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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, 2021**

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

**November 3, 2021**

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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).

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. In this case, as there was no testing in the prior year due to COVID-related school closures, the calculations are based on the 2018-19 scores. 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 2020-21 academic year, ACT Aspire examinations were administered to students in grades 3 through 10 in Math, Reading, Writing, English, and Science. 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.

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. 2021 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 2021 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, 2021

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>	Weiner Elementary (Harrisburg)	NE	K-6	91.85
<b>2</b>	Parkview Elementary (Van Buren)	NW	K-5	91.28
<b>3</b>	Pottsville Elementary (Pottsville)	NW	K-3	90.70
<b>4</b>	Hunt Elementary (Springdale)	NW	K-5	90.41
<b>5</b>	George Elementary (Springdale)	NW	K-5	90.24
<b>6</b>	Genoa Central Elementary (Genoa Central)	SW	K-4	88.82
<b>7</b>	Eastside Elementary (Rogers)	NW	K-5	88.56
<b>8</b>	Stagecoach Elementary (Cabot)	CN	K-4	88.55
<b>9</b>	Willowbrook Elementary (Bentonville)	NW	K-4	88.36
<b>10</b>	Vandergriff Elementary (Fayetteville)	NW	K-4	88.19
<b>11</b>	John Tyson Elementary (Springdale)	NW	K-5	88.10
<b>12</b>	Monitor Elementary (Springdale)	NW	K-5	87.96
<b>13</b>	Carolyn Lewis Elementary (Conway)	CN	K-4	87.91
<b>14</b>	Elgin B Milton Primary (Ozark)	NW	P-3	87.82
<b>15</b>	Cavanaugh Elementary (Fort Smith)	NW	P-6	87.80
<b>16</b>	Greenbrier Wooster Elementary (Greenbrier)	CN	K-5	87.78
<b>17</b>	East Pointe Elementary (Greenwood)	NW	K-4	87.74
<b>18</b>	Green Forest Elementary (Green Forest)	NW	P-3	87.53
<b>19</b>	Sequoyah Elementary (Russellville)	NW	K-4	87.43
<b>20</b>	Woodrow Cummins Elementary (Conway)	CN	K-4	87.42

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	Parkview Elementary (Van Buren)	K-5	172	91.28
2	Pottsville Elementary (Pottsville)	K-3	118	90.70
3	Hunt Elementary (Springdale)	K-5	221	90.41
4	George Elementary (Springdale)	K-5	187	90.24
5	Eastside Elementary (Rogers)	K-5	218	88.56



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	Weiner Elementary (Harrisburg)	K-6	55	91.85
2	Salem Elementary (Salem)	K-6	218	86.87
3	Gosnell Elementary (Gosnell)	K-6	327	86.10
4	Cross County Elementary Tech Academy (Cross County)	K-6	161	85.62
5	Tuckerman Elementary (Jackson County)	K-4	123	84.84



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	Stagecoach Elementary (Cabot)	K-4	165	88.55
2	Carolyn Lewis Elementary (Conway)	K-4	175	87.91
3	Greenbrier Wooster Elementary (Greenbrier)	K-5	154	87.78
4	Woodrow Cummins Elementary (Conway)	K-4	188	87.42
5	Baker Interdistrict Elementary (Pulaski County Special)	P-5	147	87.32



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	Genoa Central Elementary (Genoa Central)	K-4	134	88.82
2	Wickes Elementary (Cossatot River)	P-6	142	87.33
3	Nashville Elementary (Nashville)	4-6	366	85.79
4	Nashville Primary (Nashville)	K-3	121	85.27
5	Taylor Elementary (Emerson-Taylor-Bradley)	K-6	139	84.95
5	Emerson Elementary (Emerson-Taylor-Bradley)	K-6	71	84.95





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>	Gillett Elementary (DeWitt)	P-5	21	84.25
<b>2</b>	Des Arc Elementary (Des Arc)	P-6	159	83.99
<b>3</b>	Rison Elementary (Cleveland County)	K-6	181	80.71
<b>4</b>	Hermitage Elementary (Hermitage)	P-6	113	80.38
<b>5</b>	Woodlawn Elementary (Woodlawn)	K-6	137	79.08

## B. Elementary School Math ACT Aspire Growth Scores, 2021

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>	Weiner Elementary (Harrisburg)	NE	K-6	95.27
<b>2</b>	Pottsville Elementary (Pottsville)	NW	K-3	93.98
<b>3</b>	Hunt Elementary (Springdale)	NW	K-5	93.01
<b>4</b>	Stagecoach Elementary (Cabot)	CN	K-4	92.36
<b>5</b>	Parkview Elementary (Van Buren)	NW	K-5	92.15
<b>6</b>	Genoa Central Elementary (Genoa Central)	SW	K-4	92.01
<b>7</b>	Tuckerman Elementary (Jackson County)	NE	K-4	91.10
<b>7</b>	Willowbrook Elementary (Bentonville)	NW	K-4	91.07
<b>9</b>	Eastside Elementary (Rogers)	NW	K-5	90.86
<b>10</b>	Cavanaugh Elementary (Fort Smith)	NW	P-6	90.80

