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## Outstanding Educational Performance Awards: Highlighting High-Growth Arkansas, Schools, 2017

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**OUTSTANDING EDUCATIONAL PERFORMANCE AWARDS:  
HIGHLIGHTING HIGH-GROWTH ARKANSAS SCHOOLS, 2017**

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

**June 06, 2018**

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## INTRODUCTION

The mission of the Office for Education Policy is to examine educational issues through the lens of academic research and disseminate our findings to educators, policymakers, and other stakeholders around Arkansas. Annually, we highlight excellent schools around the state in our **Outstanding Educational Performance Awards**, or the OEP awards.

This edition of the **OEP Awards** highlights schools in Arkansas based on student growth on the ACT Aspire exams in Mathematics and English Language Arts (ELA). This is a departure from prior awards, which were based on student proficiency.

We choose to focus on student growth for these OEP awards because we think it is a better reflection than proficiency rates of how the school is impacting students. Growth is calculated at the student level, and essentially reflects how much a student improved his or her score from the prior year compared to what was predicted based on prior achievement history. Proficiency rates, even those that move beyond the ‘percent proficient’ like our OEP GPA and Arkansas’ weighted achievement score, are more correlated with student demographics than growth scores. This means that schools can demonstrate high student growth regardless of the characteristics of the students that they serve.

In the 2016-17 academic year, ACT Aspire examinations were administered to students in grades 3 through 10 in Math, Reading, Writing, English and Science. For the purposes of this report, the scores obtained in Reading, Writing and English were combined to create a combined ELA score.

For the purposes of these awards, we are using the content-area growth calculated and reported by the Arkansas Department of Education (ADE). Note that we used only growth for math and English Language Arts, excluding the growth score for English Learner progress to English Language Proficiency). In addition, we identify the highest growth schools by school level as identified by the ADE under Arkansas’ ESSA Plan: Elementary, Middle, and High school level. In this report, we present a list of the top 20 schools in the state for Overall growth (average of Math and ELA growth), Math growth, and ELA growth. In some cases, these “top 20 lists” will contain more than 20 schools as some schools’ growth scores will be identical. This is not a new phenomenon, as we also exceeded 20 schools in previous reports when using the OEP GPA as an indicator for student achievement.

In the following weeks, we will focus on high-growth elementary schools, middle schools, and high schools in the various regions across the state. We will conclude this edition of the report by highlighting schools that are beating the odds (that is, schools that have high levels of student growth while serving a high percentage of low-income students).

We are pleased to be able to highlight how students are growing academically in schools across the state, and hope the information will spark discussion among stakeholders about how to ensure all schools are growing the knowledge of Arkansas students.

### **III. 2017 OEP AWARDS: HIGH ACHIEVING HIGH SCHOOLS IN ARKANSAS BASED ON CONTENT GROWTH IN THE ACT ASPIRE EXAMS**

This section highlights elementary schools across the state whose students demonstrated high growth on the Arkansas ACT Aspire exams. The ACT Aspire was administered to students in grades 3 through 10 in April 2017 in Math and ELA courses which include English, Writing, and Reading.

Each table in this section presents the Top 20 schools for the noted subject area and school level. In addition, these tables include the region in which the schools are located, the grades served at the school, the weighted achievement score, and the content growth score in that particular subject.

The level of the schools, namely Elementary, Middle, and High, have been based on the school allocation given through the [My School Info](#) portal of the Arkansas Department of Education website.

