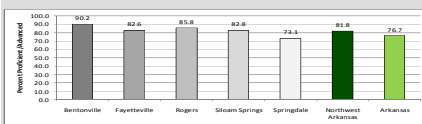




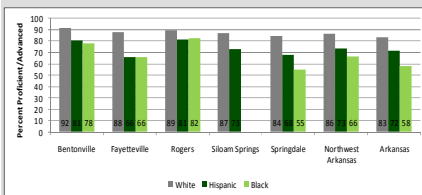
2009 Northwest Arkansas Report Card

Sections of this report:

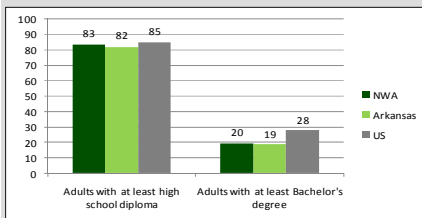
1. Performance on Standardized Assessments



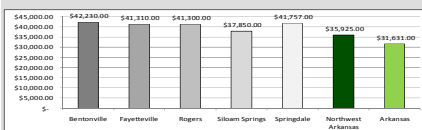
2. Achievement Gaps



3. Secondary and Beyond



4. School Characteristics



Each year, the Office for Education Policy creates a state report card that highlights recent test scores, achievement gaps, graduation rates, teacher salary, and so on. In an attempt to provide more detailed information, we have created an edition of the report card specific to the Northwest Arkansas region. Here, we compare the most recent information for Arkansas, Northwest Arkansas, and the “Big 5” districts in Northwest Arkansas.

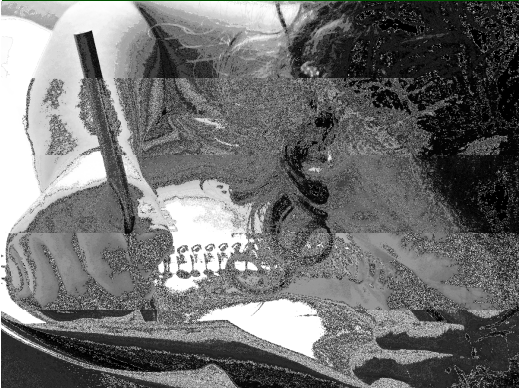
For the purpose of this report, the following districts were used for calculating the Northwest Arkansas (NWA) average: Bentonville, Decatur, Elkins, Farmington, Fayetteville, Gentry, Gravette, Greenland, Lincoln, Pea Ridge, Prairie Grove, Rogers, Siloam Springs, Springdale, and West Fork (districts in Washington and Benton counties). The “Big 5” districts are Bentonville, Fayetteville, Rogers, Siloam Springs, and Springdale. We chose to highlight the “Big 5” districts individually because more than 80% of the students in Northwest Arkansas attend these districts.

Here are a few highlights from the 2009 Northwest Arkansas Report Card:

- The Northwest Arkansas performance is higher than the statewide average on the Benchmark and End-of-Course exams. (Section 1 and Table 3.2)
- The individual student groups (white, black, Hispanic, and FRL students) generally have higher scores than do their peers across the state. However, the poverty gap is larger in Northwest Arkansas. The gap between white and black students is smaller in NWA, but the gap between white and Hispanic students is larger in NWA. (Section 2)
- Starting teachers in Northwest Arkansas earn substantially higher salaries than do their peers across the state. (Table 4.2)

Read the following pages for more highlights...We hope you enjoy!

1. Performance on Standardized Assessments



This section highlights overall student performance on the Arkansas Comprehensive Testing Assessment and Accountability Program (ACTAAP), or Arkansas Benchmark. These results from 2009 compare the Arkansas average, the Northwest Arkansas average, and the “Big 5” districts in grades three through eight.

We have created two weighted averages for the percent of students scoring in the proficient and advanced range—an elementary average (which includes grades three through five) and a middle school average (which includes grades six through eight).

