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Outstanding Educational Performance Awards: Highlighting High-Achieving Arkansas Schools, 2014

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ARKANSAS EDUCATION REPORT
Volume 11, Issue 5

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

**HIGH-ACHIEVING
HIGH SCHOOLS**

October 22, 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!**

IV. 2014 OEP AWARDS: HIGH-ACHIEVING HIGH SCHOOLS

This section highlights high-achieving high schools across Arkansas based on End-of-Course (EOC) examinations in Algebra, Geometry, Biology, and the Grade 11 Literacy exam from the 2013-14 academic year¹.

This section is divided into subsections based the four exams. Schools are ranked using the GPA performance measure (explained in the Introduction) in each subject. Because the exams are not “grade-specific,” schools in each of the subsections are categorized differently to account for school performance based on grade levels served; this is explained further in the introduction text in each subsection. Furthermore, each subsection includes the top schools, the top “high-poverty” schools, and the top five schools by region². 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 scoring at the proficient and advanced levels, and the GPA of the school in that particular subject.

¹ The Algebra, Biology, and Geometry EOC exams are given twice annually: in January and again in April. The Grade 11 Literacy Exam is administered in March.

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

Q. Algebra End-of-Course Exam, 2014

Algebra is generally taken during the ninth grade; however, some students may elect to take this course earlier if they have taken prerequisite classes. Thus, most advanced students take the course and the test in the 7th or 8th grade. Because of the likely academic differences between students who take algebra in the 8th and 9th grades, middle and junior high schools tend to have higher proficiency levels than do schools which serve 9th grade students. Due to these differences, these awards are split into three categories:

- High School (schools that serve 9th grade and above)
- Junior High and Comprehensive High School (schools that serve 8th and 9th grade)
- Middle School (schools that serve 8th grade and below)

For the purposes of this report, all school types (high schools, junior high and comprehensive high schools, middle schools) were considered for the “High-Poverty”³ awards and the awards by region.

Table 57: Top 10 Arkansas High Schools⁴ Based on EOC Algebra Achievement

	School (District)	Region	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	% Proficient/Advanced	GPA
1	Dardanelle High School (Dardanelle) ♦	NW	9-12	89	98%	3.52
2	Bergman High School (Bergman) ♦	NW	9-12	102	93%	3.47
3	Benton County School of the Arts H.S. (Benton County School of the Arts)	NW	9-12	44	91%	3.44
4	Huntsville High School (Huntsville) ♦	NW	9-12	167	91%	3.38
5	Marked Tree High School (Marked Tree)	NE	9-12	41	85%	3.36
6	Siloam Springs High School (Siloam Springs)	NW	9-12	305	86%	3.31
7	Cave City High School (Cave City)	NE	9-12	102	87%	3.28
8	Sheridan High School (Sheridan)	CN	9-12	277	86%	3.27
9	Nettleton High School (Nettleton)	NE	9-12	202	81%	3.25
10	Lisa NLR High School (Lisa Academy - North Little Rock)	CN	9-12	41	95%	3.22

♦ Indicates school placed on same list in 2012-13.

³ “High-Poverty” schools have 66% or more students receiving a free or reduced lunch (FRL) in the grades they serve.

⁴ A school was designated High School if it served students in the 9th grade and did not serve 8th grade students.

Table 58: Top 10 Arkansas Junior High Schools and Comprehensive High Schools⁵ Based on EOC Algebra Achievement

	School (District)	Region	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	% Proficient/Advanced	GPA
1	Haas Hall Academy (Haas Hall Academy) ♦	NW	8-12	43	100%	4.00
2	Marshall High School (Searcy County) ♦	NW	7-12	40	100%	3.66
3	Benton Junior High School (Benton) ♦	CN	8-9	295	96%	3.60
4	Concord High School (Concord)	NE	7-12	34	97%	3.59
5	Emerson High School (Emerson-Taylor)	SW	7-12	15	93%	3.53
6	Taylor High School (Emerson-Taylor)	SW	7-12	25	92%	3.52
7	Greenbrier Junior High School (Greenbrier)	CN	8-9	223	91%	3.48
8	Rural Special High School (Mountain View) ♦	NE	7-12	17	94%	3.47
9	Woodland Junior High School (Fayetteville) ♦	NW	8-9	301	93%	3.45
10	Mount Ida High School (Mount Ida)	SW	7-12	35	86%	3.43
10	Poyen High School (Poyen)	CN	7-12	39	89%	3.43

⁵ A school was designated a Junior High School or Comprehensive High School if it serves students in 8th and 9th grades.

