mount Pleasant Elementary School (Melbourne) ♦	NE	26	100%	4.00
2	Vandergriff Elementary School (Fayetteville) ♦	NW	104	96%	3.63
3	Hardin Elementary School (White Hall)	CN	32	97%	3.56
3	Richland Elementary School (West Memphis)	NE	79	96%	3.56
5	Des Arc Elementary School (Des Arc)	SE	41	95%	3.53
6	Eastside Elementary School (Rogers)	NW	97	94%	3.51
7	Salem Elementary School (Salem) ♦	NE	62	95%	3.50
8	Root Elementary School (Fayetteville)	NW	81	94%	3.49
9	Marvell-Elaine Elementary School (Marvell)	SE	35	94%	3.48
10	Bernice Young Elementary (Springdale)	NW	94	93%	3.47
10	Don Roberts Elementary School (Little Rock) ♦	CN	122	89%	3.47

D. Elementary Literacy by Grade, 2014

Table 8: Top 10 Arkansas Schools: Grade Three *Literacy* Achievement

	School (District)	Region	# of Test Takers	% Proficient/Advanced	GPA
1	Spring Hill Elementary School (Spring Hill) ♦	SW	32	101%	3.91
2	Park Magnet School (Hot Springs) ♦	CN	57	97%	3.85
3	Forest Park Elementary School (Little Rock)	CN	74	96%	3.77
4	Skyline Heights Elementary School (Harrison)	NW	75	100%	3.76
4	Gillett Elementary School (DeWitt)	SE	16	94%	3.76
4	Ellen Smith Elementary School (Conway)	CN	96	95%	3.76
7	Mammoth Spring Elementary School (Mammoth Spring)	NE	32	94%	3.75
7	Richland Elementary School (West Memphis)	NE	71	93%	3.75
9	Nemo Vista Elementary School (Nemo Vista)	NW	30	97%	3.74
10	Caddo Hills Elementary School (Caddo Hills)	SW	33	100%	3.73
10	Genoa Central Elementary School (Genoa Central)	SW	80	97%	3.73
10	Greenbrier Westside Elementary School (Greenbrier)	CN	77	99%	3.73

Table 9: Top 10 Arkansas Schools: Grade Four *Literacy* Achievement

	School (District)	Region	# of Test Takers	% Proficient/Advanced	GPA
1	Park Magnet School (Hot Springs) ♦	CN	44	100%	3.93
2	Mount Pleasant Elementary School (Melbourne) ♦	NE	26	100%	3.88
3	Van-Cove Elementary School (Cossatot River) ♦	SW	30	100%	3.87
4	Forest Park Elementary School (Little Rock) ♦	CN	72	97%	3.86
5	Vandergriff Elementary School (Fayetteville) ♦	NW	108	98%	3.82
6	Norfolk Elementary School (Norfolk)	NW	26	100%	3.81
6	Elm Tree Elementary School (Bentonville)	NW	117	99%	3.81
6	Janie Darr Elementary School (Rogers)	NW	62	97%	3.81
9	Central Park at Morning Star Elementary School (Bentonville)	NW	138	96%	3.78
10	Don Roberts Elementary School (Little Rock)	CN	149	95%	3.75
10	Pottsville Middle Grades (Pottsville)	NW	121	95%	3.75

Table 10: Top 10 Arkansas Schools: Grade Five *Literacy* Achievement

	School (District)	Region	# of Test Takers	% Proficient/Advanced	GPA
1	Mount Pleasant Elementary School (Melbourne)	NE	26	100%	3.92
2	Root Elementary School (Fayetteville)	NW	81	97%	3.84
3	Vandergriff Elementary School (Fayetteville)	NW	104	97%	3.83
3	Salem Elementary School (Salem) ♦	NE	62	99%	3.83
5	Valley View Intermediate School (Valley View)	NE	193	99%	3.82
6	Armored Elementary School (Armored)	NE	33	100%	3.79
7	John P. Woods Elementary School (Fort Smith)	NW	80	97%	3.78
8	Bernice Young Elementary (Springdale)	NW	94	95%	3.75
8	Forest Park Elementary School (Little Rock) ♦	CN	71	99%	3.75
10	Richland Elementary School (West Memphis) ♦	NE	79	99%	3.74

The sections below present the high-achieving schools for the noted grade and subject in each region in 2014.



