

***ARKANSAS EDUCATION REPORT***  
***Volume 12, Issue 4***

**OUTSTANDING EDUCATIONAL PERFORMANCE AWARDS:  
HIGHLIGHTING HIGH-ACHIEVING ARKANSAS SCHOOLS,  
2015**

**HIGH-ACHIEVING JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOLS IN  
ARKANSAS BASED ON PERFORMANCE ON THE  
PARCC EXAMINATIONS**

**May 25, 2016**

**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](mailto:oe@uark.edu)**

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>Introduction.....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>III. 2015 OEP Awards: High Achieving Junior High Schools.....</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>G. Junior High School Overall PARCC Scores, 2015 .....</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>H. Junior High School Math PARCC Scores, 2015.....</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>I. Junior High School Literacy PARCC Scores, 2015 .....</b>	<b>32</b>
<b>Appendix.....</b>	<b>A1</b>

## 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 **Outstanding Educational Performance Awards**, or the OEP awards.

In the 2014-15 academic year, Arkansas students have undergone a change in their assessment of student performance to better operate in collaboration with the Common Core Standards. The **Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC)** replaced the Arkansas Comprehensive Testing, Assessment, and Accountability Program (ACTAAP) for literacy and math exams for most students in the state.

As promised, with the release of the PARCC results at the school and district level, the spring edition of the **OEP Awards** will highlight high-performing schools in Arkansas based on their performance in the Math and Literacy exams at the Elementary, Middle, Junior High and High School level.

In this report we are continuing to rate schools' performance based on the **"GPA" rating system** that was introduced in 2012, however modifications had to be made as student performance categories differed in PARCC in relation to those of the Benchmark exams. PARCC assessed student performance based on whether or not they fall under one of the following five categories: Not Met Expectations, Partially Met Expectations, Approached Expectations, Met Expectations or Exceeded Expectations. The 4.0 grading scale was still utilized; 0 points were allocated to those that "Did not meet expectations" and 4 points were allocated to those who "Exceeded Expectations". This GPA measure does reflect a more accurate representation of student performance and is something that is familiar and meaningful to the public.

<b>Category</b>	<b>GPA Points Awarded</b>
<b>Exceeded Expectations</b>	4.0
<b>Met Expectations</b>	3.0
<b>Approached Expectations</b>	2.0
<b>Partially Met Expectations</b>	1.0
<b>Did Not Meet Expectations</b>	0.0

In this report, we are presenting a list of the top 20 schools in each area. In some cases, these “top 20 lists” will contain more than 20 schools as some schools’ GPA scores will be identical. This is not a new phenomenon, as we also exceeded 20 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.

In the following weeks, we will focus on high-performing elementary schools, middle schools, and high schools in the various regions across the state. We will conclude this edition of the report by highlighting 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). Our release schedule is:

- **High-Achieving Elementary Schools**
- **High-Achieving Middle Schools**
- **High-Achieving Junior High Schools**
- **High-Achieving High Schools**
- **Beating the Odds: High-Achieving Schools Serving Low-Income Communities**

### III. 2015 OEP AWARDS: HIGH ACHIEVING JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOLS

This section highlights high-achieving junior high school across Arkansas based on the PARCC Math and Literacy examinations of the 2014-15 academic year.

This section is divided into subsections based the two exams. Schools are ranked using the GPA performance measure (explained in the Introduction) in each subject. In the subsections, the tables present the high-achieving schools for the noted category and subject using the GPA performance measure. These tables include the region in which the school is located, the number of test takers, the percent of students that met or exceeded expectation, and the GPA of the school in that particular subject.

