

*ARKANSAS EDUCATION REPORT*  
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**OUTSTANDING EDUCATIONAL PERFORMANCE AWARDS:  
HIGHLIGHTING HIGH-ACHIEVING ARKANSAS SCHOOLS,  
2016**

**HIGH-ACHIEVING HIGH SCHOOLS IN  
ARKANSAS BASED ON PERFORMANCE ON THE  
ACT ASPIRE EXAMINATIONS**

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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction.....	1
IV. 2016 OEP Awards: High Achieving High Schools in Arkansas based on Performance on the ACT Aspire Exams .....	54
M. High School Overall ACT Aspire Scores, 2016.....	55
N. High School Math ACT Aspire Scores, 2016.....	59
O. High School ELA ACT Aspire Scores, 2016 .....	63
P. High School Science ACT Aspire Scores, 2016 .....	67
Appendix.....	A1

## INTRODUCTION

Since our founding in 2003, the mission of the Office for Education Policy has examined 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 2015-16 academic year, Arkansas students have yet again undergone a change in their assessment of student performance to replace the **Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College Careers (PARCC)**. The ACT Aspire examinations were administered to students in grades 3 through 10 in Math, Reading, Writing, English and Science. For the purposes of this report, the scores obtained in Reading, Writing and English were combined to create a combined ELA score.

This edition of the **OEP Awards** will highlight high-performing schools in Arkansas based on their performance in the Math, ELA and Science exams at the Elementary, Middle, Junior and High school level.

In 2012, we introduced an academic performance indicator, the **“GPA” rating system**, to rank the highest-performing schools. Unlike the commonly reported percentage of students scoring at or above the proficient level on each assessment which suffers from being an “all-or-nothing” measure in which a student is either proficient or not, the “GPA” includes information provided by student scores that are placed into the four different performance categories: **In Need of Support, Close to Meeting Expectations, Ready, and Exceeded Expectations**.

Our GPA indicator gives the most credit to students who have exceeded expectations and the least credit to those that are in need of support. In this GPA measure, parallel to the familiar grade point average for individual students, a 4.0 is a perfect score. The GPA measure, we believe, is a better representation of student achievement on statewide standardized exams.

<b>ACT Aspire Performance Category</b>	<b>GPA Points Awarded</b>
Exceeded Expectations	4.0
Ready	3.0
Close to Meeting Expectations	2.0
In Need of Support	1.0

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.

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**

#### **IV. 2016 OEP AWARDS: HIGH ACHIEVING HIGH SCHOOLS IN ARKANSAS BASED ON PERFORMANCE ON THE ACT ASPIRE EXAMS**

This section highlights high-achieving schools across Arkansas based on the ACT Aspire Math, ELA and Science examinations for the 2015-16 academic year. These are the schools that serve primarily 9<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> graders.

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.

## M. High School Overall ACT Aspire Scores, 2016

Table 73: Top 20 **High Schools** in Arkansas based on **Overall ACT Aspire Achievement** (Math, ELA and Science combined)

	School (District)	Region	Grades Served	% Met Readiness Benchmark	GPA
1	Haas Hall Academy (Haas Hall Academy)	NW	7-12	91%	3.57
2	Haas Hall Academy Bentonville (Haas Hall Bentonville)	NW	9-12	90%	3.53
3	Rogers New Technology High (Rogers)	NW	9-12	57%	2.72
4	Valley View High (Valley View)	NE	10-12	57%	2.66
5	Northwest Arkansas Classical Academy High (Responsive Ed Solutions)	NW	9-12	55%	2.64
6	Greenwood High (Greenwood)	NW	10-12	55%	2.61
7	Taylor High (Emerson-Taylor-Bradley)	SW	9-12	58%	2.59
7	Mt. Vernon/Enola High (Mt. Vernon/Enola)	CN	7-12	54%	2.59
7	Arkansas Arts Academy High (Arkansas Arts Academy)	NW	10-12	53%	2.59
10	Greenbrier High (Greenbrier)	CN	7-12	53%	2.58
11	Norfolk High (Norfolk)	NW	7-12	53%	2.54
11	Lisa Academy North High Charter (Lisa Academy)	CN	7-12	52%	2.54
13	Concord High (Concord)	NE	7-12	51%	2.53
14	Bentonville High (Bentonville)	NW	7-12	51%	2.51
15	Timbo High (Mountain View)	NE	9-12	48%	2.50
16	Emerson High (Emerson-Taylor-Bradley)	SW	9-12	50%	2.48
17	Magnet Cove High (Magnet Cove)	CN	10-12	51%	2.47
18	Bismarck High (Bismarck)	CN	10-12	50%	2.46
19	Salem High (Salem)	CN	9-12	51%	2.45
19	McCrary High (McCrary)	NE	7-12	50%	2.45