Table 1.1: AR Benchmark Math Exam: Percent Proficient and Advanced, 2009

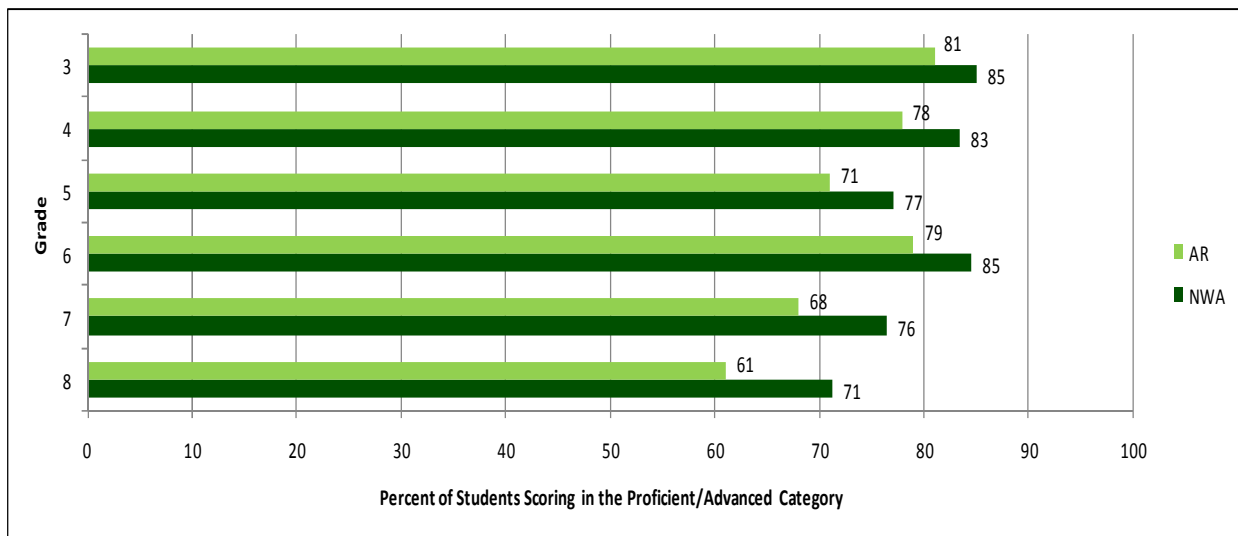


Table 1.2: AR Benchmark Literacy Exam: Percent Proficient and Advanced, 2009

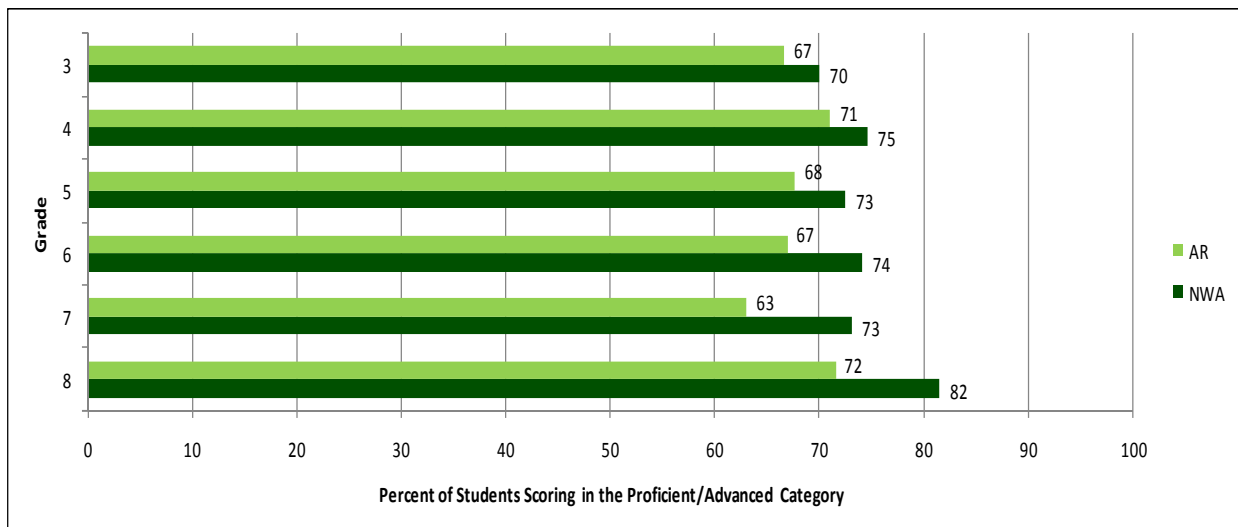


Table 1.3: AR Benchmark Math Exam: Elementary Average (Grades 3—5), 2009

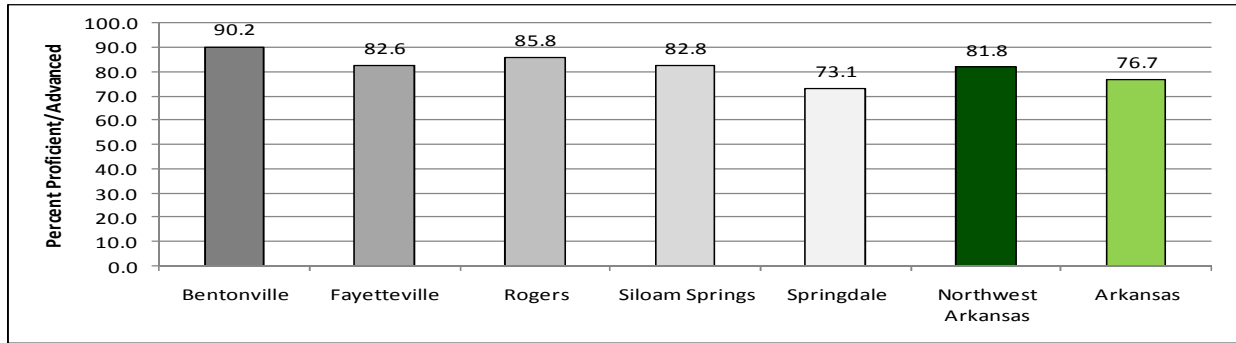


Table 1.4: AR Benchmark Math Exam: Middle School Average (Grades 6—8), 2009

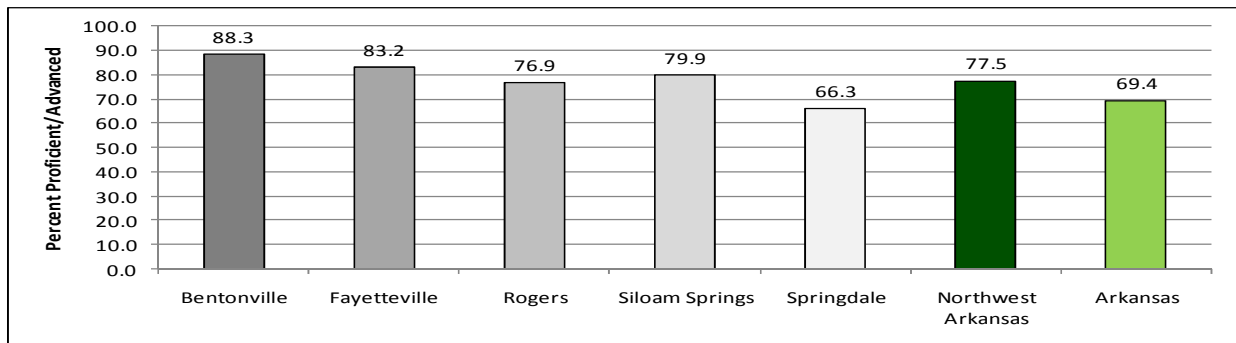


Table 1.5: AR Benchmark Literacy Exam: Elementary Average (Grades 3—5), 2009

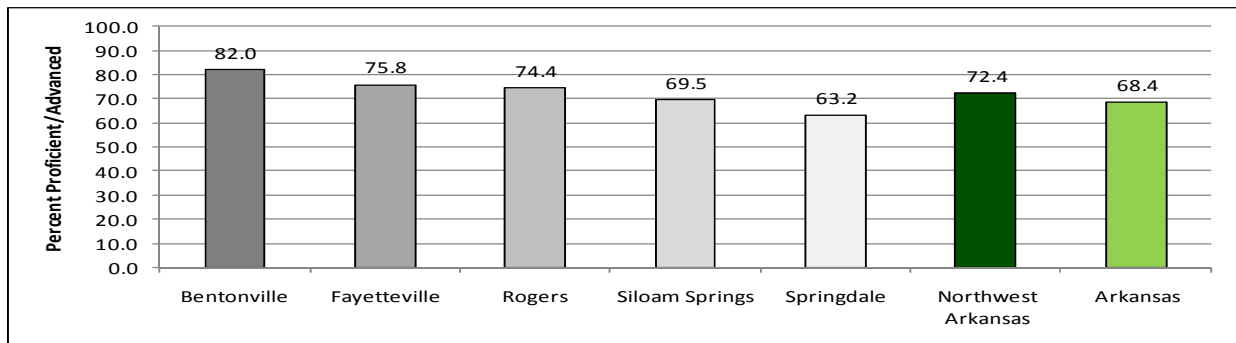
