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High-Growth High Schools in Arkansas based on Performance on the ACT Aspire Examinations

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ARKANSAS EDUCATION REPORT
Volume 18, Issue 11

**OUTSTANDING EDUCATIONAL PERFORMANCE AWARDS:
HIGHLIGHTING HIGH-GROWTH ARKANSAS SCHOOLS, 2021**

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

November 17, 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.

III. 2021 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 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.

G. High School Overall ACT Aspire Scores, 2021

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

	School (District)	Region	Grades Served	Overall Content Growth
1	Arkansas Consolidated High –Harrisburg (Division Of Youth Services School System)	CN	5-12	86.65
2	Haas Hall Bentonville (Haas Hall Academy)	NW	7-12	85.26
3	Marmaduke High (Marmaduke)	NE	7-12	85.11
4	Danville High (Danville)	NW	9-12	85.02
5	Kingston High (Jasper)	NW	7-12	85.01
6	Haas Hall Academy At The Lane (Haas Hall Academy)	NW	7-12	84.80
7	Arkansas Consolidated High -Dermott (Division Of Youth Services School System)	CN	5-12	84.60
8	Haas Hall Academy Jones Center (Haas Hall Academy)	NW	7-12	84.57
9	Northwest Arkansas Classical Academy High (Responsive Ed Solutions Northwest Ark Classical Academy)	NW	7-12	84.05
10	Horatio High (Horatio)	SW	7-12	83.78
11	Jasper High (Jasper)	NW	7-12	83.72
12	Bradley High (Emerson-Taylor-Bradley)	SW	7-12	83.68
13	Dardanelle High (Dardanelle)	NW	9-12	83.66
14	Greenwood Freshman Center (Greenwood)	NW	9-9	83.45
15	Ark. School For The Blind H.S. (Ark. School For The Blind)	CN	7-12	83.13
16	Malvern High (Malvern)	CN	9-12	83.12
17	Haas Hall Academy (Haas Hall Academy)	NW	7-12	83.09
18	Quitman High (Quitman)	NE	9-12	83.08
19	eStem High (eStem Public Charter School)	CN	10-12	82.84
20	Concord High (Concord)	NE	7-12	82.81

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**

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	Overall Content Growth
1	Haas Hall Bentonville (Haas Hall Academy)	7-12	246	85.26
2	Danville High (Danville)	9-12	105	85.02
3	Kingston High (Jasper)	7-12	69	85.01
4	Haas Hall Academy At The Lane (Haas Hall Academy)	7-12	195	84.80
5	Haas Hall Academy Jones Center (Haas Hall Academy)	7-12	142	84.57



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

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	Overall Content Growth
1	Marmaduke High (Marmaduke)	7-12	181	85.11
2	Quitman High (Quitman)	9-12	95	83.08
3	Concord High (Concord)	7-12	116	82.81
4	Highland High (Highland)	9-12	217	82.48
5	Bald Knob High (Bald Knob)	9-12	160	81.94



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

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	Overall Content Growth
1	Arkansas Consolidated High -Harrisburg (Division Of Youth Services School System)	5-12	N<10	86.65
2	Arkansas Consolidated High -Dermott (Division Of Youth Services School System)	5-12	N<10	84.60
3	Ark. School For The Blind H.S. (Ark. School For The Blind)	7-12	30	83.13
4	Malvern High (Malvern)	9-12	251	83.12
5	eSTEM High (eSTEM Public Charter School)	10-12	168	82.84



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

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	Overall Content Growth
1	Horatio High (Horatio)	7-12	206	83.78
2	Bradley High (Emerson-Taylor-Bradley)	7-12	73	83.68
3	Fouke High (Fouke)	9-12	120	81.88
4	Umpire K-12 (Cossatot River)	K-12	47	81.60
5	Sparkman K-12 (Harmony Grove (Ouachita))	K-12	56	81.50



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

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	Overall Content Growth
1	KIPP Blytheville Collegiate High (KIPP Delta Public Schools)	7-12	78	82.31
2	Drew Central High (Drew Central)	9-12	127	81.07
3	DeWitt High (DeWitt)	9-12	161	80.86
4	Rison High (Cleveland County)	7-12	233	80.74
5	Hermitage High (Hermitage)	7-12	135	80.66

H. High School Math ACT Aspire Scores, 2021

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

	School (District)	Region	Grades Served	Math Content Growth
1	Arkansas Consolidated High -Dermott (Division Of Youth Services School System)	CN	5-12	93.62
2	Marmaduke High (Marmaduke)	NE	7-12	86.85
3	Haas Hall Bentonville (Haas Hall Academy)	NW	7-12	86.34
4	Haas Hall Academy At The Lane (Haas Hall Academy)	NW	7-12	86.30
5	Horatio High (Horatio)	SW	7-12	86.03
6	Danville High (Danville)	NW	9-12	85.27
7	Haas Hall Academy Jones Center (Haas Hall Academy)	NW	7-12	84.93
8	Woodlawn High (Woodlawn)	SE	7-12	84.85
9	Kingston High (Jasper)	NW	7-12	84.77
10	Haas Hall Academy (Haas Hall Academy)	NW	7-12	84.47

