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ARKANSAS EDUCATION REPORT
Volume 11, Issue 5

**OUTSTANDING EDUCATIONAL PERFORMANCE AWARDS:
HIGHLIGHTING HIGH-ACHIEVING ARKANSAS SCHOOLS, 2014**

**HIGH-ACHIEVING MIDDLE SCHOOLS
BY GRADE LEVEL AND REGION**

October 1, 2014

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INTRODUCTION

Since our founding in 2003, the mission of the Office for Education Policy has been looking at 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 **O**utstanding **E**ducational **P**erformance Awards, or the OEP awards.

Over a three month period this fall, a new set of **OEP Awards** will be released every couple of weeks to highlight high-performing schools in Arkansas on the Benchmark exam in math and literacy, and End-Of-Course (EOC) exams in Algebra, Geometry, Literacy (Grade 11), and Biology.

Two years ago, we first introduced an academic performance indicator, the “**GPA**” **rating system**, to rank the highest-performing schools. In the past, the rankings were created based on the percentage of students scoring at the proficient or advanced level on each assessment. Generally, when discussing academic achievement on the Benchmark exams, policymakers focus on this figure. However, the proficiency indicator suffers from being an “all-or-nothing” measure, in which a student is either proficient or not.

The proficiency measure disregards real information provided by student scores that are placed into the four different performance categories: below basic, basic, proficient, and advanced. Additionally, this mark does not differentiate between a school in which 100% of students score proficient and a school in which 100% of students score advanced. Both of these schools would show 100% of students performing at proficient and advanced levels; however, in the latter school, students actually performed at a significantly higher level. Thus, a slightly more informative indicator gives the most credit to students who score at the advanced level and the least credit to students who score at the below basic level. For such purposes, we have created the “GPA” rating system. In this GPA measure, parallel to the familiar grade point average for individual students, we treat the Benchmark test scores in a similar way, whereby a 4.0 is a perfect score.

Category	GPA Points Awarded
Advanced	4.0
Proficient	3.0
Basic	2.0
Below Basic	1.0

The GPA measure, we believe, is a better representation of student achievement on statewide standardized exams. In this report, we are presenting a list of the top 25 schools in each area. In some cases, these “top 25 lists” will contain more than 25 schools as some schools’ GPA scores will be identical. This is not a new phenomenon, as we also exceeded 25 schools in previous

reports when using the percent proficient and advanced metric as an indicator for student achievement; however, there are fewer ties using the more precise GPA measure.

After we present our overall snapshot of high-performing schools, we will release subsequent reports every few weeks focusing on different subsets of schools. In the following weeks, we will focus on high-performing elementary schools, middle schools, and high schools in the various regions across the state. Then, we will feature 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). Finally, we will conclude our report by focusing on the schools with the greatest improvement in test scores. Our release schedule is:

- **High-Achieving “Overall” Schools in Arkansas**
- **High-Achieving Elementary Schools**
- **High-Achieving Middle Schools**
- **High-Achieving High Schools**
- **Beating the Odds: High-Achieving Schools Serving Low-Income Communities**
- **Most Improved Schools**

Stay tuned over the next ten weeks to see which schools in your area are recognized for our **OEP Awards!**

III. 2014 OEP AWARDS: HIGH-ACHIEVING MIDDLE SCHOOLS

This section provides a deeper look at the high-achieving middle schools and grades based on the Arkansas Benchmark exam.¹ The Benchmark exams in math and literacy were administered to students in grades 3-8 in April 2014.

Each table presents the high-achieving schools for the noted grade and subject. These tables include the region in which the school is located, the number of test takers, the percent of students scoring at the proficient and advanced levels, and the GPA of the school in that particular subject. Because we already listed our overall top performing middle schools in Section I of the OEP Awards, we move directly into listing the top performing schools by grade. We then highlight the top performing middle schools and grades within schools in each region.²

¹ In this section, we highlight the top performing grade levels for grades six through eight. We did not distinguish between elementary or middle school, but simply highlight the top grade levels overall. Therefore, an elementary or high school may be listed if it includes one of these grades. The next section will cover grades six through eight.

