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**OUTSTANDING EDUCATIONAL PERFORMANCE AWARDS:
HIGHLIGHTING HIGH-GROWTH ARKANSAS SCHOOLS, 2023**

**HIGH-GROWTH HIGH 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).

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. In this case, the calculations are based on the 2021-22 scores. 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 2022-23 academic year, ACT Aspire examinations were administered to students in grades 3 through 10 in Math, Reading, Writing, English, and Science. The scores obtained in Reading, Writing, and English were combined to create an overall score for English Language Arts (ELA).

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 week, 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.

III. 2023 OEP AWARDS: HIGH GROWTH HIGH SCHOOLS IN ARKANSAS BASED ON CONTENT GROWTH IN THE ACT ASPIRE EXAMS

This section highlights high 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 2023 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.

G. High School Overall ACT Aspire Growth Scores, 2023

Table 37: Top 20 **High Schools** in Arkansas based on **Overall ACT Aspire Growth**

	School (District)	Region	Grades Served	Overall Content Growth
1	Haas Hall Bentonville (Haas Hall Academy)	Northwest	7-12	85.37
2	Haas Hall Academy Jones Center (Haas Hall Academy)	Northwest	7-12	85.04
3	Rural Special High (Mountain View)	Northeast	7-12	84.94
4	Star City High (Star City)	Southeast	9-12	84.89
5	Haas Hall Academy at the Lane (Haas Hall Academy)	Northwest	7-12	84.39
6	Drew Central High (Drew Central)	Southeast	9-12	84.23
7	Berryville High (Berryville)	Northwest	9-12	84.12
8	Decatur High (Decatur)	Northwest	9-12	84.01
9	Southside Charter High (Southside Independence)	Northeast	10-12	83.60
10	Cave City High Career & Collegiate Preparatory (Cave City)	Northeast	9-12	83.45
11	Booneville High (Booneville)	Northwest	10-12	83.27
12	Concord High (Concord)	Northeast	7-12	83.26
12	Conway Junior High (Conway)	Central	8-9	83.26
13	Malvern High (Malvern)	Central	9-12	83.14
14	Dardanelle High (Dardanelle)	Northwest	9-12	83.00
15	Dermott High (Dermott)	Southeast	7-12	82.99
16	Waldron High (Waldron)	Northwest	9-12	82.92
16	Greenland High (Greenland)	Northwest	9-12	82.92
17	Arkansas for the Blind High (Arkansas School for the Blind)	Central	7-12	82.87
18	Oark High (Jasper)	Northwest	7-12	82.86
19	Jasper High (Jasper)	Northwest	7-12	82.84
20	Walnut Ridge High (Lawrence County)	Northeast	7-12	82.68

Tables 38-42: Top 5 **High Schools** in Arkansas by Region, **Overall Growth**



Table 38: Top 5 schools in **Northwest** Region based on **Overall High ACT Aspire Growth**

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	Overall Content Growth
1	Haas Hall Bentonville (Haas Hall Academy)	7-12	246	85.37
2	Haas Hall Academy Jones Center (Haas Hall Academy)	7-12	84	85.04
3	Haas Hall Academy at the Lane (Haas Hall Academy)	7-12	163	84.39
4	Berryville High (Berryville)	9-12	253	84.12
5	Decatur High (Decatur)	9-12	70	84.01



Table 39: Top 5 schools in **Northeast** Region based on **Overall High ACT Aspire Growth**

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	Overall Content Growth
1	Rural Special High (Mountain View)	7-12	52	84.94
2	Southside Charter High (Southside Independence)	10-12	164	83.60
3	Cave City High Career & Collegiate Preparatory (Cave City)	9-12	176	83.45
4	Concord High (Concord)	7-12	119	83.26
5	Walnut Ridge High (Lawrence County)	7-12	288	82.68



Table 40: Top 5 schools in **Central** Region based on **Overall High ACT Aspire Growth**

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	Overall Content Growth
1	Conway Junior High (Conway)	8-9	1430	83.26
2	Malvern High (Malvern)	9-12	265	83.14
3	Arkansas for the Blind High (Arkansas School for the Blind)	7-12	14	82.87
4	Lakeside High (Lakeside (Garland))	9-12	516	82.59
5	Benton High (Benton)	10-12	464	82.57



