

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

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

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction.....	1
II. 2017 OEP Awards: High Achieving Middle Schools in Arkansas based on Content Growth in the ACT Aspire Exams	16
D. Middle School Overall ACT Aspire Growth Scores, 2017	17
E. Middle School Math ACT Aspire Growth Scores, 2017	21
F. Middle School ELA ACT Aspire Growth Scores, 2017	25
Appendix.....	A1

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.

II. 2017 OEP AWARDS: HIGH ACHIEVING MIDDLE 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.

D. Middle School Overall ACT Aspire Growth Scores, 2017

Table 19: Top 20 *Middle Schools* in Arkansas based on *Overall* ACT Aspire Growth

	School (District)	Region	Grades Served	Final Weighted Achievement	Overall Content Growth
1	LISA Academy North Middle Charter (LISA Academy)	CN	6-8	82.27	86.45
2	Valley Springs Middle (Valley Springs)	NW	5-8	95.96	86.30
3	Cabot Middle North (Cabot)	CN	5-6	89.70	85.24
4	Heber Springs Middle (Heber Springs)	NE	6-8	82.93	85.23
5	Greenwood Junior High (Greenwood)	NW	7-8	91.35	85.20
6	Lincoln Junior High (Bentonville)	NW	7-8	89.11	84.70
7	Nemo Vista Middle (Nemo Vista)	NW	6-8	90.20	84.64
8	Garland Learning Center (Hope)	SW	P-8	84.29	84.54
9	Cabot Junior High North (Cabot)	CN	7-8	86.96	84.49
10	Greenbrier Middle (Greenbrier)	CN	6-7	97.06	84.46
11	eStem Middle (eStem Public Charter)	CN	5-8	84.09	84.38
12	J. William Fulbright Junior High (Bentonville)	NW	7-8	97.98	84.35
13	Eureka Springs Middle (Eureka Springs)	NW	5-8	81.31	84.30
14	Bismarck Middle (Bismarck)	CN	5-8	90.33	84.26
15	Beebe Junior High (Beebe)	NE	7-8	75.78	84.19
16	L. A. Chaffin Jr. High (Fort Smith)	NW	7-9	90.22	84.17
17	Beryl Henry Upper Elementary (Hope)	SW	5-6	55.68	84.12
18	Hellstern Middle (Springdale)	NW	6-7	89.90	84.06
19	Little Rock Prep Academy Middle (Little Rock Preparatory Academy)	CN	5-8	52.34	84.01
20	Paragould Junior High (Paragould)	NE	7-8	63.39	83.72

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



Table 20: Top 5 schools in **Northwest** Region based on **Overall Middle ACT Aspire Growth**

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	Final Weighted Achievement	Overall Content Growth
1	Valley Springs Middle (Valley Springs)	285	5-8	95.96	86.30
2	Greenwood Junior High (Greenwood)	522	7-8	91.35	85.20
3	Lincoln Junior High (Bentonville)	792	7-8	89.11	84.70
4	Nemo Vista Middle (Nemo Vista)	83	6-8	90.20	84.64
5	J. William Fulbright Junior High (Bentonville)	791	7-8	97.98	84.35



Table 21: Top 5 schools in the **Northeast** Region based on **Overall Middle ACT Aspire Growth**

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	Final Weighted Achievement	Overall Content Growth
1	Heber Springs Middle (Heber Springs)	356	6-8	82.93	85.23
2	Beebe Junior High (Beebe)	473	7-8	75.78	84.19
3	Paragould Junior High (Paragould)	430	7-8	63.39	83.72
4	Riverview Junior High (Riverview)	154	7-8	67.09	83.60
5	Pocahontas Junior High (Pocahontas)	388	7-9	73.03	83.48



Table 22: Top 5 schools in the **Central** Region based on **Overall Middle ACT Aspire Growth**

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	Final Weighted Achievement	Overall Content Growth
1	LISA Academy North Middle Charter (LISA Academy)	209	6-8	82.27	86.45
2	Cabot Middle North (Cabot)	760	5-6	89.70	85.24
3	Cabot Junior High North (Cabot)	791	7-8	86.96	84.49
4	Greenbrier Middle (Greenbrier)	482	6-7	97.06	84.46
5	eStem Middle (eStem Public Charter)	455	5-8	84.09	84.38



Table 23: Top 5 schools in the **Southwest** Region based on **Overall Middle ACT Aspire Growth**

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	Final Weighted Achievement	Overall Content Growth
1	Garland Learning Center (Hope)	144	P-8	84.29	84.54
2	Beryl Henry Upper Elementary (Hope)	244	5-6	55.68	84.12
3	Nashville Junior High (Nashville)	401	7-9	71.32	83.18
4	Gary E. Cobb Middle (Genoa Central)	333	5-8	87.57	82.76
5	Yerger Junior High (Hope)	233	7-8	41.35	80.30



