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2009 Report Card on Arkansas Public Schools

Gary Ritter

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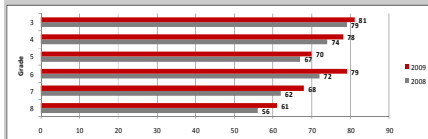
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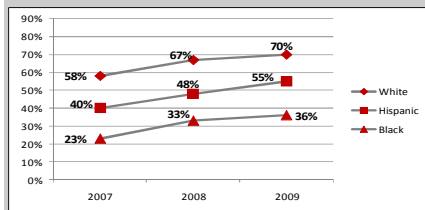
2009 Report Card on Arkansas Public Schools

Sections of this report:

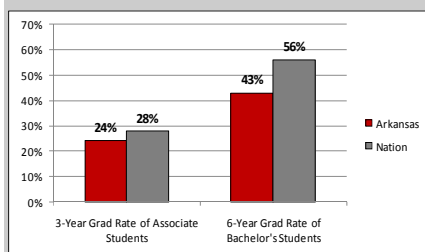
1. Performance on Standardized Assessments



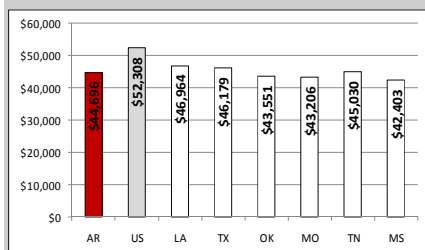
2. Achievement Gaps



3. Secondary and Beyond



4. School Characteristics



As part of our effort to monitor K-12 education in Arkansas and provide useful information to all those across the state interested in our schools, the OEP is happy to publish our 2009 Report Card on Arkansas Public Schools. The report card provides information on the performance of our students on standardized assessments, the achievement gaps between our students, how our students fare when they leave secondary school, and school and student characteristics.

Here are a few highlights from the report:

- More Arkansas students are scoring at proficient and above on the state assessments—both the Benchmark and end-of-course exams—each year.
- The bad news from NAEP: Arkansas continues to trail the national average on most tests. In addition, the racial and poverty achievement gaps between Arkansas' students are widening. However there is good news, especially when we look at group-level data. In grade 4 math, we see that our Hispanic students outscore their peers across the country. Moreover, both Arkansas' poverty students and non-poverty students perform better than their U.S. peers on the same exam.
- More Arkansas students are taking advanced placement courses. With the increase in the number of test-takers, however, the passage rate on these difficult exams has declined.
- Arkansas students continue to score just below the national average on the ACT.
- Arkansas' high school graduation rates are higher than those of the nation and surrounding states. However, our students graduate college at a lower rate than the national average.

Thank you for reading and 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) and the National Assessment for Educational Progress (NAEP).

The ACTAAP, also referred to as the Benchmark, is the Arkansas-developed assessment administered to students in grades 3 through 8 each year. This test is used to compare student performance to state learning expectations.

