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Outstanding Educational Performance Awards: Highlighting High-Achieving Arkansas Schools, 2015

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ARKANSAS EDUCATION REPORT
Volume 12, Issue 1

**OUTSTANDING EDUCATIONAL PERFORMANCE AWARDS:
HIGHLIGHTING HIGH ACHIEVING ARKANSAS SCHOOLS,
2015**

**MOST IMPROVED SCHOOLS:
BENCHMARK AND END-OF-COURSE EXAM
GROWTH 2010 TO 2015**

October 21, 2015

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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 Outstanding Educational Performance Awards, or the OEP awards.

In the 2014-15 academic year, Arkansas students have undergone a change in their assessment of student performance to better operate in collaboration with the Common Core Standards. The Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) replaced the Arkansas Comprehensive Testing, Assessment, and Accountability Program (ACTAAP) for literacy and math exams for most students in the state. Although results from the PARCC exams have not yet been released, results are available for science exams in grades 5 and 7 and the End-of-Course Biology exam.

This fall, **OEP Awards** begin by highlighting high-performing schools in Arkansas on the Benchmark Science and End-of-Course (EOC) Biology exams.

In 2012, 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 state exams, policymakers focus on this figure. The proficiency indicator, however, 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 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. The GPA measure, we believe, is a better representation of student achievement on statewide standardized exams.

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

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.

Science exams were only administered in grades 5, 7, and to students completing Biology. There are very different performance patterns by grade: Fifth graders are more likely to be proficient in science than seventh graders and students in Biology. In light of these varied performance trends, we are presenting science reports separately for each level. After we present our high-performing schools, we will release subsequent reports focusing on different subsets of schools. In the following weeks, 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) and the schools with the greatest improvement in test scores. We will release similar reports when math and literacy scores become available. Our release schedule is:

- **High Achieving Schools based on performance on the 5th Grade Benchmark Science Overall and by Region**
- **High Achieving Schools based on performance on the 7th Grade Benchmark Science Overall and by Region**
- **High Achieving Schools in Arkansas based on performance in End-of-Course (EOC) Biology Exam**
- **Beating the Odds: High-Achieving Schools Serving Low Income Communities.**
- **Most Improved Schools**

V. 2015 OEP AWARDS: MOST-IMPROVED SCHOOLS BETWEEN 2010-2015

In this set of OEP Awards, schools are awarded based on improvement on Benchmark exams at the 5th and 7th grade level Science, and End-of-Course exams in Biology. We rank schools by greatest improvement, where our measure of improvement is simply the difference between the ending score and the starting score over this time period. We also highlight the five most improved schools in each region on each exam.

In this section, we use the GPA rating system described in the introduction. With the GPA measure, schools are given credit for the number of advanced, proficient, basic, and below basic students¹. Thanks to the availability of many years of testing data, we were able to construct a growth score that is less susceptible to the potential instability of year-to-year changes due to an abnormally high or low score in either of the two observed years. To smooth out abnormally high or low scores in one particular year, we use multi-year averages for both the beginning score and the ending score over the five year time period. The starting score is the average score from the 2009-10 and 2010-11 school years; and the ending score is the average of the two most recent school years (2013-14 and 2014-15). Due to the time span of the data, there are currently operating schools not included in this report, because these schools did not exist in the 2009-10 or 2010-11 school years.

Each table presents the most improved schools for the noted Benchmark and End-of-Course Exam. The tables include the region in which the school is located, the grades served, region, and level of poverty (Free-and-Reduced Lunch rates), in addition to two measures of academic growth over roughly the past half-decade. To demonstrate academic growth, we not only show the GPA increase used to compile the rankings, but we also show the point increase in the percent of students achieving at the proficient or advanced levels over that same time period.

On the Office for Education Policy website, you can access the complete growth database: <http://www.officedforeducationpolicy.org/arkansas-schools-data/>. This database is especially helpful because it lists each school's annual End-of-Course Exam results since the 2009-10 academic year. Schools can be compared by Free-and-Reduced Lunch (FRL) status or by region. We recommend you examine the database and see the growth that Arkansas' schools have made.

