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2011-12 Arkansas Open-Enrollment Charter School Test Results

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Summary Points

- Open-enrollment charter schools operate independent of local districts.
- In 2011-12, there were 19 charters for open-enrollment charter schools in Arkansas.
- Arkansas' open-enrollment charter schools are mixed in their performance results on the Benchmark, ITBS, and EOC exams.
- LISA Academy, LISA Academy North, Benton County School of the Arts, and Haas Hall stand out among the open-enrollment charter schools.
- KIPP Delta Charter Schools stand out among the open-enrollment charter schools serving high populations of free and reduced lunch students.
- Full databases with state- and district-level scores are available on the OEP Arkansas Data webpage: <http://www.uark.edu/ua/oep/resources.html>

2011-12 Arkansas Open-Enrollment Charter School Test Results

Charter schools are receiving more attention in Arkansas and across the nation, as the number of these public schools of choice in Arkansas fluctuates each year. Some charters have been closed, while new ones have been opened. Further, in many media outlets, charter schools are often lumped together as one entity. However, 'charter school' is not a blanket term. They are separate schools run under separate charter documents with different operators.

In Arkansas, there are two types of charter schools: conversion charter schools and open-enrollment charter schools. Conversion charter schools are governed by the leadership in the district in which they are located. Open-enrollment charter schools are independent of local school districts and do not enroll students from one particular district. The following policy brief focuses only on Arkansas' open-enrollment charter schools. In this brief, we aim to highlight the achievement of Arkansas' open-enrollment charter schools, so that educators, policymakers, and others can make decisions based on the facts of Arkansas' charter schools.

Introduction

During the 2011-12 school year, there were 19 charters for open-enrollment schools in Arkansas. There are four network charter districts: eStem (with 3 charters), Lighthouse (with 2 charters), KIPP (with 2 charters), and LISA (with 2 charters). The other open-enrollment charter schools are independent. After the 2011-12 school year, one open-enrollment charter, Dreamland Academy, was closed by the state. Table 1 (on page 2) provides information about Arkansas' charter schools.

Academic Measures

In July, the Arkansas Department of Education (ADE) released the 2011-2012 test score results. We highlighted these statewide results in

an **earlier policy brief**. In *this* brief, we provide a snapshot of Arkansas' open-enrollment charter schools' test results and compare their performance to that of their nearby traditional public school districts. Specifically, we compare performance on the:

- Benchmark Exam (Grades 3-8)
- Iowa Test of Basic Skills (Grades 1-9)
- End-of-Course Exams (Algebra I, Geometry, Biology, and Grade 11 Literacy)

Benchmark Exam

The Arkansas Benchmark exam is administered to students in grades 3-8 each spring in Arkansas. This criterion-referenced test (CRT) measures knowledge proficiency according to the Arkansas curricular standards. Overall, students in Arkansas continue to show improved performance on the Benchmark exam compared with previous administrations. The 2011-12 results show that 81% of Arkansas 3rd-8th grade students scored at the proficient or advanced level in literacy, and 78% scored similarly in math. Arkansas' open-enrollment charter schools produced a range of performances.

The benchmark exam results are often represented by the percent of students performing at the proficient or advanced level, even though there are four levels of achievement. At the OEP, we compute a GPA measure to represent the results. 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",

Table 1: Open-enrollment charter schools in Arkansas, 2011-12

School	Location	Grades Served*	Year Opened	Students in School	% Minority	% FRL
State Average					35%	60%
Academics Plus	Little Rock metro (Pulaski County)	K-12	2001	623	29%	34%
Arkansas Virtual Academy (ARVA)	Arkansas (Online)	K-8	2007	500	14%	N/A°
Benton County School of the Arts	Northwest Arkansas	K-12	2001	769	15%	31%
Covenant Keepers	Little Rock	6-11	2008	238	99%	80%
Dreamland Academy	Little Rock	K-5	2007	138	99%	96%
eStem Elementary School	Little Rock	K-4	2008	466	56%	35%
eStem Middle School	Little Rock	5-8	2008	503	56%	29%
eStem High School	Little Rock	9-12	2008	488	64%	31%
Haas Hall Academy	Northwest Arkansas	8-12	2004	316	13%	N/A°
Imboden Area Charter School	Imboden (Northeast Arkansas)	K-8	2002	52	2%	81%
Jacksonville Lighthouse Flightline Upper Academy	Little Rock metro (Pulaski County)	5-8	2011	163	53%	44%
Jacksonville Lighthouse	Little Rock metro (Pulaski County)	K-8	2009	460	63%	63%
KIPP: Delta Charter Schools	Helena/West Helena	K-12	2002	862	97%	89%
KIPP Blytheville College Prep	Blytheville	5-6	2010	119	92%	80%
LISA Academy	Little Rock metro (Pulaski County)	6-12	2004	599	68%	36%
LISA Academy North	Little Rock metro (North Little Rock)	K-11	2008	450	47%	29%
LR Prep. Academy	Little Rock	K-7	2009	270	99%	80%
Pine Bluff Lighthouse Charter School	Pine Bluff	K-4	2011	165	98%	88%
SIA Tech	Little Rock	9-12	2011	168	84%	N/A°