Table 1.1: AR Benchmark: Percent Proficient and Advanced in Math

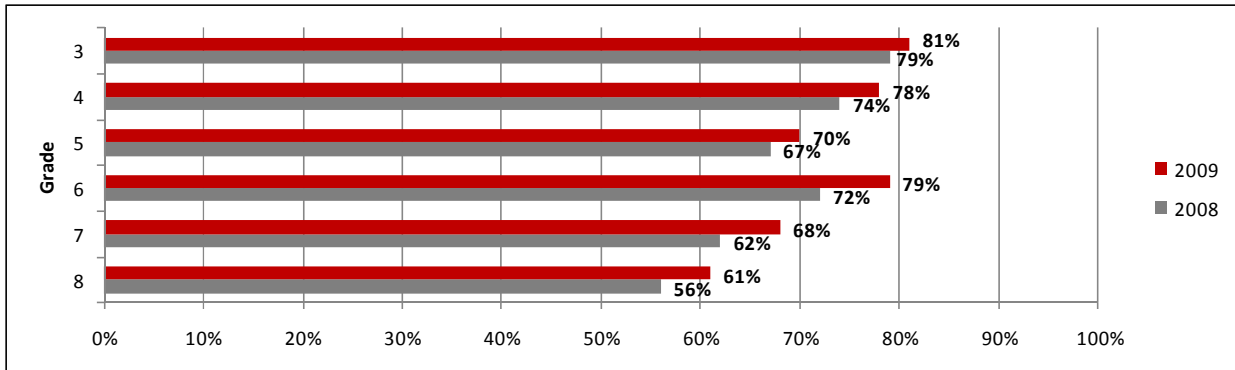


Table 1.2: AR Benchmark: Percent Proficient and Advanced in Literacy

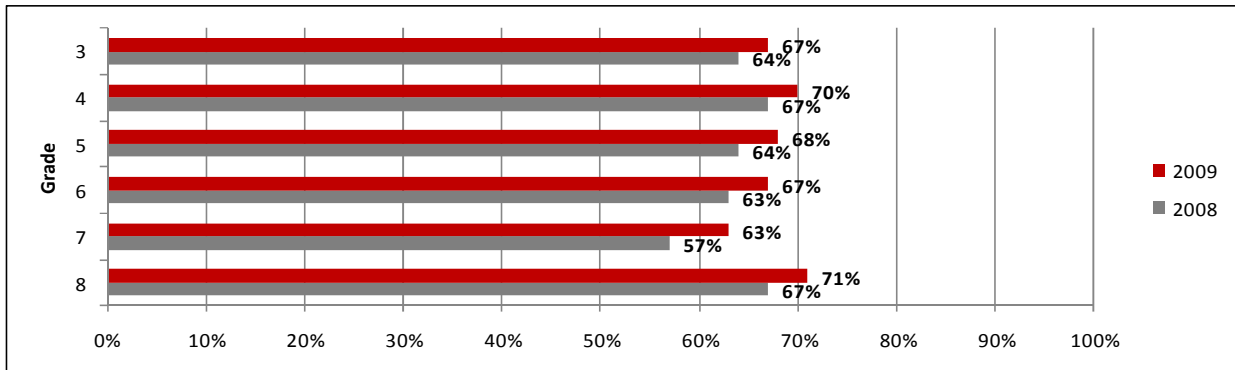


Table 1.3: AR Benchmark: Grades 4 and 8 Percent Proficient and Advanced

Year	Grade 4		Grade 8	
	Math	Literacy	Math	Literacy
2006	60%	61%	44%	66%
2007	65%	59%	48%	63%
2008	74%	67%	56%	67%
2009	78%	70%	61%	71%