¹ The GPA rating is a score derived from an average where, an advanced score is counted as a 4.0 like an "A", proficient score as a 3.0, like a "B", basic score as a 2.0, like a "C", and below basic as a 1.0, like a grade of "D".

U. Benchmark Science, 2015

Table 35: Top 20 Most Improved Schools Based on the 5th Grade Benchmark Science Exam

	School (District)	Region	Grades Served	% FRL ²	Proficient/Advanced % Initial→End ³	GPA Initial→End ⁴	GPA Growth ⁵
	Statewide	-	-	67%	50%→55%	2.45→2.57	+0.12
1	Des Arc Elementary (Des Arc)	SE	P-6	72%	34%→90%	2.21→3.33	+1.12
2	Hackett Elementary (Hackett)	NW	K-6	64%	28%→84%	2.10→3.04	+0.94
3	Hardin Elementary (White Hall)	CN	K-5	49%	54%→93%	2.53→3.42	+0.90
4	Umpire Elementary (Cossatot River)	SW	P-6	74%	31%→78%	2.16→3.00	+0.84
5	Marvell-Elaine Elementary (Marvell-Elaine)	SE	P-5	98%	28%→72%	2.03→2.83	+0.80
6	Alpena Elementary (Alpena)	NW	K-6	73%	55%→92%	2.51→3.30	+0.78
6	Lead Hill Elementary (Lead Hill)	NW	K-6	83%	35%→77%	2.27→3.05	+0.78
8	Spring Hill Elementary (Spring Hill)	SW	K-6	62%	68%→92%	2.76→3.49	+0.73
9	Don Roberts Elementary (Little Rock)	CN	P-5	31%	61%→85%	2.60→3.31	+0.71
10	Augusta Elementary (Augusta)	NE	P-6	89%	30%→62%	2.02→2.72	+0.70
11	College Station Elementary (Pulaski County Special)	CN	P-5	76%	25%→61%	2.05→2.74	+0.69
12	Academics Plus Elementary (Academics Plus)	CN	K-5	21%	43%→78%	2.40→3.06	+0.66
13	Vandergriff Elementary (Fayetteville)	NW	K-5	10%	78%→95%	2.96→3.59	+0.63
14	St. Paul Elementary (Huntsville)	NW	K-6	74%	42%→80%	2.39→3.01	+0.62
14	Ringgold Elementary (Benton)	CN	K-5	54%	54%→82%	2.54→3.16	+0.62
16	Baker Interdistrict Elementary (Pulaski County Special)	CN	K-5	26%	50%→80%	2.44→3.04	+0.61
17	Terry Elementary (Little Rock)	CN	P-5	85%	23%→45%	1.88→2.47	+0.59
18	Paron Elementary (Bryant)	CN	K-5	71%	61%→91%	2.61→3.18	+0.57
18	Manila Middle (Manila)	NE	5-8	61%	46%→76%	2.40→2.97	+0.57
20	Norfolk Elementary (Norfolk)	NW	K-6	83%	56%→76%	2.52→3.05	+0.53

² Free-and-reduced lunch rates from the 2013-14 school year

³ Initial Proficient/Advanced % is an average of the 2008-09 and 2009-10 school years. End Proficient/Advanced % is an average of the 2012-13 and 2013-14 school years.

⁴ Initial GPA is an average of the 2008-09 and 2009-10 school years. End GPA is an average of the 2012-13 and 2013-14 school years.

⁵ Due to rounding of numbers, there may be slight differences between the overall growth GPA and the GPA Initial→End column. Refer to the OEP growth database for exact numbers.

