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## Outstanding Educational Performance Awards: Highlighting High Achieving Arkansas Schools, 2016

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

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

**March 1, 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.

<b>ACT Aspire Performance Category</b>	<b>GPA Points Awarded</b>
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**

### **III. 2015 OEP AWARDS: HIGH ACHIEVING JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOLS IN ARKANSAS BASED ON PERFORMANCE ON THE ACT ASPIRE EXAMS**

This section highlights high-achieving junior high schools across Arkansas based on the ACT Aspire Math, ELA (which includes Reading, Writing and English exams) and Science examinations of the 2015-16 academic year.

This section is divided into subsections based on the three exams. Schools are ranked using the GPA performance measure (explained in the Introduction) in each subject. In the subsections, the tables present the high-achieving schools for the noted category and subject using the GPA performance measure. These tables include the region in which the school is located, the number of test takers, the percent of students that met the readiness benchmark, and the GPA of the school in that particular subject.

## I. Junior High School Overall ACT Aspire Scores, 2016

Table 49: Top 20 **Junior High Schools** in Arkansas based on **Overall ACT Aspire Achievement** (Math, ELA and Science combined)

	School (District)	Region	Grades Served	% Met/ Exceeded Expectations	GPA
1	J. William Fulbright Jr. High (Bentonville)	NW	7-8	69%	2.98
2	Valley View Jr. High (Valley View)	NE	7-9	69%	2.95
3	Woodland Jr. High (Fayetteville)	NW	7-8	67%	2.90
4	Ahlf Jr. High (Searcy)	NE	7-8	65%	2.86
5	L. A. Chaffin Jr. High (Fort Smith)	NW	7-9	64%	2.84
6	Lincoln Jr. High (Bentonville)	NW	7-8	62%	2.79
7	Greenwood Jr. High (Greenwood)	NW	8-9	61%	2.78
8	Greenbrier Jr. High (Greenbrier)	CN	8-9	59%	2.73
9	Washington Jr. High (Bentonville)	NW	7-8	59%	2.70
10	Harrison Jr. High (Harrison)	NW	7-9	55%	2.64
11	Benton Jr. High (Benton)	CN	8-9	55%	2.62
12	Clinton Jr. High (Clinton)	NW	7-9	56%	2.59
12	Ramay Jr. High (Fayetteville)	NW	7-8	54%	2.59
14	Pottsville Jr. High (Pottsville)	NW	7-9	53%	2.56
14	Central Jr. High (Springdale)	NW	8-9	53%	2.56
16	Buffalo Is. Central Jr. High (Buffalo Is. Central)	NE	7-9	53%	2.54
17	Vilonia Middle (Vilonia)	CN	7-8	52%	2.51
18	Cabot Jr. High North (Cabot)	CN	7-8	50%	2.50
18	Pocahontas Jr. High (Pocahontas)	NE	7-9	52%	2.50
20	Cabot Jr. High South (Cabot)	CN	7-8	50%	2.47
20	Brookland Jr. High (Brookland)	NE	7-9	51%	2.47

Tables 50-54: Top 5 junior high schools in the Arkansas by Regions, **Overall** Achievement



Table 50: Top 5 junior high schools in the **Northwest** Region based on **Overall** ACT Aspire performance (Math, ELA and Science combined)

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	% Met Readiness Benchmark	GPA
1	J. William Fulbright Jr. High (Bentonville)	7-8	2,531	69%	2.98
2	Woodland Jr. High (Fayetteville)	7-8	2,223	67%	2.90
2	L. A. Chaffin Jr. High (Fort Smith)	7-9	2,436	64%	2.84
4	Lincoln Jr. High (Bentonville)	7-8	2,567	62%	2.79
5	Greenwood Jr. High (Greenwood)	8-9	1,763	61%	2.78



Table 51: Top 5 junior high schools in the **Northeast** Region based on **Overall** ACT Aspire performance (Math, ELA and Science combined)

