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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, 2019**

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

**October 16, 2019**

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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 2018-19 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. 2019 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 2019 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.

## A. Elementary School Overall ACT Aspire Growth Scores, 2019

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

	<b>School (District)</b>	<b>Region</b>	<b>Grades Served</b>	<b>Overall Content Growth</b>
<b>1</b>	City Heights Elementary (Van Buren)	NW	K-5	90.21
<b>2</b>	Ward Central Elementary (Cabot)	CN	K-4	89.04
<b>3</b>	Pottsville Elementary (Pottsville)	NW	K-3	88.52
<b>4</b>	Carolyn Lewis Elementary (Conway)	CN	K-4	88.07
<b>5</b>	Salem Elementary (Salem)	NE	K-6	87.90
<b>6</b>	Stagecoach Elementary (Cabot)	CN	K-4	87.68
<b>6</b>	Weiner Elementary (Harrisburg)	NE	K-6	87.68
<b>8</b>	Center Valley Elementary (Russellville)	NW	K-4	87.55
<b>9</b>	Oscar Hamilton Elementary (Foreman)	SW	K-6	87.37
<b>10</b>	Greenbrier Wooster Elementary (Greenbrier)	CN	K-5	87.30
<b>11</b>	Westside Elementary (Cabot)	CN	K-4	87.17
<b>12</b>	Cross County Elementary Tech Academy (Cross County)	NE	K-6	87.00
<b>12</b>	Greenbrier Springhill Elementary (Greenbrier)	CN	K-5	87.00
<b>12</b>	Bernice Young Elementary (Springdale)	NW	K-5	87.00
<b>15</b>	Walker Elementary (Springdale)	NW	K-5	86.99
<b>16</b>	Lamar Elementary (Lamar)	NW	K-3	86.81
<b>17</b>	Chenal Elementary (Pulaski County Special)	CN	K-5	86.78
<b>18</b>	Hunt Elementary (Springdale)	NW	K-5	86.73
<b>19</b>	Des Arc Elementary (Des Arc)	SE	P-6	86.55
<b>20</b>	Frank Tillery Elementary (Rogers)	NW	K-5	86.54
<b>20</b>	Jefferson Elementary (Little Rock)	CN	P-5	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	City Heights Elementary (Van Buren)	K-5	163	90.21
2	Pottsville Elementary (Pottsville)	K-3	133	88.52
3	Center Valley Elementary (Russellville)	K-4	119	87.55
4	Bernice Young Elementary (Springdale)	K-5	186	87.00
5	Walker Elementary (Springdale)	K-5	196	86.99



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	255	87.90
2	Weiner Elementary (Harrisburg)	K-6	51	87.68
3	Cross County Elementary Tech Academy (Cross County)	K-6	126	87.00
4	Calico Rock Elementary (Calico Rock)	K-6	104	84.58
5	Westside Elementary (Searcy)	K-3	111	84.57



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	Ward Central Elementary (Cabot)	K-4	178	89.04
2	Carolyn Lewis Elementary (Conway)	K-4	185	88.07
3	Stagecoach Elementary (Cabot)	K-4	171	87.68
4	Greenbrier Wooster Elementary (Greenbrier)	K-5	167	87.30
5	Westside Elementary (Cabot)	K-4	141	87.17



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	101	87.37
2	Genoa Central Elementary (Genoa Central)	K-4	176	85.39
3	Delight Elementary (South Pike County)	K-6	48	85.33
4	Nashville Elementary (Nashville)	4-6	454	85.04
5	College Hill Elementary (Texarkana)	K-5	139	84.73





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	151	86.55
<b>2</b>	Dewitt Elementary (Dewitt)	K-5	224	83.24
<b>3</b>	Thomas C Brunson Elementary (Warren)	4-5	250	82.24
<b>4</b>	Dermott Elementary (Dermott)	K-6	93	81.16
<b>5</b>	Rison Elementary (Cleveland County)	K-5	128	81.16

## B. Elementary School Math ACT Aspire Growth Scores, 2019

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

	<b>School (District)</b>	<b>Region</b>	<b>Grades Served</b>	<b>Math Content Growth</b>
<b>1</b>	Stagecoach Elementary (Cabot)	CN	K-4	91.59
<b>2</b>	Pottsville Elementary (Pottsville)	NW	K-3	90.96
<b>3</b>	Walker Elementary (Springdale)	NW	K-5	90.79
<b>4</b>	City Heights Elementary (Van Buren)	NW	K-5	90.45
<b>5</b>	Oscar Hamilton Elementary (Foreman)	SW	K-6	90.41
<b>6</b>	Salem Elementary (Salem)	NE	K-6	89.48
<b>7</b>	Cross County Elementary Tech Academy (Cross County)	NE	K-6	89.42
<b>8</b>	Chenal Elementary (Pulaski County Special)	CN	K-5	89.26
<b>9</b>	Ward Central Elementary (Cabot)	CN	K-4	89.14
<b>10</b>	Hunt Elementary (Springdale)	NW	K-5	89.12