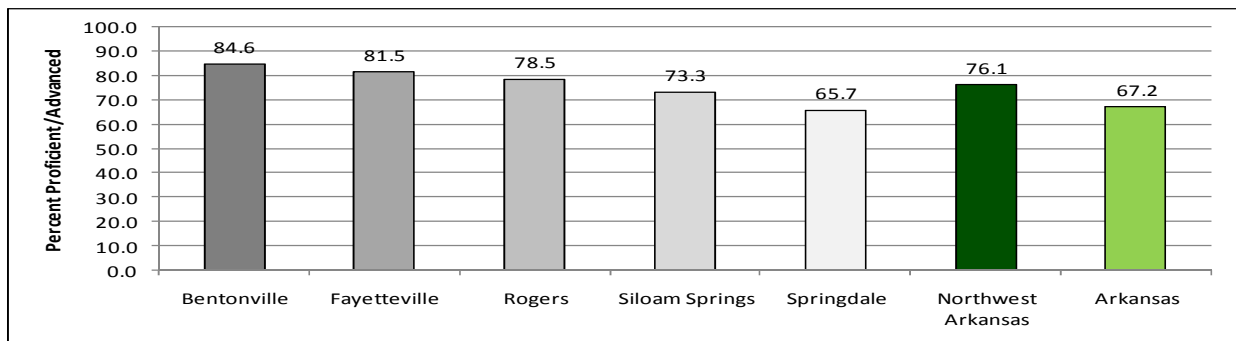


Table 1.6: AR Benchmark Literacy Exam: Middle School Average (Grades 6—8), 2009



2. Achievement Gaps



A critical area of concern for schools is the achievement gap between majority and minority students. On these pages, we compare the performance on the Arkansas Benchmark for White, Hispanic, and Black students to highlight the racial achievement gap. We compare these subpopulations for Arkansas, Northwest Arkansas, and the “Big 5” districts. If there were 10 or fewer students tested in a particular grade, the data were not included.

