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ARKANSAS EDUCATION REPORT
Volume 13, Issue 4

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

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

February 21, 2017

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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.

ACT Aspire Performance Category	GPA Points Awarded
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**

I. 2016 OEP AWARDS: HIGH ACHIEVING ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS IN ARKANSAS BASED ON PERFORMANCE ON ACT ASPIRE EXAMS

This section highlights high-performing elementary schools across the state based on the Arkansas ACT Aspire exams. The ACT Aspire was administered to students in grades 3 through 10 in April 2016 in Math, ELA courses (which includes English, Writing and Reading) and Science.

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 grade levels served by the school, the percent of students that met or exceeded the readiness benchmark in 2016, and the GPA of the school in the particular subject.

For the purposes of this report, elementary schools are defined as schools which primarily serve grades 3-5, and middle schools are defined as schools which primarily serve grades 6-8. High schools that also serve middle school grades, e.g. schools that serve grades 6-12, are categorized as middle schools in this report. In the cases where these grades overlap, we used enrollment data to determine whether a school served more elementary or middle school students (see Appendix B).

A. Elementary School Overall ACT Aspire Scores, 2016

Table 1: Top 20 *Elementary Schools* in Arkansas based on *Overall ACT Aspire Achievement* (Math, ELA and Science combined)

	School (District)	Region	Grades Served	% Met Readiness Benchmark	GPA
1	Vandergriff Elementary (Fayetteville)	NW	K-4	83%	3.36
2	Forest Park Elementary (Little Rock)	CN	P-5	80%	3.24
3	Gillett Elementary (Dewitt)	SE	P-5	80%	3.22
4	Don Roberts Elementary (Little Rock)	CN	P-5	77%	3.16
5	Park Magnet (Hot Springs)	CN	K-5	76%	3.14
5	Bellview Elementary (Rogers)	NW	K-5	75%	3.14
7	Baker Interdistrict Elementary (Pulaski County Special)	CN	K-5	74%	3.13
8	Bernice Young Elementary (Springdale)	NW	K-5	74%	3.11
9	Northwest Arkansas Classical Academy (Responsive Ed Solutions)	NW	K-8	76%	3.09
10	Salem Elementary (Salem)	NE	K-6	75%	3.07
11	Root Elementary (Fayetteville)	NW	K-4	72%	3.05
12	John P. Woods Elementary (Fort Smith)	NW	K-6	73%	3.04
13	Chenal Elementary (Pulaski County Special)	CN	K-5	70%	3.00
14	Central Park At Morning Star (Bentonville)	NW	K-4	71%	2.98
14	Armored Elementary (Armored)	NE	K-6	69%	2.98
16	Euper Lane Elementary (Fort Smith)	NW	K-6	70%	2.97
17	Valley View Intermediate (Valley View)	NE	3-6	70%	2.96
18	Mount Pleasant Elementary (Melbourne)	NE	K-6	71%	2.95
19	Hunt Elementary (Springdale)	NW	K-5	67%	2.94
19	R.E. Baker Elementary (Bentonville)	NW	K-4	70%	2.94

Tables 2-6: Top 5 Elementary Schools in Arkansas by Regions, Overall Achievement



Table 2: Top 5 elementary schools in the Northwest Region based on Overall ACT Aspire Achievement (Math, ELA and Science combined)

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	% Met Readiness Benchmark	GPA
1	Vandergriff Elementary (Fayetteville)	K-4	627	83%	3.36
2	Bellview Elementary (Rogers)	K-5	706	75%	3.14
3	Bernice Young Elementary (Springdale)	K-5	822	74%	3.11
4	Northwest Arkansas Classical Academy (Responsive Ed Solutions)	K-8	954	76%	3.09
5	Root Elementary (Fayetteville)	K-4	516	72%	3.05



Table 3: Top 5 elementary schools in the Northeast Region based on Overall ACT Aspire Achievement (Math, ELA and Science combined)

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	% Met Readiness Benchmark	GPA
1	Salem Elementary (Salem)	K-6	696	75%	3.07
2	Armored Elementary (Armored)	K-6	318	69%	2.98
3	Valley View Intermediate (Valley View)	3-6	2,559	70%	2.96
4	Mount Pleasant Elementary (Melbourne)	K-6	189	71%	2.95
5	Westside Elementary (Searcy)	K-3	414	68%	2.93



Table 4: Top 5 elementary schools in the **Central** Region based on **Overall ACT Aspire** Achievement (Math, ELA and Science combined)