and below basic as a 1.0, like a grade of "D." The GPA measure is a slightly more informative indicator, as it applies value to each of the four scoring categories.

Iowa Test of Basic Skills Performance

The Iowa Test of Basic Skills (ITBS) is a nationally norm-referenced test (NRT) that is administered in tandem with the Arkansas Benchmark test as part of the "Augmented Benchmark exam." In 2011-12, the ITBS was administered to students in grades 1-9 (though only scores from grades 3-8 are used in the Augmented Benchmark). This is the second year Arkansas has used the ITBS as an NRT in recent years. Overall, in 2011-12, scores on the ITBS in all areas did not change or only slightly increased from 2010-11.

Since the ITBS is a nationally normed test, results are reported in National Percentile Ranks (NPR) for each of the four subject areas: reading, language, math, and science. The NPR measures Arkansas' student performance against that of students in all other states that also administer the ITBS. Additionally, an overall NPR score is reported for each school; the overall NPR

combines the four subject areas into one NPR score.

End of Course Exam Performance

Students in Arkansas taking courses in Algebra, Geometry, and Biology are required to take an End-of-Course (EOC) exam at the close of the semester/year they take the course. In addition, all students are required to take a Literacy EOC exam in 11th grade.

The EOC exam results are also generally reported as the percent of students performing at the proficient or advanced level. Again, here we have computed a GPA measure that applies a value to each of the four categories (just like the benchmark GPA measure). An overall EOC GPA is reported for each school; this measure takes into account total EOC performance.

Results

In the following sections, Arkansas' open-enrollment charter schools' 2011-12 test results are reported. The results are grouped by region or school. This brief is a snapshot of performance during the 2011-12 school year (it does not show achievement growth over time). Overall, the Arkansas' open-enrollment charter schools' performance is mixed during 2011-12, with some schools producing stronger results than others.

*During the 2011-12 school year

°Lunch is not provided by the school, so FRL rate is not available.

Table 2: Performance of open-enrollment charter schools in Little Rock, 2011-12

	Covenant Dreamland		LR Prep.			Little Rock School	
	Keepers (6-11)	Academy (K-5)	eStem (K-12)	Academy (K-7)	SIA Tech (9-12)	District Average	State Average
District Benchmark GPA	2.46	2.10	3.17	2.49	N/A	2.83	3.18
Overall ITBS NPR	27	19	56	32	N/A	43	54
District EOC GPA	1.74	N/A	2.63	N/A	1.32	2.53	2.83
Literacy Benchmark % P/A [◇]	65%	49%	84%	58%	N/A	70%	81%
Literacy Benchmark GPA	2.74	2.36	3.25	2.68	N/A	2.95	3.23
Reading ITBS NPR	26	17	59	32	N/A	42	52
Language ITBS NCE	28	19	53	32	N/A	43	52
11th Grade Literacy EOC	18%	N/A	83%	N/A	3%	60%	68%
Math Benchmark % P/A	39%	24%	76%	46%	N/A	61%	78%
Math Benchmark GPA	2.19	1.84	3.08	2.30	N/A	2.71	3.14
Math ITBS NPR	28	21	55	33	N/A	45	57
8th Grade Algebra	29%	N/A	89%	N/A	N/A	93%	95%
9th Grade Algebra	15%	N/A	69%	N/A	0%	45%	66%
Geometry	10%	N/A	64%	N/A	2%	54%	75%
Science Benchmark % P/A	5%	5%	62%	13%	N/A	26%	49%
Science Benchmark GPA	1.37	1.52	2.68	1.71	N/A	1.96	2.46
Science ITBS NPR	28	22	67	31	N/A	43	61
Biology EOC	0%	N/A	32%	N/A	0%	28%	42%

Little Rock Open-Enrollment Charter Schools

The performance results for open-charter schools in Little Rock are shown above in Table 2.

