

ARKANSAS EDUCATION REPORT
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**OUTSTANDING EDUCATIONAL PERFORMANCE AWARDS:
HIGHLIGHTING HIGH-GROWTH ARKANSAS SCHOOLS, 2017**

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

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INTRODUCTION

The mission of the Office for Education Policy is to examine educational issues through the lens of academic research and disseminate our findings to educators, policymakers, and other stakeholders around Arkansas. Annually, we highlight excellent schools around the state in our **Outstanding Educational Performance Awards**, or the OEP awards.

This edition of the **OEP Awards** highlights schools in Arkansas based on student growth on the ACT Aspire exams in Mathematics and English Language Arts (ELA). This is a departure from prior awards, which were based on student proficiency.

We choose to focus on student growth for these OEP awards because we think it is a better reflection than proficiency rates of how the school is impacting students. Growth is calculated at the student level, and essentially reflects how much a student improved his or her score from the prior year compared to what was predicted based on prior achievement history. Proficiency rates, even those that move beyond the ‘percent proficient’ like our OEP GPA and Arkansas’ weighted achievement score, are more correlated with student demographics than growth scores. This means that schools can demonstrate high student growth regardless of the characteristics of the students that they serve.

In the 2016-17 academic year, 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.

For the purposes of these awards, we are using the content-area growth calculated and reported by the Arkansas Department of Education (ADE). Note that we used only growth for math and English Language Arts, excluding the growth score for English Learner progress to English Language Proficiency). In addition, we identify the highest growth schools by school level as identified by the ADE under Arkansas’ ESSA Plan: Elementary, Middle, and High school level. In this report, we present a list of the top 20 schools in the state for Overall growth (average of Math and ELA growth), Math growth, and ELA growth. In some cases, these “top 20 lists” will contain more than 20 schools as some schools’ growth scores will be identical. This is not a new phenomenon, as we also exceeded 20 schools in previous reports when using the OEP GPA as an indicator for student achievement.

In the following weeks, we will focus on high-growth 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 growth while serving a high percentage of low-income students).

We are pleased to be able to highlight how students are growing academically in schools across the state, and hope the information will spark discussion among stakeholders about how to ensure all schools are growing the knowledge of Arkansas students.

I. 2017 OEP AWARDS: HIGH GROWTH ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS IN ARKANSAS BASED ON CONTENT GROWTH IN THE ACT ASPIRE EXAMS

This section highlights elementary schools across the state whose students demonstrated high growth on the Arkansas ACT Aspire exams. The ACT Aspire was administered to students in grades 3 through 10 in April 2017 in Math and ELA courses which include English, Writing, and Reading.

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 are located, the grades served at the school, the weighted achievement score, and the content growth score in that particular subject.

The level of the schools, namely Elementary, Middle, and High, have been based on the school allocation given through the [My School Info](#) portal of the Arkansas Department of Education website.

A. Elementary School Overall ACT Aspire Growth Scores, 2017

Table 1: Top 20 *Elementary Schools* in Arkansas based on *Overall ACT Aspire Growth*

	School (District)	Region	Grades Served	Final Weighted Achievement	Overall Content Growth
1	Salem Elementary (Salem)	NE	K-6	99.74	89.66
2	Greenbrier Springhill Elementary (Greenbrier)	CN	K-5	98.10	89.50
3	Central Elementary (Batesville)	NE	K-6	78.31	89.30
4	Willowbrook Elementary (Bentonville)	NW	K-4	95.04	88.83
5	Green Forest Elementary (Green Forest)	NW	P-3	77.05	88.55
6	Greenbrier Wooster Elementary (Greenbrier)	CN	K-5	98.12	88.52
7	John Tyson Elementary (Springdale)	NW	K-5	81.50	88.44
8	City Heights Elementary (Van Buren)	NW	K-5	85.20	88.40
9	Pottsville Elementary (Pottsville)	NW	K-3	80.80	88.16
10	Bismarck Elementary (Bismarck)	CN	K-4	89.76	87.99
11	Eastside Elementary (Cabot)	CN	K-4	87.95	87.90
12	Cavanaugh Elementary (Fort Smith)	NW	P-6	87.46	87.85
13	Hunt Elementary (Springdale)	NW	K-5	93.79	87.76
14	Don Roberts Elementary (Little Rock)	CN	P-5	98.43	87.69
15	Bernice Young Elementary (Springdale)	NW	K-5	97.66	87.68
16	Westside Elementary (Searcy)	NE	K-3	96.47	87.59
17	Jones Elementary (Rogers)	NW	K-5	79.74	87.56
18	Oscar Hamilton Elementary (Foreman)	SW	K-6	80.67	87.53
19	Sonora Elementary (Springdale)	NW	K-5	73.37	87.34
20	Crestwood Elementary (N. Little Rock)	CN	K-5	89.42	87.29