## G. High School Overall ACT Aspire Scores, 2017

Table 37: Top 20 *High Schools* in Arkansas based on *Overall ACT Aspire Growth*

	School (District)	Region	Grades Served	Final Weighted Achievement	Overall Content Growth
1	LISA Academy North High Charter (LISA Academy)	CN	9-12	69.39	86.66
2	Haas Hall Academy Bentonville (Haas Hall Bentonville)	NW	7-12	116.95	86.57
3	Bismarck High (Bismarck)	CN	9-12	85.47	85.78
4	Greenbrier Junior High (Greenbrier)	CN	8-9	90.60	85.77
5	Van Buren Freshman Academy (Van Buren)	NW	9	63.77	85.26
6	Haas Hall Academy (Haas Hall Academy)	NW	7-12	117.57	85.20
7	Russellville Jr. High (Russellville)	NW	8-9	70.87	84.98
8	Arkansas Arts Academy High (Arkansas Arts Academy)	NW	9-12	89.77	84.59
9	Trumann High (Trumann)	NE	9-12	46.59	84.50
10	Southside Charter High (Southside Independence))	NE	10-12	60.94	84.39
11	Arkansas School For The Deaf H.S. (Ark. School For The Deaf)	CN	9-12	10.20	84.05
12	Northwest Arkansas Classical Academy High (Responsive Ed Solutions Northwest Ark Classical Academy)	NW	9-12	97.02	83.97
13	Eureka Springs High (Eureka Springs)	NW	9-12	73.54	83.95
14	Danville High (Danville)	NW	9-12	51.58	83.81
15	Timbo High (Mountain View)	NE	7-12	77.54	83.71
16	eStem High Charter (eStem Public Charter)	CN	9-12	65.20	83.70
17	Rural Special High (Mountain View)	NE	7-12	73.93	83.45
18	Wilbur D. Mills High (Pulaski County Special)	CN	9-12	28.05	83.30
19	Cabot High (Cabot)	CN	10-12	65.29	83.26
20	Greenbrier High (Greenbrier)	CN	10-12	78.69	83.16

Tables 38-42: Top 5 **High Schools** in Arkansas by Regions, **Overall Growth**



Table 38: Top 5 schools in **Northwest** Region based on **Overall High ACT Aspire Growth**

	<b>School (District)</b>	<b>Grades Served</b>	<b># of Test Takers</b>	<b>Final Weighted Achievement</b>	<b>Overall Content Growth</b>
<b>1</b>	Haas Hall Academy Bentonville (Haas Hall Bentonville)	7-12	192	116.95	86.57
<b>2</b>	Van Buren Freshman Academy (Van Buren)	9	401	63.77	85.26
<b>3</b>	Haas Hall Academy (Haas Hall Academy)	7-12	206	117.57	85.20
<b>4</b>	Russellville Jr. High (Russellville)	8-9	646	70.87	84.98
<b>5</b>	Arkansas Arts Academy High (Arkansas Arts Academy)	9-12	88	89.77	84.59



Table 39: Top 5 schools in the **Northeast** Region based on **Overall High ACT Aspire Growth**

	<b>School (District)</b>	<b>Grades Served</b>	<b># of Test Takers</b>	<b>Final Weighted Achievement</b>	<b>Overall Content Growth</b>
<b>1</b>	Trumann High (Trumann)	9-12	226	46.59	84.50
<b>2</b>	Southside Charter High (Southside Independence))	10-12	126	60.94	84.39
<b>3</b>	Timbo High (Mountain View)	7-12	57	77.54	83.71
<b>4</b>	Rural Special High (Mountain View)	7-12	69	73.93	83.45
<b>5</b>	Gosnell High (Gosnell)	7-12	359	67.80	83.14



Table 40: Top 5 schools in the **Central** Region based on **Overall High ACT Aspire Growth**

	<b>School (District)</b>	<b>Grades Served</b>	<b># of Test Takers</b>	<b>Final Weighted Achievement</b>	<b>Overall Content Growth</b>
<b>1</b>	LISA Academy North High Charter (LISA Academy)	9-12	75	69.39	86.66
<b>2</b>	Bismarck High (Bismarck)	9-12	143	85.47	85.78
<b>3</b>	Greenbrier Junior High (Greenbrier)	8-9	509	90.60	85.77
<b>4</b>	Arkansas School For The Deaf H.S. (Ark. School For The Deaf)	9-12	16	10.20	84.05
<b>5</b>	eStem High Charter (eStem Public Charter)	9-12	245	65.20	83.70



Table 41: Top 5 schools in the **Southwest** Region based on **Overall High ACT Aspire Growth**

	<b>School (District)</b>	<b>Grades Served</b>	<b># of Test Takers</b>	<b>Final Weighted Achievement</b>	<b>Overall Content Growth</b>
<b>1</b>	Nashville High (Nashville)	10-12	120	53.23	83.11
<b>2</b>	Fordyce High (Fordyce)	7-12	185	46.61	83.08
<b>3</b>	Umpire K-12 (Cossatot River)	K-12	73	58.55	82.55
<b>4</b>	DeQueen Junior High (DeQueen)	8-9	338	71.81	82.45
<b>5</b>	Washington Academy (Texarkana)	7-12	29	31.67	82.42