In **literacy**, eStem is the only school to have a higher percentage of students at the proficient or advanced levels than the Little Rock School District and state on the benchmark, ITBS, and 11th grade EOC. Covenant Keepers, Dreamland, and Little Rock Preparatory Academy performed less well compared to the Little Rock School District and the statewide averages on all literacy measures.

In **math**, eStem has more students at the proficient or advanced levels than the Little Rock School District on the benchmark exam, and eStem outperformed Little Rock and the state on the ITBS. At the high school level, eStem outperformed the district on 9th grade algebra, and geometry, but only outperformed the state on 9th grade algebra. Covenant Keepers, Dreamland, and LR Prep performed less well than the Little Rock School District and the state on the benchmark and ITBS. Covenant Keepers and SIA Tech performed less well than the Little Rock School District and the state on all high school tests.

In **science**, eStem is the only Little Rock open-enrollment charter school to outperform the Little Rock School District and the state on the benchmark and ITBS. EStem's biology EOC results are better than the Little Rock area but lower than that of the state. Covenant Keepers, Dreamland, and LR Prep performed less well than the state and district on the benchmark and ITBS. On the Biology EOC, Covenant Keepers and SIA Tech both have 0% of students at the proficient or advanced level.

Demographically, three schools have Free or Reduced Lunch rates (FRL) above the Little Rock area average: Covenant Keepers, Dreamland Academy, and Little Rock Prep. Academy. (SIA Tech does not report FRL numbers.) Overall, these schools have lower performance than the Little Rock School District and the state. Dreamland Academy, was closed by the state at the end of the 2011-12 school year, because its 5 year charter was complete, and it did not provide evidence of academic achievement that equaled or bested its local feeder schools to the State Board. EStem, on the other hand, has a lower FRL rate (32%) than the Little Rock School District and the state averages.

[◇]Proficient or advanced

N/A: This subject was not tested because the school does not offer this class.

Little Rock Metro Area Open-Enrollment Charter Schools

Performance results for open-enrollment charter schools in the **Little Rock metro** area are shown below in Table 3.

In **literacy**, three Little Rock metro (Academics Plus, LISA Academy, and LISA Academy North) charter schools equaled or outperformed the Little Rock metro area average and the state average on the benchmark, ITBS, and on the 11th grade EOC. Jacksonville Lighthouse has the same percentage of students scoring proficient or advanced on the benchmark (but fewer students scoring advanced) and similar results on the literacy ITBS to the Little Rock metro districts.

In **math**, LISA Academy and LISA Academy North outperformed the metro area and the state on the benchmark and the ITBS. LISA Academy has stronger results in geometry (scoring above the metro area and the state), while LISA Academy North has stronger algebra scores. Academics Plus and Jacksonville Lighthouse have more students scoring proficient or advanced on the math benchmark than the metro area, but both schools' results fall short of the state average. Academics Plus

outperformed the Little Rock metro area (but not the state) on geometry and did not perform as well in algebra as the metro area or the state.

In **science**, all four metro area schools scored above the Little Rock metro average but below the state average on the benchmark (though, Academics Plus, LISA Academy, and LISA Academy north are all within three percentage points of the state average). Three schools (Academics Plus, LISA Academy, and LISA Academy North) outperformed the state and district on the science portion of the ITBS. Both LISA Academies scored well above the Little Rock metro and state averages on the Biology EOC, which is notable as LISA has a math, science, and engineering focus. Academics Plus scored above the Little Rock metro average on the Biology EOC, but their results are just below the state average.

Jacksonville Lighthouse, LISA Academy, and LISA Academy North have higher percentages of minority students than the state average, but lower percentages of Free or Reduced lunch students (as does Academics Plus).

