

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

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

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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 **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.

Category	GPA Points Awarded
Exceeded Expectations	4.0
Met Expectations	3.0
Approached Expectations	2.0
Partially Met Expectations	1.0
Did Not Meet Expectations	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 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.

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**

II. 2015 OEP AWARDS: HIGH ACHIEVING MIDDLE SCHOOLS IN ARKANSAS BASED ON PERFORMANCE ON THE PARCC EXAMS

This section highlights high-performing Middle schools across the state based on the Arkansas PARCC exams. The PARCC examinations in math and literacy were administered to students in grades 3 through 11 in April 2015. Algebra 2 and Grade 11 Literacy were not included in the results as those exams were optional for students to take.

Each table in this section presents the top 20 schools for the noted subject area and school level. In addition, these tables include the region in which the schools is located, the grades served at the school, the percent of students met or exceeded expectation in 2015, and the GPA of the school in that particular subject.

For the purposes of this report, elementary schools are defined as schools which primarily serve grades 3-5, and middle schools are defined as schools which primarily serve grades 6-8. High schools that also serve middle school grades, e.g. schools that serve grades 6-12, are categorized as middle schools in this report. In the cases where these grades overlap, we used enrollment data to determine whether a school served more elementary or middle school students (see Appendix B).

D. Middle School Overall PARCC Scores, 2015

Table 19: Top 20 *Middle* Schools in Arkansas based on *Overall* PARCC Achievement

	School (District)	Region	Grades Served	% Met/ Exceeded Expectations	GPA
1	McNair Middle (Fayetteville)	NW	6-7	64%	2.61
2	Bright Field Middle (Bentonville)	NW	5-6	52%	2.37
3	East Hills Middle (Greenwood)	NW	6-7	46%	2.31
4	Greenbrier Middle (Greenbrier)	CN	6-7	47%	2.27
5	Benton Middle (Benton)	CN	6-7	45%	2.23
6	Bethel Middle (Bryant)	CN	6-8	45%	2.22
7	Ruth Doyle Intermediate (Conway)	CN	5-7	45%	2.21
8	Pottsville Middle Grade (Pottsville)	NW	4-6	43%	2.19
9	Cabot Middle South (Cabot)	CN	5-6	43%	2.18
10	Kirksey Middle (Rogers)	NW	6-8	43%	2.17
11	Ruth Barker Middle (Bentonville)	NW	5-6	42%	2.13
11	Gentry Middle (Gentry)	NW	6-8	44%	2.13
11	Gravette Middle (Gravette)	NW	6-8	44%	2.13
14	Carl Stuart Middle (Conway)	CN	5-7	42%	2.12
14	Flightline Upper Academy (Jacksonville Lighthouse Charter)	CN	5-8	40%	2.12
16	Hellstern Middle (Springdale)	NW	6-7	42%	2.11
16	Elmwood Middle (Rogers)	NW	6-8	41%	2.11
18	Ray/Phyllis Simon Intermediate (Conway)	CN	5-7	41%	2.10
19	Old High Middle (Bentonville)	NW	5-6	40%	2.09
19	Clinton Intermediate (Clinton)	NW	4-6	40%	2.09

Tables 20-24: Top 5 *Middle Schools* in Arkansas by Regions, **Overall** Achievement



Table 20: Top 5 schools in **Northwest** Region based on **Overall Middle PARCC** performance

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	% Met/ Exceed Expectations	GPA
1	McNair Middle (Fayetteville)	6-7	1,348	64%	2.61
2	Bright Field Middle (Bentonville)	5-6	1,266	52%	2.37
3	East Hills Middle (Greenwood)	6-7	1,068	46%	2.31
4	Pottsville Middle Grade (Pottsville)	4-6	744	43%	2.19
5	Kirksey Middle (Rogers)	6-8	2,034	43%	2.17



Table 21: Top 5 schools in **Northeast** Region based on **Overall Middle PARCC** performance

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	% Met/ Exceed Expectations	GPA
1	Brookland Middle (Brookland)	4-6	1,016	40%	2.07
2	Southwest Middle (Searcy)	4-6	1,760	40%	2.04
3	Swifton Middle (Jackson Co.)	5-7	396	35%	2.03
4	Nettleton Middle (Nettleton)	6	460	37%	2.02
5	Highland Middle (Highland)	5-8	962	35%	1.94



Table 22: Top 5 schools in **Central** Region based on **Overall Middle PARCC** performance