Table 1.4: NAEP: Grade 4 Math

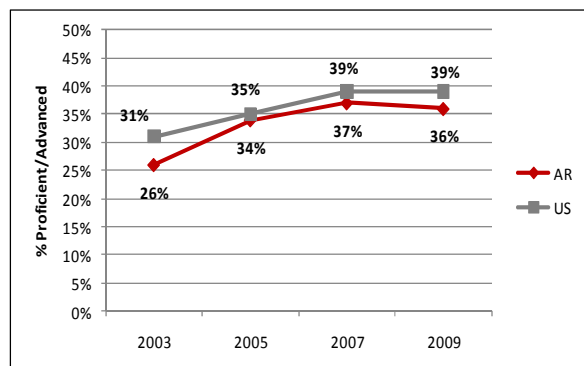


Table 1.5: NAEP: Grade 8 Math

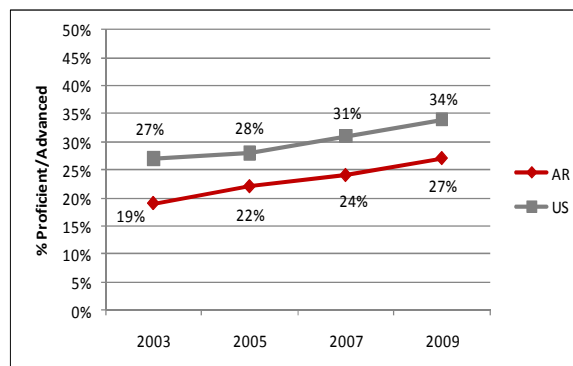


Table 1.6: NAEP: Grade 4 Reading

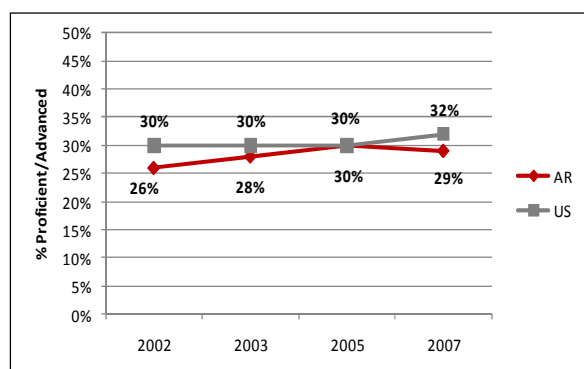


Table 1.7: NAEP: Grade 8 Reading

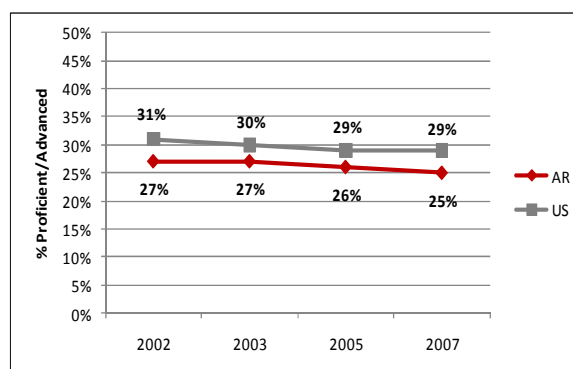


Table 1.8: NAEP: Science

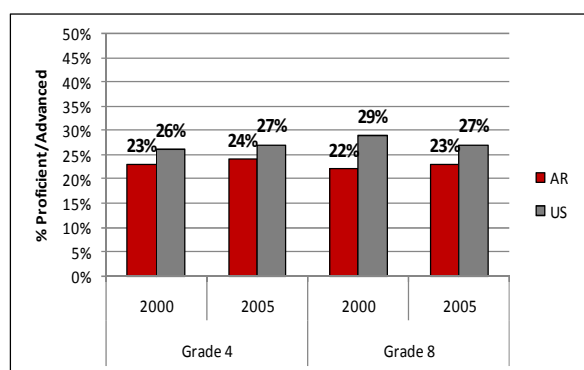
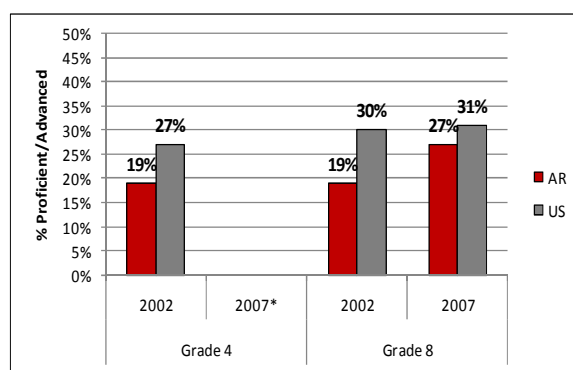


Table 1.9: NAEP: Writing



*Data not available.

NAEP, also known as “the Nation’s Report Card,” is the only nationally representative and regular assessment of what America’s students know and can do in various subject areas. Because students in grades 4 and 8 in all states are tested, NAEP allows for inter-state comparison. For this report, we have highlighted the most recent scores in math, reading, science, and writing.