Table 3: Performance of open-enrollment charter schools in the Little Rock metro area, 2011-12

	Academics Plus (K-12)	Jacksonville Lighthouse (K-8)	LISA Academy (6-12)	LISA Academy North (K-11)	Little Rock Metro Average*	State Average
District Benchmark GPA	3.23	2.99	3.39	3.29	3.03	3.18
Overall ITBS NPR	61	49	64	61	48	54
District EOC GPA	2.83	N/A	2.99	3.15	2.58	2.83
Literacy Benchmark % P/A	87%	77%	90%	88%	77%	81%
Literacy Benchmark GPA	3.36	3.05	3.45	3.28	3.12	3.23
Reading ITBS NPR	62	47	63	65	46	52
Language ITBS NPR	58	46	61	54	46	52
11th Grade Literacy EOC	68%	N/A	73%	81%	62%	68%
Math Benchmark % P/A	77%	71%	83%	87%	70%	78%
Math Benchmark GPA	3.09	2.94	3.34	3.31	2.95	3.14
Math ITBS NPR	62	52	66	63	50	57
8th Grade Algebra	85%	70%	71%	96%	94%	95%
9th Grade Algebra	51%	N/A	56%	83%	53%	66%
Geometry	67%	N/A	85%	69%	62%	75%
Science Benchmark % P/A	47%	39%	48%	46%	35%	49%
Science Benchmark GPA	2.41	2.29	2.67	2.42	2.15	2.46
Science ITBS NPR	67	53	70	67	52	61
Biology EOC	41%	N/A	64%	88%	27%	42%

*Little Rock metro: North Little Rock and Pulaski County School Districts
N/A: This subject was not tested because the school does not offer this class.

Table 4: Performance of open-enrollment charter schools in Northwest Arkansas, 2011-12

	Benton County School of the Arts (K-12)	HAAS Hall Academy (8-12)	NWA Average**	State Average
District Benchmark GPA	3.33	3.86	3.33	3.18
Overall ITBS NPR	64	86	61	54
District EOC GPA	3.18	3.61	3.04	2.83
Literacy Benchmark % P/A	89%	100%	86%	81%
Literacy Benchmark GPA	3.41	3.93	3.36	3.23
Reading ITBS NPR	65	89	58	52
Language ITBS NPR	60	85	58	52
11th Grade Literacy EOC	83%	100%	77%	68%
Math Benchmark % P/A	83%	100%	84%	78%
Math Benchmark GPA	3.25	3.78	3.30	3.14
Math ITBS NPR	63	84	63	57
8th Grade Algebra	100%	100%	99%	95%
9th Grade Algebra	77%	100%	76%	66%
Geometry	89%	98%	83%	75%
Science Benchmark % P/A	60%	N/A	63%	49%
Science Benchmark GPA	2.65	N/A	2.74	2.46
Science ITBS NPR	68	N/A	70	61
Biology EOC	80%	90%	53%	42%

Imboden Area Charter School

Imboden Area Charter School, located in rural Northeast Arkansas, opened in 2002. The school had low enrollment with 52 students during the 2011-12 school year, a drop from 67 students during the 2010-11 school year. Comparatively, the Sloan-Hendrix School district (the local district) had 377 K-8 students during the 2011-12 school year. Imboden Area Charter School has a higher FRL percentage than the local school district, 81% to 65%. The minority rates at Imboden Area Charter School and the Sloan-Hendrix School District are similar and small (2% and 3% respectively).

In **literacy**, Imboden Area Charter School performed less well on the benchmark and the ITBS than the Sloan-Hendrix School District and the state (Table 5). In **math** and **science**, Imboden Area Charter School scored drastically lower than the Sloan-Hendrix School District and the state. The math scores dropped from the 2010-11 school year: 92% of students scored proficient or advanced during the 2010-11 school year, and 25% of students scored proficient or advanced during the 2011-12 school year. These scores reflect the work of only 39 students 3-8 during the 2011-12 school year.

N/A: This subject was not tested because the school does not offer this class.

°Lunch is not provided by the school, so FRL rate is not available.

**Bentonville, Decatur, Elkins, Farmington, Fayetteville, Gentry, Gravette, Greenland, Lincoln, Pea Ridge, Prairie Grove, Rogers, Siloam Springs, Springdale, and West Fork School Districts

Northwest Arkansas Open-Enrollment Charter Schools

The 15 Northwest Arkansas School Districts** outperformed the state in all areas of achievement (Table 4). The two Northwest Arkansas open-enrollment charter schools (Benton County School of the Arts and Haas Hall Academy in Fayetteville) outperformed their feeder districts on some measures as well. Haas Hall Academy only serves grades 8-12, while Benton County School of the Arts (BCSA) serves grades K-12.

Haas Hall 8th graders were the strongest in the state on the benchmark in both math and literacy. At the high school level, Haas Hall outperformed Northwest Arkansas and the state in all subjects.