Table 2.1: AR Benchmark Math Exam: Elementary Average (Grades 3—5), 2009

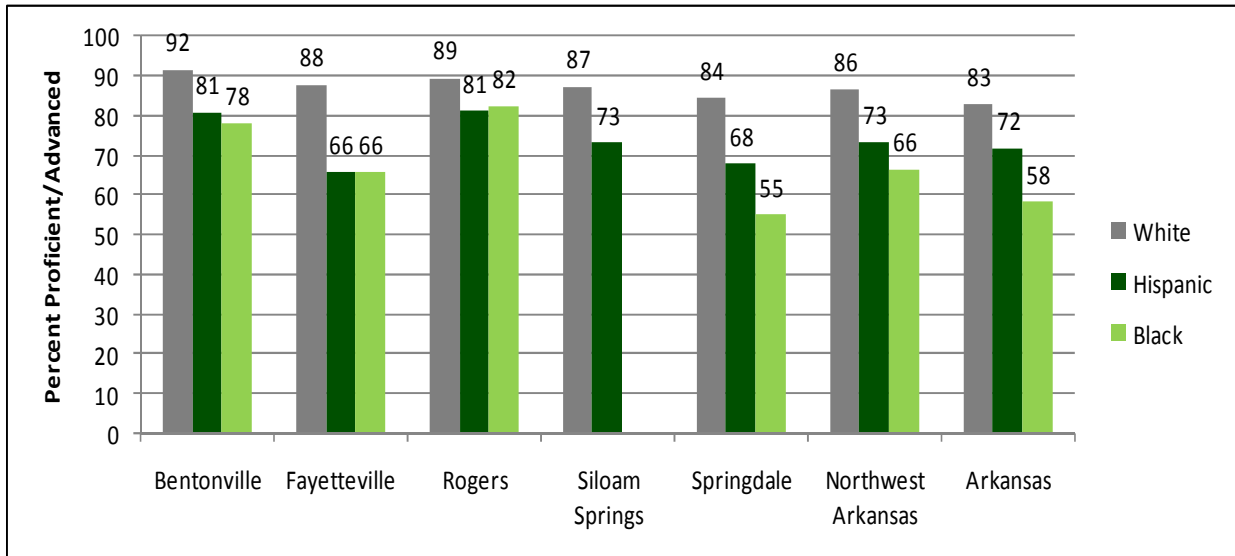


Table 2.2: AR Benchmark Math Exam: Middle School Average (Grades 6—8), 2009

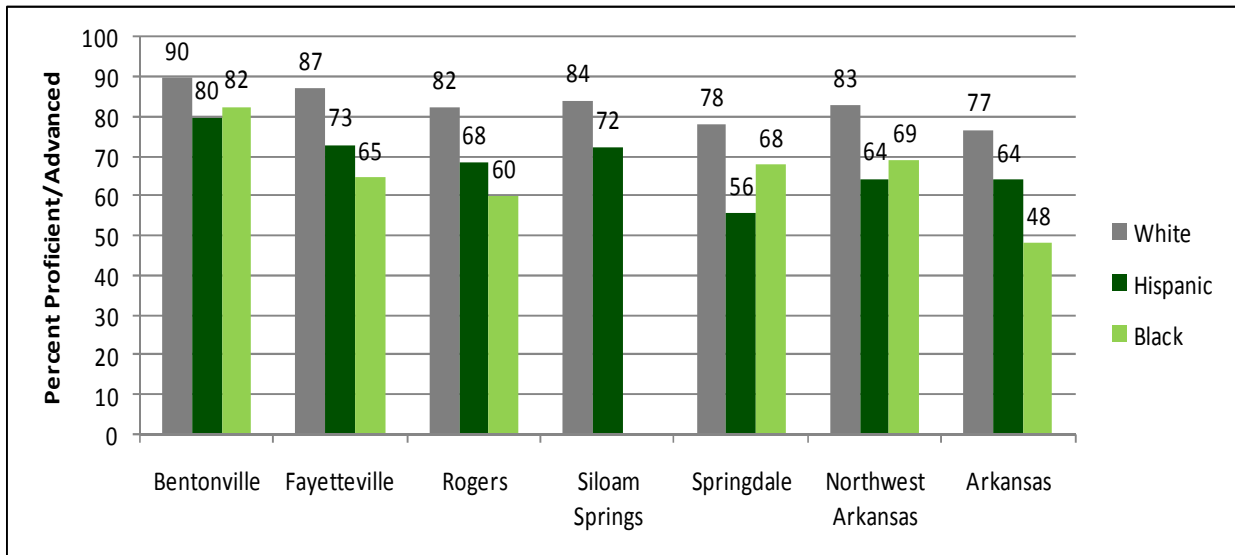


Table 2.3: AR Benchmark Literacy Exam: Elementary Average (Grades 3—5), 2009

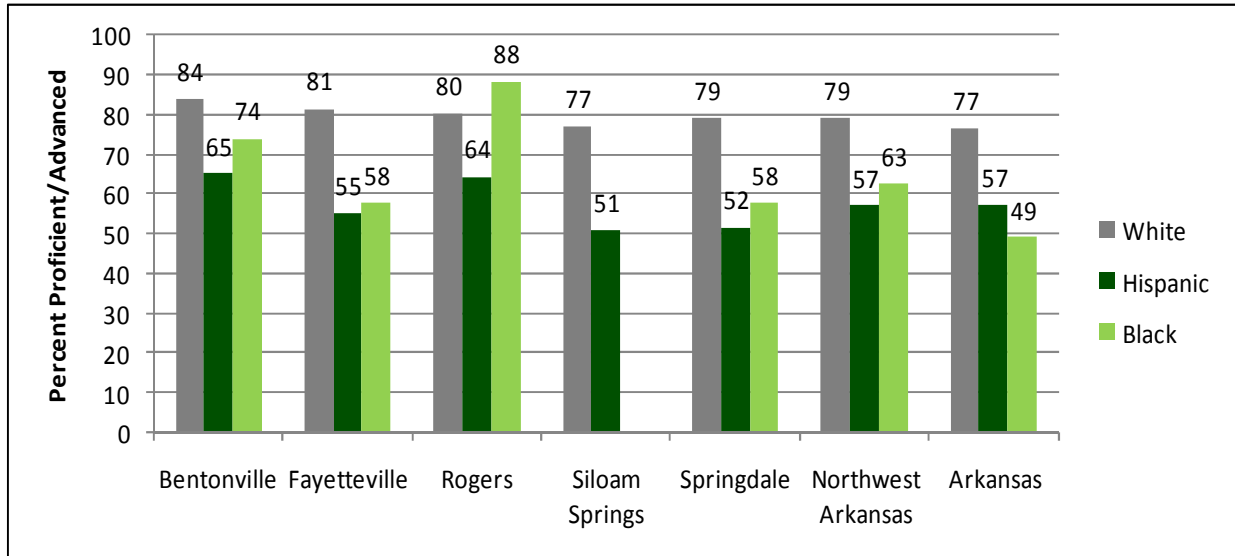
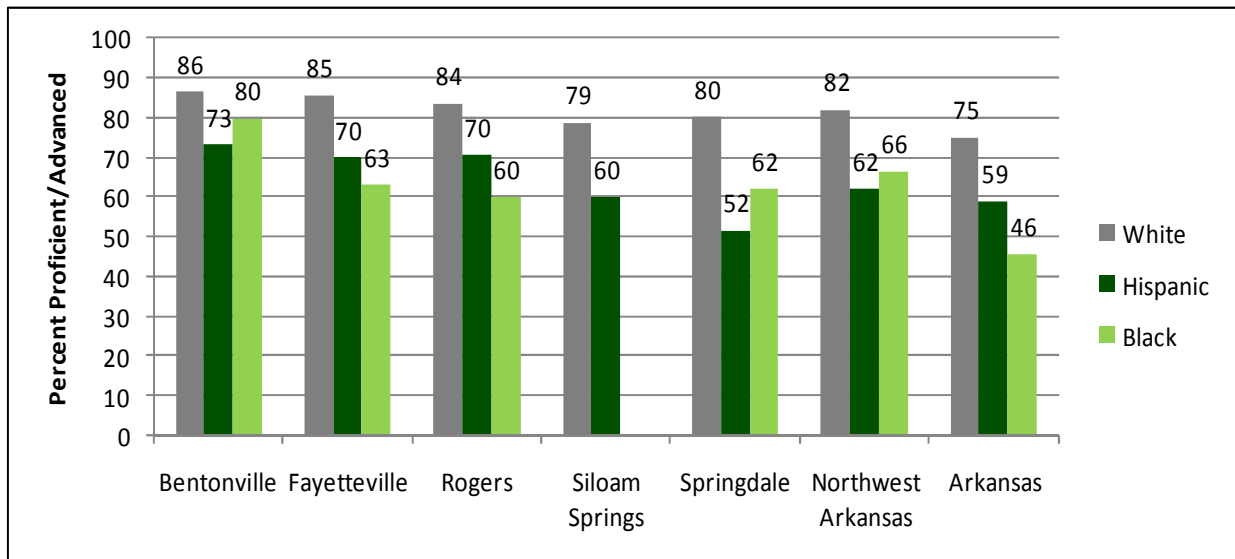


Table 2.4: AR Benchmark Literacy Exam: Middle School Average (Grades 6—8), 2009



- On average, Northwest Arkansas white students scored two to seven percentage points higher than did their peers across the state.
- Hispanic students in Northwest Arkansas and Arkansas scored at similar levels—the average was the same in middle school math and elementary literacy.
- Black students performed eight to 21 percentage points higher in Northwest Arkansas than did their peers across the state.

2. Achievement Gaps



To examine achievement gaps related to poverty, we compare Benchmark performance for students eligible for free and reduced lunch (FRL) to the overall average. Again, we compare these subpopulations in Arkansas, Northwest Arkansas, and the “Big 5” school districts.

Note: The “overall average” includes all students, FRL eligible and non-FRL eligible students.