E. Northwest Region, Elementary Schools, 2014

Table 11: Top 5 Overall Elementary Schools in Northwest Arkansas Based on Benchmark Math Achievement

School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	% Proficient/Advanced	GPA
1 Bob Folsom Elementary School (Farmington)	K-3	67	97%	3.82
2 Pottsville Elementary School (Pottsville) ♦	K-3	132	97%	3.78
3 Skyline Heights Elementary School (Harrison)	K-4	155	96%	3.76
4 Forest Heights Elementary School (Harrison)	K-4	154	97%	3.73
5 Central Park at Morning Star Elementary School (Bentonville) ♦	K-4	307	96%	3.72

Table 12: Top 3 Schools by Grade Level in Northwest Arkansas Based on Benchmark Math Achievement

School (District)	# of Test Takers	% Proficient/Advanced	GPA
3rd Grade			
1 Skyline Heights Elementary School (Harrison)	75	100%	3.92
2 Forest Heights Elementary School (Harrison)	76	99%	3.86
3 Eagle Heights Elementary School (Harrison) ♦	39	98%	3.85
4th Grade			
1 Norfork Elementary School (Norfork)	26	96%	3.77
2 Vandergriff Elementary School (Fayetteville) ♦	108	94%	3.76
3 Northwest Arkansas Classical Academy (Northwest Arkansas Classical Academy)	45	94%	3.74
5th Grade			
1 Vandergriff Elementary School (Fayetteville) ♦	104	96%	3.63
2 Eastside Elementary School (Rogers)	97	94%	3.51
3 Root Elementary School (Fayetteville)	81	94%	3.49

Table 13: Top 5 Overall Elementary Schools in Northwest Arkansas Based on Benchmark Literacy Achievement

School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	% Proficient/Advanced	GPA
1 Vandergriff Elementary School (Fayetteville) ♦	K-5	351	96%	3.77
2 Elm Tree Elementary School (Bentonville) ♦	K-4	242	95%	3.72
3 Bernice Young Elementary (Springdale)	K-5	280	96%	3.71
3 Root Elementary School (Fayetteville)	K-5	250	96%	3.71
3 Skyline Heights Elementary School (Harrison)	K-4	155	98%	3.71

Table 14: Top 3 Schools by Grade Level in Northwest Arkansas Based on Benchmark Literacy Achievement

School (District)	# of Test Takers	% Proficient/Advanced	GPA
3rd Grade			
1 Skyline Heights Elementary School (Harrison)	75	100%	3.76
2 Nemo Vista Elementary School (Nemo Vista)	30	97%	3.74
3 Root Elementary School (Fayetteville)	73	96%	3.70
4th Grade			
1 Vandergriff Elementary School (Fayetteville) ♦	108	98%	3.82
2 Elm Tree Elementary School (Bentonville)	117	99%	3.81
2 Janie Darr Elementary School (Rogers)	62	97%	3.81
2 Norfolk Elementary School (Norfolk)	26	100%	3.81
5th Grade			
1 Root Elementary School (Fayetteville)	81	97%	3.84
2 Vandergriff Elementary School (Fayetteville) ♦	104	97%	3.83
3 John P. Woods Elementary School (Fort Smith)	80	97%	3.78



F. Northeast Region, Elementary Schools, 2014

Table 15: Top 5 Overall Elementary Schools in *Northeast* Arkansas Based on Benchmark *Math* Achievement

School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	% Proficient/Advanced	GPA
1 Mount Pleasant Elementary School (Melbourne) ♦	K-6	85	99%	3.81
2 Brookland Elementary School (Brookland) ♦	P-3	148	95%	3.64
3 Richland Elementary School (West Memphis) ♦	K-6	306	96%	3.63
4 Salem Elementary School (Salem) ♦	K-6	225	94%	3.62
5 Buffalo Island Central West Elementary (Buffalo Island Central)	P-6	126	92%	3.56

Table 16: Top 3 Schools by Grade Level in *Northeast* Arkansas Based on Benchmark *Math* Achievement

School (District)	# of Test Takers	% Proficient/Advanced	GPA
3rd Grade			
1 Evening Shade Elementary School (Cave City)	11	100%	3.91
2 Viola Elementary School (Viola)	27	100%	3.89
3 Salem Elementary School (Salem) ♦	50	98%	3.88
4th Grade			
1 Mount Pleasant Elementary School (Melbourne) ♦	26	100%	3.77
2 Tuckerman Elementary School (Jackson County)	74	93%	3.58
3 Armorel Elementary School (Armorel)	28	89%	3.56
5th Grade			
1 Mount Pleasant Elementary School (Melbourne) ♦	26	100%	4.00
2 Richland Elementary School (West Memphis) ♦	79	96%	3.56
3 Salem Elementary School (Salem) ♦	62	95%	3.50