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

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	Math Content Growth
1	Haas Hall Bentonville (Haas Hall Academy)	7-12	246	86.34
2	Haas Hall Academy At The Lane (Haas Hall Academy)	7-12	195	86.30
3	Danville High (Danville)	9-12	105	85.27
4	Haas Hall Academy Jones Center (Haas Hall Academy)	7-12	142	84.93
5	Kingston High (Jasper)	7-12	69	84.77



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

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	Math Content Growth
1	Marmaduke High (Marmaduke)	7-12	181	86.85
2	Highland High (Highland)	9-12	217	83.43
3	West Side High (West Side (Cleburne))	7-12	135	82.98
4	Trumann High (Trumann)	9-12	201	82.90
5	Quitman High (Quitman)	9-12	95	82.84



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

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	Math Content Growth
1	Arkansas Consolidated High -Dermott (Division Of Youth Services School System)	5-12	N<10	93.62
2	Arkansas Consolidated High -Harrisburg (Division Of Youth Services School System)	5-12	N<10	84.22
3	Arkansas Consolidated High -Alexander (Division Of Youth Services School System)	5-12	N<10	84.11
4	Malvern High (Malvern)	9-12	251	83.39
5	Ark. School For The Blind H.S. (Ark. School For The Blind)	7-12	30	82.74



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

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	Math Content Growth
1	Horatio High (Horatio)	7-12	206	86.03
2	Bradley High (Emerson-Taylor-Bradley)	7-12	73	83.88
3	Smackover High (Smackover-Norphlet)	9-12	125	82.37
4	Ashdown High (Ashdown)	9-12	184	82.33
5	Sparkman K-12 (Harmony Grove (Ouachita))	K-12	56	82.17



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

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	Math Content Growth
1	Woodlawn High (Woodlawn)	7-12	174	84.85
2	Star City High (Star City)	9-12	197	81.70
3	Rison High (Cleveland County)	7-12	233	81.34
4	Hermitage High (Hermitage)	7-12	135	80.95
5	Des Arc High (Des Arc)	7-12	151	80.53

I. High School ELA ACT Aspire Scores, 2021

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

	School (District)	Region	Grades Served	ELA Content Growth
1	Arkansas Consolidated High –Harrisburg (Division Of Youth Services School System)	CN	5-12	89.09
2	Graduate Arkansas Charter High (Graduate Arkansas Charter)	CN	9-12	86.37
3	Kingston High (Jasper)	NW	7-12	85.25
4	KIPP Blytheville Collegiate High (KIPP Delta Public Schools)	SE	7-12	84.92
5	Danville High (Danville)	NW	9-12	84.78
9	Haas Hall Academy Jones Center (Haas Hall Academy)	NW	7-12	84.21
7	Haas Hall Bentonville (Haas Hall Academy)	NW	7-12	84.17
8	Jasper High (Jasper)	NW	7-12	83.97
9	Oark High (Jasper)	NW	7-12	83.90
10	Ark. School For The Blind H.S. (Ark. School For The Blind)	CN	7-12	83.84

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**

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	ELA Content Growth
1	Kingston High (Jasper)	7-12	69	85.25
2	Danville High (Danville)	9-12	105	84.78
3	Haas Hall Academy Jones Center (Haas Hall Academy)	7-12	142	84.21
4	Haas Hall Bentonville (Haas Hall Academy)	7-12	246	84.17
5	Jasper High (Jasper)	7-12	116	83.97



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

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	ELA Content Growth
1	Marmaduke High (Marmaduke)	7-12	181	83.37
2	Quitman High (Quitman)	9-12	95	83.32
3	Concord High (Concord)	7-12	116	83.12
4	Rural Special High (Mountain View)	7-12	51	81.82
5	Bald Knob High (Bald Knob)	9-12	159	81.63



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

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	ELA Content Growth
1	Arkansas Consolidated High -Harrisburg (Division Of Youth Services School System)	5-12	N<10	89.09
2	Graduate Arkansas Charter High (Graduate Arkansas Charter)	9-12	N<10	86.37
3	Ark. School For The Blind H.S. (Ark. School For The Blind)	7-12	29	83.84
4	eSTEM High (eSTEM Public Charter School)	10-12	167	83.23
5	Malvern High (Malvern)	9-12	246	83.00



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

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	ELA Content Growth
1	Bradley High (Emerson-Taylor-Bradley)	7-12	73	83.48
2	Harmony Grove High (Harmony Grove (Ouachita))	7-12	247	82.16
3	Junction City High (Junction City)	7-12	185	81.97
4	Umpire K-12 (Cossatot River)	K-12	47	81.81
5	Fouke High (Fouke)	9-12	120	81.70



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

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	ELA Content Growth
1	KIPP Blytheville Collegiate High School (KIPP Delta Public Schools)	7-12	78	82.31
2	Drew Central High (Drew Central)	9-12	127	81.07
3	Dewitt High (Dewitt)	9-12	161	80.86
4	Clarendon High (Clarendon)	7-12	116	80.64
5	Crossett High (Crossett)	9-12	199	79.69

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

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