Table 59: Top 10 Arkansas Middle Schools⁶ Based on *EOC Algebra* Achievement

	School (District)	Region	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	% Proficient/Advanced	GPA
1	Ahlf Junior High School (Searcy) ♦	NE	7-8	48	100%	4.00
1	Barton Junior High School (El Dorado)	SW	7-8	30	100%	4.00
1	Elmwood Middle School (Rogers)	NW	6-8	40	100%	4.00
1	Gravette Middle School (Gravette)	NW	6-8	26	100%	4.00
1	Lonoke Middle School (Lonoke)	CN	6-8	11	100%	4.00
6	J. William Fulbright Junior High School (Bentonville)	NW	7-8	82	100%	3.98
7	Lincoln Junior High School (Bentonville) ♦	NW	7-8	68	100%	3.97
8	Bismarck Middle School (Bismarck)	CN	5-8	21	100%	3.95
8	Goza Middle School (Arkadelphia)	SW	6-8	60	100%	3.95
10	Huntsville Middle School (Huntsville) ♦	NW	6-8	16	100%	3.94

⁶ A school was designated 8th Grade Middle School if it served students in grades 8 (and/or any grades below).

Tables 60-64: Top 5 High Schools⁷ in Arkansas by Region, *EOC Algebra* Achievement



Table 60: Top 5 High Schools in *Northwest* Arkansas Based on *EOC Algebra*

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	% Proficient/Advanced	GPA
1	Dardanelle High School (Dardanelle)	9-12	89	98%	3.52
2	Bergman High School (Bergman) ♦	9-12	102	93%	3.47
3	Benton County School of the Arts H.S. (Benton County School of the Arts)	9-12	44	91%	3.44
4	Huntsville High School (Huntsville) ♦	9-12	167	91%	3.38
5	Siloam Springs High School (Siloam Springs)	9-12	305	86%	3.31



Table 61: Top 5 High Schools in *Northeast* Arkansas Based on *EOC Algebra*

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	% Proficient/Advanced	GPA
1	Marked Tree High School (Marked Tree) ♦	9-12	41	85%	3.36
2	Cave City High School (Cave City)	9-12	102	87%	3.28
3	Nettleton High School (Nettleton)	9-12	202	81%	3.25
4	Searcy High School (Searcy) ♦	9-12	271	82%	3.10
5	Heber Springs High School (Heber Springs)	9-12	102	79%	3.07



Table 62: Top 5 High Schools in *Central* Arkansas Based on *EOC Algebra*

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	% Proficient/Advanced	GPA
1	Sheridan High School (Sheridan) ♦	9-12	277	86%	3.27
2	Lisa NLR High School (Lisa Academy - North Little Rock) ♦	9-12	41	95%	3.22
3	Glen Rose High School (Glen Rose) ♦	9-12	57	82%	3.18
4	Lonoke High School (Lonoke)	9-12	97	89%	3.14
5	White Hall High School (White Hall) ♦	9-12	195	80%	3.11

⁷ A school was designated High School if it served students in the 9th grade and did not serve 8th grade students.



Table 63: Top 5 High Schools in *Southwest* Arkansas Based on *EOC Algebra*

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	% Proficient/Advanced	GPA
1	Fouke High School (Fouke) ♦	9-12	57	70%	2.77
2	Arkansas High School (Texarkana)	9-12	221	64%	2.71
3	Genoa Central High School (Genoa Central) ♦	9-12	68	66%	2.70
4	Arkadelphia High School (Arkadelphia)	9-12	80	63%	2.68
5	Ashdown High School (Ashdown) ♦	9-12	98	50%	2.55



Table 64: Top 5 High Schools in *Southeast* Arkansas Based on *EOC Algebra*

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	% Proficient/Advanced	GPA
1	DeWitt High School (DeWitt) ♦	9-12	87	82%	3.13
2	Drew Central High School (Drew Central)	9-12	40	81%	3.11
3	Hamburg High School (Hamburg)	9-12	147	72%	3.06
4	Star City High School (Star City)	9-12	121	71%	3.00
5	Warren High School (Warren) ♦	9-12	100	70%	2.91

Tables 65-69: Top 5 Improved Junior High Schools and Comprehensive High Schools⁸ in Arkansas by Region, **EOC Algebra** Achievement