Table 17: Top 5 Overall Elementary Schools in *Northeast* Arkansas Based on Benchmark *Literacy* Achievement

School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	% Proficient/Advanced	GPA
1 Mount Pleasant Elementary School (Melbourne) ♦	K-6	85	96%	3.73
2 Armorel Elementary School (Armorel)	K-6	117	96%	3.65
2 Richland Elementary School (West Memphis) ♦	K-6	306	95%	3.65
4 Salem Elementary School (Salem) ♦	K-6	225	93%	3.63
5 Brookland Elementary School (Brookland)	P-3	148	91%	3.57

Table 18: Top 3 Schools by Grade Level in *Northeast* Arkansas Based on Benchmark *Literacy* Achievement

School (District)	# of Test Takers	% Proficient/Advanced	GPA
3rd Grade			
1 Mammoth Spring Elementary School (Mammoth Spring)	32	94%	3.75
1 Richland Elementary School (West Memphis)	71	93%	3.75
3 Armorel Elementary School (Armorel) ♦	26	100%	3.69
4th Grade			
1 Mount Pleasant Elementary School (Melbourne) ♦	26	100%	3.88
2 Timbo Elementary School (Mountain View)	11	100%	3.73
3 Calico Rock Elementary School (Calico Rock)	31	97%	3.68
3 Richland Elementary School (West Memphis) ♦	85	97%	3.68
5th Grade			
1 Mount Pleasant Elementary School (Melbourne)	26	100%	3.92
2 Salem Elementary School (Salem) ♦	62	99%	3.83
3 Valley View Intermediate School (Valley View)	193	99%	3.82



G. Central Region, Elementary Schools, 2014

Table 19: Top 5 Overall Elementary Schools in *Central* Arkansas Based on Benchmark *Math* Achievement

School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	% Proficient/Advanced	GPA
1 Park Magnet School (Hot Springs) ♦	K-5	101	99%	3.85
2 Academy of Technology (Vilonia) ♦	2-4	53	100%	3.64
2 Stagecoach Elementary School (Cabot)	K-4	170	94%	3.64
4 Julia Lee Moore Elementary School (Conway) ♦	K-4	102	93%	3.63
5 Don Roberts Elementary School (Little Rock) ♦	P-5	409	91%	3.62

Table 20: Top 3 Schools by Grade Level in *Central* Arkansas Based on Benchmark *Math* Achievement

School (District)	# of Test Takers	% Proficient/Advanced	GPA
3rd Grade			
1 Forest Park Elementary School (Little Rock) ♦	74	98%	3.82
1 Stagecoach Elementary School (Cabot)	84	100%	3.82
3 Julia Lee Moore Elementary School (Conway)	50	98%	3.80
3 Park Magnet School (Hot Springs) ♦	57	98%	3.80
4th Grade			
1 Park Magnet School (Hot Springs) ♦	44	100%	3.91
2 Don Roberts Elementary School (Little Rock) ♦	149	93%	3.69
3 Academy of Technology (Vilonia)	28	100%	3.68
5th Grade			
1 Hardin Elementary School (White Hall)	32	97%	3.56
2 Don Roberts Elementary School (Little Rock) ♦	122	89%	3.47
3 Williams Magnet Elementary School (Little Rock)	65	86%	3.38

Table 21: Top 5 Overall Elementary Schools in *Central* Arkansas Based on Benchmark *Literacy* Achievement

School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	% Proficient/Advanced	GPA
1 Park Magnet School (Hot Springs) ♦	K-5	101	98%	3.88
2 Forest Park Elementary School (Little Rock) ♦	P-5	217	97%	3.79
3 Ellen Smith Elementary School (Conway) ♦	K-4	177	95%	3.73
4 Baker Interdistrict Elementary School (Pulaski County Special)	K-5	242	93%	3.65
5 Hardin Elementary School (White Hall) ♦	K-5	121	96%	3.64

Table 22: Top 3 Schools by Grade Level in *Central* Arkansas Based on Benchmark *Literacy* Achievement

School (District)	# of Test Takers	% Proficient/Advanced	GPA
3rd Grade			
1 Park Magnet School (Hot Springs) ♦	57	97%	3.85
2 Forest Park Elementary School (Little Rock) ♦	74	96%	3.77
3 Ellen Smith Elementary School (Conway)	96	95%	3.76
4th Grade			
1 Park Magnet School (Hot Springs) ♦	44	100%	3.93
2 Forest Park Elementary School (Little Rock) ♦	72	97%	3.86
3 Don Roberts Elementary School (Little Rock)	149	95%	3.75
5th Grade			
1 Forest Park Elementary School (Little Rock) ♦	71	99%	3.75
2 Lakewood Elementary School (North Little Rock)	66	97%	3.68
3 Baker Interdistrict Elementary School (Pulaski County Special)	89	91%	3.66
3 Hardin Elementary School (White Hall)	32	100%	3.66
3 Magnet Cove Elementary School (Magnet Cove) ♦	41	95%	3.66