Benton County School of the Arts outperformed Northwest Arkansas and the state in literacy on all tests (benchmark, ITBS, and 11th grade EOC). Benton County School of the Arts has higher results in math at the high school level, but on the math benchmark, Northwest Arkansas outperformed BCSA by one percent. On the science benchmark and ITBS, BCSA outperformed the state average, but not the Northwest Arkansas average. On the Biology EOC, BCSA outperformed Northwest Arkansas and the state.

Overall, Haas Hall Academy and BCSA performed well on the statewide standardized tests. However, it should be noted that both schools have lower percentages of minority students than the state and the Northwest Arkansas average. BCSA has fewer percentage FRL students (31%) than the Northwest Arkansas and state average; Haas Hall does not report their FRL rate°.

Table 5: Performance of Imboden Area Charter School, 2011-12

	Imboden Area Charter School (K-8)	Sloan- Hendrix District	State Average
District Benchmark GPA	2.42	3.08	3.18
Overall ITBS NPR	45	52	54
Literacy Benchmark % P/A	75%	79%	81%
Literacy Benchmark GPA	2.75	3.08	3.23
Reading ITBS NPR	50	52	52
Language ITBS NPR	39	50	52
Math Benchmark % P/A	25%	75%	78%
Math Benchmark GPA	2.08	3.02	3.14
Math ITBS NPR	35	53	57
Science Benchmark % P/A	8%	46%	49%
Science Benchmark GPA	1.98	2.40	2.46
Science ITBS NPR	56	60	61

KIPP Delta Public Charter Schools

Table 6: Performance of KIPP Delta Charter Schools, 2011-12

KIPP Delta Charter Schools are located in two towns: one school in Blytheville (serving grades 5-6 during the 2011-12 school year) and one school (with 3 campuses) in Helena/West Helena (serving grades K-12 during the 2011-12 school year). KIPP Delta schools have a similar percentage of students receiving Free or Reduced Lunch as their local districts (both of which are higher percentages than the state average). Overall, KIPP outperformed the local districts (Blytheville School District and Helena/West Helena School District) in almost all areas of measure.

In **literacy**, KIPP outperformed the local districts on the benchmark and literacy portion of the ITBS. KIPP in Helena performed exceedingly well on the 11th grade Literacy EOC with 93% of students scoring proficient or advanced, compared to the statewide average of 68%. Among all open-enrollment charter schools, KIPP has the second highest percentage of students scoring proficient or advanced on the literacy EOC (after HAAS Hall).

	KIPP: Helena/West Helena Charter Schools (K-12)	Helena/West Helena Traditional District Average	KIPP: Blytheville College Prep (5-6)	Blytheville Traditional District Average	State Average
District Benchmark GPA	2.93	2.66	3.05	2.62	3.18
Overall ITBS NCE	37	32	40	32	54
District EOC GPA	2.88	2.09	N/A	--	2.83
Literacy Benchmark % P/A	77%	65%	81%	59%	81%
Literacy Benchmark GPA	3.02	2.83	3.09	2.70	3.23
Reading ITBS NPR	33	30	31	29	52
Language ITBS NPR	36	32	40	32	52
11th Grade Literacy EOC	93%	64%	N/A	--	68%
Math Benchmark % P/A	66%	53%	76%	54%	78%
Math Benchmark GPA	2.83	2.5	3.02	2.54	3.14
Math ITBS NPR	42	33	49	35	57
8th Grade Algebra	92%	93%	N/A	--	95%
9th Grade Algebra	45%	28%	N/A	--	66%
Geometry	86%	39%	N/A	--	75%
Science Benchmark % P/A	55%	12%	55%	31%	49%
Science Benchmark GPA	2.58	1.64	2.67	2.03	2.46
Science ITBS NPR	39	28	42	35	61
Biology EOC	35%	10%	N/A	--	42%

In **math**, on the math benchmark and ITBS, KIPP performed above the local districts but lower than the state average. In high school, KIPP Delta outperformed its local district in all subjects, except 8th grade algebra (it must be considered, however, that KIPP taught 65 students in 8th grade algebra and the Helena/West Helena School District taught 15 students). KIPP is above the statewide average on the Geometry EOC. In **science**, KIPP outperformed the local district and the state on the benchmark but not on the science portion of the ITBS. On the Biology EOC, KIPP performed better than the Helena/West Helena District but lower than the statewide average.