Table 42: Top 5 schools in the *Southeast* Region based on *Overall High ACT Aspire Growth*

	<b>School (District)</b>	<b>Grades Served</b>	<b># of Test Takers</b>	<b>Final Weighted Achievement</b>	<b>Overall Content Growth</b>
<b>1</b>	Des Arc High (Des Arc)	7-12	172	76.73	82.93
<b>2</b>	Star City High (Star City)	9-12	227	46.82	81.87
<b>3</b>	Rison High (Cleveland County)	7-12	294	63.08	81.55
<b>4</b>	Kipp:Delta Collegiate High (Kipp Delta Public Schools)	9-12	122	51.02	81.37
<b>5</b>	Hazen High (Hazen)	9-12	99	52.22	81.04

## H. High School Math ACT Aspire Scores, 2017

Table 43: Top 10 *High Schools* in Arkansas based on ACT Aspire *Math Growth*

	School (District)	Region	Grades Served	Final Weighted Achievement	Math Content Growth
1	Bismarck High (Bismarck)	CN	9-12	85.47	90.85
2	LISA Academy North High Charter (LISA Academy)	CN	9-12	69.39	89.45
3	Arkansas Arts Academy High (Arkansas Arts Academy)	NW	9-12	89.77	88.05
4	Haas Hall Academy Bentonville (Haas Hall Bentonville)	NW	7-12	116.95	87.70
5	Haas Hall Academy (Haas Hall Academy)	NW	7-12	117.57	86.65
6	Ark. For The Deaf H.S. (Ark. School For The Deaf)	CN	9-12	10.20	86.30
7	Greenbrier Junior High (Greenbrier)	CN	8-9	90.60	85.95
7	Northwest Arkansas Classical Academy High (Responsive Ed Solutions Northwest Ark Classical Academy)	NW	9-12	97.02	85.95
9	Russellville Jr. High (Russellville)	NW	8-9	70.87	85.60
9	Timbo High (Mountain View)	NE	7-12	77.54	85.60

Tables 44-48: Top 5 **High Schools** in Arkansas by Regions, **Math Growth**



Table 44: Top 5 schools in **Northwest** Region based on High **Math** ACT Aspire Growth

	<b>School (District)</b>	<b>Grades Served</b>	<b># of Test Takers</b>	<b>Final Weighted Achievement</b>	<b>Math Content Growth</b>
<b>1</b>	Arkansas Arts Academy High (Arkansas Arts Academy)	9-12	88	89.77	88.05
<b>2</b>	Haas Hall Academy Bentonville (Haas Hall Bentonville)	7-12	192	116.95	87.70
<b>3</b>	Haas Hall Academy (Haas Hall Academy)	7-12	206	117.57	86.65
<b>4</b>	Northwest Arkansas Classical Academy High (Responsive Ed Solutions Northwest Ark Classical Academy)	9-12	41	97.02	85.95
<b>5</b>	Russellville Jr. High (Russellville)	8-9	646	70.87	85.60



Table 45: Top 5 schools in **Northeast** Region based on High **Math** ACT Aspire Growth

	<b>School (District)</b>	<b>Grades Served</b>	<b># of Test Takers</b>	<b>Final Weighted Achievement</b>	<b>Math Content Growth</b>
<b>1</b>	Timbo High (Mountain View)	7-12	57	77.54	85.60
<b>2</b>	Gosnell High (Gosnell)	7-12	359	67.80	84.90
<b>3</b>	Manila High (Manila)	9-12	144	55.17	84.20
<b>4</b>	Trumann High (Trumann)	9-12	226	46.59	83.85
<b>4</b>	Concord High (Concord)	7-12	133	73.99	83.85



Table 46: Top 5 schools in **Central** Region based on High **Math** ACT Aspire Growth