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	% Met Readiness Benchmark	GPA
1	Valley View Jr. High (Valley View)	7-9	1,845	69%	2.95
2	Ahlf Jr. High (Searcy)	7-8	1,760	65%	2.86
3	Buffalo Is. Central Jr. High (Buffalo Is. Central)	7-9	507	53%	2.54
4	Pocahontas Jr. High (Pocahontas)	7-9	1,349	52%	2.50
5	Brookland Jr. High (Brookland)	7-9	1,511	51%	2.47





Table 52: Top 5 junior high schools in the **Central** Region based on **Overall ACT Aspire** performance (Math, ELA and Science combined)

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	% Met Readiness Benchmark	GPA
1	Greenbrier Jr. High (Greenbrier)	8-9	1,631	59%	2.73
2	Benton Jr. High (Benton)	8-9	2,294	55%	2.62
3	Vilonia Middle (Vilonia)	7-8	1,395	52%	2.51
4	Cabot Jr. High North (Cabot)	7-8	2,456	50%	2.50
5	Cabot Jr. High South (Cabot)	7-8	2,310	50%	2.47



Table 53: Top 5 junior high schools in the **Southwest** Region based on **Overall ACT Aspire** performance (Math, ELA and Science combined)

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	% Met Readiness Benchmark	GPA
1	DeQueen Jr. High (DeQueen)	8-9	1,154	47%	2.41
2	Nashville Jr. High (Nashville)	7-9	1,281	41%	2.26
3	Barton Jr. High (El Dorado)	7-8	1,911	38%	2.19
4	Magnolia Jr. High (Magnolia)	7-9	1,866	34%	2.05
5	North Heights Jr. High (Texarkana)	7-8	1,689	32%	2.04

\* Note that these are the Top 5 junior high schools out of the six schools that fall in this region in this category



Table 54: Top 5 junior high schools in the **Southeast** Region based on **Overall ACT Aspire** performance (Math, ELA and Science combined)

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	% Met Readiness Benchmark	GPA
1	Stuttgart Jr. High (Stuttgart)	7-8	1,325	38%	2.20
2	Dumas Jr. High (Dumas)	7-9	1,594	26%	1.95

\* These are the only two schools in this region in this category

## J. Junior High School Math ACT Aspire Scores, 2016

Table 55: Top 10 *Junior High Schools* in Arkansas based on ACT Aspire *Math* Achievement

	School (District)	Region	Grades Served	% Met/ Exceed Expectations	GPA
1	Ahlf Jr. High (Searcy)	NE	7-8	65%	2.88
2	Woodland Jr. High (Fayetteville)	NW	7-8	63%	2.84
3	J. William Fulbright Jr. High (Bentonville)	NW	7-8	63%	2.83
4	Valley View Jr. High (Valley View)	NE	7-9	62%	2.81
5	L. A. Chaffin Jr. High (Fort Smith)	NW	7-9	59%	2.73
6	Lincoln Jr. High (Bentonville)	NW	7-8	57%	2.68
7	Beebe Jr. High (Beebe)	NE	7-8	56%	2.66
8	Washington Jr. High (Bentonville)	NW	7-8	55%	2.64
8	Benton Jr. High (Benton)	CN	8-9	53%	2.64
10	Greenwood Jr. High (Greenwood)	NW	8-9	56%	2.63

Tables 56-60: Top 5 junior high schools in the Arkansas by Regions, **Math** Achievement



Table 56: Top 5 junior high schools in the Northwest Region based on **Math** ACT Aspire performance

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	% Met Readiness Benchmark	GPA
1	Woodland Jr. High (Fayetteville)	7-8	742	63%	2.84
2	J. William Fulbright Jr. High (Bentonville)	7-8	844	63%	2.83
3	L. A. Chaffin Jr. High (Fort Smith)	7-9	812	59%	2.73
4	Lincoln Jr. High (Bentonville)	7-8	859	57%	2.68
5	Washington Jr. High (Bentonville)	7-8	725	55%	2.64



Table 57: Top 5 junior high schools in the Northeast Region based on **Math** ACT Aspire performance