Table 36: Top 20 Most Improved Schools based on the 7th Grade Benchmark Science Exam

	School (District)	Region	Grades Served	% FRL	Proficient/Advanced % Initial→End	GPA Initial→End	GPA Growth
	Statewide	-	-	61%	40%→36%	2.26→2.17	-0.09
1	Berryville Middle (Berryville)	NW	6-8	63%	40%→76%	2.31→3.06	+0.75
2	Lead Hill High (Lead Hill)	NW	7-12	72%	30%→68%	2.17→2.90	+0.73
3	McGehee High (McGehee)	SE	7-12	67%	12%→40%	1.65→2.25	+0.60
4	Oark High (Jasper)	NW	7-12	78%	36%→45%	1.98→2.52	+0.54
5	St. Joe High (Ozark Mountain)	NW	7-12	67%	9%→34%	1.78→2.22	+0.44
6	Foreman High (Foreman)	SW	7-12	63%	26%→50%	2.02→2.44	+0.42
7	Booneville Junior High (Booneville)	NW	7-9	65%	40%→63%	2.26→2.67	+0.41
8	St. Paul High (Huntsville)	NW	7-12	73%	13%→32%	1.78→2.14	+0.36
9	Nemo Vista Middle (Nemo Vista)	NW	6-8	66%	32%→52%	2.15→2.49	+0.34
9	Buffalo Is. Central Junior High (Buffalo Island Central)	NE	7-9	63%	23%→40%	1.94→2.28	+0.34
11	Caddo Hills High (Caddo Hills)	SW	7-12	71%	22%→35%	1.89→2.21	+0.32
12	Hamburg Middle (Hamburg)	SE	6-8	59%	27%→38%	1.98→2.29	+0.31
13	Magnolia Junior High (Magnolia)	SW	7-9	71%	38%→50%	2.22→2.52	+0.30
14	Bruno-Pyatt High (Ozark Mountain)	NW	7-12	71%	47%→52%	2.42→2.70	+0.29
14	East Poinsett Co. High (East Poinsett County)	NE	7-12	74%	43%→58%	2.32→2.60	+0.29
14	East Junior High (West Memphis)	NE	7-9	86%	6%→11%	1.42→1.70	+0.29
17	Bay High (Bay)	NE	7-12	52%	24%→36%	1.91→2.20	+0.28
17	Lakeside Middle (Lakeside (Chicot))	SE	6-8	85%	10%→16%	1.49→1.77	+0.28
17	Rison High (Cleveland County)	SE	7-12	50%	22%→39%	1.96→2.24	+0.28
20	Timbo High (Mountain View)	NE	7-12	81%	28%→52%	2.18→2.45	+0.26
20	Poyen High (Poyen)	CN	7-12	53%	27%→38%	1.96→2.22	+0.26

Tables 37-41: Top 5 Most Improved Schools in Arkansas by Region, 5th grade Benchmark Science Achievement from 2009-10/2010-11 to 2013-14/2014-15



Table 37: Top 5 Most Improved Schools in Northwest Arkansas 5th Grade Benchmark Science Achievement from 2009-10/2010-11 to 2013-14/2014-15

	School (District)	Grades Served	% FRL	Proficient/Advanced % Initial→End	GPA Initial→End	GPA Growth
1	Hackett Elementary (Hackett)	K-6	64%	28%→84%	2.10→3.04	+0.94
2	Alpena Elementary (Alpena)	K-6	73%	55%→92%	2.51→3.30	+0.78
2	Lead Hill Elementary (Lead Hill)	K-6	83%	35%→77%	2.27→3.05	+0.78
4	Vandergriff Elementary (Fayetteville)	K-5	10%	78%→95%	2.96→3.59	+0.63
5	St. Paul Elementary (Huntsville)	K-6	74%	42%→80%	2.39→3.01	+0.62



Table 38: Top 5 Most Improved Schools in Northeast Arkansas 5th Grade Benchmark Science Achievement from 2009-10/2010-11 to 2013-14/2014-15

	School (District)	Grades Served	% FRL	Proficient/Advanced % Initial→End	GPA Initial→End	GPA Growth
1	Augusta Elementary (Augusta)	P-6	89%	30%→62%	2.02→2.72	+0.70
2	Manila Middle (Manila)	5-8	61%	46%→76%	2.40→2.97	+0.57
3	West Elementary (Batesville)	K-6	71%	63%→79%	2.61→3.07	+0.46
4	Westside Middle (Westside Cons. (Craig))	5-7	58%	54%→75%	2.49→2.94	+0.44
5	Heber Springs Elementary (Heber Springs)	K-5	57%	32%→55%	2.20→2.59	+0.39