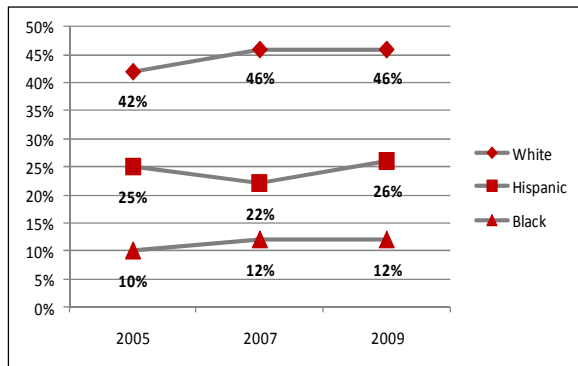
1. Performance on Standardized Assessments

2. Achievement Gaps



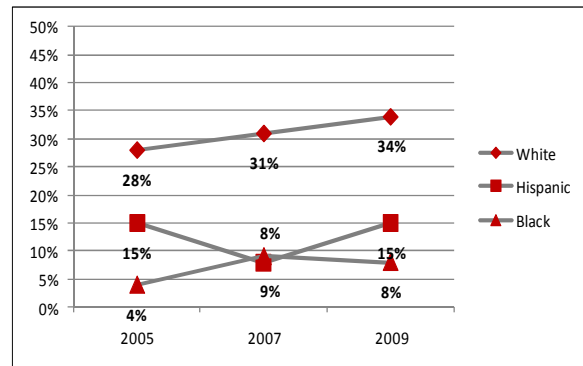
A key area of concern is the achievement gap between majority and minority students. Here, we compare performance on the National Assessment for Educational Progress (NAEP) for White, Black, and Hispanic students to examine the racial achievement gap. To provide some context, we also include the NAEP results for Arkansas' surrounding states (Louisiana, Texas, Oklahoma, Missouri, Tennessee, and Mississippi) and the national average, as well as Arkansas' results over time. **We focus on math scores here because NAEP has only released 2009 results in math.**

Table 2.1: NAEP: % Proficient/Advanced in Grade 4 Math



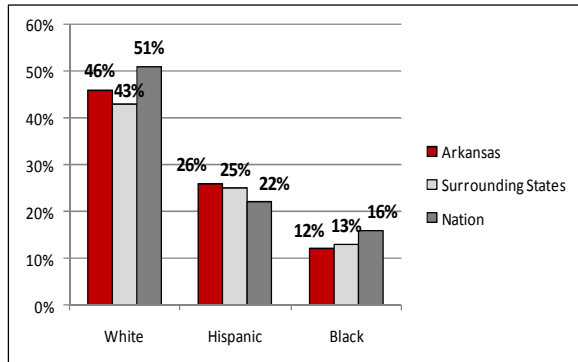
AR Gap	2005	2007	2009
White/Hispanic	17 pts	24 pts	20 pts
White/Black	32 pts	34 pts	34 pts

Table 2.2: NAEP: % Proficient/Advanced in Grade 8 Math



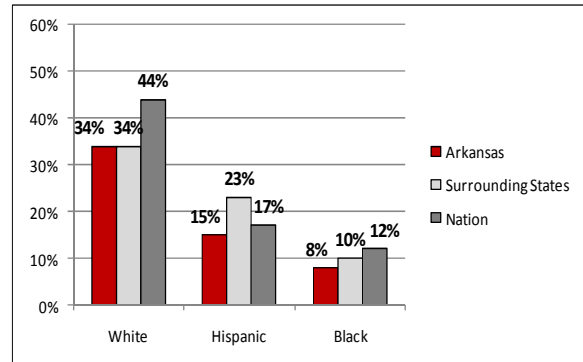
Gap	2005	2007	2009
White/Hispanic	13 pts	23 pts	19 pts
White/Black	24 pts	22 pts	26 pts

Table 2.3: NAEP: % Proficient/Advanced in Grade 4 Math, 2009



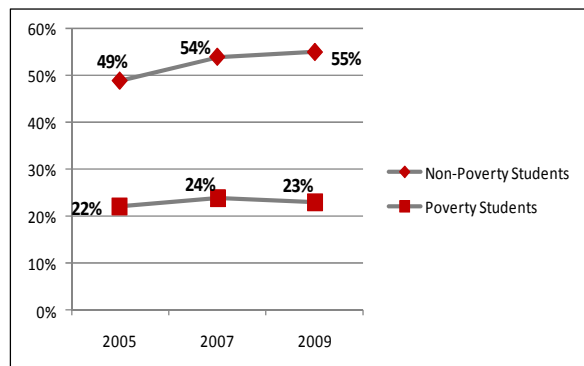
2009 Gap	AR	S.S.	Nation
White/Hispanic	20 pts	18 pts	29 pts
White/Black	34 pts	30 pts	35 pts