Table 65: Top 5 Junior High Schools and Comprehensive High Schools in Northwest Arkansas Based on **EOC Algebra**

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	% Proficient/Advanced	GPA
1	Haas Hall Academy (Haas Hall Academy) ♦	8-12	43	100%	4.00
2	Marshall High School (Searcy County) ♦	7-12	40	100%	3.66
3	Woodland Junior High School (Fayetteville) ♦	8-9	301	93%	3.45
4	Greenwood Junior High School (Greenwood)	P-9	280	91%	3.42
5	Clarksville Junior High School (Clarksville)	7-9	133	91%	3.40



Table 66: Top 5 Junior High Schools and Comprehensive High Schools in Northeast Arkansas Based on **EOC Algebra**

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	% Proficient/Advanced	GPA
1	Concord High School (Concord)	7-12	34	97%	3.59
2	Rural Special High School (Mountain View) ♦	7-12	17	94%	3.47
3	Valley View Junior High School (Valley View) ♦	7-9	209	93%	3.40
4	Salem High School (Salem)	7-12	55	85%	3.30
8	Brookland Junior High (Brookland)	7-9	116	88%	3.28



Table 67: Top 5 Junior High Schools and Comprehensive High Schools in Central Arkansas Based on **EOC Algebra**

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	% Proficient/Advanced	GPA
1	Benton Junior High School (Benton) ♦	8-9	295	96%	3.60
2	Greenbrier Junior High School (Greenbrier) ♦	8-9	223	91%	3.48
3	Poyen High School (Poyen)	7-12	39	89%	3.43
4	Lakeside High School (Lakeside Garland County) ♦	8-12	267	92%	3.36
5	Mt. Vernon/Enola High School (Mt. Vernon-Enola) ♦	7-12	32	91%	3.32
5	Vilonia Junior High School (Vilonia) ♦	8-9	226	91%	3.32

⁸ A school was designated 8th and 9th Grade Junior High School if it served students in grades 8 and 9.



Table 68: Top 5 Junior High Schools and Comprehensive High Schools in Southwest Arkansas Based on *EOC Algebra*

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	% Proficient/Advanced	GPA
1	Emerson High School (Emerson-Taylor) ♦	7-12	15	93%	3.53
2	Taylor High School (Emerson-Taylor) ♦	7-12	25	92%	3.52
3	Mount Ida High School (Mount Ida) ♦	7-12	35	86%	3.43
4	Parkers Chapel High School (Parkers Chapel) ♦	7-12	58	94%	3.33
5	Caddo Hills High School (Caddo Hills) ♦	7-12	45	89%	3.27
5	Horatio High School (Horatio)	7-12	61	85%	3.27



Table 69: Top 5 Junior High Schools and Comprehensive High Schools in Southeast Arkansas Based on *EOC Algebra*

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	% Proficient/Advanced	GPA
1	Des Arc High School (Des Arc)	7-12	42	88%	3.19
2	Rison High School (Cleveland County) ♦	7-12	66	77%	3.13
3	Woodlawn High School (Woodlawn)	7-12	45	84%	3.08
4	Hermitage High School (Hermitage) ♦	7-12	25	68%	2.88
5	Lee High School (Lee County)	7-12	76	68%	2.78

Tables 70-74: Top 5 Middle Schools⁹ in Arkansas by Region, **EOC Algebra** Achievement



Table 70: Top 3 Middle Schools in **Northwest** Arkansas Based on **EOC Algebra**

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	% Proficient/Advanced	GPA
1	Elmwood Middle School (Rogers)	6-8	40	100%	4.00
2	Gravette Middle School (Gravette)	6-8	26	100%	4.00
3	J. William Fulbright Junior High School (Bentonville)	7-8	82	100%	3.98



Table 71: Top 3 Middle Schools in **Northeast** Arkansas Based on **EOC Algebra**

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	% Proficient/Advanced	GPA
1	Ahlf Junior High School (Searcy) ♦	7-8	48	100%	4.00
2	Newport Junior High School (Newport) ♦	7-8	11	100%	3.91
3	Beebe Junior High School (Beebe)	7-8	23	100%	3.87



Table 72: Top 3 Middle Schools in **Central** Arkansas Based on **EOC Algebra**

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	% Proficient/Advanced	GPA
1	Lonoke Middle School (Lonoke) ♦	6-8	11	100%	4.00
2	Bismarck Middle School (Bismarck) ♦	5-8	21	100%	3.95
3	Pulaski Heights Middle School (Little Rock)	6-8	44	100%	3.93

⁹ A school was designated 8th Grade Middle School if it served students in grades 8 (and/or any grades below).