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	118	93.98
2	Hunt Elementary (Springdale)	K-5	221	93.01
3	Parkview Elementary (Van Buren)	K-5	172	92.15
4	Willowbrook Elementary (Bentonville)	K-4	247	91.07
5	Eastside Elementary (Rogers)	K-5	218	90.86



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	Weiner Elementary (Harrisburg)	K-6	55	95.27
2	Tuckerman Elementary (Jackson County)	K-4	95	91.10
3	Salem Elementary (Salem)	K-6	216	88.87
4	Gosnell Elementary (Gosnell)	K-6	327	87.20
5	Cross County Elementary Tech Academy (Cross County)	K-6	161	86.83



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	165	92.36
2	Woodrow Cummins Elementary (Conway)	K-4	185	90.58
3	Greenbrier Wooster Elementary (Greenbrier)	K-5	154	89.79
4	Baker Interdistrict Elementary (Pulaski County Special)	P-5	143	89.36
5	Carolyn Lewis Elementary (Conway)	K-4	174	89.31



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	Genoa Central Elementary (Genoa Central)	K-4	131	92.01
2	Wickes Elementary (Cossatot River)	P-6	142	90.48
3	Nashville Primary (Nashville)	K-3	121	88.13
4	Nashville Elementary (Nashville)	4-6	366	88.07
5	Taylor Elementary (Emerson-Taylor-Bradley)	K-6	139	86.48



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>	Gillett Elementary (DeWitt)	P-5	21	85.16
<b>2</b>	Des Arc Elementary (Des Arc)	P-6	159	81.98
<b>3</b>	Hermitage Elementary (Hermitage)	P-6	113	81.10
<b>4</b>	Rison Elementary (Cleveland County)	K-6	176	81.05
<b>5</b>	Woodlawn Elementary (Woodlawn)	K-6	137	80.19

### C. Elementary School ELA ACT Aspire Growth Scores, 2021

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

	School (District)	Region	Grades Served	ELA Content Growth
1	George Elementary (Springdale)	NW	K-5	90.82
2	Parkview Elementary (Van Buren)	NW	K-5	90.41
3	Weiner Elementary (Harrisburg)	NE	K-6	88.43
4	Green Forest Elementary (Green Forest)	NW	P-3	88.30
5	Root Elementary (Fayetteville)	NW	K-4	88.26
6	Hunt Elementary (Springdale)	NW	K-5	87.76
7	Euper Lane Elementary (Fort Smith)	NW	P-6	87.74
8	John Tyson Elementary (Springdale)	NW	K-5	87.54
9	Pottsville Elementary (Pottsville)	NW	K-3	87.41
10	Sequoyah Elementary (Russellville)	NW	K-4	87.29
10	Center Valley Elementary (Russellville)	NW	K-4	87.29

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	George Elementary (Springdale)	K-5	186	90.82
2	Parkview Elementary (Van Buren)	K-5	172	90.41
3	Green Forest Elementary (Green Forest)	P-3	75	88.30
4	Root Elementary (Fayetteville)	K-4	145	88.26
5	Hunt Elementary (Springdale)	K-5	220	87.76



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	55	88.43
2	Gosnell Elementary (Gosnell)	K-6	327	84.99
3	Salem Elementary (Salem)	K-6	214	84.96
4	Cross County Elementary Tech Academy (Cross County)	K-6	161	84.42
5	McCrary Elementary (McCrary)	K-6	155	83.47



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	Julia Lee Moore Elementary (Conway)	K-4	142	86.88
1	Springhill Elementary (Bryant)	K-5	252	86.88
3	Westside Elementary (Cabot)	K-4	87	86.60
4	Carolyn Lewis Elementary (Conway)	K-4	173	86.19
5	Greenbrier Springhill Elementary (Greenbrier)	K-5	232	86.08



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	Genoa Central Elementary (Genoa Central)	K-4	132	85.67
2	Wickes Elementary (Cossatot River)	P-6	142	84.18
3	Emerson Elementary (Emerson-Taylor-Bradley)	K-6	70	83.78
4	Bobby Barrett Elementary (Mount Ida)	K-6	108	83.76
5	Delight Elementary (South Pike County)	K-6	43	83.59





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	158	86.11
<b>2</b>	Gillett Elementary (DeWitt)	P-5	21	83.35
<b>3</b>	Drew Central Elementary (Drew Central)	K-4	138	83.16
<b>4</b>	DeWitt Elementary (DeWitt)	K-5	229	82.30
<b>5</b>	Eastside Elementary (Warren)	K-3	107	80.52

## 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 2020-21 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%20to%20Share/Grade%20Spans%20and%20Grade%20Configurations%20rv.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)