H. Southwest Region, Elementary Schools, 2014

Table 23: Top 5 Overall Elementary Schools in *Southwest* Arkansas Based on Benchmark *Math* Achievement

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	% Proficient/Advanced	GPA
1	Genoa Central Elementary School (Genoa Central) ♦	K-4	153	95%	3.61
2	Centerpoint Primary School (Centerpoint) ♦	P-3	70	93%	3.53
3	De Queen Elementary School (DeQueen) ♦	3-5	521	92%	3.52
4	Hugh Goodwin Elementary School (El Dorado) ♦	K-4	207	89%	3.50
4	Spring Hill Elementary School (Spring Hill)	K-6	148	90%	3.50

Table 24: Top 3 Schools by Grade Level in *Southwest* Arkansas Based on Benchmark *Math* Achievement

	School (District)	# of Test Takers	% Proficient/Advanced	GPA
3rd Grade				
1	Caddo Hills Elementary School (Caddo Hills) ♦	33	100%	3.88
1	Spring Hill Elementary School (Spring Hill) ♦	32	97%	3.88
3	De Queen Elementary School (DeQueen)	158	98%	3.76
4th Grade				
1	Spring Hill Elementary School (Spring Hill) ♦	31	91%	3.61
2	De Queen Elementary School (DeQueen)	189	91%	3.58
3	Wickes Elementary School (Cossatot River) ♦	41	90%	3.51
5th Grade				
1	Holly Harshman Elementary School (Mena) ♦	132	91%	3.37
2	Van-Cove Elementary School (Cossatot River)	28	86%	3.36
3	Taylor Elementary School (Emerson-Taylor)	34	91%	3.32
3	Spring Hill Elementary School (Spring Hill)	41	93%	3.32

Table 25: Top 5 Overall Elementary Schools in Southwest Arkansas Based on Benchmark Literacy Achievement

School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	% Proficient/Advanced	GPA
1 Genoa Central Elementary School (Genoa Central)	K-4	153	97%	3.66
2 Spring Hill Elementary School (Spring Hill) ♦	K-6	148	91%	3.49
3 Taylor Elementary School (Emerson-Taylor)	K-6	106	91%	3.46
4 De Queen Elementary School (DeQueen)	3-5	521	89%	3.45
5 Prescott Elementary School (Prescott) ♦	K-4	152	89%	3.42

Table 26: Top 3 Schools by Grade Level in Southwest Arkansas Based on Benchmark Literacy Achievement

School (District)	# of Test Takers	% Proficient/Advanced	GPA
3rd Grade			
1 Spring Hill Elementary School (Spring Hill) ♦	32	101%	3.91
2 Caddo Hills Elementary School (Caddo Hills)	33	100%	3.73
2 Genoa Central Elementary School (Genoa Central)	80	97%	3.73
4th Grade			
1 Van-Cove Elementary School (Cossatot River) ♦	30	100%	3.87
2 Spring Hill Elementary School (Spring Hill) ♦	31	97%	3.71
3 Taylor Elementary School (Emerson-Taylor)	27	96%	3.66
1 Spring Hill Elementary School (Spring Hill) ♦	41	95%	3.61
2 Gary E. Cobb Middle School (Genoa Central)	77	92%	3.55
3 Fouke Elementary School (Fouke)	78	91%	3.54



I. Southeast Region, Elementary Schools, 2014

Table 27: Top 5 Overall Elementary Schools in *Southeast* Arkansas Based on Benchmark *Math* Achievement

School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	% Proficient/Advanced	GPA
1 Gillett Elementary School (DeWitt) ♦	P-5	31	90%	3.63
2 Des Arc Elementary School (Des Arc) ♦	P-6	152	92%	3.54
3 Marvell-Elaine Elementary School (Marvell)	P-5	96	85%	3.34
4 Crossett Elementary School (Crossett) ♦	P-4	268	80%	3.26
5 Drew Central Elementary School (Drew Central)	K-4	119	79%	3.23

Table 28: Top 3 Schools by Grade Level in *Southeast* Arkansas Based on Benchmark *Math* Achievement