	<b>School (District)</b>	<b>Grades Served</b>	<b># of Test Takers</b>	<b>Final Weighted Achievement</b>	<b>Math Content Growth</b>
1	Bismarck High (Bismarck)	9-12	143	85.47	90.85
2	LISA Academy North High Charter (LISA Academy)	9-12	75	69.39	89.45
3	Ark. For The Deaf H.S. (Ark. School For The Deaf)	9-12	16	10.20	86.30
4	Greenbrier Junior High (Greenbrier)	8-9	509	90.60	85.95
5	Greenbrier High (Greenbrier)	10-12	238	78.69	84.55
5	LISA Academy High (LISA Academy)	9-12	210	57.11	84.55



Table 47: Top 5 schools in **Southwest** Region based on High **Math** ACT Aspire Growth

	<b>School (District)</b>	<b>Grades Served</b>	<b># of Test Takers</b>	<b>Final Weighted Achievement</b>	<b>Math Content Growth</b>
1	DeQueen Junior High (DeQueen)	8-9	336	71.81	85.25
2	Nashville High (Nashville)	10-12	120	53.23	83.50
3	Fordyce High (Fordyce)	7-12	185	46.61	83.15
3	Smackover High (Smackover-Norphlet)	9-12	158	50.30	83.15
5	Murfreesboro High (South Pike County)	7-12	198	52.32	82.80



Table 48: Top 5 schools in *Southeast* Region based on High **Math** ACT Aspire Growth

	<b>School (District)</b>	<b>Grades Served</b>	<b># of Test Takers</b>	<b>Final Weighted Achievement</b>	<b>Math Content Growth</b>
<b>1</b>	Hazen High (Hazen)	9-12	98	52.22	84.55
<b>2</b>	Des Arc High (Des Arc)	7-12	172	76.73	83.50
<b>3</b>	Stuttgart High (Stuttgart)	9-12	223	45.73	82.10
<b>4</b>	Kipp Blytheville Collegiate High (Kipp Delta Public)	7-12	151	50.65	81.75
<b>5</b>	Warren High Conversion Charter (Warren)	9-12	217	36.85	81.05

## I. High School ELA ACT Aspire Scores, 2017

Table 49: Top 10 *High Schools* in Arkansas based on ACT Aspire *ELA Growth*

	<b>School (District)</b>	<b>Region</b>	<b>Grades Served</b>	<b>Final Weighted Achievement</b>	<b>ELA Content Growth</b>
<b>1</b>	Miner Academy (Bauxite)	CN	6-12	46.15	88.05
<b>2</b>	Van Buren Freshman Academy (Van Buren)	NW	9	63.77	85.95
<b>3</b>	Haas Hall Academy Bentonville (Haas Hall Bentonville)	NW	7-12	116.95	85.60
<b>3</b>	Greenbrier Junior High (Greenbrier)	CN	8-9	90.60	85.60
<b>5</b>	Trumann High (Trumann)	NE	9-12	46.59	85.25
<b>5</b>	Southside Charter High (Southside Independence)	NE	10-12	60.94	85.25
<b>5</b>	Shirley High (Shirley)	NW	7-12	58.66	85.25
<b>8</b>	Washington Academy (Texarkana)	SW	7-12	31.67	84.90
<b>9</b>	Russellville Jr. High (Russellville)	NW	8-9	70.87	84.55
<b>9</b>	Glen Rose High (Glen Rose)	CN	9-12	64.46	84.55
<b>9</b>	Pine Bluff Lighthouse College Prep Academy High (Pine Bluff Lighthouse Academy)	CN	7-12	46.71	84.55

Tables 50-54: Top 5 **High Schools** in Arkansas by Regions, **ELA Growth**



Table 50: Top 5 schools in **Northwest** Region based on High **ELA ACT Aspire Growth**

	<b>School (District)</b>	<b>Grades Served</b>	<b># of Test Takers</b>	<b>Final Weighted Achievement</b>	<b>ELA Content Growth</b>
<b>1</b>	Van Buren Freshman Academy (Van Buren)	9	400	63.77	85.95
<b>2</b>	Haas Hall Academy Bentonville (Haas Hall Bentonville)	7-12	192	116.95	85.60
<b>3</b>	Shirley High (Shirley)	7-12	94	58.66	85.25
<b>4</b>	Russellville Jr. High (Russellville)	8-9	641	70.87	84.55
<b>5</b>	Haas Hall Academy (Haas Hall Academy)	7-12	206	117.57	83.85