#### G. Junior High School Overall PARCC Scores, 2015

Table 37: Top 20 *Junior High* Schools in Arkansas based on *Overall PARCC Achievement*

	School (District)	Region	Grades Served	% Met/ Exceeded Expectations	GPA
1	J. William Fulbright Junior High (Bentonville )	NW	7-8	61%	2.58
2	Valley View Junior High (Valley View )	NE	7-9	57%	2.44
3	Woodland Junior High (Fayetteville )	NW	8-9	58%	2.42
4	Greenbrier Junior High (Greenbrier )	CN	8-9	52%	2.37
5	Lincoln Junior High (Bentonville )	NW	7-8	52%	2.36
6	Washington Junior High (Bentonville )	NW	7-8	51%	2.31
7	L. A. Chaffin Jr. High (Fort Smith )	NW	7-9	48%	2.27
8	Cabot Freshman Academy(Cabot )	CN	9-9	44%	2.17
9	Benton Junior High (Benton )	CN	8-9	46%	2.15
10	Ahlf Junior High (Searcy )	NE	7-8	41%	2.09
10	Vilonia Junior High (Vilonia )	CN	8-9	41%	2.09
12	Pocahontas Junior High (Pocahontas )	NE	7-9	40%	2.08
12	Ramay Junior High (Fayetteville )	NW	8-9	40%	2.08
14	Harrison Jr. High (Harrison )	NW	7-9	38%	2.03
15	Beebe Junior High (Beebe )	NE	7-8	36%	1.99
15	Siloam Springs Middle (Siloam Springs )	NW	7-8	38%	1.99
17	Clinton Jr High (Clinton )	NW	7-9	36%	1.98
17	Central Junior High (Springdale )	NW	8-9	40%	1.98
17	Cabot Junior High North (Cabot )	CN	7-8	36%	1.98
20	Mountain Home Jr. High (Mountain Home )	NW	8-8	40%	1.97

Table 38-42: Top 5 **Junior High** Schools in Arkansas by Region, **Overall PARCC** performance.



Table 38: Top 5 schools in **Northwest** Region based on **Overall Jr. High PARCC** performance

	<b>School (District)</b>	<b>Grades Served</b>	<b># of Test Takers</b>	<b>% Met/ Exceed Expectations</b>	<b>GPA</b>
<b>1</b>	J. William Fulbright Junior High (Bentonville)	7-8	1,484	61%	2.58
<b>2</b>	Woodland Junior High (Fayetteville)	8-9	1,439	58%	2.42
<b>3</b>	Lincoln Junior High (Bentonville)	7-8	1,654	52%	2.36
<b>4</b>	Washington Junior High (Bentonville)	7-8	1,440	51%	2.31
<b>5</b>	L. A. Chaffin Jr. High (Fort Smith)	7-9	1,707	48%	2.27



Table 39: Top 5 schools in **Northeast** Region based on **Overall Jr. High PARCC** performance

	<b>School (District)</b>	<b>Grades Served</b>	<b># of Test Takers</b>	<b>% Met/ Exceed Expectations</b>	<b>GPA</b>
<b>1</b>	Valley View Junior High (Valley View)	7-9	1,195	57%	2.44
<b>2</b>	Ahlf Junior High (Searcy)	7-8	1,284	41%	2.09
<b>3</b>	Pocahontas Junior High (Pocahontas)	7-9	860	40%	2.08
<b>4</b>	Beebe Junior High (Beebe)	7-8	892	36%	1.99
<b>5</b>	Buffalo Is. Central Jhs (Buffalo Is. Central Sch. Dist.)	7-9	393	35%	1.95



Table 40: Top 5 schools in **Central** Region based on **Overall Jr. High PARCC** performance

	<b>School (District)</b>	<b>Grades Served</b>	<b># of Test Takers</b>	<b>% Met/ Exceed Expectations</b>	<b>GPA</b>
<b>1</b>	Greenbrier Junior High (Greenbrier)	8-9	1,030	52%	2.37
<b>2</b>	Cabot Freshman Academy (Cabot)	9-9	1,476	44%	2.17
<b>3</b>	Benton Junior High (Benton)	8-9	1,584	46%	2.15
<b>4</b>	Vilonia Junior High (Vilonia)	8-9	967	41%	2.09
<b>5</b>	Cabot Junior High North (Cabot)	7-8	1,680	36%	1.98