Table 39: Top 5 Most Improved Elementary Schools in Central Arkansas 5th Grade Benchmark Science Achievement from 2009-10/2010-11 to 2013-14/2014-15

	School (District)	Grades Served	% FRL	Proficient/Advanced % Initial→End	GPA Initial→End	GPA Growth
1	Hardin Elementary (White Hall)	K-5	49%	54%→93%	2.53→3.42	+0.90
2	Don Roberts Elementary (Little Rock)	P-5	31%	61%→85%	2.60→3.31	+0.71
3	College Station Elementary (Pulaski County Special)	P-5	76%	25%→61%	2.05→2.74	+0.69
4	Academics Plus Elementary (Academics Plus)	K-5	21%	43%→78%	2.40→3.06	+0.66
5	Ringgold Elementary (Benton)	K-5	54%	54%→82%	2.54→3.16	+0.62



Table 40: Top 5 Most Improved Schools in Southwest Arkansas 5th Grade Benchmark Science Achievement from 2009-10/2010-11 to 2013-14/2014-15

	School (District)	Grades Served	% FRL	Proficient/Advanced % Initial→End	GPA Initial→End	GPA Growth
1	Umpire Elementary (Cossatot River)	P-6	74%	31%→78%	2.16→3.00	+0.84
2	Spring Hill Elementary (Spring Hill)	K-6	62%	68%→92%	2.76→3.49	+0.73
3	McRae Middle (Prescott)	5-6	81%	24%→48%	2.00→2.49	+0.49
4	Harmony Grove Elementary (Harmony Grove (Ouachita))	K-6	61%	48%→70%	2.40→2.86	+0.46
5	Mount Ida Elementary (Mount Ida)	K-6	70%	72%→86%	2.83→3.27	+0.44



Table 41: Top 5 Most Improved Schools in Southeast Arkansas 5th Grade Benchmark Science Achievement from 2009-10/2010-11 to 2013-14/2014-15

	School (District)	Grades Served	% FRL	Proficient/Advanced % Initial→End	GPA Initial→End	GPA Growth
1	Des Arc Elementary (Des Arc)	P-6	72%	34%→90%	2.21→3.33	+1.12
2	Marvell-Elaine Elementary (Marvell-Elaine)	P-5	98%	28%→72%	2.03→2.83	+0.80
3	Wilmot Elementary (Hamburg)	P-5	88%	15%→17%	1.75→2.17	+0.42
4	Reed Elementary (Dumas)	3-6	80%	34%→59%	2.23→2.62	+0.40
5	Portland Elementary (Hamburg)	P-5	66%	50%→63%	2.50→2.88	+0.37

Tables 42-46: Top 5 Most Improved Schools in Arkansas by Region, 7th grade Benchmark Science Achievement from 2009-10/2010-11 to 2013-14/2014-15



Table 42: Top 5 Most Improved Schools in Northwest Arkansas 7th Grade Benchmark Science Achievement from 2009-10/2010-11 to 2013-14/2014-15

	School (District)	Grades Served	% FRL	Proficient/Advanced % Initial→End	GPA Initial→End	GPA Growth
1	Berryville Middle (Berryville)	6-8	63%	40%→76%	2.31→3.06	+0.75
2	Lead Hill High (Lead Hill)	7-12	72%	30%→68%	2.17→2.90	+0.73
3	Oark High (Jasper)	7-12	78%	36%→45%	1.98→2.52	+0.54
4	St. Joe High (Ozark Mountain)	7-12	67%	9%→34%	1.78→2.22	+0.44
5	Booneville Junior High (Booneville)	7-9	65%	40%→63%	2.26→2.67	+0.41



Table 43: Top 5 Most Improved Schools in Northeast Arkansas 7th Grade Benchmark Science Achievement from 2009-10/2010-11 to 2013-14/2014-15

