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## High-Growth Elementary Schools in Arkansas Based on Performance on the ACT Aspire Examinations

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**OUTSTANDING EDUCATIONAL PERFORMANCE AWARDS:  
HIGHLIGHTING HIGH-GROWTH ARKANSAS SCHOOLS, 2018**

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

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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 2017-18 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.

## **I. 2018 OEP AWARDS: HIGH GROWTH ELEMENTARY 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 2018 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 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.

## A. Elementary School Overall ACT Aspire Growth Scores, 2018

Table 1: Top 20 *Elementary Schools* in Arkansas based on *Overall ACT Aspire Growth*

	School (District)	Region	Grades Served	Overall Content Growth
1	Center Valley Elementary (Russellville)	NW	K-4	90.55
2	City Heights Elementary (Van Buren)	NW	K-5	90.20
3	Greenbrier Springhill Elementary (Greenbrier)	CN	K-5	89.61
4	Crawford Elementary (Russellville)	NW	K-4	89.16
5	Greenbrier Wooster Elementary (Greenbrier)	CN	K-5	88.63
6	Salem Elementary (Salem)	NE	K-6	88.52
7	Sequoyah Elementary (Russellville)	NW	K-4	87.51
8	Bismarck Elementary (Bismarck)	CN	K-4	87.47
9	Oscar Hamilton Elementary (Foreman)	SW	K-6	87.41
10	Parson Hills Elementary (Springdale)	NW	K-5	87.20
11	John Tyson Elementary (Springdale)	NW	K-5	87.17
12	Cross County Elementary Tech Academy (Cross County)	NE	K-6	87.15
13	Genoa Central Elementary (Genoa Central)	SW	K-4	87.12
14	Des Arc Elementary (Des Arc)	SE	P-6	87.06
15	Monitor Elementary (Springdale)	NW	K-5	87.05
16	Eastside Elementary (Cabot)	CN	K-4	86.82
17	Sonora Elementary (Springdale)	NW	K-5	86.68
18	Cavanaugh Elementary (Fort Smith)	NW	P-6	86.64
18	Hunt Elementary (Springdale)	NW	K-5	86.64
20	Pottsville Elementary (Pottsville)	NW	K-3	86.54

Tables 2-6: Top 5 Elementary Schools in Arkansas by Region, Overall Growth



Table 2: Top 5 schools in Northwest Region based on Overall Elementary ACT Aspire Growth

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	Overall Content Growth
1	Center Valley Elementary (Russellville)	K-4	130	90.55
2	City Heights Elementary (Van Buren)	K-5	145	90.20
3	Crawford Elementary (Russellville)	K-4	125	89.16
4	Sequoyah Elementary (Russellville)	K-4	216	87.51
5	Parson Hills Elementary (Springdale)	K-5	241	87.20



Table 3: Top 5 schools in the Northeast Region based on Overall Elementary ACT Aspire Growth

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	Overall Content Growth
1	Salem Elementary (Salem)	K-6	245	88.52
2	Cross County Elementary Tech Academy (Cross County)	K-6	158	87.15
3	Sidney Deener Elementary (Searcy)	K-3	89	85.75
4	Westside Elementary (Searcy)	K-3	127	84.86
5	Woodrow Wilson Elementary (Paragould)	2-4	140	84.79



Table 4: Top 5 schools in the **Central** Region based on **Overall** Elementary ACT Aspire Growth

	<b>School (District)</b>	<b>Grades Served</b>	<b># of Test Takers</b>	<b>Overall Content Growth</b>
1	Greenbrier Springhill Elementary (Greenbrier)	K-5	187	89.61
2	Greenbrier Wooster Elementary (Greenbrier)	K-5	173	88.63
3	Bismarck Elementary (Bismarck)	K-4	134	87.47
4	Eastside Elementary (Cabot)	K-4	177	86.82
5	Don Roberts Elementary (Little Rock)	P-5	444	86.37
5	Crestwood Elementary (North Little Rock)	K-5	231	86.37



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

	<b>School (District)</b>	<b>Grades Served</b>	<b># of Test Takers</b>	<b>Overall Content Growth</b>
1	Oscar Hamilton Elementary (Foreman)	K-6	138	87.41
2	Genoa Central Elementary (Genoa Central)	K-4	154	87.12
3	College Hill Elementary (Texarkana)	K-4	107	85.88
3	Vera Kilpatrick Elementary (Texarkana)	K-4	134	85.88
5	DeQueen Elementary (DeQueen)	3-5	566	85.51
5	DeQueen Primary (DeQueen)	K-2	566	85.51





Table 6: Top 5 schools in the *Southeast* Region based on **Overall** Elementary ACT Aspire Growth