Tables 74-78: Top 5 **High Schools** in Arkansas by Region, **Overall** Achievement



Table 74: Top 5 high schools in **Northwest** Region based on **Overall** ACT Aspire performance (Math, ELA and Science combined)

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	% Met Readiness Benchmark	GPA
1	Haas Hall Academy (Haas Hall Academy)	7-12	663	91%	3.57
2	Haas Hall Academy Bentonville (Haas Hall Bentonville)	7-12	723	90%	3.53
3	Rogers New Technology High (Rogers)	9-12	984	57%	2.72
4	Northwest Arkansas Classical Academy High (Responsive Ed Solutions)	9-12	156	55%	2.64
5	Greenwood High (Greenwood)	10-12	900	55%	2.61



Table 75: Top 5 high schools in the **Northeast** Region based on **Overall** ACT Aspire performance (Math, ELA and Science combined)

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	% Met Readiness Benchmark	GPA
1	Valley View High (Valley View)	10-12	584	57%	2.66
2	Concord High (Concord)	7-12	431	51%	2.53
3	Timbo High (Mountain View)	7-12	189	48%	2.50
4	McCrary High (McCrary)	7-12	591	50%	2.45
5	Melbourne High (Melbourne)	7-12	756	46%	2.37
5	Armored High (Armored)	7-12	447	45%	2.37



Table 76: Top 5 high schools in the **Central** Region based on **Overall** ACT Aspire performance (Math, ELA and Science combined)

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	% Met Readiness Benchmark	GPA
1	Mt. Vernon/Enola High (Mt. Vernon/Enola)	7-12	483	54%	2.59
2	Greenbrier High (Greenbrier)	10-12	801	53%	2.58
3	Lisa Academy North High Charter (Lisa Academy)	9-12	195	52%	2.54
4	Magnet Cove High (Magnet Cove)	10-12	642	51%	2.47
5	Bismarck High (Bismarck)	10-12	495	50%	2.46



Table 77: Top 5 high schools in the **Southwest** Region based on **Overall** ACT Aspire performance (Math, ELA and Science combined)

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	% Met Readiness Benchmark	GPA
1	Taylor High (Emerson-Taylor-Bradley)	7-12	323	58%	2.59
2	Emerson High (Emerson-Taylor-Bradley)	7-12	254	50%	2.48
3	Spring Hill High (Spring Hill)	7-12	509	48%	2.43
4	Parkers Chapel High (Parkers Chapel)	7-12	696	45%	2.34
4	Bradley High (Emerson-Taylor-Bradley)	7-12	288	45%	2.34





Table 78: Top 5 high schools in the *Southeast* Region based on *Overall High ACT Aspire* performance (Math, ELA and Science combined)

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	% Met Readiness Benchmark	GPA
1	Des Arc High (Des Arc)	7-12	519	47%	2.42
2	Rison High (Cleveland County)	7-12	948	41%	2.25
3	Woodlawn High (Woodlawn)	7-12	522	39%	2.18
4	Hazen High (Hazen)	9-12	300	32%	2.07
5	Stuttgart High (Stuttgart)	9-12	668	30%	1.91
5	McGehee High (McGehee)	9-12	960	29%	1.91
5	Monticello High (Monticello)	9-12	982	28%	1.91

## N. High School Math ACT Aspire Scores, 2016

Table 19: Top 10 *High Schools* in Arkansas based on ACT Aspire *Math* Achievement

	School (District)	Region	Grades Served	% Met/ Exceed Expectations	GPA
1	Haas Hall Academy (Haas Hall Academy)	NW	7-12	90%	3.51
2	Haas Hall Academy Bentonville (Haas Hall Bentonville)	NW	7-12	87%	3.46
3	Concord High (Concord)	NE	7-12	53%	2.58
4	Rogers New Technology High (Rogers)	NW	9-12	46%	2.45
5	Mt. Vernon/Enola High (Mt. Vernon/Enola)	CN	7-12	48%	2.40
6	Scranton High (Scranton)	NW	7-12	44%	2.39
7	Charleston High (Charleston)	NW	7-12	45%	2.38
7	Greenwood High (Greenwood)	NW	10-12	43%	2.38
9	Magnet Cove High (Magnet Cove)	CN	7-12	44%	2.37
10	Northwest Arkansas Classical Academy High (Responsive Ed Solutions)	NW	9-12	44%	2.36