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	% Met/ Exceed Expectations	GPA
1	Greenbrier Middle (Greenbrier)	6-7	1,064	47%	2.27
2	Benton Middle (Benton)	6-7	1,474	45%	2.23
3	Bethel Middle (Bryant)	6-8	1,784	45%	2.22
4	Ruth Doyle Intermediate (Conway)	5-7	979	45%	2.21
5	Cabot Middle South (Cabot)	5-6	1,422	43%	2.18



Table 23: Top 5 schools in **Southwest** Region based on **Overall Middle PARCC** performance

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	% Met/ Exceed Expectations	GPA
1	Gary E. Cobb Middle (Genoa Central)	5-8	668	35%	2.05
2	McRae Middle (Prescott)	5-6	304	36%	1.94
3	Acorn High (Ouachita River)	6-12	368	31%	1.89
4	DeQueen Middle (DeQueen)	6-7	731	29%	1.87
5	Paulette Smith Middle (Fouke)	6-8	462	32%	1.85



Table 24: Top 5 schools in *Southeast* Region based on **Overall Middle PARCC** performance

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	% Met/ Exceed Expectations	GPA
1	Monticello Middle (Monticello)	6-8	862	24%	1.64
2	Crossett Middle (Crossett)	5-8	1,022	23%	1.60
3	Dewitt Middle (Dewitt)	6-8	572	22%	1.59
4	Kipp:Delta College Prep (Kipp Delta Public Schools)	5-8	581	19%	1.58
5	Meekins Middle (Stuttgart)	5-6	485	19%	1.57

E. Middle School Math PARCC Scores, 2015

Table 25: Top 10 Middle Schools in Arkansas based on PARCC Math Achievement

	School (District)	Region	Grades Served	% Met/ Exceed Expectations	GPA
1	McNair Middle (Fayetteville)	NW	6-7	56%	2.44
2	Bright Field Middle (Bentonville)	NW	5-6	45%	2.28
3	Pottsville Middle Grade(Pottsville)	NW	4-6	45%	2.24
4	Greenbrier Middle (Greenbrier)	CN	6-7	43%	2.19
5	Cabot Middle South(Cabot)	CN	5-6	43%	2.17
6	East Hills Middle (Greenwood)	NW	6-7	36%	2.13
7	Gravette Middle (Gravette)	NW	6-8	44%	2.12
8	Benton Middle (Benton)	CN	6-7	39%	2.10
9	Ruth Doyle Intermediate (Conway)	CN	5-7	38%	2.08
10	Hellstern Middle (Springdale)	NW	6-7	40%	2.07

Tables 26-30: Top 5 Middle Schools in Arkansas by Regions, Math Achievement



Table 26: Top 5 schools in Northwest Region based on Middle Math PARCC performance

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	% Met/ Exceed Expectations	GPA
1	McNair Middle (Fayetteville)	6-7	674	56%	2.44
2	Bright Field Middle (Bentonville)	5-6	633	45%	2.28
3	Pottsville Middle Grade (Pottsville)	4-6	372	45%	2.24
4	East Hills Middle (Greenwood)	6-7	534	36%	2.13
5	Gravette Middle (Gravette)	6-8	426	44%	2.12



Table 27: Top 5 schools in **Northeast** Region based on Middle **Math** PARCC performance

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	% Met/ Exceed Expectations	GPA
1	Swifton Middle (Jackson Co.)	5-7	198	32%	1.96
2	Southwest Middle (Searcy)	4-6	880	34%	1.95
2	Brookland Middle (Brookland)	4-6	507	34%	1.95
2	Heber Springs Middle (Heber Springs)	6-8	395	35%	1.95
5	Highland Middle (Highland)	5-8	481	31%	1.87



Table 28: Top 5 schools in **Central** Region based on Middle **Math** PARCC performance

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	% Met/ Exceed Expectations	GPA
1	Greenbrier Middle (Greenbrier)	6-7	532	43%	2.19
2	Cabot Middle South (Cabot)	5-6	711	43%	2.17
3	Benton Middle (Benton)	6-7	740	39%	2.10
4	Ruth Doyle Intermediate (Conway)	5-7	490	38%	2.08
5	Lakeside Middle (Lakeside Dist. (Garland))	5-7	769	36%	2.05



Table 29: Top 5 school in *Southwest* Region based on Middle *Math* PARCC performance

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	% Met/ Exceed Expectations	GPA
1	Gary E. Cobb Middle (Genoa Central)	5-8	334	28%	1.92
2	McRae Middle (Prescott)	5-6	152	35%	1.89
3	DeQueen Middle (DeQueen)	6-7	366	27%	1.86
4	Acorn High (Ouachita River)	6-12	170	26%	1.85
5	Goza Middle (Arkadelphia)	6-8	420	30%	1.80



Table 30: Top 5 schools in *Southeast* Region based on Middle *Math* PARCC performance