Table 41: Top 5 schools in **Southwest** Region based on **Overall High ACT Aspire Growth**

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	Overall Content Growth
1	Bradley High (Emerson-Taylor-Bradley)	7-12	85	81.88
2	Magnolia High (Magnolia)	9-12	387	81.59
3	Prescott High (Prescott)	9-12	153	81.52
4	Fouke High (Fouke)	9-12	172	81.49
5	Umpire K-12 (Cossatot River)	K-12	53	81.48



Table 42: Top 5 schools in *Southeast* Region based on *Overall High ACT Aspire Growth*

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	Overall Content Growth
1	Star City High (Star City)	9-12	205	84.89
2	Drew Central High (Drew Central)	9-12	154	84.23
3	Dermott High (Dermott)	7-12	90	82.99
4	Woodlawn High (Woodlawn)	7-12	174	82.31
5	Hermitage High (Hermitage)	7-12	131	82.15

H. High School Math ACT Aspire Growth Scores, 2023

Table 43: Top 10 **High Schools** in Arkansas based on ACT Aspire **Math** Growth

	School (District)	Region	Grades Served	Math Content Growth
1	Haas Hall Academy Jones Center (Haas Hall Academy)	Northwest	7-12	88.25
2	Rural Special High (Mountain View)	Northeast	7-12	87.73
3	Haas Hall Bentonville (Haas Hall Academy)	Northwest	7-12	87.32
4	Drew Central High (Drew Central)	Southeast	9-12	86.56
5	Haas Hall Academy at the Lane (Haas Hall Academy)	Northwest	7-12	86.05
6	Star City High (Star City)	Southeast	9-12	85.44
7	Bentonville West High (Bentonville)	Northwest	9-12	84.63
8	Fouke High (Fouke)	Southwest	9-12	84.42
9	Poyen High (Poyen)	Central	7-12	84.39
10	Quitman High (Quitman)	Northeast	9-12	84.25

Tables 44-48: Top 5 **High Schools** in Arkansas by Region, **Math Growth**



Table 44: Top 5 schools in **Northwest** Region based on High **Math** ACT Aspire Growth

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	Math Content Growth
1	Haas Hall Academy Jones Center (Haas Hall Academy)	7-12	84	88.25
2	Haas Hall Bentonville (Haas Hall Academy)	7-12	246	87.32
3	Haas Hall Academy at the Lane (Haas Hall Academy)	7-12	163	86.05
4	Bentonville West High (Bentonville)	9-12	1166	84.63
5	Waldron High (Waldron)	9-12	171	84.18



Table 45: Top 5 schools in **Northeast** Region based on High **Math** ACT Aspire Growth

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	Math Content Growth
1	Rural Special High (Mountain View)	7-12	52	87.73
2	Quitman High (Quitman)	9-12	122	84.25
3	Trumann High (Trumann)	9-12	216	83.84
4	Walnut Ridge High (Lawrence County)	7-12	288	83.41
5	Rose Bud High (Rose Bud)	7-12	206	83.19



Table 46: Top 5 schools in **Central** Region based on High **Math** ACT Aspire Growth

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	Math Content Growth
1	Poyen High (Poyen)	7-12	143	84.39
2	Harmony Grove High (Harmony Grove (Saline))	10-12	93	83.70
3	Conway Junior High (Conway)	8-9	1430	83.64
4	Magnet Cove High (Magnet Cove)	7-12	205	83.63
5	Malvern High (Malvern)	9-12	265	82.69



Table 47: Top 5 schools in **Southwest** Region based on High **Math** ACT Aspire Growth

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	Math Content Growth
1	Fouke High (Fouke)	9-12	172	84.42
2	Bradley High (Emerson-Taylor-Bradley)	7-12	85	83.30
3	Magnolia High (Magnolia)	9-12	387	81.77
4	DeQueen Junior High (DeQueen)	8-9	370	81.76
5	Ashdown High (Ashdown)	9-12	181	81.75



Table 48: Top 5 schools in **Southeast** Region based on High **Math** ACT Aspire Growth

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	Math Content Growth
1	Drew Central High (Drew Central)	9-12	154	86.56
2	Star City High (Star City)	9-12	205	85.44
3	DeWitt High (DeWitt)	9-12	169	82.87
4	Hamburg High (Hamburg)	9-12	249	82.51
4	Hermitage High (Hermitage)	7-12	131	82.51
5	Dermott High (Dermott)	7-12	90	82.48