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	% Met Readiness Benchmark	GPA
1	Ahlf Jr. High (Searcy)	7-8	587	65%	2.88
2	Valley View Jr. High (Valley View)	7-9	615	62%	2.81
3	Beebe Jr. High (Beebe)	7-8	468	56%	2.66
4	Pocahontas Jr. High (Pocahontas)	7-9	450	51%	2.51
5	Brookland Jr. High (Brookland)	7-9	504	50%	2.43



Table 58: Top 5 junior high schools in the **Central** Region based on **Math ACT Aspire** performance

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	% Met Readiness Benchmark	GPA
1	Benton Jr. High (Benton)	8-9	765	53%	2.64
2	Greenbrier Jr. High (Greenbrier)	8-9	544	53%	2.58
3	Cabot Jr. High North (Cabot)	7-8	819	48%	2.51
4	Vilonia Middle (Vilonia)	7-8	465	51%	2.50
5	Cabot Jr. High South (Cabot)	7-8	770	48%	2.45



Table 59: Top 5 junior high schools in the **Southwest** Region based on **Math ACT Aspire** performance

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	% Met Readiness Benchmark	GPA
1	DeQueen Jr. High (DeQueen)	8-9	385	46%	2.40
2	Nashville Jr. High (Nashville)	7-9	427	43%	2.31
3	Barton Jr. High (El Dorado)	7-8	639	33%	2.11
4	North Heights Jr. High (Texarkana)	7-8	563	27%	2.00
5	Magnolia Jr. High (Magnolia)	7-9	622	26%	1.91

\* Note that these are the Top 5 junior high schools out of the six schools that fall in this region in this category



Table 60: Top 5 junior high schools in the **Southeast** Region based on **Math ACT Aspire** performance

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	% Met Readiness Benchmark	GPA
1	Stuttgart Jr. High (Stuttgart)	7-8	265	42%	2.26
2	Dumas Jr. High (Dumas)	7-9	319	19%	1.74

\* These are the only two schools in this region in this category

## K. Junior High School ELA ACT Aspire Scores, 2016

Table 61: Top 10 *Junior High Schools* in Arkansas based on ACT Aspire *ELA* Achievement

	School (District)	Region	Grades Served	% Met/ Exceed Expectations	GPA
1	Valley View Jr. High (Valley View)	NE	7-9	80%	3.27
2	J. William Fulbright Jr. High (Bentonville)	NW	7-8	76%	3.19
3	Greenwood Jr. High (Greenwood)	NW	8-9	74%	3.17
4	L. A. Chaffin Jr. High (Fort Smith)	NW	7-9	73%	3.09
5	Ahlf Jr. High (Searcy)	NE	7-8	73%	3.08
5	Greenbrier Jr. High (Greenbrier)	CN	8-9	72%	3.08
7	Woodland Jr. High (Fayetteville)	NW	7-8	72%	3.03
8	Lincoln Jr. High (Bentonville)	NW	7-8	70%	2.97
9	Benton Jr. High (Benton)	CN	8-9	67%	2.92
10	Harrison Jr. High (Harrison)	NW	7-9	66%	2.91

Tables 62-66: Top 5 Junior High Schools in Arkansas by Regions, ELA Achievement



Table 62: Top 5 junior high schools in the Northwest Region based on ELA ACT Aspire performance

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	% Met Readiness Benchmark	GPA
1	J. William Fulbright Jr. High (Bentonville)	7-8	843	76%	3.19
2	Greenwood Jr. High (Greenwood)	8-9	587	74%	3.17
3	L. A. Chaffin Jr. High (Fort Smith)	7-9	811	73%	3.09
4	Woodland Jr. High (Fayetteville)	7-8	738	72%	3.03
5	Lincoln Jr. High (Bentonville)	7-8	854	70%	2.97



Table 63: Top 5 junior high schools in the Northeast Region based on ELA ACT Aspire performance