Tables 80-84: Top 5 **High Schools** in Arkansas by Region, **Math** Achievement



Table 80: Top 5 high schools in **Northwest** Region based on **Math** ACT Aspire performance

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	% Met Readiness Benchmark	GPA
1	Haas Hall Academy (Haas Hall Academy)	7-12	221	90%	3.51
2	Haas Hall Academy Bentonville (Haas Hall Bentonville)	7-12	241	87%	3.46
3	Rogers New Technology High (Rogers)	9-12	328	46%	2.45
4	Scranton High (Scranton)	7-12	134	44%	2.39
5	Charleston High (Charleston)	7-12	270	45%	2.38
5	Greenwood High (Greenwood)	10-12	300	43%	2.38



Table 81: Top 5 high schools in **Northeast** Region based on **Math** ACT Aspire performance

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	% Met Readiness Benchmark	GPA
1	Concord High (Concord)	7-12	144	53%	2.58
2	McCrary High (McCrary)	7-12	197	40%	2.30
3	Gosnell High (Gosnell)	7-12	392	42%	2.29
3	Timbo High (Mountain View)	7-12	63	38%	2.29
5	Melbourne High (Melbourne)	7-12	252	44%	2.27



Table 82: Top 5 high schools in **Central** Region based on **Math** ACT Aspire performance

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	% Met Readiness Benchmark	GPA
1	Mt. Vernon/Enola High (Mt. Vernon/Enola)	7-12	161	48%	2.40
2	Magnet Cove High (Magnet Cove)	7-12	214	44%	2.37
3	Lakeside High (Lakeside (Garland))	8-12	773	44%	2.33
3	Salem High (Salem)	7-12	234	44%	2.33
5	Bismarck High (Bismarck)	9-12	165	41%	2.28



Table 83: Top 5 high schools in **Southwest** Region based on **Math** ACT Aspire performance

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	% Met Readiness Benchmark	GPA
1	Taylor High (Emerson-Taylor-Bradley)	7-12	108	44%	2.27
1	Bradley High (Emerson-Taylor-Bradley)	7-12	96	42%	2.27
3	Spring Hill High (Spring Hill)	7-12	170	41%	2.24
4	Parkers Chapel High (Parkers Chapel)	7-12	232	38%	2.21
5	Emerson High (Emerson-Taylor-Bradley)	7-12	84	39%	2.20



Table 84: Top 5 high schools in *Southeast* Region based on *Math* ACT Aspire performance

	<b>School (District)</b>	<b>Grades Served</b>	<b># of Test Takers</b>	<b>% Met Readiness Benchmark</b>	<b>GPA</b>
<b>1</b>	Des Arc High (Des Arc)	7-12	173	40%	2.31
<b>2</b>	Rison High (Cleveland County)	7-12	316	38%	2.21
<b>3</b>	Woodlawn High (Woodlawn)	7-12	174	32%	1.99
<b>4</b>	Hazen High (Hazen)	9-12	100	23%	1.89
<b>5</b>	McGehee High (McGehee)	7-12	320	22%	1.81

## O. High School ELA ACT Aspire Scores, 2016

Table 85: Top 10 *High Schools* in Arkansas based on ACT Aspire *ELA* Achievement

	School (District)	Region	Grades Served	% Met/ Exceed Expectations	GPA
1	Haas Hall Academy (Haas Hall Academy)	NW	7-12	97%	3.82
1	Haas Hall Academy Bentonville (Haas Hall Bentonville)	NW	7-12	96%	3.82
3	Northwest Arkansas Classical Academy High (Responsive Ed Solutions)	NW	9-12	83%	3.33
4	Arkansas Arts Academy High (Arkansas Arts Academy)	NW	9-12	78%	3.29
5	Rogers New Technology High (Rogers)	NW	9-12	76%	3.22
6	Valley View High (Valley View)	NE	10-12	77%	3.20
7	Lisa Academy North High Charter (Lisa Academy)	CN	9-12	77%	3.11
8	Greenbrier High (Greenbrier)	CN	10-12	66%	3.03
9	EStem High Charter (EStem Public Charter)	CN	9-12	67%	2.98
10	Taylor High (Emerson-Taylor-Bradley)	SW	7-12	68%	2.94
10	Lisa Academy High (Lisa Academy)	CN	9-12	68%	2.94
10	Greenwood High (Greenwood)	NW	10-12	67%	2.94