Table 2.5: AR Benchmark Math Exam: Elementary Average (Grades 3—5), 2009

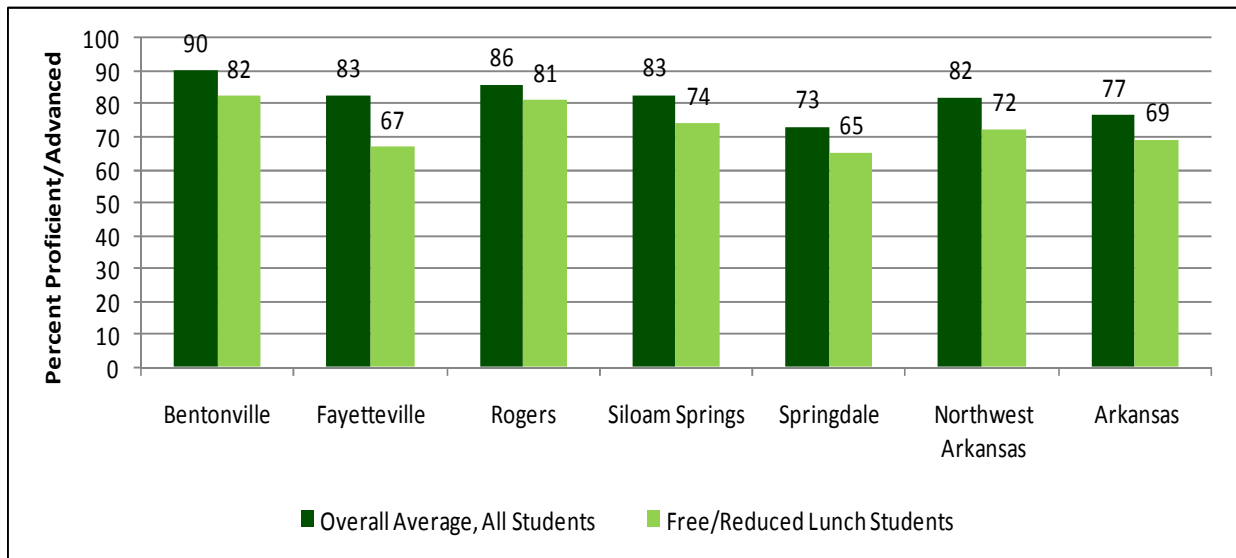


Table 2.6: AR Benchmark Math Exam: Middle School Average (Grades 6—8), 2009

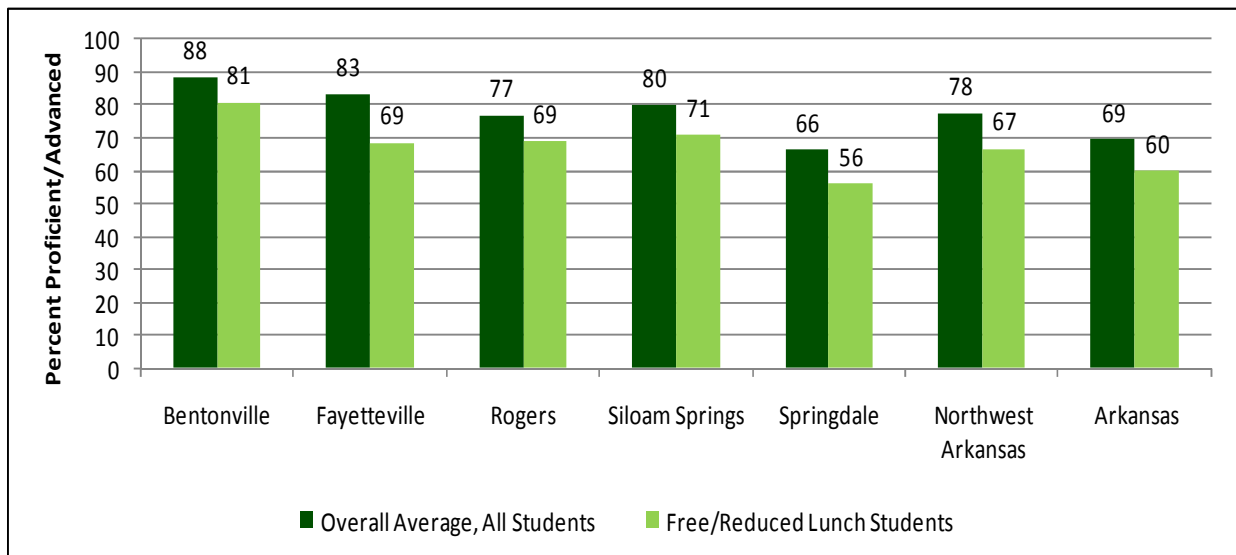


Table 2.7: AR Benchmark Literacy Exam: Elementary Average (Grades 3—5), 2009

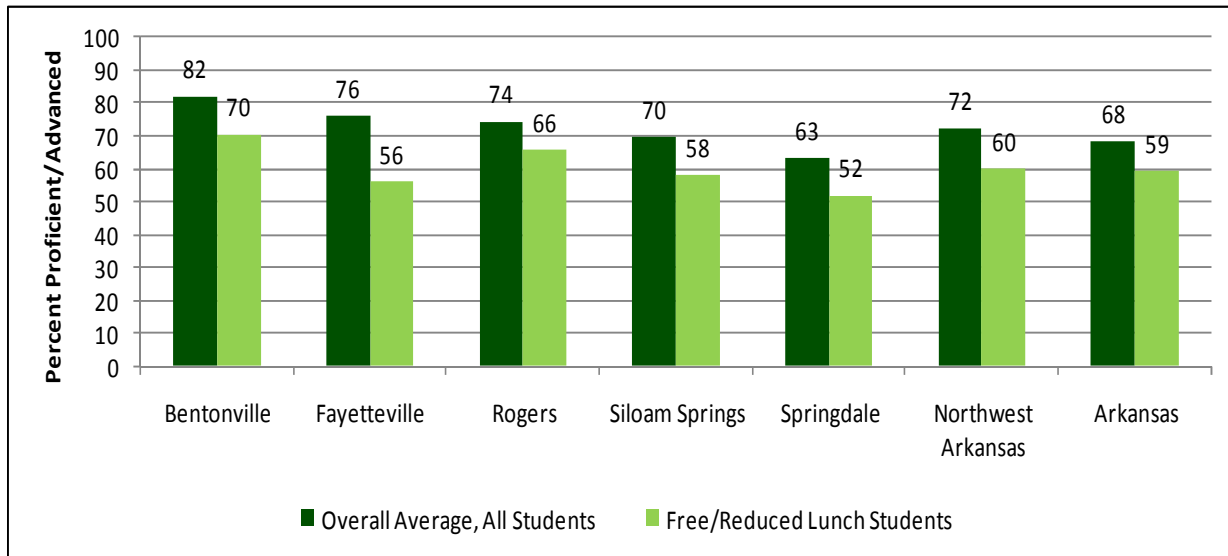
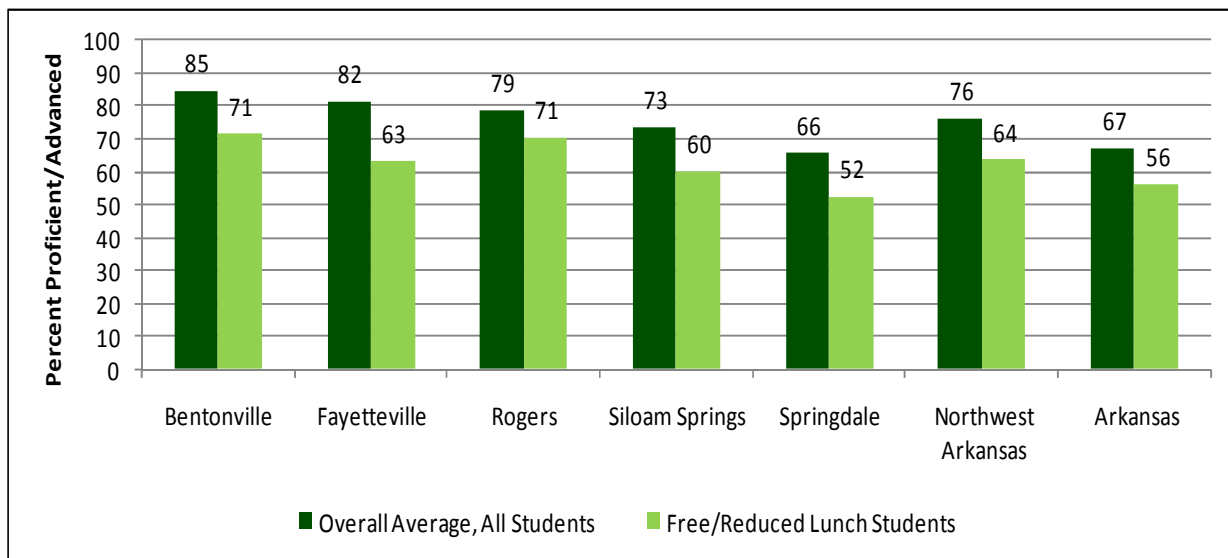
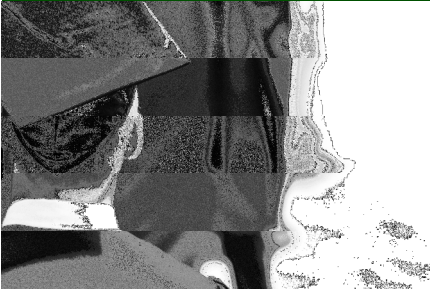


Table 2.8: AR Benchmark Literacy Exam: Middle School Average (Grades 6—8), 2009



- Elementary FRL students in Northwest Arkansas perform right at the state average.
- Middle school FRL students in Northwest Arkansas scored seven to eight percentage points higher than did their peers across Arkansas.
- The poverty gap was larger in Northwest Arkansas than the state in elementary math, middle school math, and middle school literacy.

