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High-Growth High Schools in Arkansas Based on Performance on the ACT Aspire Examination

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**OUTSTANDING EDUCATIONAL PERFORMANCE AWARDS:
HIGHLIGHTING HIGH-GROWTH ARKANSAS SCHOOLS, 2022**

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

November 16, 2022

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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, the calculations are based on the 2020-21 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 2021-22 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. 2022 OEP AWARDS: HIGH GROWTH HIGH SCHOOLS IN ARKANSAS BASED ON CONTENT GROWTH IN THE ACT ASPIRE EXAMS

This section highlights high 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 2022 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 Growth Scores, 2022

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

	School (District)	Region	Grades Served	Overall Content Growth
1	Haas Hall Bentonville (Haas Hall Academy)	Northwest	7-12	85.70
2	Eureka Springs High (Eureka Springs)	Northwest	9-12	85.19
3	Concord High (Concord)	Northeast	7-12	84.82
4	Haas Hall Academy At the Lane (Haas Hall Academy)	Northwest	7-12	84.52
5	Bradley High (Emerson-Taylor-Bradley)	Southwest	7-12	84.34
6	Cave City High Career & Collegiate Preparatory (Cave City)	Northeast	9-12	83.87
7	Dardanelle High (Dardanelle)	Northwest	9-12	83.76
8	Sylvan Hills Junior High (Pulaski County Special)	Central	9-9	83.73
9	Booneville High (Booneville)	Northwest	10-12	83.72
10	Jessieville High (Jessieville)	Central	9-12	83.70
11	Lisa Academy North High (Lisa Academy)	Central	9-12	83.68
12	Green Forest High (Green Forest)	Northwest	9-12	83.28
13	Jasper High (Jasper)	Northwest	7-12	82.89
14	Dollarway High (Pine Bluff)	Central	9-12	82.88
15	Bald Knob High (Bald Knob)	Northeast	9-12	82.86
16	Kingston High (Jasper)	Northwest	7-12	82.78
17	Creative Action Team (Hope)	Southwest	K-12	82.75
18	Haas Hall Academy (Haas Hall Academy)	Northwest	7-12	82.62
19	Marmaduke High (Marmaduke)	Northeast	7-12	82.61
20	eStem High (eStem)	Central	10-12	82.56

Tables 38-42: Top 5 **High Schools** in Arkansas by Region, **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	275	85.70
2	Eureka Springs High (Eureka Springs)	9-12	82	85.19
3	Haas Hall Academy At the Lane (Haas Hall Academy)	7-12	176	84.52
4	Dardanelle High (Dardanelle)	9-12	303	83.76
5	Booneville High (Booneville)	10-12	65	83.72



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

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	Overall Content Growth
1	Concord High (Concord)	7-12	114	84.82
2	Cave City High Career & Collegiate Preparatory (Cave City)	9-12	164	83.87
3	Bald Knob High (Bald Knob)	9-12	163	82.86
4	Marmaduke High (Marmaduke)	7-12	185	82.61
5	Cedar Ridge High (Cedar Ridge)	6-12	238	82.14



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

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	Overall Content Growth
1	Sylvan Hills Junior High (Pulaski County Special)	9-9	289	83.73
2	Jessieville High (Jessieville)	9-12	121	83.70
3	Lisa Academy North High (Lisa Academy)	9-12	152	83.68
4	Dollarway High (Pine Bluff)	9-12	101	82.88
5	eStem High (eStem)	10-12	168	82.56



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

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	Overall Content Growth
1	Bradley High (Emerson-Taylor-Bradley)	7-12	87	84.34
2	Creative Action Team (Hope)	K-12	3	82.75
3	DeQueen Junior High (DeQueen)	8-9	371	82.15
4	Harmony Grove High (Harmony Grove - Ouchita)	7-12	256	82.14
5	El Dorado High (El Dorado)	9-12	587	82.12



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

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	Overall Content Growth
1	Stuttgart High (Stuttgart)	9-12	230	82.48
2	DeWitt High (DeWitt)	9-12	176	81.89
3	Drew Central High (Drew Central)	9-12	127	81.80
4	KIPP Blytheville Collegiate High (KIPP Delta)	7-12	72	81.78
5	Hamburg High (Hamburg)	9-12	248	81.69

H. High School Math ACT Aspire Growth Scores, 2022

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

	School (District)	Region	Grades Served	Overall Content Growth
1	Haas Hall Bentonville (Haas Hall Academy)	Northwest	7-12	87.64
2	Haas Hall Academy At the Lane (Haas Hall Academy)	Northwest	7-12	87.29
3	Creative Action Team (Hope)	Southwest	K-12	86.72
4	Bradley High (Emerson-Taylor-Bradley)	Southwest	7-12	85.84
5	Sylvan Hills Junior High (Pulaski County Special)	Central	9-9	85.82
6	Dardanelle High (Dardanelle)	Northwest	9-12	85.44
7	Lisa Academy North High (Lisa Academy)	Central	9-12	85.26
8	Marmaduke High (Marmaduke)	Northeast	7-12	85.11
9	Jessieville High (Jessieville)	Central	9-12	84.98
10	Dollarway High (Pine Bluff)	Central	9-12	84.74