Tables 86-90: Top 5 **High Schools** in Arkansas by Region, **ELA** Achievement



Table 86: Top 5 high schools in **Northwest** Region based on **ELA** ACT Aspire performance

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	% Met Readiness Benchmark	GPA
1	Haas Hall Academy (Haas Hall Academy)	7-12	221	97%	3.82
1	Haas Hall Academy Bentonville (Haas Hall Bentonville)	7-12	241	96%	3.82
3	Northwest Arkansas Classical Academy High (Responsive Ed Solutions)	9-12	52	83%	3.33
4	Arkansas Arts Academy High (Arkansas Arts Academy)	9-12	105	78%	3.29
5	Rogers New Technology High (Rogers)	9-12	328	76%	3.22



Table 87: Top 5 high schools in **Northeast** Region based on **ELA** ACT Aspire performance

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	% Met Readiness Benchmark	GPA
1	Valley View High (Valley View)	10-12	194	77%	3.20
2	Cave City High (Cave City)	9-12	168	63%	2.84
2	Armored High (Armored)	7-12	149	62%	2.84
4	Southside High (Southside (Independence))	10-12	111	59%	2.80
5	Timbo High (Mountain View)	7-12	63	60%	2.79



Table 88: Top 5 high schools in **Central** Region based on **ELA ACT Aspire** performance

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	% Met Readiness Benchmark	GPA
1	Lisa Academy North High Charter (Lisa Academy)	9-12	65	77%	3.11
2	Greenbrier High (Greenbrier)	10-12	267	66%	3.03
3	EStem High Charter (EStem Public Charter)	9-12	255	67%	2.98
4	Lisa Academy High (Lisa Academy)	9-12	203	68%	2.94
5	Vilonia High (Vilonia)	10-12	231	65%	2.90



Table 89: Top 5 high schools in **Southwest** Region based on **ELA ACT Aspire** performance

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	% Met Readiness Benchmark	GPA
1	Taylor High (Emerson-Taylor-Bradley)	7-12	108	68%	2.94
2	Emerson High (Emerson-Taylor-Bradley)	7-12	85	68%	2.92
3	Spring Hill High (Spring Hill)	7-12	169	59%	2.74
4	Dierks High (Dierks)	7-12	170	56%	2.64
5	Genoa Central High (Genoa Central)	7-12	197	53%	2.62





Table 90: Top 5 high schools in *Southeast* Region based on *ELA ACT Aspire* performance

	<b>School (District)</b>	<b>Grades Served</b>	<b># of Test Takers</b>	<b>% Met Readiness Benchmark</b>	<b>GPA</b>
<b>1</b>	Des Arc High (Des Arc)	7-12	173	61%	2.76
<b>2</b>	Woodlawn High (Woodlawn)	7-12	174	54%	2.54
<b>3</b>	Rison High (Cleveland County)	7-12	316	46%	2.40
<b>4</b>	Hazen High (Hazen)	9-12	100	46%	2.39
<b>5</b>	Drew Central High (Drew Central)	9-12	173	42%	2.29

## P. High School Science ACT Aspire Scores, 2016

Table 91: Top 10 *High Schools* in Arkansas based on ACT Aspire *Science* Achievement

	School (District)	Region	Grades Served	% Met/ Exceed Expectations	GPA
1	Haas Hall Academy (Haas Hall Academy)	NW	7-12	86%	3.39
2	Haas Hall Academy Bentonville (Haas Hall Bentonville)	NW	7-12	85%	3.31
3	Taylor High (Emerson-Taylor-Bradley)	SW	7-12	62%	2.55
3	Valley View High (Valley View)	NE	10-12	56%	2.55
5	Greenwood High (Greenwood)	NW	10-12	54%	2.50
6	Mt. Vernon/Enola High (Mt. Vernon/Enola)	CN	7-12	50%	2.49
7	Rogers New Technology High (Rogers)	NW	9-12	49%	2.48
8	Greenbrier High (Greenbrier)	CN	10-12	51%	2.45
9	Norfolk High (Norfolk)	NW	7-12	52%	2.43
10	Bentonville High (Bentonville)	NW	9-12	48%	2.42