Table 73: Top 3 Middle Schools in *Southwest* Arkansas Based on *EOC Algebra*

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	% Proficient/Advanced	GPA
1	Barton Junior High School (El Dorado) ♦	7-8	30	100%	4.00
2	Goza Middle School (Arkadelphia) ♦	6-8	60	100%	3.95
3	Mena Middle School (Mena) ♦	6-8	22	100%	3.91



Table 74: Top 3 Middle Schools in *Southeast* Arkansas Based on *EOC Algebra*

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	% Proficient/Advanced	GPA
1	Monticello Middle School (Monticello) ♦	6-8	36	100%	3.81
2	Crossett Middle School (Crossett)	5-8	46	94%	3.44
2	KIPP Delta College Preparatory School (KIPP Delta Public Schools)	5-8	46	94%	3.44

R. Geometry End-of-Course Exam, 2014

Geometry 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 geometry 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, only high schools were considered for the “High-Poverty”¹⁰ awards and the awards by region.

¹⁰ “High-Poverty” schools have 66% or more students receiving a free or reduced lunch (FRL) in the grades they serve.

Table 75: Top 20 Arkansas High Schools¹¹ Based on *EOC Geometry* Achievement

	School (District)	Region	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	% Proficient/Advanced	GPA
1	Haas Hall Academy (Haas Hall Academy) ♦	NW	8-12	69	100%	3.88
2	Bergman High School (Bergman)	NW	9-12	23	96%	3.66
3	Poyen High School (Poyen)	CN	7-12	46	94%	3.55
4	Mt. Vernon/Enola High School (Mt. Vernon-Enola) ♦	CN	7-12	23	96%	3.53
5	Charleston High School (Charleston)	NW	7-12	52	98%	3.52
6	Greenbrier High School (Greenbrier) ♦	CN	10-12	217	96%	3.51
7	Huntsville High School (Huntsville)	NW	9-12	180	91%	3.47
8	Eureka Springs High School (Eureka Springs)	NW	9-12	62	91%	3.45
9	Rural Special High School (Mountain View)	NE	7-12	12	92%	3.42
9	Smackover High School (Smackover)	SW	7-12	24	100%	3.42
11	Benton High School (Benton) ♦	CN	10-12	318	89%	3.39
11	Taylor High School (Emerson-Taylor) ♦	SW	7-12	23	91%	3.39
13	Parkers Chapel High School (Parkers Chapel)	SW	7-12	85	92%	3.38
14	Gravette High School (Gravette)	NW	9-12	130	89%	3.36
14	Lakeside High School (Lakeside Garland County)	CN	8-12	244	89%	3.36
16	Searcy High School (Searcy) ♦	NE	9-12	237	93%	3.35
17	Dardanelle High School (Dardanelle) ♦	NW	9-12	116	95%	3.34
18	Bentonville High School (Bentonville) ♦	NW	9-12	984	90%	3.33
18	County Line High School (County Line)	NW	7-12	11	90%	3.33
18	Oden High School (Ouachita River)	SW	7-12	15	93%	3.33

¹¹ A school was designated High School if it primarily serves students in grades 9 – 12.

Table 76: Top 10 Arkansas Junior High Schools¹² Based on *EOC Geometry* Achievement

	School (District)	Region	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	% Proficient/Advanced	GPA
1	Clinton Junior High School (Clinton)	NW	7-9	15	100%	4.00
1	J. William Fulbright Junior High School (Bentonville)	NW	7-8	17	100%	4.00
1	Lincoln Junior High School (Bentonville) ♦	NW	7-8	12	100%	4.00
1	Washington Junior High School (Bentonville) ♦	NW	7-8	13	100%	4.00
5	Valley View Junior High School (Valley View)	NE	7-9	52	100%	3.92
6	Russellville Junior High School (Russellville) ♦	NW	8-9	75	97%	3.90
7	Ramay Junior High School (Fayetteville)	NW	8-9	85	100%	3.89
7	Woodland Junior High School (Fayetteville) ♦	NW	8-9	166	100%	3.89
9	L. A. Chaffin Junior High School (Fort Smith) ♦	NW	7-9	92	100%	3.87
10	Central Junior High School (Springdale)	NW	8-9	106	100%	3.85

¹² A school was designated a Junior High School if it serves students in grades primarily 7-8 (maximum grade of 9)