Table 7: Performance of Pine Bluff Lighthouse Charter School, 2011-12

	Pine Bluff Lighthouse Charter School (K-4)	Pine Bluff Area School Districts [†]	State Average
District Benchmark GPA	2.54	2.70	3.18
Overall ITBS NPR	21	34	54
Literacy Benchmark % P/A	60%	64%	81%
Literacy Benchmark GPA	2.6	2.8	3.23
Reading ITBS NPR	19	30	52
Language ITBS NPR	22	35	52
Math Benchmark % P/A	50%	56%	78%
Math Benchmark GPA	2.47	2.58	3.14
Math ITBS NPR	23	35	57

Pine Bluff Lighthouse Charter School

The Lighthouse Charter School network has three charters in Arkansas (Jacksonville Lighthouse, Jacksonville Lighthouse Flightline, and Pine Bluff Lighthouse). The Pine Bluff Lighthouse Charter School opened during the 2011-12 school year and served 165 students in K-4. The school has higher percentages of minority students and students receiving FRL than the state averages, but these percentages are similar to the surrounding Pine Bluff school districts[†].

During the first year of operation, the school performed less well than the local area and state averages in all measures (benchmark and ITBS). Science is tested in 5th and 7th grades, so there are no science results.

Open-enrollment charter schools typically face unique situations during the first year of operation. It will be important to track the performance and growth of the school in the upcoming years.

[†]Pine Bluff, Dollarway, and Watson Chapel School Districts

Table 8: Performance of Arkansas Virtual Academy open-enrollment charter school, 2011-12

	Arkansas Virtual Academy (K-8)	State Average
District Benchmark GPA	3.02	3.18
Overall ITBS NPR	61	54
Literacy Benchmark % P/A	76%	81%
Literacy Benchmark GPA	3.11	3.23
Reading ITBS NPR	66	52
Language ITBS NPR	54	52
Math Benchmark % P/A	69%	78%
Math Benchmark GPA	2.93	3.14
Math ITBS NPR	59	57
Science Benchmark % P/A	53%	82%
Science Benchmark GPA	2.55	3.23
Science ITBS NPR	75	61

Arkansas Virtual Academy Charter School

The Arkansas Virtual Academy (ARVA) serves 500 students in grades K-8. The school's enrollment cap for the school is set at 500; students are selected through a lottery (as with all over subscribed open-enrollment charter schools). ARVA opened as an open-enrollment charter school in 2007, but it began serving students in 2003. ARVA is a part of the K-12 Network that operates online schools nationwide.

Because ARVA serves students across the state, ARVA is compared to the state averages in all measures. During the 2011-12 school year, in **literacy**, ARVA performed less well than the state average on the benchmark, but outperformed the state average on both ITBS literacy measures. Similarly, in **math** and **science**, ARVA outperformed the state average on the ITBS, but ARVA performed less well than the state average on the benchmark.

In this brief, other open-enrollment charter schools are compared to their local districts because the majority of the students at the charter schools come from their surrounding districts. ARVA, however, is not localized in any region, so ARVA's results are compared to the state averages.

Summary

Overall, Arkansas' open-enrollment charter schools are mixed in their performance during the 2011-12 school year. At the **elementary and middle school level**, Benton County School of the Arts, Haas Hall Academy, LISA Academy and LISA Academy North stand out above the state averages. Academics Plus, eStem, and Jacksonville Lighthouse have solid results, performing above their respective local district averages. Of the schools that serve higher populations of lower-income students, KIPP Delta Charter Schools stand out. Pine Bluff Lighthouse Charter School was in its first year during the 2011-12 school year; so it will be important to watch the school as it grows, as the first year of a school creates unique challenges. At the **high school level**, Academics Plus, Benton County School of the Arts, eStem, Haas Hall Academy, and KIPP Delta all perform around or above the statewide averages. KIPP Delta Charter School once again stands out as having the highest percentage of lower-income students, yet producing competitive results.

This report provides a snapshot of student achievement. While this snapshot is useful, it does not represent a rigorous evaluation of each school's effectiveness. To truly assess the performance of a given charter school, school leaders and policy makers must systematically examine the growth of individual students over multiple academic years. In the future, as Arkansas policy makers continue to make decisions about charter schools, it is important to rely on data from such rigorous evaluations that promote thoughtful decision making to best serve the students of Arkansas.

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