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



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

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	Overall Content Growth
1	Haas Hall Bentonville (Haas Hall Academy)	7-12	275	87.64
2	Haas Hall Academy At the Lane (Haas Hall Academy)	7-12	176	87.29
3	Dardanelle High (Dardanelle)	9-12	303	85.44
4	Eureka Springs High (Eureka Springs)	9-12	82	84.68
5	Hackett High (Hackett)	7-12	190	84.31



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

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	Overall Content Growth
1	Marmaduke High (Marmaduke)	7-12	185	85.11
2	Concord High (Concord)	7-12	114	84.36
3	Quitman High (Quitman)	9-12	107	83.96
4	Cave City High Career & Collegiate Preparatory (Cave City)	9-12	164	83.89
5	Marion High (Marion)	10-12	236	82.71
5	East Poinsett CoHigh (East Poinsett Co.)	7-12	181	82.71



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

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	Overall Content Growth
1	Sylvan Hills Junior High (Pulaski County Special)	9-9	289	85.82
2	Lisa Academy North High (Lisa Academy)	9-12	152	85.26
3	Jessieville High (Jessieville)	9-12	121	84.98
4	Dollarway High (Pine Bluff)	9-12	100	84.74
5	Conway Junior High (Conway)	8-9	1386	83.59



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

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	Overall Content Growth
1	Creative Action Team (Hope)	K-12	3	86.72
2	Bradley High (Emerson-Taylor-Bradley)	7-12	87	85.84
3	DeQueen Junior High (DeQueen)	8-9	371	83.79
4	Parkers Chapel High (Parkers Chapel)	7-12	232	83.17
5	Genoa Central High (Genoa Central)	9-12	185	83.15



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

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	Overall Content Growth
1	DeWitt High (DeWitt)	9-12	176	83.12
2	Stuttgart High (Stuttgart)	9-12	230	83.04
3	Hamburg High (Hamburg)	9-12	248	82.45
4	Des Arc High (Des Arc)	7-12	162	82.41
5	Drew Central High (Drew Central)	9-12	127	82.18

I. High School ELA ACT Aspire Growth Scores, 2022

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

	School (District)	Region	Grades Served	Overall Content Growth
1	Eureka Springs High (Eureka Springs)	Northwest	9-12	85.71
2	Concord High (Concord)	Northeast	7-12	85.28
3	Berryville High (Berryville)	Northwest	9-12	84.34
4	Booneville High (Booneville)	Northwest	10-12	84.02
5	Cave City High Career & Collegiate Preparatory (Cave City)	Northeast	9-12	83.86
6	Ashdown High (Ashdown)	Southwest	9-12	83.84
7	Haas Hall Bentonville (Haas Hall Academy)	Northwest	7-12	83.76
8	Greenwood Freshman Center (Greenwood)	Northwest	9-9	83.41
9	Arkadelphia High (Arkadelphia)	Southwest	9-12	83.34
10	Vilonia Pathways Academy (Vilonia)	Central	K-12	83.24

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



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

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	Overall Content Growth
1	Eureka Springs High (Eureka Springs)	9-12	82	85.71
2	Berryville High (Berryville)	9-12	238	84.34
3	Booneville High (Booneville)	10-12	65	84.02
4	Haas Hall Bentonville (Haas Hall Academy)	7-12	275	83.76
5	Greenwood Freshman Center (Greenwood)	9-9	299	83.41



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

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	Overall Content Growth
1	Concord High (Concord)	7-12	114	85.28
2	Cave City High Career & Collegiate Preparatory (Cave City)	9-12	160	83.86
3	Bald Knob High (Bald Knob)	9-12	163	83.19
4	Maynard High (Maynard)	7-12	137	83.08
5	Beebe High (Beebe)	9-12	467	83.06



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

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	Overall Content Growth
1	Vilonia Pathways Academy (Vilonia)	K-12	53	83.24
2	Lakeside High (Lakeside - Garland)	9-12	507	82.88
3	Lake Hamilton Junior High (Lake Hamilton)	8-9	601	82.62
4	Jessieville High (Jessieville)	9-12	121	82.42
5	eStem High (eStem)	10-12	168	82.33



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

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	Overall Content Growth
1	Ashdown High (Ashdown)	9-12	181	83.84
2	Arkadelphia High (Arkadelphia)	9-12	255	83.34
3	Harmony Grove High (Harmony Grove - Ouchita)	7-12	256	82.90
4	Bradley High (Emerson-Taylor-Bradley)	7-12	87	82.84
5	Junction City High (Junction City)	7-12	198	82.60



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

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	Overall Content Growth
1	Stuttgart High (Stuttgart)	9-12	229	81.99
2	Lakeside High (Lakeside - Chicot)	9-12	117	81.85
3	KIPP Blytheville Collegiate High (KIPP Delta)	7-12	72	81.43
4	Drew Central High (Drew Central)	9-12	127	81.42
5	Warren High (Warren)	9-12	209	81.35

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 2021-22 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