	School (District)	Grades Served	% FRL	Proficient/Advanced % Initial→End	GPA Initial→End	GPA Growth
1	Buffalo Is. Central Junior High (Buffalo Island Central)	7-9	63%	23%→40%	1.94→2.28	+0.34
2	East Poinsett Co. High (East Poinsett County)	7-12	74%	43%→58%	2.32→2.60	+0.29
3	East Junior High (West Memphis)	7-9	86%	6%→11%	1.42→1.70	+0.29
4	Bay High (Bay)	7-12	52%	24%→36%	1.91→2.20	+0.28
5	Timbo High (Mountain View)	7-12	81%	28%→52%	2.18→2.45	+0.26



Table 44: Top 5 Most Improved Elementary Schools in Central Arkansas 7th Grade Benchmark Science Achievement from 2009-10/2010-11 to 2013-14/2014-15

	School (District)	Grades Served	% FRL	Proficient/Advanced % Initial→End	GPA Initial→End	GPA Growth
1	Poyen High (Poyen)	7-12	53%	27%→38%	1.96→2.22	+0.26
2	Academics Plus High (Academics Plus)	6-12	19%	25%→37%	2.04→2.28	+0.24
3	Mt. Vernon/Enola High (Mt. Vernon-Enola)	7-12	50%	44%→65%	2.38→2.62	+0.23
4	Cloverdale Middle (Little Rock)	6-8	92%	4%→8%	1.28→1.49	+0.21
5	Carl Stuart Middle (Conway)	5-7	44%	43%→54%	2.34→2.52	+0.18



Table 45: Top 5 Most Improved Schools in Southwest Arkansas 7th Grade Benchmark Science Achievement from 2009-10/2010-11 to 2013-14/2014-15

	School (District)	Grades Served	% FRL	Proficient/Advanced % Initial→End	GPA Initial→End	GPA Growth
1	Foreman High (Foreman)	7-12	63%	26%→50%	2.02→2.44	+0.42
2	Caddo Hills High (Caddo Hills)	7-12	71%	22%→35%	1.89→2.21	+0.32
3	Magnolia Junior High (Magnolia)	7-9	71%	38%→50%	2.22→2.52	+0.30
4	Hampton High (Hampton)	7-12	73%	21%→24%	1.84→1.99	+0.16
5	Horatio High (Horatio)	7-12	66%	27%→34%	2.00→2.12	+0.13



Table 46: Top 5 Most Improved Schools in Southeast Arkansas 7th Grade Benchmark Science Achievement from 2009-10/2010-11 to 2013-14/2014-15

	School (District)	Grades Served	% FRL	Proficient/Advanced % Initial→End	GPA Initial→End	GPA Growth
1	McGehee High (McGehee)	7-12	67%	12%→40%	1.65→2.25	+0.60
2	Hamburg Middle (Hamburg)	6-8	59%	27%→38%	1.98→2.29	+0.31
3	Lakeside Middle (Lakeside (Chicot))	6-8	85%	10%→16%	1.49→1.77	+0.28
3	Rison High (Cleveland County)	7-12	50%	22%→39%	1.96→2.24	+0.28
5	Hermitage High (Hermitage)	7-12	78%	18%→20%	1.73→1.90	+0.17

V. EOC Biology, 2015

Biology is generally taken during the tenth grade; however, some students may elect to take the course earlier if they have taken prerequisite classes. This typically results in the most advanced students taking the exam in 8th or 9th grade. Because of the likely academic differences between students who take biology in earlier grades, junior high schools tend to have higher proficiency levels than do schools which serve only 10th grade students. For this reason, schools have been split into two groups:

- High School: primarily 9th -12th grades (includes Comprehensive High Schools serving 7th-12th grades)
- Junior High School: primarily 8th-9th grades (and/or any grades below)

For the purposes of this report, all schools were included for the awards by region.

Growth is measured from a baseline average of the 2009-10 and 2010-11 school years to an outcome average of the 2013-14 and 2014-15 school years.