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	% Met Readiness Benchmark	GPA
1	Forest Park Elementary (Little Rock)	P-5	588	80%	3.24
2	Don Roberts Elementary (Little Rock)	P-5	1,290	77%	3.16
3	Park Magnet (Hot Springs)	K-5	288	76%	3.14
4	Baker Interdistrict Elementary (Pulaski County Special)	K-5	640	74%	3.13
5	Chenal Elementary (Pulaski County Special)	K-5	796	70%	3.00



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

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	% Met Readiness Benchmark	GPA
1	Genoa Central Elementary (Genoa Central)	K-4	495	63%	2.82
2	Spring Hill Elementary (Spring Hill)	K-6	546	64%	2.77
3	Taylor Elementary (Emerson-Taylor-Bradley)	K-6	378	62%	2.75
4	Van Cove Elementary (Cossatot River)	P-6	315	60%	2.70
5	Emerson Elementary (Emerson-Taylor-Bradley)	K-6	288	59%	2.67



Table 6: Top 5 elementary schools in the **Southeast** Region based on **Overall ACT Aspire** Achievement (Math, ELA and Science combined)

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	% Met Readiness Benchmark	GPA
1	Gillett Elementary (Dewitt)	P-5	120	80%	3.22
2	Des Arc Elementary (Des Arc)	P-6	450	60%	2.76
3	Portland Elementary (Hamburg)	P-5	174	50%	2.53
4	Kingsland Elementary (Cleveland County)	K-5	129	53%	2.50
5	Noble/Allbritton Elementary (Hamburg)	K-5	1,048	45%	2.34

B. Elementary School Math ACT Aspire Scores, 2016

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

	School (District)	Region	Grades Served	% Met/ Exceed Expectations	GPA
1	Vandergriff Elementary (Fayetteville)	NW	K-4	89%	3.43
2	Forest Park Elementary (Little Rock)	CN	P-5	87%	3.35
3	Park Magnet (Hot Springs)	CN	K-5	88%	3.33
3	Gillett Elementary (Dewitt)	SE	P-5	88%	3.33
5	Baker Interdistrict Elementary (Pulaski County Special)	CN	K-5	82%	3.28
6	Bernice Young Elementary (Springdale)	NW	K-5	83%	3.25
7	Don Roberts Elementary (Little Rock)	CN	P-5	80%	3.24
8	Root Elementary (Fayetteville)	NW	K-4	80%	3.20
9	Westside Elementary (Searcy)	NE	K-3	80%	3.18
9	Northwest Arkansas Classical Academy (Responsive Ed Solutions)	NW	K-8	79%	3.18

Tables 8-12: Top 5 *Elementary Schools* in Arkansas by Regions, *Math* Achievement



Table 8: Top 5 elementary schools in the Northwest Region based on *Math* ACT Aspire Achievement

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	% Met Readiness Benchmark	GPA
1	Vandergriff Elementary (Fayetteville)	K-4	209	89%	3.43
2	Bernice Young Elementary (Springdale)	K-5	275	83%	3.25
3	Root Elementary (Fayetteville)	K-4	172	80%	3.20
4	Northwest Arkansas Classical Academy (Responsive Ed Solutions)	K-8	318	79%	3.18
5	Bellview Elementary (Rogers)	K-5	236	80%	3.16



Table 9: Top 5 elementary schools in the Northeast Region based on *Math* ACT Aspire Achievement

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	% Met Readiness Benchmark	GPA
1	Westside Elementary (Searcy)	K-3	138	80%	3.18
2	Salem Elementary (Salem)	K-6	232	81%	3.14
3	Armored Elementary (Armored)	K-6	106	79%	3.13
4	Brookland Elementary (Brookland)	P-3	167	78%	3.10
5	Mount Pleasant Elementary (Melbourne)	K-6	63	79%	3.06
5	Valley View Intermediate (Valley View)	3-6	854	76%	3.06



Table 10: Top 5 elementary schools in the **Central** Region based on **Math ACT Aspire** Achievement

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	% Met Readiness Benchmark	GPA
1	Forest Park Elementary (Little Rock)	P-5	196	87%	3.35
2	Park Magnet (Hot Springs)	K-5	96	88%	3.33
3	Baker Interdistrict Elementary (Pulaski County Special)	K-5	215	82%	3.28
4	Don Roberts Elementary (Little Rock)	P-5	430	80%	3.24
5	Chenal Elementary (Pulaski County Special)	K-5	266	76%	3.12



Table 11: Top 5 elementary schools in the schools in **Southwest** Region based on **Math ACT Aspire** Achievement