Table 24: Top 5 schools in the *Southeast* Region based on *Overall* Middle ACT Aspire Growth

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	Final Weighted Achievement	Overall Content Growth
1	Monticello Middle (Monticello)	344	6-8	73.99	81.58
2	Star City Middle (Star City)	340	6-8	58.55	80.66
3	Meekins Middle (Stuttgart)	199	5-6	69.35	80.47
4	Dumas Junior High (Dumas)	276	7-9	48.58	80.43
5	Warren Middle (Warren)	337	6-8	55.91	80.18

E. Middle School Math ACT Aspire Growth Scores, 2017

Table 25: Top 10 *Middle Schools* in Arkansas based on ACT Aspire *Math* Growth

	School (District)	Region	Grades Served	Final Weighted Achievement	Math Content Growth
1	LISA Academy North Middle Charter (LISA Academy)	CN	6-8	82.27	90.50
2	Beebe Junior High (Beebe)	NE	7-8	75.78	88.05
3	Cabot Junior High North (Cabot)	CN	7-8	86.96	87.35
4	Bismarck Middle (Bismarck)	CN	5-8	90.33	87.00
5	Cabot Middle North (Cabot)	CN	5-6	89.70	86.65
5	Greenbrier Middle (Greenbrier)	CN	6-7	97.06	86.65
7	Lincoln Junior High (Bentonville)	NW	7-8	89.11	85.95
7	Nemo Vista Middle (Nemo Vista)	NW	6-8	90.20	85.95
7	Paragould Junior High (Paragould)	NE	7-8	63.39	85.95
10	Pocahontas Junior High (Pocahontas)	NE	7-9	73.03	85.60

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



Table 26: Top 5 schools in **Northwest** Region based on Middle **Math** ACT Aspire Growth

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	Final Weighted Achievement	Math Content Growth
1	Lincoln Junior High (Bentonville)	791	7-8	89.11	85.95
1	Nemo Vista Middle (Nemo Vista)	83	6-8	90.20	85.95
3	Pinkston Middle (Mountain Home)	550	6-7	84.29	85.25
4	Valley Springs Middle (Valley Springs)	285	5-8	95.96	84.90
4	Eureka Springs Middle (Eureka Springs)	149	5-8	81.31	84.90
4	Northridge Middle (Van Buren)	553	6-8	80.58	84.90
4	Washington Junior High (Bentonville)	658	7-8	83.58	84.90



Table 27: Top 5 schools in **Northeast** Region based on Middle **Math** ACT Aspire Growth

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	Final Weighted Achievement	Math Content Growth
1	Beebe Junior High (Beebe)	473	7-8	75.78	88.05
2	Paragould Junior High (Paragould)	430	7-8	63.39	85.95
3	Pocahontas Junior High (Pocahontas)	387	7-9	73.03	85.60
4	Heber Springs Middle (Heber Springs)	356	6-8	82.93	84.55
5	Riverview Junior High (Riverview)	154	7-8	67.09	83.85



Table 28: Top 5 schools in **Central** Region based on Middle **Math** ACT Aspire Growth

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	Final Weighted Achievement	Math Content Growth
1	LISA Academy North Middle Charter (LISA Academy)	208	6-8	82.27	90.50
2	Cabot Junior High North (Cabot)	791	7-8	86.96	87.35
3	Bismarck Middle (Bismarck)	270	5-8	90.33	87.00
4	Cabot Middle North (Cabot)	760	5-6	89.70	86.65
4	Greenbrier Middle (Greenbrier)	481	6-7	97.06	86.65



Table 29: Top 5 schools in **Southwest** Region based on Middle **Math** ACT Aspire Growth

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	Final Weighted Achievement	Math Content Growth
1	Gary E. Cobb Middle (Genoa Central)	333	5-8	87.57	84.55
2	Nashville Junior High (Nashville)	401	7-9	71.32	82.45
3	Goza Middle (Arkadelphia)	393	6-8	67.53	81.05
4	Beryl Henry Upper Elementary (Hope)	244	5-6	55.68	80.00
5	Garland Learning Center (Hope)	144	P-8	84.29	79.65
5	Washington Middle (El Dorado)	594	5-6	70.50	79.65



Table 30: Top 5 schools in *Southeast* Region based on Middle **Math** ACT Aspire Growth