3. Secondary and Beyond



In preparation for graduation and postsecondary education, Arkansas students take End-of-Course examinations and the ACT. The following section highlights the most recent scores from such exams in Arkansas, Northwest Arkansas, and the “Big 5” districts when appropriate. In addition, graduation rates and adult education attainment levels are also presented.

Table 3.1: High School Graduation Rates, 2008

	Graduation Rate
Bentonville	89%
Fayetteville	81%
Rogers	82%
Siloam Springs	95%
Springdale	81%
Northwest Arkansas	84%
Arkansas	76%
United States*	73%

*2007 data

Table 3.3: ACT, 2008

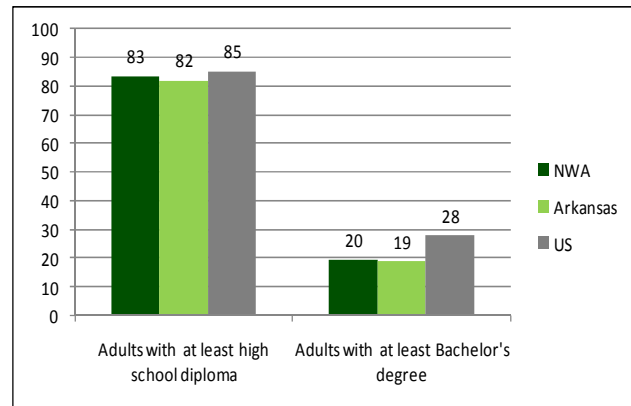
	ACT Participation Rate*	ACT Average Score
Bentonville	70.1	23.1
Fayetteville	68.5	24.1
Rogers	58.6	22.3
Siloam Springs	59.7	22.4
Springdale	57.3	22.7
NWA	56.2	22.6
AR	64.1	20.9
US*	42.0	21.2