Table 2.4: NAEP: % Proficient/Advanced in Grade 8 Math, 2009



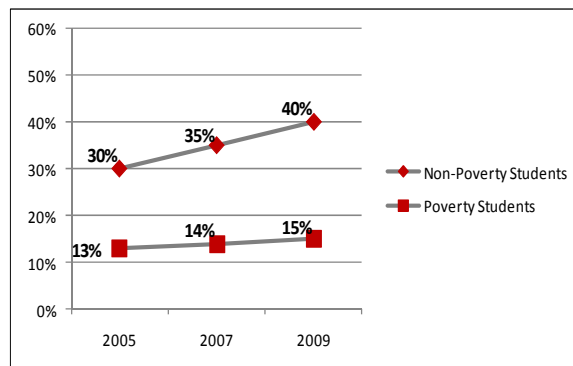
2009 Gap	AR	S.S.	Nation
White/Hispanic	19 pts	11 pts	27 pts
White/Black	26 pts	24 pts	32 pts

Table 2.5: NAEP: % Proficient/Advanced in Grade 4 Math



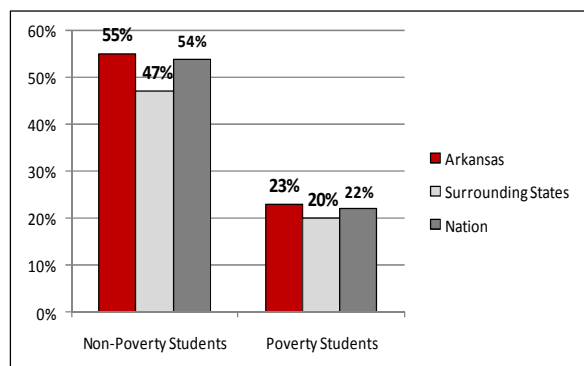
AR Gap	2005	2007	2009
Non-Poverty/Poverty	27 pts	30 pts	32 pts

Table 2.6: NAEP: % Proficient/Advanced in Grade 8 Math



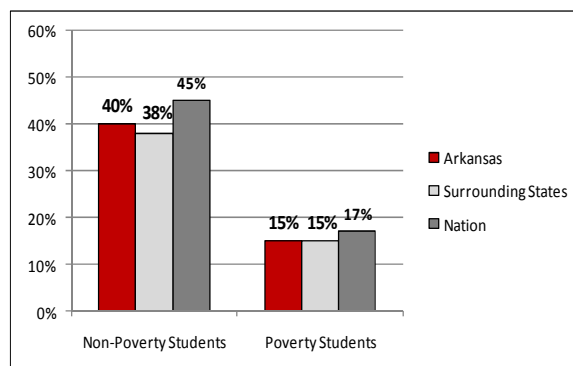
AR Gap	2005	2007	2009
Non-Poverty/Poverty	17 pts	21 pts	25 pts

Table 2.7: NAEP: % Proficient/Advanced in Grade 4 Math, 2009



2009 Gap	AR	S.S.	Nation
Non-Poverty/Poverty	32 pts	27 pts	32 pts

Table 2.8: NAEP: % Proficient/Advanced in Grade 8 Math, 2009



2009 Gap	AR	S.S.	Nation
Non-Poverty/Poverty	25 pts	23 pts	28 pts

We also compare NAEP performance for students eligible for free and reduced lunch (FRL) to those students not eligible for FRL to highlight the poverty achievement gap. “Poverty students” are those eligible for the free and reduced lunch program. “Non-poverty students” are students not eligible for the program.