Tables 2-6: Top 5 Elementary Schools in Arkansas by Region, Overall Growth



Table 2: Top 5 schools in Northwest Region based on Overall Elementary ACT Aspire Growth

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	Final Weighted Achievement	Overall Content Growth
1	Willowbrook Elementary (Bentonville)	K-4	335	95.04	88.83
2	Green Forest Elementary (Green Forest)	P-3	92	77.05	88.55
3	John Tyson Elementary (Springdale)	K-5	214	81.50	88.44
4	City Heights Elementary (Van Buren)	K-5	149	85.20	88.40
5	Pottsville Elementary (Pottsville)	K-3	132	80.80	88.16



Table 3: Top 5 schools in the Northeast Region based on Overall Elementary ACT Aspire Growth

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	Final Weighted Achievement	Overall Content Growth
1	Salem Elementary (Salem)	K-6	227	99.74	89.66
2	Central Elementary (Batesville)	K-6	190	78.31	89.30
3	Westside Elementary (Searcy)	K-3	135	96.47	87.59
4	West Elementary (Batesville)	K-6	284	85.73	87.00
5	Tuckerman Elementary (Jackson Co.)	K-4	107	84.72	85.65



Table 4: Top 5 schools in the **Central** Region based on **Overall** Elementary ACT Aspire Growth

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	Final Weighted Achievement	Overall Content Growth
1	Greenbrier Springhill Elementary (Greenbrier)	K-5	176	98.10	89.50
2	Greenbrier Wooster Elementary (Greenbrier)	K-5	178	98.12	88.52
3	Bismarck Elementary (Bismarck)	K-4	123	89.76	87.99
4	Eastside Elementary (Cabot)	K-4	151	87.95	87.90
5	Don Roberts Elementary (Little Rock)	P-5	416	98.43	87.69



Table 5: Top 5 schools in the **Southwest** Region based on **Overall** Elementary ACT Aspire Growth

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	Final Weighted Achievement	Overall Content Growth
1	Oscar Hamilton Elementary (Foreman)	K-6	132	80.67	87.53
2	Genoa Central Elementary (Genoa Central)	K-4	152	88.40	86.52
3	Nashville Primary (Nashville)	K-3	160	65.09	85.47
4	Centerpoint Primary (Centerpoint)	P-3	54	79.61	84.88
5	DeQueen Elementary (DeQueen)	3-5	535	76.11	83.97
5	DeQueen Primary (DeQueen)	K-2	535	76.11	83.97



Table 6: Top 5 schools in the *Southeast* Region based on **Overall** Elementary ACT Aspire Growth

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	Final Weighted Achievement	Overall Content Growth
1	Hermitage Elementary (Hermitage)	P-6	123	58.47	84.39
2	Rison Elementary (Cleveland County)	K-5	153	65.70	83.78
3	Gillett Elementary (DeWitt)	P-5	35	105.36	82.43
4	Des Arc Elementary (Des Arc)	P-6	143	87.41	82.09
5	Eastside New Vision Charter (Warren)	K-3	131	49.81	82.03

B. Elementary School Math ACT Aspire Growth Scores, 2017

Table 7: Top 10 *Elementary Schools* in Arkansas based on ACT Aspire *Math* Growth

	School (District)	Region	Grades Served	Final Weighted Achievement	Math Content Growth
1	Pottsville Elementary (Pottsville)	NW	K-3	80.80	93.65
2	Bismarck Elementary (Bismarck)	CN	K-4	89.76	91.90
3	City Heights Elementary (Van Buren)	NW	K-5	85.20	91.20
3	Monitor Elementary (Springdale)	NW	K-5	66.54	91.20
5	Central Elementary (Batesville)	NE	K-6	78.31	90.50
5	Salem Elementary (Salem)	NE	K-6	99.74	90.50
7	Willowbrook Elementary (Bentonville)	NW	K-4	95.04	90.15
8	Baker Interdistrict Elementary (Pulaski County Special)	CN	K-5	100.69	89.80
9	Bernice Young Elementary (Springdale)	NW	K-5	97.66	89.45
9	Don Roberts Elementary (Little Rock)	CN	P-5	98.43	89.45
9	Greenbrier Springhill Elementary (Greenbrier)	CN	K-5	98.10	89.45