Tables 77-81: Top 5 High Schools¹³ in Arkansas by Region, **EOC Geometry** Achievement



Table 77: Top 5 High Schools in **Northwest** Arkansas Based on **EOC Geometry**

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	% Proficient/Advanced	GPA
1	Haas Hall Academy (Haas Hall Academy) ♦	8-12	69	100%	3.88
2	Bergman High School (Bergman)	9-12	23	96%	3.66
3	Charleston High School (Charleston)	7-12	52	98%	3.52
4	Huntsville High School (Huntsville)	9-12	180	91%	3.47
5	Eureka Springs High School (Eureka Springs)	9-12	62	91%	3.45



Table 78: Top 5 High Schools in **Northeast** Arkansas Based on **EOC Geometry**

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	% Proficient/Advanced	GPA
1	Rural Special High School (Mountain View)	7-12	12	92%	3.42
2	Searcy High School (Searcy) ♦	9-12	237	93%	3.35
3	Viola High School (Viola) ♦	7-12	26	100%	3.31
4	Heber Springs High School (Heber Springs)	9-12	168	87%	3.23
5	Buffalo Island Central High School (Buffalo Island Central)	10-12	55	83%	3.19



Table 79: Top 5 High Schools in **Central** Arkansas Based on **EOC Geometry**

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	% Proficient/Advanced	GPA
1	Poyen High School (Poyen)	7-12	46	94%	3.55
2	Mt. Vernon/Enola High School (Mt. Vernon-Enola) ♦	7-12	23	96%	3.53
3	Greenbrier High School (Greenbrier) ♦	10-12	217	96%	3.51
4	Benton High School (Benton) ♦	10-12	318	89%	3.39
5	Lakeside High School (Lakeside Garland County)	8-12	244	89%	3.36

¹³ A school was designated High School if it primarily serves students in grades 9 – 12.



Table 80: Top 5 High Schools in *Southwest* Arkansas Based on *EOC Geometry*

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	% Proficient/Advanced	GPA
1	Smackover High School (Smackover)	7-12	24	100%	3.42
2	Taylor High School (Emerson-Taylor) ♦	7-12	23	91%	3.39
3	Parkers Chapel High School (Parkers Chapel)	7-12	85	92%	3.38
4	Oden High School (Ouachita River)	7-12	15	93%	3.33
5	Centerpoint High School (Centerpoint)	6-12	60	91%	3.27



Table 81: Top 5 High Schools in *Southeast* Arkansas Based on *EOC Geometry*

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	% Proficient/Advanced	GPA
1	KIPP Delta Collegiate High School (KIPP Delta Public Schools)	9-12	34	91%	3.20
2	Hazen High School (Hazen) ♦	9-12	66	73%	3.11
3	Rison High School (Cleveland County) ♦	7-12	71	84%	3.06
3	Stuttgart High School (Stuttgart)	9-12	248	77%	3.06
5	Hamburg High School (Hamburg)	9-12	134	76%	3.04

Tables 82-86: Top 5 Junior High Schools¹⁴ in Arkansas by Region, *EOC Geometry* Achievement



Table 82: Top 3 Junior High Schools in *Northwest* Arkansas Based on *EOC Geometry*

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	% Proficient/Advanced	GPA
1	Clinton Junior High School (Clinton)	7-9	15	100%	4.00
1	J. William Fulbright Junior High School (Bentonville)	7-8	17	100%	4.00
1	Lincoln Junior High School (Bentonville) ♦	7-8	12	100%	4.00
1	Washington Junior High School (Bentonville) ♦	7-8	13	100%	4.00



Table 83: Top 3 Junior High Schools in *Northeast* Arkansas Based on *EOC Geometry*

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	% Proficient/Advanced	GPA
1	Valley View Junior High School (Valley View)	7-9	52	100%	3.92
2	Batesville Junior High School (Batesville) ♦	7-9	45	98%	3.69
3	Brookland Junior High (Brookland)	7-9	21	100%	3.62



Table 84: Top 5 Junior High Schools in *Central* Arkansas Based on *EOC Geometry*

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	% Proficient/Advanced	GPA
1	Cabot Junior High South (Cabot) ♦	7-9	63	100%	3.78
2	Cabot Junior High North (Cabot)	7-9	98	100%	3.76
3	Lake Hamilton Junior High School (Lake Hamilton)	8-9	92	100%	3.75

¹⁴ A school was designated a Junior High School if it serves students in grades primarily 7-8 (maximum grade of 9)



Table 85: Top 3 Junior High Schools in *Southwest* Arkansas Based on *EOC Geometry*

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	% Proficient/Advanced	GPA
1	Nashville Junior High School (Nashville) ♦	7-9	54	100%	3.50
2	Magnolia Junior High School (Magnolia) ♦	7-9	73	94%	3.44
3	DeQueen Junior High (DeQueen) ♦	8-9	52	97%	3.34

* These are only three Junior High schools in this region.