Table 41: Top 5 schools in **Southwest** Region based on **Overall Jr. High PARCC** performance

	<b>School (District)</b>	<b>Grades Served</b>	<b># of Test Takers</b>	<b>% Met/ Exceed Expectations</b>	<b>GPA</b>
<b>1</b>	Nashville Junior High (DeQueen)	7-9	816	28%	1.76
<b>2</b>	DeQueen Junior High (Nashville)	8-9	678	27%	1.75
<b>3</b>	Barton Jr. High (El Dorado)	7-8	1,296	25%	1.62
<b>4</b>	Magnolia Jr. High (Magnolia)	7-9	1,255	21%	1.47
<b>5</b>	North Heights Jr. High (Texarkana)	7-8	1,162	14%	1.21

\* Note: There were only six Junior High schools in this category



Table 42: Top 5 schools in *Southeast Region* based on *Overall Jr. High PARCC performance*

---

	<b>School (District)</b>	<b>Grades Served</b>	<b># of Test Takers</b>	<b>% Met/ Exceed Expectations</b>	<b>GPA</b>
<b>1</b>	Stuttgart Junior High (Stuttgart)	7-8	517	23%	1.37
<b>2</b>	Dumas Junior High (Dumas)	7-9	587	15%	1.32

---

\* *Note: These are the only two Junior High schools in this category*



## H. Junior High School Math PARCC Scores, 2015

Table 43: Top 10 Jr. High Schools in Arkansas based on PARCC Math Achievement

	School (District)	Region	Grades Served	% Met/ Exceed Expectations	GPA
1	J. William Fulbright Junior High (Bentonville)	NW	7-8	55%	2.40
2	Woodland Junior High (Fayetteville)	NW	8-9	56%	2.36
3	Valley View Junior High (Valley View)	NE	7-9	50%	2.31
4	Greenbrier Junior High (Greenbrier)	CN	8-9	48%	2.27
5	Washington Junior High (Bentonville)	NW	7-8	48%	2.25
6	Lincoln Junior High (Bentonville)	NW	7-8	46%	2.24
6	Benton Junior High (Benton)	CN	8-9	49%	2.20
8	Pocahontas Junior High (Pocahontas)	NE	7-9	38%	2.09
9	L. A. Chaffin Jr. High (Fort Smith)	NW	7-9	37%	2.05
10	Cabot Freshman Academy (Cabot)	CN	9-9	36%	2.04

Tables 44-48: Top 5 Junior High Schools in Arkansas by Regions, Math Achievement



Table 44: Top 5 schools in Northwest Region based on Jr. High Math PARCC performance

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	% Met/ Exceed Expectations	GPA
1	J. William Fulbright Junior High (Bentonville)	7-8	743	56%	2.40
2	Woodland Junior High (Fayetteville)	8-9	700	55%	2.36
3	Washington Junior High (Bentonville)	7-8	720	48%	2.25
4	Lincoln Junior High (Bentonville)	7-8	827	46%	2.24
5	L. A. Chaffin Jr. High (Fort Smith)	7-9	853	37%	2.05



Table 45: Top 5 schools in *Northeast* Region based on Jr. High *Math* PARCC performance

	<b>School (District)</b>	<b>Grades Served</b>	<b># of Test Takers</b>	<b>% Met/ Exceed Expectations</b>	<b>GPA</b>
<b>1</b>	Valley View Junior High (Valley View)	7-9	593	50%	2.32
<b>2</b>	Pocahontas Junior High (Pocahontas)	7-9	429	38%	2.09
<b>3</b>	Beebe Junior High (Beebe)	7-8	446	35%	1.98
<b>4</b>	Ahlf Junior High (Searcy)	7-8	642	34%	1.95
<b>5</b>	Nettleton Junior High (Nettleton)	7-8	476	27%	1.80