Based on the NAEP math 2009 results, the racial gap and the poverty gap are widening. The percent of students scoring proficient and advanced is increasing for white students, while it is remaining fairly stable for black and Hispanic students. The same is true for the poverty achievement gap—Non-poverty students gained six to ten percentage points between 2005 and 2009, while poverty students gained only two percentage points.

2. Achievement Gaps

3. Secondary and Beyond



In preparation for graduation and postsecondary education, Arkansas students take End-of-Course (EOC) examinations, Advanced Placement (AP) exams, and/or the ACT. The following section highlights the most recent scores from such examinations in Arkansas, comparing scores with the U.S. population where appropriate. In addition, graduation rates and educational attainment levels are also presented.

Table 3.1: ACT in State and National, 2009

	Arkansas	Similar States*	National
% Grads Tested Composite	73%	71%	45%
English	20.6	21.5	21.1
Math	20.1	21.1	20.6
Reading	21.0	21.2	21.0
Science	21.0	22.10	21.4
	20.2	21.4	20.9

*Includes states whose participation rate was between 65 and 80%. (AL, KS, MN, MO, NE, NM, ND, OK, SD, UT, WI)

Table 3.2: Advanced Placement

	AR 2004	AR 2009	US 2009
Total Exams Taken	4,575	31,232	2,860,912
% Exams 3 or Higher	40%	30%	58%
Mean AP Score	2.36	2.03	2.88

Table 3.3: EOC: % Proficient or Advanced

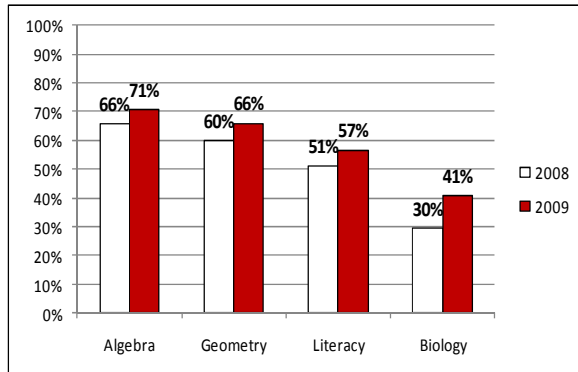
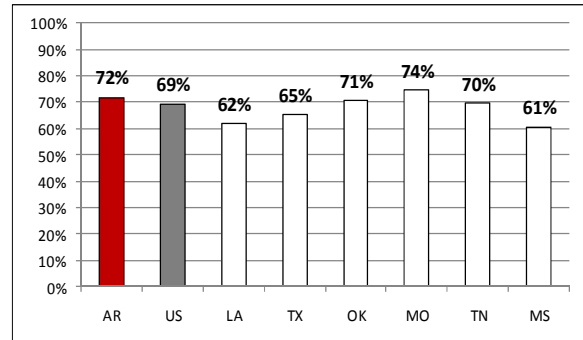


Table 3.4: High School Graduation Rates in AR, US, and Surrounding States, 2006



Cumulative Promotion Index method: estimates the percent of 9th graders who complete high school on time with a regular diploma

Table 3.5: College Graduation Rates, 2007

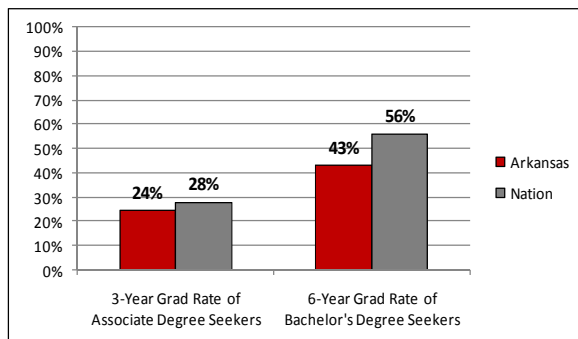
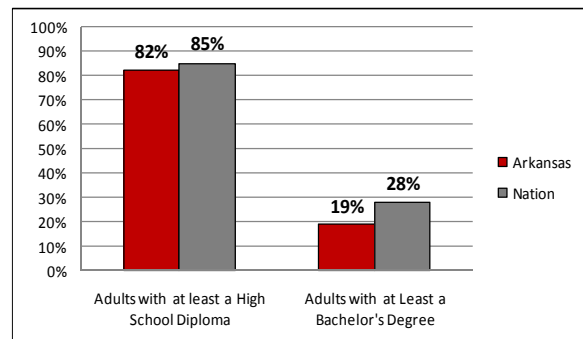