² Schools are divided into five regions in Arkansas: Northwest (NW), Northeast (NE), Central (CN), Southwest (SW), and Southeast (SE).

J. Middle School Math by Grade, 2014

Table 31: Top 10 Arkansas Schools: Grade Six **Math** Achievement

	School (District)	Region	# of Test Takers	% Proficient/Advanced	GPA
1	Mount Pleasant Elementary School (Melbourne) ♦	NE	18	94%	3.77
2	Poyen Elementary School (Poyen)	CN	40	98%	3.75
3	Salem Elementary School (Salem) ♦	NE	48	96%	3.73
4	Richland Elementary School (West Memphis) ♦	NE	71	99%	3.67
5	Sulphur Rock Elementary School (Batesville)	NE	35	95%	3.66
6	Amanda Gist Elementary School (Cotter)	NW	44	91%	3.62
7	Mammoth Spring Elementary School (Mammoth Spring)	NE	36	91%	3.60
7	Norfolk Elementary School (Norfolk)	NW	28	96%	3.60
9	Charleston Elementary School (Charleston)	NW	72	91%	3.58
9	Lakeside Middle School (Lakeside Garland County)	CN	250	93%	3.58
9	Pea Ridge Middle School (Pea Ridge) ♦	NW	152	89%	3.58

Table 32: Top 10 Arkansas Schools: Grade Seven **Math** Achievement

	School (District)	Region	# of Test Takers	% Proficient/Advanced	GPA
1	J. William Fulbright Junior High School (Bentonville)	NW	346	92%	3.54
2	Kingston High School (Jasper)	NW	19	89%	3.50
3	Atkins Middle School (Atkins)	NW	75	88%	3.49
4	Des Arc High School (Des Arc)	SE	47	92%	3.48
5	Valley Springs Middle School (Valley Springs) ♦	NW	68	91%	3.45
6	Paris Middle School (Paris)	NW	83	92%	3.41
7	McNair Middle School (Fayetteville) ♦	NW	346	86%	3.39
8	Glen Rose Middle School (Glen Rose)	CN	71	88%	3.38
8	Scranton High School (Scranton)	NW	34	85%	3.38
10	East Hills Middle School (Greenwood)	NW	295	87%	3.37

Table 33: Top 10 Arkansas Schools: Grade Eight **Math** Achievement

	School (District)	Region	# of Test Takers	% Proficient/Advanced	GPA
1	Haas Hall Academy (Haas Hall Academy) ♦	NW	46	98%	3.83
2	Concord High School (Concord)	NE	37	89%	3.45
3	Valley View Junior High School (Valley View) ♦	NE	209	92%	3.38
4	Woodland Junior High School (Fayetteville) ♦	NW	384	86%	3.34
5	St. Joe High School (Ozark Mountain)	NW	15	100%	3.27
6	Lincoln Junior High School (Bentonville) ♦	NW	390	86%	3.25
7	Bergman Middle School (Bergman)	NW	85	81%	3.22
8	Gary E. Cobb Middle School (Genoa Central)	SW	103	86%	3.21
9	Deer High School (Deer/Mt. Judea)	NW	19	79%	3.16
9	J. William Fulbright Junior High School (Bentonville)	NW	356	80%	3.16
9	Marshall High School (Searcy County)	NW	73	82%	3.16

K. Middle School Literacy by Grade, 2014

Table 34: Top 10 Arkansas Schools: Grade Six *Literacy* Achievement

	School (District)	Region	# of Test Takers	% Proficient/Advanced	GPA
1	Poyen Elementary School (Poyen)	CN	40	91%	3.55
2	Northwest Arkansas Classical Academy (Northwest Arkansas Classical Academy)	NW	45	94%	3.54
3	Academy of Service and Technology (Vilonia)	CN	52	91%	3.51
4	McNair Middle School (Fayetteville)	NW	339	89%	3.46
4	Salem Elementary School (Salem)	NE	48	94%	3.46
6	Armored Elementary School (Armored)	NE	30	87%	3.44
7	Beard Elementary School (Fort Smith)	NW	39	97%	3.43
7	Richland Elementary School (West Memphis) ♦	NE	71	92%	3.43
9	Brookland Middle School (Brookland)	NE	160	88%	3.42
10	Flightline Upper Academy (Jacksonville Lighthouse Charter School)	CN	46	91%	3.41
10	Valley View Intermediate School (Valley View)	NE	215	91%	3.41