*2007 data

Table 3.2: End-of-Course Percent Proficient and Advanced, 2009

	Literacy	Algebra	Geometry	Biology
Bentonville	85	92	90	71
Fayetteville	71	86	80	61
Rogers	68	75	78	58
Siloam Springs	54	73	77	40
Springdale	57	70	68	38
NWA	67	77	77	51
Arkansas	57	71	66	41

Table 3.4: Adult Education Levels, 2008



- The NWA graduation rate is 84%, eight percentage points higher than the Arkansas average.
- NWA has a lower ACT participation rate than Arkansas, but higher ACT average score.
- The percentage of adults with a high school diploma or Bachelor’s degree are similar for NWA and Arkansas.

4. School Characteristics

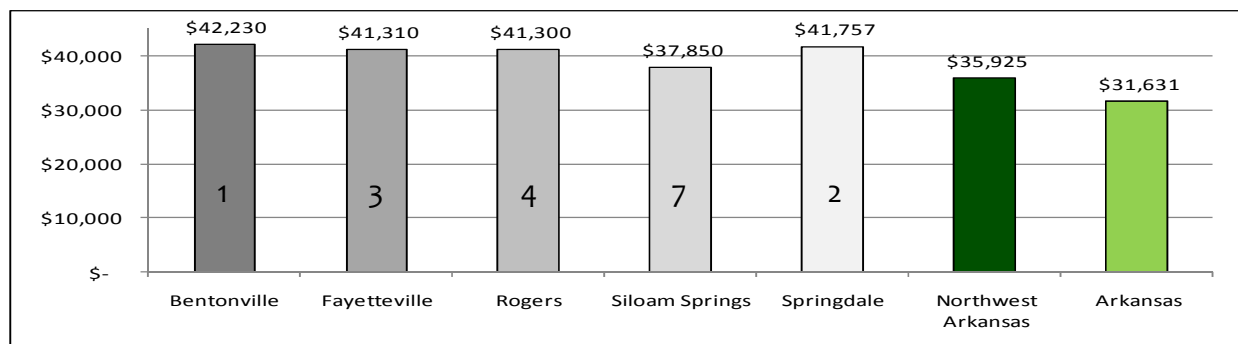


This section concludes with background information, including enrollment, student demographics, teacher salary (based on a beginning salary with a Bachelor's degree), and an Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) summary.

Table 4.1: Student Demographics and School Enrollment, 2009

	% White	% Black	% Hispanic	% Other	% FRL	# Students	# Schools	Average School Size
Bentonville	83	3	9	5	26	12,555	15	837
Fayetteville	74	11	9	6	36	8,512	14	608
Rogers	56	1	40	3	58	13,967	20	698
Siloam Springs	66	1	23	10	50	3,849	5	770
Springdale	47	2	42	9	57	17,869	25	715
NWA	67	3	24	6	47	70,475	117	602
Arkansas	67	22	9	2	54	479,055	1,092	439

Table 4.2: Starting Salary (Bachelor's Degree), 2009



Note: The numbers in the bar for the "Big 5" districts represent the district's rank in the state based on starting salary.

Table 4.3: Adequate Yearly Progress (School-Level), 2009

AYP Label or Category	Bentonville	Fayetteville	Rogers	Siloam Springs	Springdale	NWA	AR
Achieving	14	6	13	0	6	59	504
<i>% of Schools Labeled Achieving</i>	<i>93%</i>	<i>43%</i>	<i>65%</i>	<i>0%</i>	<i>24%</i>	<i>50%</i>	<i>46%</i>
Alert	0	6	4	0	7	26	175
Targeted Improvement	1	1	1	3	7	20	138
Whole School Improvement	0	1	0	1	4	6	113
Targeted Intensive Improvement	0	0	2	1	1	4	29
Whole School Intensive Improvement	0	0	0	0	0	0	65
State Directed Schools	0	0	0	0	0	0	57

Note: These numbers represent the number of schools in a district that are identified for each label. For more information about the AYP labels, visit the Arkansas Department of Education news release: http://arkansased.org/about/pdf/releases/ayp_release_100909.pdf

Office for Education Policy



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The Office for Education Policy seeks to be a resource that aids state policymakers, educators, administrators, and other leaders in thoughtful decision-making concerning K-12 education in the state of Arkansas.

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The Director's Note

Thank you for reading the 2009 Northwest Arkansas Report Card. After we released the state report card, we were interested to see how our neighborhood districts in Northwest Arkansas were performing. So here is the new NWA edition of the OEP report card.

There is much good news to report for Northwest Arkansas. For example, students outperform their state-wide peers on state assessments, graduation rates are high, and teacher salaries are higher in Northwest Arkansas than across the state. However, there is always room for improvement, especially in relation to achievement gaps. Troubling achievement gaps persist, for both our minority and our economically disadvantaged students, in Northwest Arkansas and in the state as a whole.

We hope you find the NWA edition of the report card helpful. A document that provides the source for each table can be found at http://www.uark.edu/ua/oeplib/report_cards/2009_NWAReportCard_Sources.pdf.

Thanks again for reading. We appreciate your support and interest in the students of Arkansas!