Tables 8-12: Top 5 Elementary Schools in Arkansas by Region, **Math Growth**



Table 8: Top 5 schools in **Northwest** Region based on Elementary **Math** ACT Aspire Growth

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	Final Weighted Achievement	Math Content Growth
1	Pottsville Elementary (Pottsville)	K-3	132	80.80	93.65
2	City Heights Elementary (Van Buren)	K-5	149	85.20	91.20
2	Monitor Elementary (Springdale)	K-5	246	66.54	91.20
4	Willowbrook Elementary (Bentonville)	K-4	335	95.04	90.15
5	Bernice Young Elementary (Springdale)	K-5	251	97.66	89.45



Table 9: Top 5 schools in **Northeast** Region based on Elementary **Math** ACT Aspire Growth

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	Final Weighted Achievement	Math Content Growth
1	Salem Elementary (Salem)	K-6	227	99.74	90.50
1	Central Elementary (Batesville)	K-6	190	78.31	90.50
3	West Elementary (Batesville)	K-6	284	85.73	88.75
4	Tuckerman Elementary (Jackson Co.)	K-4	107	84.72	87.70
4	Timbo Elementary (Mountain View)	K-6	55	88.86	87.70



Table 10: Top 5 schools in **Central** Region based on Elementary **Math** ACT Aspire Growth

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	Final Weighted Achievement	Math Content Growth
1	Bismarck Elementary (Bismarck)	K-4	123	89.76	91.90
2	Baker Interdistrict Elementary (Pulaski County Special)	K-5	154	100.69	89.80
3	Don Roberts Elementary (Little Rock)	P-5	416	98.43	89.45
3	Greenbrier Springhill Elementary (Greenbrier)	K-5	176	98.10	89.45
5	Eastside Elementary (Cabot)	K-4	151	87.95	89.10



Table 11: Top 5 schools in **Southwest** Region based on Elementary **Math** ACT Aspire Growth

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	Final Weighted Achievement	Math Content Growth
1	Genoa Central Elementary (Genoa Central)	K-4	152	88.40	88.75
2	Oscar Hamilton Elementary (Foreman)	K-6	132	80.67	88.40
3	Nashville Primary (Nashville)	K-3	160	65.09	87.00
4	Centerpoint Primary (Centerpoint)	P-3	54	79.61	85.60
5	Emerson Elementary (Emerson-Taylor-Bradley)	K-6	98	94.42	84.55



Table 12: Top 5 schools in *Southeast* Region based on Elementary *Math* ACT Aspire Growth

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	Final Weighted Achievement	Math Content Growth
1	Rison Elementary (Cleveland County)	K-5	153	65.70	84.55
2	Des Arc Elementary (Des Arc)	P-6	143	87.41	83.50
2	Eastside New Vision Charter (Warren)	K-3	131	49.81	83.50
4	Hermitage Elementary (Hermitage)	P-6	123	58.47	83.15
5	Park Avenue Elementary (Stuttgart)	K-4	226	61.26	82.10

C. Elementary School ELA ACT Aspire Growth Scores, 2017

Table 13: Top 10 Elementary Schools in Arkansas based on ACT Aspire ELA Growth

	School (District)	Region	Grades Served	Final Weighted Achievement	ELA Content Growth
1	Greenbrier Wooster Elementary (Greenbrier)	CN	K-5	98.12	91.20
2	Cavanaugh Elementary (Fort Smith)	NW	P-6	87.46	89.80
2	Greenbrier Springhill Elementary (Greenbrier)	CN	K-5	98.10	89.80
4	Green Forest Elementary (Green Forest)	NW	P-3	77.05	89.45
4	Hunt Elementary (Springdale)	NW	K-5	93.79	89.45
4	Jones Elementary (Rogers)	NW	K-5	79.74	89.45
7	Euper Lane Elementary (Fort Smith)	NW	P-6	86.80	89.10
7	Lepanto Elementary (East Poinsett Co.)	NE	K-4	69.53	89.10
9	Salem Elementary (Salem)	NE	K-6	99.74	88.75
10	Sutton Elementary (Fort Smith)	NW	P-6	63.47	88.40
10	Center Valley Elementary (Russellville)	NW	K-4	80.55	88.40
10	Greenbrier Westside Elementary (Greenbrier)	CN	K-5	96.60	88.40
10	Jim Stone Elementary (Conway)	CN	K-4	84.41	88.40