Table 35: Top 10 Arkansas Schools: Grade Seven *Literacy* Achievement

	School (District)	Region	# of Test Takers	% Proficient/Advanced	GPA
1	J. William Fulbright Junior High School (Bentonville)	NW	346	94%	3.65
2	Lincoln Junior High School (Bentonville) ♦	NW	397	92%	3.59
3	Valley View Junior High School (Valley View) ♦	NE	194	92%	3.58
4	Kingston High School (Jasper) ♦	NW	19	89%	3.57
5	Kirksey Middle School (Rogers) ♦	NW	309	94%	3.53
6	McNair Middle School (Fayetteville) ♦	NW	346	89%	3.50
6	Rural Special High School (Mountain View)	NE	14	100%	3.50
8	Greenbrier Middle School (Greenbrier)	CN	253	92%	3.48
8	Norfolk High School (Norfolk)	NW	38	95%	3.48
10	L. A. Chaffin Junior High School (Fort Smith)	NW	280	89%	3.47
10	Pottsville Junior High School (Pottsville) ♦	NW	130	91%	3.47
10	Valley Springs Middle School (Valley Springs)	NW	68	94%	3.47

Table 36: Top 10 Arkansas Schools: Grade Eight *Literacy* Achievement

	School (District)	Region	# of Test Takers	% Proficient/Advanced	GPA
1	Haas Hall Academy (Haas Hall Academy) ♦	NW	46	100%	3.76
2	Kirksey Middle School (Rogers)	NW	280	93%	3.49
2	Woodland Junior High School (Fayetteville)	NW	384	91%	3.49
4	Northwest Arkansas Classical Academy (Northwest Arkansas Classical Academy)	NW	25	92%	3.48
5	Greenwood Junior High School (Greenwood)	NW	300	91%	3.46
5	Valley Springs Middle School (Valley Springs)	NW	72	88%	3.46
5	Valley View Junior High School (Valley View) ♦	NE	209	94%	3.46
8	Gary E. Cobb Middle School (Genoa Central) ♦	SW	103	89%	3.44
8	Lincoln Junior High School (Bentonville) ♦	NW	390	92%	3.44
10	St. Joe High School (Ozark Mountain)	NW	15	94%	3.43

The sections below present the high achieving middle schools for the noted grade and subject in each region in 2014.



L. Northwest Region, Middle School Schools, 2014

Table 37: Top 5 Overall Middle School Schools in Northwest Arkansas Based on Benchmark Math Achievement

School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	% Proficient/Advanced	GPA
1 Haas Hall Academy (Haas Hall Academy) ♦	8-12	46	98%	3.83
2 McNair Middle School (Fayetteville) ♦	6-7	685	87%	3.46
3 East Hills Middle School (Greenwood) ♦	6-7	577	87%	3.39
4 Bright Field Middle School (Bentonville)	5-6	627	89%	3.37
5 Pottsville Middle Grades (Pottsville) ♦	4-6	363	86%	3.36

Table 38: Top 3 Schools by Grade Level in Northwest Arkansas Based on Benchmark Math Achievement

School (District)	# of Test Takers	% Proficient/Advanced	GPA
6th Grade			
1 Amanda Gist Elementary School (Cotter)	44	91%	3.62
2 Norfork Elementary School (Norfork)	28	96%	3.60
3 Charleston Elementary School (Charleston)	72	91%	3.58
3 Pea Ridge Middle School (Pea Ridge) ♦	152	89%	3.58
7th Grade			
1 J. William Fulbright Junior High School (Bentonville)	346	92%	3.54
2 Kingston High School (Jasper)	19	89%	3.50
3 Atkins Middle School (Atkins)	75	88%	3.49
8th Grade			
1 Haas Hall Academy (Haas Hall Academy) ♦	46	98%	3.83
2 Woodland Junior High School (Fayetteville) ♦	384	86%	3.34
3 St. Joe High School (Ozark Mountain)	15	100%	3.27