	<b>School (District)</b>	<b>Grades Served</b>	<b># of Test Takers</b>	<b>Overall Content Growth</b>
<b>1</b>	Des Arc Elementary (Des Arc)	P-6	157	87.06
<b>2</b>	Hermitage Elementary (Hermitage)	P-6	131	83.76
<b>3</b>	Rison Elementary (Cleveland County)	K-5	142	82.02
<b>4</b>	Eastside Elementary (Warren)	K-3	104	81.02
<b>5</b>	Brunson New Vision Charter (Warren)	4-5	246	80.45

## B. Elementary School Math ACT Aspire Growth Scores, 2018

Table 7: Top 10 *Elementary Schools* in Arkansas based on ACT Aspire *Math* Growth

	School (District)	Region	Grades Served	Math Content Growth
1	City Heights Elementary (Van Buren)	NW	K-5	93.65
2	Monitor Elementary (Springdale)	NW	K-5	90.85
3	Center Valley Elementary (Russellville)	NW	K-4	89.80
3	Genoa Central Elementary (Genoa Central)	SW	K-4	89.80
3	Oscar Hamilton Elementary (Foreman)	SW	K-6	89.80
6	Bismarck Elementary (Bismarck)	CN	K-4	89.45
6	Don Roberts Elementary (Little Rock)	CN	P-5	89.45
6	Greenbrier Springhill Elementary (Greenbrier)	CN	K-5	89.45
6	Salem Elementary (Salem)	NE	K-6	89.45
10	Chenal Elementary (Pulaski County Special)	CN	K-5	89.10
10	Crawford Elementary (Russellville)	NW	K-4	89.10
10	Cross County Elementary Tech Academy (Cross County)	NE	K-6	89.10
10	Des Arc Elementary (Des Arc)	SE	P-6	89.10
10	Vera Kilpatrick Elementary (Texarkana)	SW	K-4	89.10

Tables 8-12: Top 5 Elementary Schools in Arkansas by Region, **Math** Growth



Table 8: Top 5 schools in **Northwest** Region based on Elementary **Math** ACT Aspire Growth

	<b>School (District)</b>	<b>Grades Served</b>	<b># of Test Takers</b>	<b>Math Content Growth</b>
1	City Heights Elementary (Van Buren)	K-5	144	93.65
2	Monitor Elementary(Springdale)	K-5	290	90.85
3	Center Valley Elementary (Russellville)	K-4	130	89.80
4	Crawford Elementary (Russellville)	K-4	125	89.10
5	John Tyson Elementary (Springdale)	K-5	236	88.75
5	Pottsville Elementary (Pottsville)	K-3	131	88.75



Table 9: Top 5 schools in **Northeast** Region based on Elementary **Math** ACT Aspire Growth

	<b>School (District)</b>	<b>Grades Served</b>	<b># of Test Takers</b>	<b>Math Content Growth</b>
1	Salem Elementary (Salem)	K-6	245	89.45
2	Cross County Elementary Tech Academy (Cross County)	K-6	158	89.10
3	Izard Co. Cons. Elementary (Izard County Consolidated)	K-4	58	86.30
4	Central Elementary (Batesville)	K-6	195	85.25
5	Melbourne Elementary (Melbourne)	K-6	247	84.90
5	Southside Middle (Southside (Independence))	4-6	400	84.90



Table 10: Top 5 schools in **Central** Region based on Elementary **Math** ACT Aspire Growth

	<b>School (District)</b>	<b>Grades Served</b>	<b># of Test Takers</b>	<b>Math Content Growth</b>
<b>1</b>	Greenbrier Springhill Elementary (Greenbrier)	K-5	187	89.45
<b>1</b>	Bismarck Elementary (Bismarck)	K-4	134	89.45
<b>1</b>	Don Roberts Elementary (Little Rock)	P-5	444	89.45
<b>4</b>	Chenal Elementary (Pulaski County Special)	K-5	236	89.10
<b>5</b>	Eastside Elementary (Cabot)	K-4	177	88.40



Table 11: Top 5 schools in **Southwest** Region based on Elementary **Math** ACT Aspire Growth

	<b>School (District)</b>	<b>Grades Served</b>	<b># of Test Takers</b>	<b>Math Content Growth</b>
<b>1</b>	Oscar Hamilton Elementary (Foreman)	K-6	138	89.80
<b>1</b>	Genoa Central Elementary (Genoa Central)	K-4	154	89.80
<b>3</b>	Vera Kilpatrick Elementary (Texarkana)	K-4	134	89.10
<b>4</b>	College Hill Elementary (Texarkana)	K-4	107	86.30
<b>5</b>	DeQueen Elementary (DeQueen)	3-5	566	85.95
<b>5</b>	DeQueen Primary (DeQueen)	K-2	566	85.95



Table 12: Top 5 schools in *Southeast* Region based on Elementary *Math* ACT Aspire Growth