Table 46: Top 5 schools in *Central* Region based on Jr. High *Math* PARCC performance

	<b>School (District)</b>	<b>Grades Served</b>	<b># of Test Takers</b>	<b>% Met/ Exceed Expectations</b>	<b>GPA</b>
<b>1</b>	Greenbrier Junior High (Greenbrier)	8-9	509	48%	2.27
<b>2</b>	Benton Junior High (Benton)	8-9	794	49%	2.20
<b>3</b>	Cabot Freshman Academy (Cabot)	9-9	739	36%	2.04
<b>4</b>	Conway Junior High (Conway)	8-9	1,326	40%	2.02
<b>5</b>	Cabot Junior High North (Cabot)	7-8	840	35%	1.99



Table 47: Top 5 school in **Southwest** Region based on Jr. High **Math** PARCC performance

	<b>School (District)</b>	<b>Grades Served</b>	<b># of Test Takers</b>	<b>% Met/ Exceed Expectations</b>	<b>GPA</b>
<b>1</b>	DeQueen Junior High (DeQueen)	8-9	341	31%	1.86
<b>2</b>	Nashville Junior High (Nashville)	7-9	409	21%	1.63
<b>3</b>	Barton Jr. High (El Dorado)	7-8	648	21%	1.51
<b>4</b>	Magnolia Jr. High (Magnolia)	7-9	618	14%	1.37
<b>5</b>	North Heights Jr. High (Texarkana)	7-8	581	11%	1.17

\* Note: There were only six Junior High schools in this category



Table 48: Top 5 schools in **Southeast** Region based on Jr. High **Math** PARCC performance

	<b>School (District)</b>	<b>Grades Served</b>	<b># of Test Takers</b>	<b>% Met/ Exceed Expectations</b>	<b>GPA</b>
<b>1</b>	Stuttgart Junior High (Stuttgart)	7-8	258	22%	1.41
<b>2</b>	Dumas Junior High (Dumas)	7-9	272	4%	1.03

\* Note: These are the only two Junior High schools in this category

## I. Junior High School Literacy PARCC Scores, 2015

Table 49: Top 10 Jr. High Schools in Arkansas based on PARCC Literacy Achievement

	School (District)	Region	Grades Served	% Met/ Exceed Expectations	GPA
1	J. William Fulbright Junior High (Bentonville)	NW	7-8	68%	2.76
2	Valley View Junior High (Valley View)	NE	7-9	64%	2.57
3	Woodland Junior High (Fayetteville)	NW	8-9	60%	2.49
4	Lincoln Junior High (Bentonville)	NW	7-8	57%	2.49
5	L. A. Chaffin Jr. High (Fort Smith)	NW	7-9	58%	2.48
5	Greenbrier Junior High (Greenbrier)	CN	8-9	56%	2.46
7	Washington Junior High (Bentonville)	NW	7-8	54%	2.38
8	Cabot Freshman Academy(Cabot)	CN	9-9	53%	2.30
9	Ramay Junior High (Fayetteville)	NW	8-9	47%	2.24
9	Ahlf Junior High (Searcy)	NE	7-8	47%	2.24

Tables 50-54: Top 5 Junior High Schools in Arkansas by Regions, Literacy Achievement



Table 50: Top 5 schools in Northwest Region based on Jr. High Literacy PARCC performance

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	% Met/ Exceed Expectations	GPA
1	J. William Fulbright Junior High (Bentonville)	7-8	741	68%	2.76
2	Woodland Junior High (Fayetteville)	8-9	739	60%	2.49
2	Lincoln Junior High (Bentonville)	7-8	827	57%	2.49
4	L. A. Chaffin Jr. High (Fort Smith)	7-9	854	58%	2.48
5	Washington Junior High (Bentonville)	7-8	720	54%	2.38