Table 39: Top 5 Overall Middle School Schools in Northwest Arkansas Based on Benchmark Literacy Achievement

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	% Proficient/Advanced	GPA
1	Haas Hall Academy (Haas Hall Academy) ♦	8-12	46	100%	3.76
2	Pottsville Middle Grades (Pottsville) ♦	4-6	363	93%	3.58
3	J. William Fulbright Junior High School (Bentonville)	7-8	702	92%	3.53
4	Lincoln Junior High School (Bentonville)	7-8	787	92%	3.52
5	Woodland Junior High School (Fayetteville)	8-9	384	91%	3.49

Table 40: Top 3 Schools by Grade Level in Northwest Arkansas Based on Benchmark Literacy Achievement

	School (District)	# of Test Takers	% Proficient/Advanced	GPA
6th Grade				
1	Northwest Arkansas Classical Academy (Northwest Arkansas Classical Academy)	45	94%	3.54
2	McNair Middle School (Fayetteville)	339	89%	3.46
3	Beard Elementary School (Fort Smith)	39	97%	3.43
7th Grade				
1	J. William Fulbright Junior High School (Bentonville)	346	94%	3.65
2	Lincoln Junior High School (Bentonville) ♦	397	92%	3.59
3	Kingston High School (Jasper)	19	89%	3.57
8th Grade				
1	Haas Hall Academy (Haas Hall Academy) ♦	46	100%	3.76
2	Kirksey Middle School (Rogers)	280	93%	3.49
3	Woodland Junior High School (Fayetteville)	384	91%	3.49



M. Northeast Region, Middle School Schools, 2014

Table 41: Top 5 Overall Middle School Schools in *Northeast* Arkansas Based on Benchmark *Math* Achievement

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	% Proficient/Advanced	GPA
1	Concord High School (Concord)	7-12	73	91%	3.39
2	Valley View Junior High School (Valley View) ♦	7-9	403	87%	3.32
3	Brookland Middle School (Brookland) ♦	4-6	487	85%	3.29
4	Pocahontas Junior High School (Pocahontas)	7-9	278	82%	3.18
5	Nettleton Middle School (Nettleton) ♦	6-6	228	78%	3.14

Table 42: Top 3 Schools by Grade Level in *Northeast* Arkansas Based on Benchmark *Math* Achievement

	School (District)	# of Test Takers	% Proficient/Advanced	GPA
6th Grade				
1	Mount Pleasant Elementary School (Melbourne) ♦	18	94%	3.77
2	Salem Elementary School (Salem) ♦	48	96%	3.73
3	Richland Elementary School (West Memphis)	71	99%	3.67
7th Grade				
1	Concord High School (Concord)	36	94%	3.32
2	Valley View Junior High School (Valley View) ♦	194	82%	3.26
3	Pocahontas Junior High School (Pocahontas)	134	83%	3.25
8th Grade				
1	Concord High School (Concord)	37	89%	3.45
2	Valley View Junior High School (Valley View) ♦	209	92%	3.38
3	Pocahontas Junior High School (Pocahontas)	144	82%	3.12

Table 43: Top 5 Overall Middle School Schools in Northeast Arkansas Based on Benchmark Literacy Achievement

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	% Proficient/Advanced	GPA
1	Valley View Junior High School (Valley View) ♦	7-9	403	93%	3.52
2	Brookland Middle School (Brookland) ♦	4-6	487	91%	3.51
3	Armored High School (Armored) ♦	7-12	76	84%	3.35
3	Concord High School (Concord)	7-12	73	88%	3.35
5	Ahlf Junior High School (Searcy) ♦	7-8	648	84%	3.31

Table 44: Top 3 Schools by Grade Level in Northeast Arkansas Based on Benchmark Literacy Achievement