Tables 92-96: Top 5 **High Schools** in Arkansas by Region, **Science** Achievement



Table 92: Top 5 high schools in **Northwest** Region based on **Science** ACT Aspire performance

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	% Met Readiness Benchmark	GPA
1	Haas Hall Academy (Haas Hall Academy)	7-12	221	86%	3.39
2	Haas Hall Academy Bentonville (Haas Hall Bentonville)	7-12	241	85%	3.31
3	Greenwood High (Greenwood)	10-12	300	54%	2.50
4	Rogers New Technology High (Rogers)	9-12	328	49%	2.48
5	Norfolk High (Norfolk)	7-12	145	52%	2.43



Table 93: Top 5 high schools in **Northeast** Region based on **Science** ACT Aspire performance

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	% Met Readiness Benchmark	GPA
1	Valley View High (Valley View)	10-12	195	56%	2.55
2	Timbo High (Mountain View)	7-12	63	46%	2.41
2	McCrary High (McCrary)	7-12	197	47%	2.35
4	Pangburn High (Pangburn)	7-12	234	44%	2.24
5	Hoxie High (Hoxie)	7-12	252	42%	2.23
5	Concord High (Concord)	7-12	144	38%	2.23



Table 94: Top 5 high schools in **Central** Region based on **Science ACT Aspire** performance

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	% Met Readiness Benchmark	GPA
1	Mt. Vernon/Enola High (Mt. Vernon/Enola)	7-12	161	50%	2.49
2	Greenbrier High (Greenbrier)	10-12	267	51%	2.45
3	Lisa Academy North High Charter (Lisa Academy)	9-12	65	46%	2.35
4	Benton High (Benton)	10-12	391	46%	2.34
5	Salem High (Salem)	7-12	234	46%	2.31



Table 95: top 5 schools in **Southwest** Region based on **High Science ACT Aspire** performance

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	% Met Readiness Benchmark	GPA
1	Taylor High (Emerson-Taylor-Bradley)	7-12	107	62%	2.55
2	Spring Hill High (Spring Hill)	7-12	170	45%	2.31
2	Emerson High (Emerson-Taylor-Bradley)	7-12	85	42%	2.31
4	Mena High (Mena)	9-12	260	40%	2.28
5	Bradley High (Emerson-Taylor-Bradley)	7-12	96	43%	2.20
5	Parkers Chapel High (Parkers Chapel)	7-12	232	41%	2.20



Table 96: Top 5 high schools in *Southeast* Region based on *Science ACT Aspire* performance

	<b>School (District)</b>	<b>Grades Served</b>	<b># of Test Takers</b>	<b>% Met Readiness Benchmark</b>	<b>GPA</b>
<b>1</b>	Des Arc High (Des Arc)	7-12	173	40%	2.18
<b>2</b>	Rison High (Cleveland County)	7-12	316	38%	2.15
<b>3</b>	Woodlawn High (Woodlawn)	7-12	174	32%	2.01
<b>4</b>	Hazen High (Hazen)	9-12	100	27%	1.92
<b>5</b>	Drew Central High (Drew Central)	9-12	173	25%	1.81

## 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=2016>. 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>).

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

<b>ACT Aspire Performance Category</b>	<b>GPA Points Awarded</b>
Exceeded Expectations	4.0
Ready	3.0
Close to Meeting Expectations	2.0
In Need of Support	1.0

We calculate the GPA measure for Math and ELA and Science scores. The GPA measure is comprehensive in that it takes into account all of the test score levels (Exceeded Expectations, Ready, Close to Meeting Expectations or In Need of Support), instead of combining Ready 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
P-2		4-6
P-3		4-8
P-4		5-6
P-5		5-7
P-6		5-8
P-7		5-9
P-8		5-12
K-3		6
K-4		6-12
K-5		6-7
K-6		6-8
K-7		
K-8		
K-9		
K-12		
1-4		
1-5		
1-6		
1-8		
2-3		
2-4		
2-5		
2-6		
3-4		
3-5		
3-6		
4-5		
5		



**B. 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

*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