Table 86: Top Junior High School in *Southeast* Arkansas Based on *EOC Geometry*

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	% Proficient/Advanced	GPA
	KIPP Blytheville College Preparatory School (KIPP Delta Public Schools)	5-8	19	100%	3.42

* This is the only Junior High School in this region

S. Biology End-of-Course Exam, 2014

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, only high schools were included for the “High-Poverty”¹⁵ awards and the awards by region.

Compared to other EOC exams, proficiency rates in biology are significantly lower. The Biology EOC is a much newer test than the others (it was first administered in 2008), and most likely students and schools are still adapting to its requirements. Due to this, relatively lower rates for the schools included in this section come as no surprise.

¹⁵ “High-Poverty” schools have 66% or more students receiving a free or reduced lunch (FRL) in the grades they serve.

Table 87: Top 20 Arkansas High Schools¹⁶ Based on *EOC Biology* Achievement

	School (District)	Region	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	% Proficient/Advanced	GPA
1	Haas Hall Academy (Haas Hall Academy) ♦	NW	8-12	72	97%	3.78
2	Taylor High School (Emerson-Taylor) ♦	SW	7-12	26	77%	3.31
3	Dardanelle High School (Dardanelle) ♦	NW	9-12	116	85%	3.25
4	Viola High School (Viola) ♦	NE	7-12	27	85%	3.22
5	Bradford High School (Bradford)	NE	7-12	32	78%	3.13
5	Greenbrier High School (Greenbrier)	CN	10-12	221	82%	3.13
7	Omaha High School (Omaha)	NW	7-12	39	77%	3.10
8	Poyen High School (Poyen)	CN	7-12	45	73%	3.09
9	Bentonville High School (Bentonville) ♦	NW	9-12	1,018	76%	3.05
9	Yellville-Summit High School (Yellville-Summit)	NW	9-12	44	75%	3.05
11	Mt. Vernon/Enola High School (Mt. Vernon-Enola)	CN	7-12	27	74%	3.04
12	Academics Plus High School (Academics Plus)	CN	6-12	46	76%	3.00
12	Rural Special High School (Mountain View)	NE	7-12	13	69%	3.00
14	Benton County School of the Arts H.S. (Benton County School of the Arts) ♦	NW	9-12	60	71%	2.99
15	Eureka Springs High School (Eureka Springs)	NW	9-12	43	74%	2.97
16	West Side High School (West Side)	NE	7-12	37	67%	2.96
17	Gravette High School (Gravette)	NW	9-12	146	76%	2.92
18	Harrison High School (Harrison)	NW	10-12	196	69%	2.91
18	Pottsville High School (Pottsville)	NW	10-12	104	69%	2.91
20	Fayetteville High School East (Fayetteville) ♦	NW	9-12	503	70%	2.90

¹⁶ A school was designated High School if it primarily serves students in grades 9 – 12.

Table 88: Top 5 Arkansas Junior High Schools¹⁷ Based on EOC Biology Achievement

	School (District)	Region	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	% Proficient/Advanced	GPA
1	George Junior High School (Springdale) ♦	1	8-9	42	95%	3.59
2	Brookland Junior High (Brookland)	2	7-9	12	100%	3.58
3	Booneville Junior High School (Booneville) ♦	1	7-9	16	100%	3.44
4	Conway Junior High School (Conway) ♦	3	8-9	141	93%	3.37
5	Central Junior High School (Springdale)	1	8-9	163	92%	3.36

Tables 89-93: Top 5 High Schools¹⁸ in Arkansas by Region, EOC Biology Achievement



Table 89: Top 5 High Schools in Northwest Arkansas Based on EOC Biology

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	% Proficient/Advanced	GPA
1	Haas Hall Academy (Haas Hall Academy) ♦	8-12	72	97%	3.78
2	Dardanelle High School (Dardanelle) ♦	9-12	116	85%	3.25
3	Omaha High School (Omaha)	7-12	39	77%	3.10
4	Bentonville High School (Bentonville) ♦	9-12	1,018	76%	3.05
4	Yellville-Summit High School (Yellville-Summit)	9-12	44	75%	3.05