	School (District)	# of Test Takers	% Proficient/Advanced	GPA
6th Grade				
1	Salem Elementary School (Salem)	48	94%	3.46
2	Armored Elementary School (Armored)	30	87%	3.44
3	Richland Elementary School (West Memphis) ♦	71	92%	3.43
7th Grade				
1	Valley View Junior High School (Valley View) ♦	194	92%	3.58
2	Rural Special High School (Mountain View)	14	100%	3.50
3	Bradford High School (Bradford)	28	83%	3.39
8th Grade				
1	Valley View Junior High School (Valley View) ♦	209	94%	3.46
2	Concord High School (Concord)	37	90%	3.41
3	Armored High School (Armored)	42	88%	3.33



N. Central Region, Middle School Schools, 2014

Table 45: Top 5 Overall Middle School Schools in *Central* Arkansas Based on Benchmark *Math* Achievement

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	% Proficient/Advanced	GPA
1	Greenbrier Middle School (Greenbrier) ♦	6-7	520	88%	3.42
2	Lakeside Middle School (Lakeside Garland County) ♦	5-7	733	88%	3.36
3	Cabot Middle School South (Cabot) ♦	5-6	761	87%	3.32
4	Cabot Middle School North (Cabot) ♦	5-6	849	87%	3.31
5	Benton Middle School (Benton) ♦	6-7	759	82%	3.25

Table 46: Top 3 Schools by Grade Level in *Central* Arkansas Based on Benchmark *Math* Achievement

	School (District)	# of Test Takers	% Proficient/Advanced	GPA
6th Grade				
1	Poyen Elementary School (Poyen)	40	98%	3.75
2	Lakeside Middle School (Lakeside Garland County)	250	93%	3.58
3	Academy of Service and Technology (Vilonia) ♦	52	85%	3.56
7th Grade				
1	Glen Rose Middle School (Glen Rose)	71	88%	3.38
2	Lakeside Middle School (Lakeside Garland County)	233	89%	3.36
3	Greenbrier Middle School (Greenbrier)	253	84%	3.31
8th Grade				
1	Benton Junior High School (Benton) ♦	381	81%	3.14
2	Lisa Academy (Lisa Academy)	161	76%	3.12
3	Greenbrier Junior High School (Greenbrier)	254	79%	3.10

Table 47: Top 5 Overall Middle School Schools in *Central* Arkansas Based on Benchmark *Literacy* Achievement

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	% Proficient/Advanced	GPA
1	Academy of Service and Technology (Vilonia) ♦	5-6	107	92%	3.48
2	Greenbrier Middle School (Greenbrier) ♦	6-7	520	88%	3.40
3	Cabot Middle School South (Cabot) ♦	5-6	761	88%	3.39
4	Carl Stuart Middle School (Conway)	5-7	779	85%	3.34
5	Benton Junior High School (Benton)	8-9	381	87%	3.33
5	Greenbrier Junior High School (Greenbrier) ♦	8-9	254	90%	3.33

Table 48: Top 3 Schools by Grade Level in *Central* Arkansas Based on Benchmark *Literacy* Achievement

	School (District)	# of Test Takers	% Proficient/Advanced	GPA
6th Grade				
1	Poyen Elementary School (Poyen)	40	91%	3.55
2	Academy of Service and Technology (Vilonia)	52	91%	3.51
3	Flightline Upper Academy (Jacksonville Lighthouse Charter School)	46	91%	3.41
7th Grade				
1	Greenbrier Middle School (Greenbrier)	253	92%	3.48
2	Mt. Vernon/Enola High School (Mt. Vernon-Enola)	28	90%	3.42
2	Ruth Doyle Intermediate School (Conway) ♦	179	88%	3.42
8th Grade				
1	Lisa Academy (Lisa Academy) ♦	161	89%	3.35
2	Benton Junior High School (Benton)	381	87%	3.33
2	Greenbrier Junior High School (Greenbrier) ♦	254	90%	3.33



O. Southwest Region, Middle School Schools, 2014

Table 49: Top 5 Overall Middle School Schools in *Southwest* Arkansas Based on Benchmark *Math* Achievement