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	% Met Readiness Benchmark	GPA
1	Valley View Jr. High (Valley View)	7-9	615	80%	3.27
2	Ahlf Jr. High (Searcy)	7-8	586	73%	3.08
3	Buffalo Is. Central Jr. High (Buffalo Is. Central)	7-9	169	63%	2.81
4	Pocahontas Jr. High (Pocahontas)	7-9	449	60%	2.70
5	Brookland Jr. High (Brookland)	7-9	503	57%	2.64



Table 64: Top 5 junior high schools in the **Central** Region based on **ELA ACT Aspire** performance

	<b>School (District)</b>	<b>Grades Served</b>	<b># of Test Takers</b>	<b>% Met Readiness Benchmark</b>	<b>GPA</b>
<b>1</b>	Greenbrier Jr. High (Greenbrier)	8-9	543	72%	3.08
<b>2</b>	Benton Jr. High (Benton)	8-9	764	67%	2.92
<b>3</b>	Vilonia Freshman Academy (Vilonia)	9	265	64%	2.84
<b>4</b>	Cabot Freshman Academy (Cabot)	9	788	60%	2.78
<b>5</b>	Vilonia Middle (Vilonia)	7-8	465	59%	2.72
<b>5</b>	Ozark Jr. High (Ozark)	8-9	294	58%	2.72



Table 65: Top 5 junior high schools in the **Southwest** Region based on **ELA ACT Aspire** performance

	<b>School (District)</b>	<b>Grades Served</b>	<b># of Test Takers</b>	<b>% Met Readiness Benchmark</b>	<b>GPA</b>
<b>1</b>	DeQueen Jr. High (DeQueen)	8-9	384	57%	2.62
<b>2</b>	Nashville Jr. High (Nashville)	7-9	427	49%	2.47
<b>3</b>	Barton Jr. High (El Dorado)	7-8	634	48%	2.44
<b>4</b>	Magnolia Jr. High (Magnolia)	7-9	622	45%	2.34
<b>5</b>	North Heights Jr. High (Texarkana)	7-8	563	42%	2.25

\* Note that these are the Top 5 junior high schools out of the six schools that fall in this region in this category



Table 66: Top 5 junior high schools in the **Southeast** Region based on **ELA ACT Aspire** performance

	<b>School (District)</b>	<b>Grades Served</b>	<b># of Test Takers</b>	<b>% Met Readiness Benchmark</b>	<b>GPA</b>
<b>1</b>	Stuttgart Jr. High (Stuttgart)	7-8	265	40%	2.23
<b>2</b>	Dumas Jr. High (Dumas)	7-9	319	36%	2.10

\* These are the only two schools in this region in this category

## L. Junior High School Science ACT Aspire Scores, 2016

Table 67: Top 10 *Junior High Schools* in Arkansas based on ACT Aspire *Science* Achievement

	School (District)	Region	Grades Served	% Met/ Exceed Expectations	GPA
1	J. William Fulbright Jr. High (Bentonville)	NW	7-8	68%	2.92
2	Woodland Jr. High (Fayetteville)	NW	7-8	65%	2.82
3	Valley View Jr. High (Valley View)	NE	7-9	64%	2.76
4	Lincoln Jr. High (Bentonville)	NW	7-8	60%	2.71
5	L. A. Chaffin Jr. High (Fort Smith)	NW	7-9	60%	2.70
6	Washington Jr. High (Bentonville)	NW	7-8	59%	2.64
7	Ramay Jr. High (Fayetteville)	NW	7-8	57%	2.63
8	Ahlf Jr. High (Searcy)	NE	7-8	57%	2.61
9	Greenwood Jr. High (Greenwood)	NW	8-9	54%	2.56
10	Greenbrier Jr. High (Greenbrier)	CN	8-9	52%	2.54



Tables 68-72: Top 5 Junior High Schools in Arkansas by Regions, Science Achievement



Table 68: Top 5 junior high schools in the Northwest Region based on Science ACT Aspire performance