Table 47: Top 20 Most Improved High Schools based on the *EOC Biology Exam*

	School (District)	Region	Grades Served	% FRL ⁶	Proficient/Advanced % Initial→End ⁷	GPA Initial→End ⁸	GPA Growth ⁹
	Statewide	-	-	67%	50%→55%	2.45→2.57	+0.12
1	Greenbrier High (Greenbrier)	CN	10-12	29%	50%→80%	2.46→3.16	+0.69
2	Clinton High (Clinton)	NW	10-12	62%	21%→63%	1.97→2.64	+0.67
3	Foreman High (Foreman)	SW	7-12	63%	29%→64%	2.13→2.73	+0.61
4	Eureka Springs High (Eureka Springs)	NW	9-12	59%	32%→61%	2.11→2.71	+0.60
4	Flippin High (Flippin)	NW	9-12	64%	26%→59%	2.11→2.71	+0.60
4	Buffalo Is. Central High (Buffalo Island Central)	NE	10-12	51%	21%→53%	1.93→2.54	+0.60
7	Armored High (Armored)	NE	7-12	37%	33%→57%	2.07→2.66	+0.59
8	Omaha High (Omaha)	NW	7-12	70%	47%→79%	2.50→3.07	+0.57
9	Murfreesboro High (South Pike County)	SW	7-12	70%	33%→63%	2.21→2.75	+0.54
10	Centerpoint High (Centerpoint)	SW	6-12	62%	31%→61%	2.16→2.69	+0.53
11	Magnolia High (Magnolia)	SW	10-12	65%	31%→50%	2.05→2.56	+0.52
12	Bradford High (Bradford)	NE	7-12	80%	43%→65%	2.33→2.84	+0.51
13	Lavaca High (Lavaca)	NW	9-12	50%	21%→46%	1.91→2.41	+0.50
13	Dover High (Dover)	NW	9-12	55%	18%→46%	1.97→2.45	+0.48
13	Emerson High (Emerson-Taylor-Bradley)	SW	7-12	45%	31%→47%	2.16→2.64	+0.48
16	Atkins High (Atkins)	NW	9-12	55%	34%→56%	2.22→2.70	+0.48
17	Viola High (Viola)	NE	7-12	57%	65%→89%	2.77→3.24	+0.47
17	Ozark High (Ozark)	NW	10-12	45%	36%→58%	2.21→2.67	+0.46
19	Haas Hall Academy (Haas Hall Academy)	NW	8-12	0%	87%→96%	3.25→3.71	+0.46
20	Hackett High (Hackett)	NW	7-12	58%	23%→45%	2.02→2.47	+0.45

⁶ Free-and-reduced lunch rates from the 2014-15 school year

⁷ Initial Proficient/Advanced % is an average of the 2009-10 and 2010-11 school years. End Proficient/Advanced % is an average of the 2013-14 and 2014-15 school years.

⁸ Initial GPA is an average of the 2009-10 and 2010-11 school years. End GPA is an average of the 2013-14 and 2014-15 school years.

⁹ Due to rounding of numbers, there may be slight differences between the overall growth GPA and the GPA Initial→End column. Refer to the OEP growth database for exact numbers.

Table 48: Top 3 Most Improved Junior High Schools based on the *EOC Biology Exam*

	School (District)	Region	Grades Served	% FRL	Proficient/Advanced % Initial→End	GPA Initial→End	GPA Growth
	Statewide	-	-	57%	79%→88%	2.99→3.28	+0.29
1	George Junior High (Springdale)	NW	8-9	78%	67%→89%	2.79→3.46	+0.67
2	Southwest Junior High (Springdale)	NW	8-9	67%	72%→89%	2.87→3.27	+0.39
3	Central Junior High (Springdale)	NW	8-9	46%	90%→91%	3.15→3.38	+0.23

Tables 49-53: Top 5 Most Improved High Schools in Arkansas by Region, **EOC Biology**
Achievement from 2009-10/2010-11 to 2013-14/2014-15



Table 49: Top 5 Most Improved High Schools in Northwest Arkansas, **EOC Biology**
Achievement from 2009-10/2010-11 to 2013-14/2014-15

	School (District)	Grades Served	% FRL	Proficient/Advanced % Initial→End	GPA Initial→End	GPA Growth
1	Clinton High (Clinton)	10-12	62%	21%→63%	1.97→2.64	+0.67
2	Eureka Springs High (Eureka Springs)	9-12	59%	32%→61%	2.11→2.71	+0.60
2	Flippin High (Flippin)	9-12	64%	26%→59%	2.11→2.71	+0.60
4	Omaha High (Omaha)	7-12	70%	47%→79%	2.50→3.07	+0.57
5	Lavaca High (Lavaca)	9-12	50%	21%→46%	1.91→2.41	+0.50