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	% Met Readiness Benchmark	GPA
1	Centerpoint Primary (Centerpoint)	P-3	80	73%	3.11
2	Genoa Central Elementary (Genoa Central)	K-4	165	76%	3.07
3	Taylor Elementary (Emerson-Taylor-Bradley)	K-6	126	68%	2.92
4	Hugh Goodwin Elementary (El Dorado)	K-4	170	68%	2.87
5	Spring Hill Elementary (Spring Hill)	K-6	182	68%	2.85



Table 12: Top 5 elementary schools in the *Southeast* Region based on *Math ACT Aspire* Achievement

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	% Met Readiness Benchmark	GPA
1	Gillett Elementary (Dewitt)	P-5	40	88%	3.33
2	Des Arc Elementary (Des Arc)	P-6	150	73%	3.11
3	Kingsland Elementary (Cleveland County)	K-5	43	74%	2.98
4	Park Avenue Elementary (Stuttgart)	K-4	233	58%	2.64
5	Portland Elementary (Hamburg)	P-5	58	55%	2.62

C. Elementary School English Language Arts ACT Aspire Scores, 2016

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

	School (District)	Region	Grades Served	% Met/ Exceed Expectations	GPA
1	Vandergriff Elementary (Fayetteville)	NW	K-4	80%	3.33
2	Forest Park Elementary (Little Rock)	CN	P-5	82%	3.31
3	Gillett Elementary (Dewitt)	SE	P-5	80%	3.25
4	Don Roberts Elementary (Little Rock)	CN	P-5	77%	3.21
5	Bellview Elementary (Rogers)	NW	K-5	74%	3.18
6	Northwest Arkansas Classical Academy (Responsive Ed Solutions)	NW	K-8	77%	3.17
6	Baker Interdistrict Elementary (Pulaski County Special)	CN	K-5	71%	3.17
8	Park Magnet (Hot Springs)	CN	K-5	75%	3.16
9	Salem Elementary (Salem)	NE	K-6	73%	3.13
10	John P. Woods Elementary (Fort Smith)	NW	K-6	73%	3.13

Tables 14-18: Top 5 Elementary Schools in Arkansas by Regions, ELA Achievement



Table 14: Top 5 elementary schools in the Northwest Region based on ELA ACT Aspire Achievement

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	% Met Readiness Benchmark	GPA
1	Vandergriff Elementary (Fayetteville)	K-4	209	80%	3.33
2	Bellview Elementary(Rogers)	K-5	234	74%	3.18
3	Northwest Arkansas Classical Academy (Responsive Ed Solutions)	K-8	318	77%	3.17
4	John P. Woods Elementary (Fort Smith)	K-6	316	73%	3.13
5	Bernice Young (Springdale)	K-5	272	72%	3.12



Table 15: Top 5 elementary schools in the Northeast Region based on ELA ACT Aspire Achievement

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	% Met Readiness Benchmark	GPA
1	Salem Elementary (Salem)	K-6	232	73%	3.13
2	Richland Elementary (West Memphis)	K-6	303	69%	3.02
3	Valley View Intermediate (Valley View)	3-6	852	70%	3.00
4	Armored Elementary (Armored)	K-6	106	65%	2.93
5	International Studies Magnet (Jonesboro)	1-6	312	65%	2.88



Table 16: Top 5 elementary schools in the *Central* Region based on *ELA ACT Aspire Achievement*

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	% Met Readiness Benchmark	GPA
1	Forest Park Elementary (Little Rock)	P-5	196	82%	3.31
2	Don Roberts Elementary (Little Rock)	P-5	430	77%	3.21
3	Baker Interdistrict Elementary (Pulaski County Special)	K-5	210	71%	3.17
4	Park Magnet (Hot Springs)	K-5	96	75%	3.16
5	Chenal Elementary (Pulaski County Special)	K-5	264	69%	3.03



Table 17: Top 5 elementary schools in the *Southwest* Region based on *ELA ACT Aspire Achievement*

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	% Met Readiness Benchmark	GPA
1	Delight Elementary (South Pike County)	K-6	59	63%	2.80
2	Spring Hill Elementary (Spring Hill)	K-6	182	62%	2.79
3	Genoa Central Elem. (Genoa Central)	K-4	165	56%	2.73
4	Emerson Elementary (Emerson-Taylor-Bradley)	K-6	96	56%	2.69
5	Van Cove Elementary (Cossatot River)	P-6	105	58%	2.67



Table 18: Top 5 elementary schools in the *Southeast* Region based on *ELA ACT Aspire Achievement*