Tables 14-18: Top 5 Elementary Schools in Arkansas by Region, ELA Growth



Table 14: Top 5 schools in Northwest Region based on Elementary ELA ACT Aspire Growth

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	Final Weighted Achievement	ELA Content Growth
1	Cavanaugh Elementary (Fort Smith)	P-6	138	87.46	89.80
2	Green Forest Elementary (Green Forest)	P-3	92	77.05	89.45
2	Hunt Elementary (Springdale)	K-5	284	93.79	89.45
2	Jones Elementary (Rogers)	K-5	229	79.74	89.45
5	Euper Lane Elementary (Fort Smith)	P-6	210	86.80	89.10



Table 15: Top 5 schools in Northeast Region based on Elementary ELA ACT Aspire Growth

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	Final Weighted Achievement	ELA Content Growth
1	Lepanto Elementary (East Poinsett Co.)	K-4	48	69.53	89.10
2	Salem Elementary (Salem)	K-6	227	99.74	88.75
3	Central Elementary (Batesville)	K-6	189	78.31	88.05
4	Westside Elementary (Searcy)	K-3	135	96.47	87.70
5	Viola Elementary (Viola)	K-6	111	85.54	87.00



Table 16: Top 5 schools in **Central** Region based on Elementary **ELA ACT Aspire Growth**

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	Final Weighted Achievement	ELA Content Growth
1	Greenbrier Wooster Elementary (Greenbrier)	K-5	178	98.12	91.20
2	Greenbrier Springhill Elementary (Greenbrier)	K-5	176	98.10	89.80
3	Greenbrier Westside Elementary (Greenbrier)	K-5	172	96.60	88.40
3	Jim Stone Elementary (Conway)	K-4	152	84.41	88.40
5	Eastside Elementary (Cabot)	K-4	151	87.95	87.00
5	Wakefield Elementary (Little Rock)	P-5	239	54.34	87.00



Table 17: Top 5 schools in **Southwest** Region based on Elementary **ELA ACT Aspire Growth**

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	Final Weighted Achievement	ELA Content Growth
1	Oscar Hamilton Elementary (Foreman)	K-6	132	80.67	86.65
2	Bobby Barrett Elementary (Mount Ida)	K-6	114	76.95	85.95
3	DeQueen Elementary (DeQueen)	3-5	534	76.11	85.25
3	DeQueen Primary (DeQueen)	K-2	534	76.11	85.25
5	Genoa Central Elementary (Genoa Central)	K-4	152	88.40	84.55



Table 18: Top 5 schools in *Southeast* Region based on Elementary *ELA* ACT Aspire Growth

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	Final Weighted Achievement	ELA Content Growth
1	Hermitage Elementary (Hermitage)	P-6	123	58.47	85.60
2	Gillett Elementary (DeWitt)	P-5	35	105.36	83.15
2	Clarendon Elementary (Clarendon)	K-6	137	57.32	83.15
4	Rison Elementary (Cleveland County)	K-5	153	65.70	82.80
5	Drew Central Elementary (Drew Central)	K-4	120	58.67	81.75

APPENDIX

A. Methods

All data used in this report were obtained from the Arkansas Department of Education via the link <https://myschoolinfo.arkansas.gov/Plus/Schools>.

We generated a statewide report for the 2016-17 school year, using the ESSA School Index report. Values included

- Final Weighted Achievement Adjusted for 95% Tested
- Grade Range
- Grade Span (School Level)
- Poverty Rate
- Combined Content Growth Score Current Year
- Combined Math Growth Score Current Year
- Combined ELA Growth Score Current Year

For more information about how school levels were assigned, see [http://www.arkansased.gov/public/userfiles/ESEA/Documents to Share/Grade Spans and Grade Configurations_rv.pdf](http://www.arkansased.gov/public/userfiles/ESEA/Documents%20to%20Share/Grade%20Spans%20and%20Grade%20Configurations_rv.pdf)

For more information about how growth values were calculated, see [http://www.arkansased.gov/public/userfiles/ESEA/Documents to Share/School%20Growth%20Explanation%20for%20ES%20and%20DC%20111017.pdf](http://www.arkansased.gov/public/userfiles/ESEA/Documents%20to%20Share/School%20Growth%20Explanation%20for%20ES%20and%20DC%20111017.pdf)