Table 51: Top 5 schools in **Northeast** Region based on High **ELA ACT Aspire Growth**

	<b>School (District)</b>	<b>Grades Served</b>	<b># of Test Takers</b>	<b>Final Weighted Achievement</b>	<b>ELA Content Growth</b>
<b>1</b>	Trumann High (Trumann)	9-12	226	46.59	85.25
<b>1</b>	Southside Charter High (Southside (Independence))	10-12	126	60.94	85.25
<b>3</b>	Palestine-Wheatley Senior High(Palestine-Wheatley)	7-12	249	53.02	84.20
<b>4</b>	Rural Special High (Mountain View)	7-12	69	73.93	83.85
<b>5</b>	Green Co. Tech Jr. High (Greene County Tech)	8-9	522	70.16	83.50



Table 52: Top 5 schools in **Central** Region based on High ELA ACT Aspire Growth

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	Final Weighted Achievement	ELA Content Growth
1	Miner Academy (Bauxite)	6-12	2	46.15	88.05
2	Greenbrier Junior High (Greenbrier)	8-9	509	90.60	85.60
3	Glen Rose High (Glen Rose)	9-12	141	64.46	84.55
3	Pine Bluff Lighthouse College Prep Academy High (Pine Bluff Lighthouse Academy)	7-12	38	46.71	84.55
5	LISA Academy North High Charter (LISA Academy)	9-12	75	69.39	83.85
5	Quest Middle Of Pine Bluff (Responsive Ed Solutions Quest Middle School Of Pine Bluff)	5-12	84	28.22	83.85



Table 53: Top 5 schools in **Southwest** Region based on High ELA ACT Aspire Growth

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	Final Weighted Achievement	ELA Content Growth
1	Washington Academy (Texarkana)	7-12	29	31.67	84.90
2	Ashdown High (Ashdown)	9-12	194	49.12	83.85
3	Nashville High (Nashville)	10-12	120	53.23	82.80
3	Fordyce High (Fordyce)	7-12	185	46.61	82.80
3	Umpire K-12 (Cossatot River)	K-12	73	58.55	82.80





Table 54: Top 5 schools in *Southeast* Region based on High *ELA* ACT Aspire Growth

	<b>School (District)</b>	<b>Grades Served</b>	<b># of Test Takers</b>	<b>Final Weighted Achievement</b>	<b>ELA Content Growth</b>
<b>1</b>	Star City High (Star City)	9-12	227	46.82	83.15
<b>2</b>	Rison High (Cleveland County)	7-12	293	63.08	82.80
<b>3</b>	Des Arc High (Des Arc)	7-12	172	76.73	82.10
<b>3</b>	Kipp:Delta Collegiate High (Kipp Delta Public)	9-12	122	51.02	82.10
<b>5</b>	Dermott High (Dermott)	7-12	85	38.46	81.40

## APPENDIX

### A. Methods

All data used in this report were obtained from the Arkansas Department of Education via the link <https://myschoolinfo.arkansas.gov/Plus/Schools>.

We generated a statewide report for the 2016-17 school year, using the ESSA School Index report. Values included

- Final Weighted Achievement Adjusted for 95% Tested
- Grade Range
- Grade Span (School Level)
- Poverty Rate
- Combined Content Growth Score Current Year
- Combined Math Growth Score Current Year
- Combined ELA Growth Score Current Year

For more information about how school levels were assigned, see [http://www.arkansased.gov/public/userfiles/ESEA/Documents to Share/Grade Spans and Grade Configurations\\_rv.pdf](http://www.arkansased.gov/public/userfiles/ESEA/Documents%20to%20Share/Grade%20Spans%20and%20Grade%20Configurations_rv.pdf)

For more information about how growth values were calculated, see [http://www.arkansased.gov/public/userfiles/ESEA/Documents to Share/School%20Growth%20Explanation%20for%20ES%20and%20DC%20111017.pdf](http://www.arkansased.gov/public/userfiles/ESEA/Documents%20to%20Share/School%20Growth%20Explanation%20for%20ES%20and%20DC%20111017.pdf)