Table 50: Top 5 Most Improved Schools in Northeast Arkansas, **EOC Biology**
Achievement from 2009-10/2010-11 to 2013-14/2014-15

	School (District)	Grades Served	% FRL	Proficient/Advanced % Initial→End	GPA Initial→End	GPA Growth
1	Buffalo Is. Central High (Buffalo Island Central)	10-12	51%	21%→53%	1.93→2.54	+0.60
2	Armored High (Armored)	7-12	37%	33%→57%	2.07→2.66	+0.59
3	Bradford High (Bradford)	7-12	80%	43%→65%	2.33→2.84	+0.51
4	Viola High (Viola)	7-12	57%	65%→89%	2.77→3.24	+0.47
5	Hoxie High (Hoxie)	7-12	67%	16%→44%	1.90→2.35	+0.45



*Table 51: Top 5 Most Improved High Schools in **Central** Arkansas, **EOC Biology** Achievement from 2009-10/2010-11 to 2013-14/2014-15*

	School (District)	Grades Served	% FRL	Proficient/Advanced % Initial→End	GPA Initial→End	GPA Growth
1	Greenbrier High (Greenbrier)	10-12	29%	50%→80%	2.46→3.16	+0.69
2	Academics Plus High (Academics Plus)	6-12	19%	44%→75%	2.51→2.96	+0.45
3	Bryant High (Bryant)	9-12	30%	45%→66%	2.43→2.86	+0.42
4	Sheridan High (Sheridan)	9-12	38%	43%→62%	2.39→2.78	+0.38
5	Lonoke High (Lonoke)	9-12	53%	24%→45%	2.09→2.45	+0.37



*Table 52: Top 5 Most Improved High Schools in **Southwest** Arkansas, **EOC Biology** Achievement from 2009-10/2010-11 to 2013-14/2014-15*

	School (District)	Grades Served	% FRL	Proficient/Advanced % Initial→End	GPA Initial→End	GPA Growth
1	Foreman High (Foreman)	7-12	63%	29%→64%	2.13→2.73	+0.61
2	Murfreesboro High (South Pike County)	7-12	70%	33%→63%	2.21→2.75	+0.54
3	Centerpoint High (Centerpoint)	6-12	62%	31%→61%	2.16→2.69	+0.53
4	Magnolia High (Magnolia)	10-12	65%	31%→50%	2.05→2.56	+0.52
5	Emerson High (Emerson-Taylor-Bradley)	7-12	45%	31%→47%	2.15→2.64	+0.48



Table 53: Top 5 Most Improved High Schools in Southeast Arkansas, EOC Biology Achievement from 2009-10/2010-11 to 2013-14/2014-15

	School (District)	Grades Served	% FRL	Proficient/Advanced % Initial→End	GPA Initial→End	GPA Growth
1	Star City High (Star City)	9-12	59%	27%→48%	2.03→2.42	+0.39
1	Drew Central High (Drew Central)	9-12	65%	18%→37%	1.85→2.24	+0.39
3	Hazen High (Hazen)	9-12	53%	31%→41%	2.03→2.39	+0.36
4	Clarendon High (Clarendon)	7-12	89%	18%→31%	1.92→2.24	+0.32
5	Warren High (Warren)	9-12	69%	20%→24%	1.81→1.98	+0.17

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 grade / course level.

As previously discussed in the introduction, in order to calculate the GPA measure we treat the benchmark and EOC 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 Science score. 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	8-12
K-7	
K-8	
K-9	
K-12	
P-2	
P-3	
P-4	
P-5	
P-6	
P-7	
P-8	

C. 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

Junior High	High School
5-7	8-12
5-8	9-12
6-7	10-12
6-8	11-12
7-8	9-10
7-9	7-12
8	6-12
8-9	5-12
4-8	K-12
1-8	
K-8	