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	% Proficient/Advanced	GPA
1	De Queen Middle School (DeQueen) ♦	6-7	374	82%	3.28
2	Gary E. Cobb Middle School (Genoa Central) ♦	5-8	349	84%	3.24
3	Emerson High School (Emerson-Taylor) ♦	7-12	46	85%	3.14
4	Nashville Elementary School (Nashville) ♦	4-6	428	80%	3.12
5	Mena Middle School (Mena)	6-8	380	76%	3.10

Table 50: Top 3 Schools by Grade Level in *Southwest* Arkansas Based on Benchmark *Math* Achievement

	School (District)	# of Test Takers	% Proficient/Advanced	GPA
6th Grade				
1	Gary E. Cobb Middle School (Genoa Central) ♦	74	90%	3.56
2	Mena Middle School (Mena)	125	88%	3.50
2	Taylor Elementary School (Emerson-Taylor)	20	95%	3.50
7th Grade				
1	De Queen Middle School (DeQueen)	188	85%	3.31
2	Gary E. Cobb Middle School (Genoa Central) ♦	95	84%	3.19
2	Parkers Chapel High School (Parkers Chapel)	45	84%	3.19
8th Grade				
1	Gary E. Cobb Middle School (Genoa Central)	103	86%	3.21
2	Emerson High School (Emerson-Taylor) ♦	17	82%	3.11
3	Bradley High School (Emerson-Taylor)	29	80%	3.05
3	Foreman High School (Foreman)	39	82%	3.05

Table 51: Top 5 Overall Middle School Schools in Southwest Arkansas Based on Benchmark Literacy Achievement

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	% Proficient/Advanced	GPA
1	Gary E. Cobb Middle School (Genoa Central) ♦	5-8	349	88%	3.37
2	Spring Hill High School (Spring Hill)	7-12	92	89%	3.36
3	Dierks High School (Dierks) ♦	7-12	94	86%	3.29
3	Taylor High School (Emerson-Taylor)	7-12	53	84%	3.29
5	Parkers Chapel High School (Parkers Chapel)	7-12	107	90%	3.28

Table 52: Top 3 Schools by Grade Level in Southwest Arkansas Based on Benchmark Literacy Achievement

	School (District)	# of Test Takers	% Proficient/Advanced	GPA
6th Grade				
1	Van-Cove Elementary School (Cossatot River)	34	82%	3.26
2	Kirby Elementary School (Kirby)	18	95%	3.25
2	Taylor Elementary School (Emerson-Taylor)	20	90%	3.25
7th Grade				
1	Parkers Chapel High School (Parkers Chapel)	45	91%	3.40
2	Gary E. Cobb Middle School (Genoa Central) ♦	95	90%	3.33
3	Dierks High School (Dierks)	59	85%	3.31
3	Spring Hill High School (Spring Hill)	46	87%	3.31
8th Grade				
1	Gary E. Cobb Middle School (Genoa Central) ♦	103	89%	3.44
1	Spring Hill High School (Spring Hill)	46	91%	3.41
3	Foreman High School (Foreman)	39	90%	3.38



P. Southeast Region, Middle School Schools, 2014

Table 53: Top 5 Overall Middle School Schools in *Southeast* Arkansas Based on Benchmark *Math* Achievement

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	% Proficient/Advanced	GPA
1	Des Arc High School (Des Arc)	7-12	91	82%	3.18
2	Hamburg Middle School (Hamburg)	6-8	484	74%	2.97
2	Rison High School (Cleveland County) ♦	7-12	195	73%	2.97
4	Monticello Middle School (Monticello) ♦	6-8	503	70%	2.91
5	Drew Central Middle School (Drew Central) ♦	5-8	309	65%	2.81
5	Woodlawn High School (Woodlawn)	7-12	72	74%	2.81

Table 54: Top 3 Schools by Grade Level in *Southeast* Arkansas Based on Benchmark *Math* Achievement