Table 51: Top 5 schools in **Northeast** Region based on Jr. High **Literacy** PARCC performance

	<b>School (District)</b>	<b>Grades Served</b>	<b># of Test Takers</b>	<b>% Met/ Exceed Expectations</b>	<b>GPA</b>
<b>1</b>	Valley View Junior High (Valley View)	7-9	602	64%	2.57
<b>2</b>	Ahlf Junior High (Searcy)	7-8	642	47%	2.24
<b>3</b>	Buffalo Is. Central Jhs (Buffalo Is. Central Sch. Dist.)	7-9	196	46%	2.17
<b>4</b>	Pocahontas Junior High (Pocahontas)	7-9	431	42%	2.08
<b>5</b>	Southside Junior High (Southside (Independence))	7-9	350	40%	2.02



Table 52: Top 5 schools in **Central** Region based on Jr. High **Literacy** PARCC performance

	<b>School (District)</b>	<b>Grades Served</b>	<b># of Test Takers</b>	<b>% Met/ Exceed Expectations</b>	<b>GPA</b>
<b>1</b>	Greenbrier Junior High (Greenbrier)	8-9	521	56%	2.46
<b>2</b>	Cabot Freshman Academy (Cabot)	9-9	737	53%	2.30
<b>3</b>	Vilonia Junior High (Vilonia)	8-9	500	45%	2.21
<b>4</b>	Benton Junior High (Benton)	8-9	790	44%	2.10
<b>5</b>	Cabot Junior High North (Cabot)	7-8	840	37%	1.96



Table 53: Top 5 school in **Southwest** Region based on Jr. High **Literacy** PARCC performance

	<b>School (District)</b>	<b>Grades Served</b>	<b># of Test Takers</b>	<b>% Met/ Exceed Expectations</b>	<b>GPA</b>
<b>1</b>	Nashville Junior High (Nashville)	7-9	407	35%	1.89
<b>2</b>	Barton Jr. High (El Dorado)	7-8	648	29%	1.72
<b>3</b>	DeQueen Junior High (DeQueen)	8-9	339	23%	1.65
<b>4</b>	Magnolia Jr. High (Magnolia)	7-9	637	27%	1.56
<b>5</b>	North Heights Jr. High (Texarkana)	7-8	581	16%	1.25

\* Note: There were only six Junior High schools in this category



Table 54: Top 5 schools in **Southeast** Region based on Jr. High **Literacy** PARCC performance

	<b>School (District)</b>	<b>Grades Served</b>	<b># of Test Takers</b>	<b>% Met/ Exceed Expectations</b>	<b>GPA</b>
<b>1</b>	Dumas Junior High (Dumas)	7-9	315	25%	1.61
<b>2</b>	Stuttgart Junior High (Stuttgart)	7-8	259	24%	1.34

\* Note: These are the only two Junior High schools in this category

## 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 via the link <http://www.arkansased.gov/divisions/learning-services/student-assessment/test-scores/year?y=2015>. 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 grade / course level.

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

<b>Category</b>	<b>GPA Points Awarded</b>
<b>Exceeded Expectations</b>	4.0
<b>Met Expectations</b>	3.0
<b>Approached Expectations</b>	2.0
<b>Partially Met Expectations</b>	1.0
<b>Did Not Meet Expectations</b>	0.0

We calculated the GPA measure for every Math and Literacy score. The GPA measure is comprehensive in that it takes into account all of the test score levels (Exceeded, Met, Approached, Partially Met, Did not Meet Expectations), instead of lumping together Met or Exceeded Expectations.

## 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		
5		
K-3		
K-4		
K-5		
K-6		
K-7		
K-8		
P-2		
P-3		
P-4		
P-5		
P-6		
P-7		
P-8		
K-12		



### 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*

<b>Junior High</b>		<b>High School</b>
7-8		7-12
7-9		8-12
8-9		9-12
8		10-12
9		11-12
		9-10