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	Final Weighted Achievement	Math Content Growth
1	Meekins Middle (Stuttgart)	199	5-6	69.35	82.80
2	Monticello Middle (Monticello)	344	6-8	73.99	81.05
2	DeWitt Middle (DeWitt)	260	6-8	73.78	81.05
4	Star City Middle (Star City)	339	6-8	58.55	80.00
5	Warren Middle (Warren)	337	6-8	55.91	79.65
5	Stuttgart Junior High (Stuttgart)	224	7-8	57.72	79.65
5	Hamburg Middle (Hamburg)	376	6-8	60.04	79.65

F. Middle School ELA ACT Aspire Growth Scores, 2017

Table 31: Top 10 Middle Schools in Arkansas based on ACT Aspire ELA Growth

	School (District)	Region	Grades Served	Final Weighted Achievement	ELA Content Growth
1	Garland Learning Center (Hope)	SW	P-8	84.29	89.45
2	Beryl Henry Upper Elementary (Hope)	SW	5-6	55.68	88.40
3	Valley Springs Middle (Valley Springs)	NW	5-8	95.96	87.35
4	Greenwood Junior High (Greenwood)	NW	7-8	91.35	86.65
5	Heber Springs Middle (Heber Springs)	NE	6-8	82.93	85.95
6	Ruth Barker Middle (Bentonville)	NW	5-6	91.85	85.60
7	Hellstern Middle (Springdale)	NW	6-7	89.90	84.90
8	J. William Fulbright Junior High (Bentonville)	NW	7-8	97.98	84.20
8	Berryville Middle (Berryville)	NW	6-8	77.04	84.20
8	Oak Grove Middle (Paragould)	NE	5-6	74.71	84.20
8	eStem Middle (eStem Public Charter)	CN	5-8	84.09	84.20

Tables 32-36: Top 5 Middle Schools in Arkansas by Regions, ELA Growth



Table 32: Top 5 schools in Northwest Region based on Middle ELA ACT Aspire Growth

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	Final Weighted Achievement	ELA Content Growth
1	Valley Springs Middle (Valley Springs)	5-8	285	95.96	87.35
2	Greenwood Junior High (Greenwood)	7-8	521	91.35	86.65
3	Ruth Barker Middle (Bentonville)	5-6	554	91.85	85.60
4	Hellstern Middle (Springdale)	6-7	914	89.90	84.90
5	J. William Fulbright Junior High (Bentonville)	7-8	789	97.98	84.20
5	Berryville Middle (Berryville)	6-8	418	77.04	84.20



Table 33: Top 5 schools in Northeast Region based on Middle ELA ACT Aspire Growth

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	Final Weighted Achievement	ELA Content Growth
1	Heber Springs Middle (Heber Springs)	6-8	356	82.93	85.95
2	Oak Grove Middle (Paragould)	5-6	416	74.71	84.20
3	Cave City Middle (Cave City)	6-8	270	75.79	83.85
3	Westside Middle (Westside Cons. (Craighead))	5-7	353	76.43	83.85
5	Valley View Junior High (Valley View)	7-9	629	91.89	83.50



Table 34: Top 5 schools in **Central** Region based on Middle **ELA** ACT Aspire Growth

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	Final Weighted Achievement	ELA Content Growth
1	eStem Middle (eStem Public Charter)	5-8	455	84.09	84.20
2	Cabot Middle North (Cabot)	5-6	760	89.70	83.85
3	Covenant Keepers Charter (Covenantkeepers Charter)	6-8	119	49.63	83.50
4	Little Rock Prep Academy Middle (Little Rock Preparatory Academy)	5-8	122	52.34	83.15
4	LISA Academy (LISA Academy)	7-8	330	83.01	83.15



Table 35: Top 5 schools in **Southwest** Region based on Middle **ELA** ACT Aspire Growth

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	Final Weighted Achievement	ELA Content Growth
1	Garland Learning Center (Hope)	P-8	144	84.29	89.45
2	Beryl Henry Upper Elementary (Hope)	5-6	244	55.68	88.40
3	Nashville Junior High (Nashville)	7-9	400	71.32	83.85
4	Ashdown Junior High (Ashdown)	6-8	302	61.38	82.45
5	Yerger Junior High (Hope)	7-8	233	41.35	81.75



Table 36: Top 5 schools in *Southeast* Region based on Middle *ELA* ACT Aspire Growth

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	Final Weighted Achievement	ELA Content Growth
1	Dumas Junior High (Dumas)	7-9	276	48.58	82.45
2	Monticello Middle (Monticello)	6-8	344	73.99	82.10
3	Star City Middle (Star City)	6-8	340	58.55	81.40
4	Warren Middle (Warren)	6-8	337	55.91	80.70
4	Lakeside Middle (Lakeside (Chicot))	6-8	199	59.48	80.70

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)