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	% Met Readiness Benchmark	GPA
1	Gillett Elementary (Dewitt)	P-5	40	80%	3.25
2	Des Arc Elementary (Des Arc)	P-6	150	59%	2.69
3	Portland Elementary (Hamburg)	P-5	58	55%	2.64
4	Hazen Elementary (Hazen)	P-8	279	46%	2.42
5	Noble/Allbritton Elementary (Hamburg)	K-5	350	46%	2.39

D. Elementary School Science ACT Aspire Scores, 2016

Table 19: Top 10 *Elementary Schools* in Arkansas based on ACT Aspire *Science* Achievement

	School (District)	Region	Grades Served	% Met/ Exceed Expectations	GPA
1	Vandergriff Elementary (Fayetteville)	NW	K-4	81%	3.31
2	Gillett Elementary (Dewitt)	SE	P-5	73%	3.10
3	Bellview Elementary (Rogers)	NW	K-5	72%	3.08
4	Forest Park Elementary (Little Rock)	CN	P-5	72%	3.07
5	Don Roberts Elementary (Little Rock)	CN	P-5	73%	3.04
6	Root Elementary (Fayetteville)	NW	K-4	71%	2.99
7	Bernice Young Elementary (Springdale)	NW	K-5	67%	2.96
8	Salem Elementary (Salem)	NE	K-6	71%	2.93
8	Baker Interdistrict Elementary (Pulaski County Special)	CN	K-5	67%	2.93
10	Northwest Arkansas Classical Academy (Responsive Ed Solutions)	NW	K-8	71%	2.92
10	Mount Pleasant Elementary (Melbourne)	NE	K-6	67%	2.92
10	Park Magnet (Hot Springs)	CN	K-5	66%	2.92

Tables 20-24: Top 5 Elementary Schools in Arkansas by Regions, Science Achievement



Table 20: Top 5 elementary schools in the Northwest Region based on Science ACT Aspire Achievement

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	% Met Readiness Benchmark	GPA
1	Vandergriff Elementary (Fayetteville)	K-4	209	81%	3.31
2	Bellview Elementary (Rogers)	K-5	236	72%	3.08
3	Root Elementary (Fayetteville)	K-4	172	71%	2.99
4	Bernice Young Elementary (Springdale)	K-5	275	67%	2.96
5	Northwest Arkansas Classical Academy (Responsive Ed Solutions)	K-8	318	71%	2.92



Table 21: Top 5 elementary schools in the Northeast Region based on Science ACT Aspire Achievement

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	% Met Readiness Benchmark	GPA
1	Salem Elementary (Salem)	K-6	232	71%	2.93
2	Mount Pleasant Elementary (Melbourne)	K-6	63	67%	2.92
3	Armored Elementary (Armored)	K-6	106	63%	2.86
4	Valley View Intermediate (Valley View)	3-6	853	65%	2.82
5	Westside Elementary (Searcy)	K-3	138	63%	2.80



Table 22: Top 5 elementary schools in the **Central** Region based on **Science ACT Aspire** Achievement

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	% Met Readiness Benchmark	GPA
1	Forest Park Elementary (Little Rock)	P-5	196	72%	3.07
2	Don Roberts Elementary (Little Rock)	P-5	430	73%	3.04
3	Baker Interdistrict Elementary (Pulaski County Special)	K-5	215	67%	2.93
4	Park Magnet (Hot Springs)	K-5	96	66%	2.92
5	Chenal Elementary (Pulaski County Special)	K-5	266	64%	2.85



Table 23: Top 5 elementary schools in the **Southwest** Region based on **Science ACT Aspire** Achievement

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	% Met Readiness Benchmark	GPA
1	Spring Hill Elementary (Spring Hill)	K-6	182	62%	2.67
1	Genoa Central Elementary (Genoa Central)	K-4	165	58%	2.67
3	Taylor Elementary (Emerson-Taylor-Bradley)	K-6	126	58%	2.65
4	Van Cove Elementary (Cossatot River)	P-6	105	56%	2.58
5	Emerson Elementary (Emerson-Taylor-Bradley)	K-6	96	56%	2.54



Table 24: Top 5 elementary schools in the *Southeast* Region based on *Science ACT Aspire* Achievement

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	% Met Readiness Benchmark	GPA
1	Gillett Elementary (Dewitt)	P-5	40	73%	3.10
2	Des Arc Elementary (Des Arc)	P-6	150	49%	2.47
3	Portland Elementary (Hamburg)	P-5	58	40%	2.34
4	Kingsland Elementary (Cleveland County)	K-5	43	44%	2.25
5	Woodlawn Elementary (Woodlawn)	K-6	170	39%	2.13

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.

ACT Aspire Performance Category	GPA Points Awarded
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 are 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 the associated 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	