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

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	Math Content Growth
1	Pottsville Elementary (Pottsville)	K-3	133	90.96
2	Walker Elementary (Springdale)	K-5	193	90.79
3	City Heights Elementary (Van Buren)	K-5	163	90.45
4	Hunt Elementary (Springdale)	K-5	255	89.12
5	Bernice Young Elementary (Springdale)	K-5	186	88.81



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

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	Math Content Growth
1	Salem Elementary (Salem)	K-6	255	89.48
2	Cross County Elementary Tech Academy (Cross County)	K-6	126	89.42
3	Weiner Elementary (Harrisburg)	K-6	51	86.04
4	Calico Rock Elementary (Calico Rock)	K-6	102	85.98
5	Marked Tree Elementary (Marked Tree)	P-5	96	85.80



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>
1	Stagecoach Elementary (Cabot)	K-4	171	91.59
2	Chenal Elementary (Pulaski County Special)	K-5	231	89.26
3	Ward Central Elementary (Cabot)	K-4	178	89.14
4	Eastside Elementary (Cabot)	K-4	184	89.06
5	Jefferson Elementary (Little Rock)	P-5	139	88.89



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>
1	Oscar Hamilton Elementary (Foreman)	K-6	101	90.41
2	Genoa Central Elementary (Genoa Central)	K-4	154	88.39
3	College Hill Elementary (Texarkana)	K-5	136	87.31
4	Nashville Elementary (Nashville)	4-6	454	86.84
5	Smackover Elementary (Smackover-Norphlet)	K-5	148	86.21



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	151	86.65
<b>2</b>	Thomas C Brunson Elementary (Warren)	4-5	250	85.24
<b>3</b>	Dewitt Elementary (Dewitt)	K-5	222	84.37
<b>4</b>	Eudora Elementary (Lakeside (Chicot))	P-3	21	82.21
<b>5</b>	Monticello Elementary (Monticello)	K-2	435	82.05
<b>5</b>	Monticello Intermediate (Monticello)	3-5	435	82.05

### C. Elementary School ELA ACT Aspire Growth Scores, 2019

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

	School (District)	Region	Grades Served	ELA Content Growth
1	City Heights Elementary (Van Buren)	NW	K-5	89.97
2	Vilonia Elementary (Vilonia)	CN	K-3	89.43
3	Weiner Elementary (Harrisburg)	NE	K-6	89.31
4	Ward Central Elementary (Cabot)	CN	K-4	88.95
5	Delight Elementary (South Pike County)	SW	K-6	88.79
6	Center Valley Elementary (Russellville)	NW	K-4	88.73
7	Lamar Elementary (Lamar)	NW	K-3	88.53
8	Carolyn Lewis Elementary (Conway)	CN	K-4	88.08
9	Green Forest Elementary (Green Forest)	NW	P-3	87.75
10	Greenbrier Springhill Elementary (Greenbrier)	CN	K-5	87.40

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	City Heights Elementary (Van Buren)	K-5	163	89.97
2	Center Valley Elementary (Russellville)	K-4	119	88.73
3	Lamar Elementary (Lamar)	K-3	93	88.53
4	Green Forest Elementary (Green Forest)	P-3	85	87.75
5	Crawford Elementary (Russellville)	K-4	114	86.33



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	Weiner Elementary (Harrisburg)	K-6	51	89.31
2	Salem Elementary (Salem)	K-6	254	86.32
3	Westside Elementary (Searcy)	K-3	111	86.25
3	Woodrow Wilson Elementary (Paragould)	2-4	145	85.25
5	Sidney Deener Elementary (Searcy)	K-3	77	84.99



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>
1	Vilonia Elementary (Vilonia)	K-3	130	89.43
2	Ward Central Elementary (Cabot)	K-4	178	88.95
3	Carolyn Lewis Elementary (Conway)	K-4	185	88.08
4	Greenbrier Springhill Elementary (Greenbrier)	K-5	187	87.40
5	Greenbrier Wooster Elementary (Greenbrier)	K-5	167	86.77



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>
1	Delight Elementary (South Pike County)	K-6	48	88.79
2	Nashville Primary (Nashville)	K-3	125	86.60
3	Genoa Central Elementary (Genoa Central)	K-4	176	85.05
4	Oscar Hamilton Elementary (Foreman)	K-6	101	84.34
4	Bobby Barrett Elementary (Mount Ida)	K-6	125	83.34





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	150	86.46
<b>2</b>	Dermott Elementary (Dermott)	K-6	93	82.44
<b>3</b>	Gillett Elementary (Dewitt)	P-5	36	82.29
<b>4</b>	Dewitt Elementary (Dewitt)	K-5	223	82.17
<b>5</b>	Hermitage Elementary (Hermitage)	P-6	130	81.73

## 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 2018-19 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)