Table 90: Top 5 High Schools in Northeast Arkansas Based on EOC Biology

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	% Proficient/Advanced	GPA
1	Viola High School (Viola) ♦	7-12	27	85%	3.22
2	Bradford High School (Bradford)	7-12	32	78%	3.13
3	Rural Special High School (Mountain View)	7-12	13	69%	3.00
4	West Side High School (West Side)	7-12	37	67%	2.96
5	Riverside High School (Riverside)	7-12	55	67%	2.87

¹⁷ A school was designated a Junior High School if it serves students in grades primarily 7-8 (maximum grade of 9)

¹⁸ A school was designated High School if it primarily serves students in grades 9 – 12.



Table 91: Top 5 High Schools in *Central* Arkansas Based on *EOC Biology*

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	% Proficient/Advanced	GPA
1	Greenbrier High School (Greenbrier) ♦	10-12	221	82%	3.13
2	Poyen High School (Poyen)	7-12	45	73%	3.09
3	Mt. Vernon/Enola High School (Mt. Vernon-Enola)	7-12	27	74%	3.04
4	Academics Plus High School (Academics Plus)	6-12	46	76%	3.00
5	Bryant High School (Bryant) ♦	9-12	654	67%	2.88



Table 92: Top 5 High Schools in *Southwest* Arkansas Based on *EOC Biology*

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	% Proficient/Advanced	GPA
1	Taylor High School (Emerson-Taylor) ♦	7-12	26	77%	3.31
2	Genoa Central High School (Genoa Central)	9-12	83	66%	2.75
3	Murfreesboro High School (South Pike County)	7-12	51	59%	2.69
4	Centerpoint High School (Centerpoint)	6-12	72	57%	2.63
5	Foreman High School (Foreman)	7-12	43	58%	2.62



Table 93: Top 5 High Schools in *Southeast* Arkansas Based on *EOC Biology*

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	% Proficient/Advanced	GPA
1	Woodlawn High School (Woodlawn) ♦	7-12	38	50%	2.52
2	Hamburg High School (Hamburg)	9-12	168	46%	2.46
3	Monticello High School (Monticello) ♦	9-12	145	47%	2.44
4	Star City High School (Star City) ♦	9-12	128	48%	2.42
5	Rison High School (Cleveland County) ♦	7-12	64	44%	2.38

T. Grade 11 Literacy Exam, 2014

In this section, the top 20 high schools on Grade 11 Literacy are presented, followed by the top 10 “High-Poverty”¹⁹ schools, and the top 5 schools in each region.

Table 94: Top 20 High Schools in Arkansas Based on *Grade 11 Literacy Achievement*

	School (District)	Region	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	% Proficient/Advanced	GPA
1	Haas Hall Academy (Haas Hall Academy) ♦	NW	8-12	67	100%	3.75
2	Benton County School of the Arts High School (Benton County School of the Arts) ♦	NW	9-12	58	94%	3.45
3	Bentonville High School (Bentonville) ♦	NW	9-12	915	92%	3.43
4	St. Paul High School (Huntsville)	NW	7-12	15	80%	3.33
5	Emerson High School (Emerson-Taylor) ♦	SW	7-12	16	81%	3.31
6	Marshall High School (Searcy County)	NW	7-12	66	94%	3.30
6	Woodlawn High School (Woodlawn)	SE	7-12	48	88%	3.30
8	Lisa NLR High School (Lisa Academy - North Little Rock)	CN	9-12	17	88%	3.29
8	Norphlet High School (Norphlet) ♦	SW	7-12	17	94%	3.29
10	Marmaduke High School (Marmaduke)	NE	7-12	58	86%	3.27
10	Valley View High School (Valley View) ♦	NE	10-12	176	88%	3.27
12	Benton High School (Benton)	CN	10-12	328	86%	3.25
13	Viola High School (Viola) ♦	NE	7-12	29	86%	3.24
14	Pea Ridge High School (Pea Ridge)	NW	9-12	125	84%	3.21
14	South Side High School (South Side)	NW	7-12	37	89%	3.21
16	Bergman High School (Bergman)	NW	9-12	81	88%	3.20
16	Marked Tree High School (Marked Tree)	NE	9-12	36	87%	3.20
18	Ozark High School (Ozark)	NW	10-12	126	83%	3.19
18	Palestine-Wheatley Senior High (Palestine/Wheatley)	NE	9-12	41	90%	3.19
20	Central High School (Little Rock School District)	CN	9-12	570	81%	3.19
20	Rogers High School (Rogers)	NW	9-12	530	85%	3.18
20	Southside High School (Fort Smith) ♦	NW	10-12	530	84%	3.18

¹⁹ “High-Poverty” schools have 66% or more students receiving free or reduced lunch (FRL) in the grades they serve.