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	% Met Readiness Benchmark	GPA
1	J. William Fulbright Jr. High (Bentonville)	7-8	844	68%	2.92
2	Woodland Jr. High (Fayetteville)	7-8	743	65%	2.82
3	Lincoln Jr. High (Bentonville)	7-8	854	60%	2.71
4	L. A. Chaffin Jr. High (Fort Smith)	7-9	813	60%	2.70
5	Washington Jr. High (Bentonville)	7-8	725	59%	2.64



Table 69: Top 5 junior high schools in the Northeast Region based on Science ACT Aspire performance

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	% Met Readiness Benchmark	GPA
1	Valley View Jr. High (Valley View)	7-9	615	64%	2.76
2	Ahlf Jr. High (Searcy)	7-8	587	57%	2.61
3	Buffalo Is. Central Jr. High (Buffalo Is. Central)	7-9	169	48%	2.41
4	Brookland Jr. High (Brookland)	7-9	504	47%	2.34
5	Pocahontas Jr. High (Pocahontas)	7-9	450	44%	2.28



Table 70: Top 5 junior high schools in the **Central** Region based on **Science ACT Aspire** performance

	<b>School (District)</b>	<b>Grades Served</b>	<b># of Test Takers</b>	<b>% Met Readiness Benchmark</b>	<b>GPA</b>
<b>1</b>	Greenbrier Jr. High (Greenbrier)	8-9	544	52%	2.54
<b>2</b>	Vilonia Middle (Vilonia)	7-8	465	47%	2.31
<b>2</b>	Cabot Jr. High South (Cabot)	7-8	770	46%	2.31
<b>2</b>	Cabot Jr. High North (Cabot)	7-8	819	45%	2.31
<b>2</b>	Benton Jr. High (Benton)	8-9	765	44%	2.31



Table 71: Top 5 junior high schools in the **Southwest** Region based on **Science ACT Aspire** performance

	<b>School (District)</b>	<b>Grades Served</b>	<b># of Test Takers</b>	<b>% Met Readiness Benchmark</b>	<b>GPA</b>
<b>1</b>	DeQueen Jr. High (DeQueen)	8-9	385	39%	2.23
<b>2</b>	Nashville Jr. High (Nashville)	7-9	427	31%	2.02
<b>3</b>	Barton Jr. High (El Dorado)	7-8	638	34%	2.00
<b>4</b>	Magnolia Jr. High (Magnolia)	7-9	622	30%	1.89
<b>5</b>	North Heights Jr. High (Texarkana)	7-8	563	27%	1.86

\* Note that these are the Top 5 junior high schools out of the six schools that fall in this region in this category



Table 72: Top 5 junior high schools in the **Southeast** Region based on **Science ACT Aspire** performance

	<b>School (District)</b>	<b>Grades Served</b>	<b># of Test Takers</b>	<b>% Met Readiness Benchmark</b>	<b>GPA</b>
<b>1</b>	Stuttgart Jr. High (Stuttgart)	7-8	265	33%	1.97
<b>2</b>	Dumas Jr. High (Dumas)	7-9	319	16%	1.56

\* These are the only two schools in this region in this category

## 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>).

All data were analyzed at the grade / course level.

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

<b>Category</b>	<b>GPA Points Awarded</b>
<b>Exceeded Expectations</b>	4.0
<b>Ready</b>	3.0
<b>Close to Meeting Expectations</b>	2.0
<b>In Need of Support</b>	1.0

We calculated the GPA measure for every Math, ELA and Science score. 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 lumping together 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 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		
5		
K-3		
K-4		
K-5		
K-6		
K-7		
K-8		
K-9		
K-12		
P-2		
P-3		
P-4		
P-5		
P-6		
P-7		
P-8		

**B. School Classification – High School Awards**

For the OEP High School Awards, we primarily classified schools based on the following rules:

- Junior High: primarily grades 7 – 9 (maximum grade of 9)
- High School: primarily grades 9 – 12

*Table B: School Classifications*

<b>Junior High</b>		<b>High School</b>
7-8		7-12
7-9		8-12
8-9		9-12
8		10-12
9		11-12
		9-10