	School (District)	# of Test Takers	% Proficient/Advanced	GPA
6th Grade				
1	Hermitage Elementary School (Hermitage) ♦	27	89%	3.52
2	Des Arc Elementary School (Des Arc) ♦	35	89%	3.45
3	Rison High School (Cleveland County)	50	78%	3.18
7th Grade				
1	Des Arc High School (Des Arc)	47	92%	3.48
2	Hazen Elementary School (Hazen)	49	86%	3.21
3	Hamburg Middle School (Hamburg)	146	86%	3.18
8th Grade				
1	Des Arc High School (Des Arc)	44	72%	2.85
2	Warren Middle School (Warren)	129	71%	2.81
3	Rison High School (Cleveland County)	75	70%	2.80

Table 55: Top 5 Overall Middle School Schools in Southeast Arkansas Based on Benchmark Literacy Achievement

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	% Proficient/ Advanced	GPA
1	KIPP Delta College Preparatory School (KIPP Delta Public Schools) ♦	5-8	301	81%	3.14
2	Woodlawn High School (Woodlawn)	7-12	72	82%	3.13
3	Des Arc High School (Des Arc)	7-12	91	76%	3.11
4	Meekins Middle School (Stuttgart) ♦	5-6	257	71%	3.02
5	Monticello Middle School (Monticello) ♦	6-8	503	76%	2.99

Table 56: Top 3 Schools by Grade Level in Southeast Arkansas Based on Benchmark Literacy Achievement

	School (District)	# of Test Takers	% Proficient/ Advanced	GPA
6th Grade				
1	Des Arc Elementary School (Des Arc) ♦	35	89%	3.38
2	Hermitage Elementary School (Hermitage) ♦	27	74%	3.07
3	Woodlawn Elementary School (Woodlawn)	50	80%	3.06
7th Grade				
1	Hazen Elementary School (Hazen) ♦	49	88%	3.31
2	Des Arc High School (Des Arc)	47	83%	3.30
3	Woodlawn High School (Woodlawn)	43	84%	3.19
8th Grade				
1	KIPP Blytheville College Preparatory School (KIPP Delta Public Schools)	54	87%	3.31
2	KIPP Delta College Preparatory School (KIPP Delta Public Schools) ♦	71	86%	3.14
3	Barton High School (Barton-Lexa)	67	81%	3.05
3	Drew Central Middle School (Drew Central) ♦	96	76%	3.05
3	Woodlawn High School (Woodlawn)	29	80%	3.05

This concludes the **High-Achieving Middle School Schools** Outstanding Educational Performance Awards. We would like to congratulate **ALL** of the schools on our high-achieving lists. Our next installment, **High-Achieving High Schools**, takes a deeper look at high schools and highlights schools by grade levels and by regions.

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. Benchmark and End-of-Course exam scores were obtained from the testing section (<http://www.arkansased.org/divisions/learning-services/student-assessment>). 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>).

All data were analyzed at the school level; however, the ADE provides the percentage of scores at the proficient and advanced level by grade. Therefore, in order to present an accurate *school* level percentage of students scoring proficient and advanced across all grades, a weighted average for each school was calculated to account for different levels of enrollment at each grade level. In an effort to highlight schools that were strong in both subject areas, we calculated a simple average of the school level percent proficient and advanced in math *and* literacy at the elementary and middle school levels.

As previously discussed in the introduction, in order to calculate the GPA measure we treat the benchmark test scores similar to the existing grade point system.

Category	GPA Points Awarded
Advanced	4.0
Proficient	3.0
Basic	2.0
Below Basic	1.0

We calculated the GPA measure for every schools math, literacy, and combined math and literacy scores. The GPA measure is comprehensive in that it takes into account all of the test score levels (advanced, proficient, basic, and below basic), instead of lumping together advanced and proficient scores.

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, 8, or 9)

There were also 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 their classifications.

Table A: School Classifications

Elementary Schools		Middle Schools
1-4		4-6
1-5		4-8
1-6		5-6
1-8		5-7
2-3		5-8
2-4		5-9
2-5		5-12
2-6		6
3-4		6-12
3-5		6-7
3-6		6-8
4-5		7-12
5		7-8
K-3		7-9
K-4		8
K-5		8-9
K-6		K-12
K-7		8-12
K-8		
P-2		
P-3		
P-4		
P-5		
P-6		
P-7		
P-8		