Table 3.6: Adult Education Levels, 2008



4. School Characteristics

This section concludes with background information about students, teachers, and schools, including student demographics, teacher salary information, and an Adequate Yearly Progress summary.



Table 4.1: % of AR Enrollment by Race

	2002	2009
Asian	1%	2%
Black	23%	22%
Hispanic	4%	8%
Native	1%	1%
White	71%	67%
Total	448,246	465,801

Table 4.2: Average Teacher Salary, 2008

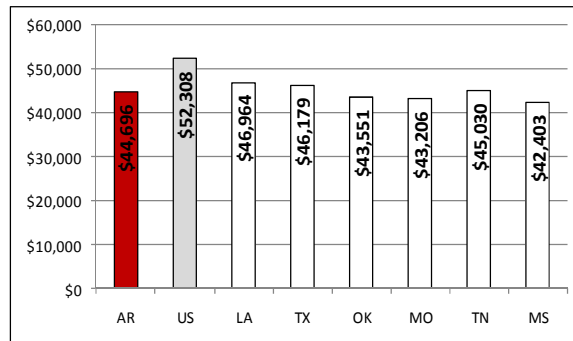


Table 4.3: Average AR Teacher Salary

	\$
1999-2000	\$33,386
2001-2002	\$36,026
2003-2004	\$39,266
2005-2006	\$42,625
2007-2008	\$44,696

Table 4.4: Average Arkansas Teacher Salary Schedule Based on Degree, 2009

	Bachelor's Degree			Master's Degree		
	BA: 0 years	BA: 15 years	Top of Bachelor	MA: 0 years	MA: 15 years	Top of Schedule
State Required Minimum	\$29,244	\$35,944	\$35,944	\$33,630	\$41,130	\$41,130
State Average	\$31,631	\$39,455	\$43,538	\$35,419	\$43,759	\$48,708
Maximum	\$42,230	\$53,530	\$63,633	\$44,981	\$56,253	\$70,257

Table 4.5: Adequate Yearly Progress, 2009

Label	Description	# of Schools
Achieving	<i>Meets Standards for this year</i>	498
Alert	<i>First year not to meet standards</i>	176
Targeted Improvement	<i>Does not meet AYP in math and/or literacy for a group of students, but does for the combined population for one to three years</i>	140
Whole School Improvement	<i>Does not meet AYP in math and/or literacy for the combined population for one to three years</i>	113
Targeted Intensive Improvement	<i>Does not meet AYP in math and/or literacy for a group of students, but does for the combined population for four or more years</i>	32
Whole School Intensive Improvement	<i>Does not meet AYP in math and/or literacy for the combined population for four or more years</i>	64
State Directed Schools	<i>Does not meet AYP in math and/or literacy after year five (targeted or whole school)</i>	58

For more information about AYP, visit the Arkansas Department of Education news release: http://arkansased.org/about/pdf/releases/ayp_release_100909.pdf

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The Director's Note

Thank you for reading the *2009 Report Card on Arkansas Public Schools*. There is much good news to report, such as the greater number of Arkansas students reaching proficiency on state assessments and taking Advanced Placement courses. However, there are certainly areas for improvement, particularly the achievement gaps facing our minority and poverty students. We are proud of the progress our students, educators, and policymakers have made in 2009. We also know we must continue to work hard in making sure all students in Arkansas have adequate opportunities to succeed.

A document that provides the source for each table can be found at http://www.uark.edu/ua/oeplib/report_cards/2009_ReportCard_Sources.pdf. If you have any questions about this report, please contact us.

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

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