School (District)	# of Test Takers	% Proficient/Advanced	GPA
3rd Grade			
1 Gillett Elementary School (DeWitt) ♦	16	94%	3.88
2 Portland Elementary School (Hamburg)	17	95%	3.68
3 Des Arc Elementary School (Des Arc)	27	96%	3.66
4th Grade			
1 Des Arc Elementary School (Des Arc) ♦	49	89%	3.54
2 Gillett Elementary School (DeWitt) ♦	15	86%	3.37
3 DeWitt Elementary School (DeWitt)	85	80%	3.22
5th Grade			
1 Des Arc Elementary School (Des Arc) ♦	41	95%	3.53
2 Marvell-Elaine Elementary School (Marvell)	35	94%	3.48
3 Kingsland Elementary School (Cleveland County)	12	83%	3.23

Table 29: Top 5 Overall Elementary Schools in *Southeast* Arkansas Based on Benchmark *Literacy* Achievement

School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	% Proficient/Advanced	GPA
1 Gillett Elementary School (DeWitt) ♦	P-5	31	94%	3.65
2 Des Arc Elementary School (Des Arc) ♦	P-6	152	89%	3.40
3 Portland Elementary School (Hamburg)	P-5	61	89%	3.35
4 DeWitt Elementary School (DeWitt)	K-5	221	82%	3.27
5 Monticello Intermediate School (Monticello)	3-5	403	82%	3.27

Table 30: Top 3 Schools by Grade Level in *Southeast* Arkansas Based on Benchmark *Literacy* Achievement

School (District)	# of Test Takers	% Proficient/Advanced	GPA
3rd Grade			
1 Gillett Elementary School (DeWitt) ♦	16	94%	3.76
2 Kingsland Elementary School (Cleveland County) ♦	17	89%	3.50
3 Des Arc Elementary School (Des Arc)	27	86%	3.44
4th Grade			
1 Portland Elementary School (Hamburg)	23	96%	3.70
2 Gillett Elementary School (DeWitt) ♦	15	93%	3.53
3 Des Arc Elementary School (Des Arc)	49	90%	3.41
5th Grade			
1 Kingsland Elementary School (Cleveland County)	12	92%	3.51
2 Woodlawn Elementary School (Woodlawn) ♦	38	87%	3.40
3 Des Arc Elementary School (Des Arc) ♦	41	88%	3.37

This concludes the **High-Achieving Elementary Schools Outstanding Educational Performance Awards**. We would like to congratulate **ALL** of the schools on our high-achieving lists. Our next installment, **High-Achieving Middle Schools**, takes a deeper look at middle schools and highlights schools by grade levels and by regions.

APPENDIX

A. Methods

The Office for Education Policy strives to make all of our calculations and publications transparent to our readers. Thus, in this appendix we describe our data source, calculations performed on these data for the purposes of our reporting, and our method for determining a school's classification as an elementary, middle, or high school.

All data used in this report were obtained from the Arkansas Department of Education. Benchmark and End-of-Course exam scores were obtained from the testing section (<http://www.arkansased.org/divisions/learning-services/student-assessment>). Other data, such as the percent of students eligible for free and reduced lunch, were obtained from the Arkansas Department of Education Data Center (<http://adedata.arkansas.gov>).

All data were analyzed at the school level; however, the ADE provides the percentage of scores at the proficient and advanced level by grade. Therefore, in order to present an accurate *school-level* percentage of students scoring proficient and advanced across all grades, a weighted average for each school was calculated to account for different levels of enrollment at each grade level. In an effort to highlight schools that were strong in both subject areas, we calculated a simple average of the school level percent proficient and advanced in math *and* literacy at the elementary and middle school levels.

As previously discussed in the introduction, in order to calculate the GPA measure we treat the benchmark test scores similar to the existing grade point system.

Category	GPA Points Awarded
Advanced	4.0
Proficient	3.0
Basic	2.0
Below Basic	1.0

We calculated the GPA measure for every schools math, literacy, and combined math and literacy scores. The GPA measure is comprehensive in that it takes into account all of the test score levels (advanced, proficient, basic, and below basic), instead of lumping together advanced and proficient scores.

B. School Classification

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

- Elementary School: primarily grades 3-5 (minimum grade P, K, 1, 2, 3, or 4)
- Middle School: primarily grades 6-8 (minimum grade of 4, 5, or 6 and maximum grade of 7, 8, or 9)

There were also a few “comprehensive schools,” such as K-8 or K-12 schools, that we included as either middle schools or elementary schools based on their enrollment numbers. The following table lists every grade configuration and their classifications.

Table A: School Classifications

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