Tables 95-99: Top 5 High Schools in Arkansas by Region, **Grade 11 Literacy Achievement**



Table 95: Top 5 High Schools in **Northwest** Arkansas Based on **Grade 11 Literacy**

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	% Proficient/Advanced	GPA
1	Haas Hall Academy (Haas Hall Academy) ♦	8-12	67	100%	3.75
2	Benton County School of the Arts H.S. (Benton County School of the Arts) ♦	9-12	58	94%	3.45
3	Bentonville High School (Bentonville) ♦	9-12	915	92%	3.43
4	St. Paul High School (Huntsville)	7-12	15	80%	3.33
5	Marshall High School (Searcy County)	7-12	66	94%	3.30



Table 96: Top 5 High Schools in **Northeast** Arkansas Based on **Grade 11 Literacy**

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	% Proficient/Advanced	GPA
1	Marmaduke High School (Marmaduke)	7-12	58	86%	3.27
1	Valley View High School (Valley View) ♦	10-12	176	88%	3.27
3	Viola High School (Viola) ♦	7-12	29	86%	3.24
4	Marked Tree High School (Marked Tree)	9-12	36	87%	3.20
5	Palestine-Wheatley Senior High (Palestine/Wheatley)	9-12	41	90%	3.19



Table 97: Top 5 High Schools in **Central** Arkansas Based on **Grade 11 Literacy**

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	% Proficient/Advanced	GPA
1	Lisa NLR High School (Lisa Academy - North Little Rock)	9-12	17	88%	3.29
2	Benton High School (Benton) ♦	10-12	328	86%	3.25
3	Central High School (Little Rock)	9-12	570	81%	3.18
4	Greenbrier High School (Greenbrier)	10-12	248	85%	3.17
5	Conway High School (Conway)	10-12	641	80%	3.16



Table 98: Top 5 High Schools in *Southwest* Arkansas Based on *Grade 11 Literacy*

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	% Proficient/Advanced	GPA
1	Emerson High School (Emerson-Taylor) ♦	7-12	16	81%	3.31
2	Norphlet High School (Norphlet) ♦	7-12	17	94%	3.29
3	Mount Ida High School (Mount Ida)	7-12	39	82%	3.13
4	Taylor High School (Emerson-Taylor) ♦	7-12	17	88%	3.11
5	Cossatot River High School (Cossatot River)	7-12	75	82%	3.09



Table 99: Top 5 High Schools in *Southeast* Arkansas Based on *Grade 11 Literacy*

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	% Proficient/Advanced	GPA
1	Woodlawn High School (Woodlawn)	7-12	48	88%	3.30
2	KIPP Delta Collegiate High School (KIPP Delta Public Schools) ♦	9-12	40	90%	3.09
3	Rison High School (Cleveland County) ♦	7-12	45	75%	2.95
4	Monticello High School (Monticello) ♦	9-12	167	75%	2.92
5	Star City High School (Star City) ♦	9-12	108	74%	2.90

U. EOC Summary, 2014

This concludes the **High-Achieving High Schools** Outstanding Educational Performance Awards. In this section, we presented the top-achieving high schools on End-of-Course (EOC) exams. As we noted above in the sections reporting Algebra, Geometry, and Biology EOC performance, we presented more specific results for those schools serving EOC exam takers in grades 7 and 8. Recall that students who take these courses early on (grades 7 & 8) are typically more advanced than their peers who take the course in high school. Thus, we found it prudent to separate the results for high school from the results for middle school or junior high. We believe that these categories will allow us to recognize all schools whose students are performing well in these assessments.

It is always a pleasure to recognize successful schools, thus, we would like to congratulate **ALL** of the schools on our high-achieving lists. Our next installment, **Most Improved Schools**, takes a deeper look at Elementary, Middle, and High Schools that have shown considerable growth over the past several years and highlights these schools.

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		

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

For the Algebra EOC, schools are classified differently, as the test is taken at different levels. These classifications are explained in the Algebra EOC section.

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		