I. High School ELA ACT Aspire Growth Scores, 2023

Table 49: Top 10 **High Schools** in Arkansas based on ACT Aspire **ELA** Growth

	School (District)	Region	Grades Served	ELA Content Growth
1	Arkansas School for the Blind High (Arkansas School for the Blind)	Central	7-12	85.55
2	Booneville High (Booneville)	Northwest	10-12	85.28
3	Concord High (Concord)	Northeast	7-12	85.14
4	Danville High (Danville)	Northwest	9-12	85.09
5	Berryville High (Berryville)	Northwest	9-12	84.69
6	Southside Charter High (Southside Independence)	Northeast	10-12	84.59
7	Decatur High (Decatur)	Northwest	9-12	84.47
8	Star City High (Star City)	Southeast	9-12	84.35
9	Cave City High Career & Collegiate Preparatory (Cave City)	Northeast	9-12	84.17
10	Greenwood Freshman Center (Greenwood)	Northwest	9-9	83.84

Tables 50-54: Top 5 **High Schools** in Arkansas by Region, **ELA Growth**



Table 50: Top 5 schools in **Northwest** Region based on High **ELA ACT Aspire Growth**

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	ELA Content Growth
1	Booneville High (Booneville)	10-12	63	85.28
2	Danville High (Danville)	9-12	115	85.09
3	Berryville High (Berryville)	9-12	253	84.69
4	Decatur High (Decatur)	9-12	70	84.47
5	Greenwood Freshman Center (Greenwood)	9-9	269	83.84



Table 51: Top 5 schools in **Northeast** Region based on High **ELA ACT Aspire Growth**

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	ELA Content Growth
1	Concord High (Concord)	7-12	119	85.14
2	Southside Charter High (Southside Independence)	10-12	162	84.59
3	Cave City High Career & Collegiate Preparatory (Cave City)	9-12	176	84.17
4	Batesville High Charter (Batesville)	9-12	428	83.34
5	Highland High (Highland)	9-12	226	82.91



Table 52: Top 5 schools in **Central** Region based on High ELA ACT Aspire Growth

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	ELA Content Growth
1	Arkansas for the Blind High (Arkansas School For The Blind)	7-12	14	85.55
2	Lakeside High (Lakeside Garland)	9-12	515	83.73
3	Benton High (Benton)	10-12	461	83.68
4	Malvern High (Malvern)	9-12	265	83.59
5	Conway Junior High (Conway)	8-9	1429	82.89



Table 53: Top 5 schools in **Southwest** Region based on High ELA ACT Aspire Growth

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	ELA Content Growth
1	Umpire K-12 (Cossatot River)	K-12	53	82.54
2	Bearden High (Bearden)	7-12	151	82.29
3	Prescott High (Prescott)	9-12	152	82.19
4	Nevada High (Nevada)	7-12	115	82.18
5	Arkadelphia High (Arkadelphia)	9-12	271	82.00



Table 54: Top 5 schools in **Southeast** Region based on High **ELA** ACT Aspire Growth

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	ELA Content Growth
1	Star City High (Star City)	9-12	205	84.35
2	Dermott High (Dermott)	7-12	90	83.51
3	Monticello High (Monticello)	9-12	233	83.03
4	Woodlawn High (Woodlawn)	7-12	174	82.56
5	Lakeside High (Lakeside Chicot)	9-12	133	82.32

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 2022-23 school year, using the ESSA School Index report. Values included

- 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
- Combined Content Growth Score Number of Students Current Year
- Combined Math Growth Score Number of Students Current Year
- Combined ELA Growth Score Number of Students Current Year

Notes:

- When charter systems are located in a different geographic region than an associated charter school, we determine region based on school location.
- OEP Awards are limited to schools with at least 10 students included in the growth calculation.

For more information about how school levels were assigned, see https://dese.ade.arkansas.gov/Files/20201126142421_Grade%20Spans%20and%20Grade%20Configurations%20rv%201%2024%2020.pdf

For more information about how growth values were calculated, see https://dese.ade.arkansas.gov/Files/20201126144918_School%20Growth%20Explanation%20for%20ES%20and%20DC%20111017.pdf