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	% Met/ Exceed Expectations	GPA
1	Kipp: Delta College Prep (Kipp Delta Public Schools)	5-8	289	20%	1.69
2	Monticello Middle (Monticello)	6-8	431	23%	1.65
3	Crossett Middle (Crossett)	5-8	510	22%	1.59
4	Meekins Middle (Stuttgart)	5-6	243	19%	1.58
5	Dewitt Middle (Dewitt)	6-8	286	15%	1.49

F. Middle School Literacy PARCC Scores, 2015

Table 31: Top 10 Middle Schools in Arkansas based on PARCC Literacy Achievement

	School (District)	Region	Grades Served	% Met/ Exceed Expectations	GPA
1	McNair Middle (Fayetteville)	NW	6-7	72%	2.79
2	East Hills Middle (Greenwood)	NW	6-7	55%	2.49
3	Kirksey Middle (Rogers)	NW	6-8	57%	2.46
4	Bright Field Middle (Bentonville)	NW	5-6	58%	2.45
5	Gentry Middle (Gentry)	NW	6-8	58%	2.44
6	Flightline Upper Academy(Jacksonville Lighthouse Charter)	CN	5-8	53%	2.43
7	Bethel Middle (Bryant)	CN	6-8	54%	2.41
8	Nemo Vista Middle (Nemo Vista)	CN	6-8	57%	2.39
9	Benton Middle (Benton)	CN	6-7	51%	2.37
10	Ruth Baker Middle(Bentonville)	NW	5-6	52%	2.36

Tables 32-36: Top 5 Middle Schools in Arkansas by Regions, Literacy Achievement.



Table 32: Top 5 schools in Northwest Region based on Middle Literacy PARCC performance

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	% Met/ Exceed Expectations	GPA
1	McNair Middle (Fayetteville)	6-7	675	72%	2.79
2	East Hills Middle (Greenwood)	6-7	534	55%	2.49
3	Kirksey Middle (Rogers)	6-8	1,014	57%	2.46
4	Bright Field Middle (Bentonville)	5-6	633	58%	2.45
5	Gentry Middle (Gentry)	6-8	317	58%	2.44



Table 33: Top 5 schools in **Northeast** Region based on Middle **Literacy** PARCC performance

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	% Met/ Exceed Expectations	GPA
1	Brookland Middle (Brookland)	4-6	509	47%	2.18
2	Nettleton Middle (Nettleton)	6	230	44%	2.17
3	Southwest Middle (Searcy)	4-6	880	45%	2.13
4	Swifton Middle (Jackson Co.)	5-7	198	38%	2.09
5	Mountain View Middle (Mountain View)	5-8	365	38%	2.06



Table 34: Top 5 schools in **Central** Region based on Middle **Literacy** PARCC performance

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	% Met/ Exceed Expectations	GPA
1	Flightline Upper Academy(Jacksonville Lighthouse Charter)	5-8	196	53%	2.43
2	Bethel Middle (Bryant)	6-8	890	54%	2.41
3	Benton Middle (Benton)	6-7	734	51%	2.37
4	Pulaski Heights Middle (Little Rock)	6-8	782	52%	2.35
4	Greenbrier Middle(Greenbrier)	6-7	532	51%	2.35



Table 35: Top 5 school in *Southwest* Region based on Middle *Literacy* PARCC performance

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	% Met/ Exceed Expectations	GPA
1	Gary E. Cobb Middle (Genoa Central)	5-8	334	42%	2.18
2	Paulette Smith Middle (Fouke)	6-8	231	44%	2.13
3	McRae Middle (Prescott)	5-6	152	38%	1.99
4	Acorn High (Ouachita River)	6-12	198	35%	1.93
4	Cabe Middle (Gurdon)	5-8	203	36%	1.93



Table 36: Top 5 schools in *Southeast* Region based on Middle *Literacy* PARCC performance

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	% Met/ Exceed Expectations	GPA
1	Lakeside Middle (Lakeside Dist. (Chicot))	6-8	201	27%	1.76
2	Dewitt Middle (Dewitt)	6-8	286	29%	1.69
3	Hamburg Middle (Hamburg)	6-8	477	26%	1.65
4	Monticello Middle (Monticello)	6-8	431	25%	1.64
5	Crossett Middle (Crossett)	5-8	512	24%	1.62

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.

Category	GPA Points Awarded
Exceeded Expectations	4.0
Met Expectations	3.0
Approached Expectations	2.0
Partially Met Expectations	1.0
Did Not Meet Expectations	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, or 8)

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	
K-9	
K-12	
P-2	
P-3	
P-4	
P-5	
P-6	
P-7	
P-8	