	<b>School (District)</b>	<b>Grades Served</b>	<b># of Test Takers</b>	<b>Math Content Growth</b>
<b>1</b>	Des Arc Elementary (Des Arc)	P-6	157	89.10
<b>2</b>	Hermitage Elementary (Hermitage)	P-6	131	83.85
<b>3</b>	Brunson New Vision Charter (Warren)	4-5	246	82.45
<b>4</b>	Barton Elementary (Barton-Lexa)	K-6	220	81.75
<b>5</b>	Rison Elementary (Cleveland County)	K-5	142	81.05

### C. Elementary School ELA ACT Aspire Growth Scores, 2018

Table 13: Top 10 Elementary Schools in Arkansas based on ACT Aspire ELA Growth

	School (District)	Region	Grades Served	ELA Content Growth
1	Center Valley Elementary (Russellville)	NW	K-4	91.20
2	Green Forest Elementary (Green Forest)	NW	P-3	89.80
2	Greenbrier Springhill Elementary (Greenbrier)	CN	K-5	89.80
4	Cavanaugh Elementary (Fort Smith)	NW	P-6	89.45
5	Crawford Elementary (Russellville)	NW	K-4	89.10
5	Greenbrier Wooster Elementary (Greenbrier)	CN	K-5	89.10
7	Bonnie Grimes Elementary (Rogers)	NW	K-5	88.05
7	Crestwood Elementary (North Little Rock)	CN	K-5	88.05
9	Salem Elementary (Salem)	NE	K-6	87.70
9	Sidney Deener Elementary (Searcy)	NE	K-3	87.70
9	Sutton Elementary (Fort Smith)	NW	P-6	87.70

Tables 14-18: Top 5 Elementary Schools in Arkansas by Region, ELA Growth



Table 14: Top 5 schools in *Northwest* Region based on Elementary ELA ACT Aspire Growth

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	ELA Content Growth
1	Center Valley Elementary (Russellville)	K-4	130	91.20
2	Green Forest Elementary (Green Forest)	P-3	84	89.80
3	Cavanaugh Elementary (Fort Smith)	P-6	154	89.45
4	Crawford Elementary (Russellville)	K-4	123	89.10
5	Bonnie Grimes Elementary (Rogers)	K-5	215	88.05



Table 15: Top 5 schools in *Northeast* Region based on Elementary ELA ACT Aspire Growth

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	ELA Content Growth
1	Salem Elementary (Salem)	K-6	245	87.70
1	Sidney Deener Elementary (Searcy)	K-3	89	87.70
3	Westside Elementary (Searcy)	K-3	127	87.35
4	Weiner Elementary(Harrisburg)	K-6	59	86.65
5	Woodrow Wilson Elementary (Paragould)	2-4	139	86.30



Table 16: Top 5 schools in **Central** Region based on Elementary **ELA** ACT Aspire Growth

	<b>School (District)</b>	<b>Grades Served</b>	<b># of Test Takers</b>	<b>ELA Content Growth</b>
<b>1</b>	Greenbrier Springhill Elementary (Greenbrier)	K-5	187	89.80
<b>2</b>	Greenbrier Wooster Elementary (Greenbrier)	K-5	173	89.10
<b>3</b>	Crestwood Elementary (North Little Rock)	K-5	230	88.05
<b>4</b>	Meadow Park Elementary (North Little Rock)	P-5	209	87.35
<b>5</b>	Springhill Elementary (Bryant)	K-5	301	86.65



Table 17: Top 5 schools in **Southwest** Region based on Elementary **ELA** ACT Aspire Growth

	<b>School (District)</b>	<b>Grades Served</b>	<b># of Test Takers</b>	<b>ELA Content Growth</b>
<b>1</b>	College Hill Elementary (Texarkana)	K-4	107	85.25
<b>1</b>	Oscar Hamilton Elementary (Foreman)	K-6	138	85.25
<b>3</b>	DeQueen Elementary (DeQueen)	3-5	565	84.90
<b>3</b>	DeQueen Primary (DeQueen)	K-2	565	84.90
<b>5</b>	Genoa Central Elementary (Genoa Central)	K-4	154	84.20





Table 18: Top 5 schools in *Southeast* Region based on Elementary *ELA* ACT Aspire Growth

	<b>School (District)</b>	<b>Grades Served</b>	<b># of Test Takers</b>	<b>ELA Content Growth</b>
<b>1</b>	Des Arc Elementary (Des Arc)	P-6	157	84.90
<b>2</b>	Hermitage Elementary (Hermitage)	P-6	131	83.50
<b>3</b>	Rison Elementary (Cleveland County)	K-5	142	82.80
<b>4</b>	Gillett Elementary (Dewitt)	P-5	36	82.10
<b>5</b>	Eastside Elementary (Warren)	K-3	104	81.75

## 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 2017-18 school year, using the ESSA School Index report. Values included

- 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_to_Share/Grade_Spans_and_Grade_Configurations_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_to_Share/School%20Growth%20Explanation%20for%20ES%20and%20DC%20111017.pdf)