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## **Beating the Odds: High-Growth Schools Based on the ACT Aspire Examinations, Serving Low-Income Communities**

Sarah C. McKenzie

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*Arkansas Education Report*  
*Volume 19, Issue 8*

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

**BEATING THE ODDS: HIGH-GROWTH SCHOOLS  
BASED ON THE ACT ASPIRE EXAMINATIONS,  
SERVING LOW-INCOME COMMUNITIES**

**November 30, 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.

#### **IV. 2022 OEP AWARDS: BEATING THE ODDS - HIGH GROWTH SCHOOLS, BASED ON THE ACT ASPIRE EXAMINATIONS, SERVING LOW INCOME COMMUNITIES**

This section highlights high-growth schools across Arkansas based on the ACT Aspire examinations in Math and English Language Arts (ELA) for the 2020-2021 academic year. For these awards, we consider schools where at least 66% of the student body is eligible for free or reduced-price lunch (FRL).

High-poverty schools are ranked by school level (Elementary, Middle, or High) based on Overall Growth (Math and ELA combined), as well as for growth in each content area independently. High-poverty schools are also ranked within each region of the state. Tables include the region in which the school is located, the number of test takers and the growth score of that school in the relevant content area.

## J. Elementary Schools “Beating the Odds”

### Beating the Odds: Overall ACT Aspire, 2022

Table 55: Top 10 “High-Poverty” Elementary Schools in Arkansas based on Overall ACT Aspire Growth (Math and ELA combined)

	School (District)	Region	Grades Served	% FRL	# of Test Takers	Overall Content Growth
1	S.C. Tucker Elementary (Danville)	Northwest	K-4	76%	101	88.55
2	Green Forest Elementary (Green Forest)	Northwest	P-3	81%	100	86.34
3	Weiner Elementary (Harrisburg)	Northeast	K-6	67%	52	86.00
4	Cedar Ridge Elementary (Cedar Ridge)	Northeast	K-5	77%	128	85.61
5	Calico Rock Elementary (Calico Rock)	Northeast	K-6	82%	98	85.60
6	Dardanelle Primary (Dardanelle)	Northwest	K-3	71%	139	85.48
7	Wakefield Elementary (Little Rock)	Central	P-5	98%	191	85.16
7	John Tyson Elementary (Springdale)	Northwest	K-5	74%	241	85.16
8	Des Arc Elementary (Des Arc)	Southeast	P-6	71%	168	84.92
9	Bayyari Elementary (Springdale)	Northwest	K-5	89%	234	84.55
10	George Elementary (Springdale)	Northwest	K-5	88%	255	84.51

**Beating the Odds: Math ACT Aspire, 2022**

*Table 56: Top 10 “High-Poverty” Elementary Schools in Arkansas based on ACT Aspire Math Growth*

	<b>School (District)</b>	<b>Region</b>	<b>Grades Served</b>	<b>% FRL</b>	<b># of Test Takers</b>	<b>Math Content Growth</b>
<b>1</b>	S.C. Tucker Elementary (Danville)	Northwest	K-4	76%	101	88.66
<b>2</b>	Nashville Primary (Nashville)	Southwest	K-3	71%	106	87.83
<b>3</b>	Weiner Elementary (Harrisburg)	Northeast	K-6	67%	52	87.80
<b>4</b>	Tuckerman Elementary (Jackson)	Northeast	K-4	81%	118	86.75
<b>5</b>	Calico Rock Elementary (Calico Rock)	Northeast	K-6	82%	98	86.47
<b>6</b>	Cedar Ridge Elementary (Cedar Ridge)	Northeast	K-5	77%	128	86.28
<b>7</b>	Two Rivers Elementary (Two Rivers)	Northwest	K-4	87%	86	86.27
<b>8</b>	Wakefield Elementary (Little Rock)	Central	P-5	98%	191	85.83
<b>9</b>	George Elementary (Springdale)	Northwest	K-5	88%	255	85.73
<b>10</b>	Gosnell Elementary (Gosnell)	Northeast	K-6	72%	308	85.40

Tables 57-61: Top 5 **High-Poverty** Elementary Schools in Arkansas by Region, **Math** Growth



Table 57: Top 5 “High-Poverty” Elementary Schools in **Northwest** Region based on **Math** ACT Aspire Growth

	School (District)	Grades Served	% FRL	# of Test Takers	Math Content Growth
1	S.C. Tucker Elementary (Danville)	K-4	76%	101	88.66
2	Two Rivers Elementary (Two Rivers)	K-4	87%	86	86.27
3	George Elementary (Springdale)	K-5	88%	255	85.73
4	Bayyari Elementary (Springdale)	K-5	89%	234	84.82
5	Mountainburg Elementary (Mountainburg)	K-4	78%	73	84.68



Table 58: Top 5 “High-Poverty” Elementary Schools in **Northeast** Region based on **Math** ACT Aspire Growth

	School (District)	Grades Served	% FRL	# of Test Takers	Math Content Growth
1	Weiner Elementary (Harrisburg)	K-6	67%	52	87.80
2	Tuckerman Elementary (Jackson)	K-4	81%	118	86.75
3	Calico Rock Elementary (Calico Rock)	K-6	82%	98	86.47
4	Cedar Ridge Elementary (Cedar Ridge)	K-5	77%	128	86.28
5	Gosnell Elementary (Gosnell)	K-6	72%	308	85.40





Table 59: Top 5 “High-Poverty” Elementary Schools in **Central** Region based on **Math** ACT Aspire Growth

	School (District)	Grades Served	% FRL	# of Test Takers	Math Content Growth
1	Wakefield Elementary (Little Rock)	P-5	98%	191	85.83
	Friendship Aspire Elementary Academy Little Rock (Friendship Aspire Academies Arkansas)	K-5	97%	31	85.14
3	Lonoke Elementary (Lonoke)	3-5	75%	327	83.25
3	Lonoke Primary (Lonoke)	P-2	68%	327	83.25
4	Mt. Vernon/Enola Elementary (Mt. Vernon/Enola)	K-6	68%	138	82.59
5	Bismarck Elementary (Bismarck)	K-4	67%	111	81.85



Table 60: Top 5 “High-Poverty” Elementary Schools in **Southwest** Region based on **Math** ACT Aspire Growth

	School (District)	Grades Served	% FRL	# of Test Takers	Math Content Growth
1	Nashville Primary (Nashville)	K-3	71%	106	87.83
2	Nevada Elementary (Nevada)	K-6	78%	106	84.49
3	Oscar Hamilton Elementary (Foreman)	K-6	72%	137	84.47
4	Murfreesboro Elementary (South Pike County)	K-6	74%	176	82.69
5	DeQueen Elementary (DeQueen)	3-5	82%	484	82.59
5	DeQueen Primary (DeQueen)	K-2	81%	484	82.59



Table 61: Top 5 “High-Poverty” Elementary Schools in *Southeast* Region based on *Math* ACT Aspire Growth

	<b>School (District)</b>	<b>Grades Served</b>	<b>% FRL</b>	<b># of Test Takers</b>	<b>Math Content Growth</b>
<b>1</b>	Des Arc Elementary (Des Arc)	P-6	71%	168	85.26
<b>2</b>	Anna Strong Learning Academy (Lee County)	P-6	94%	144	84.11
<b>3</b>	KIPP Delta Elementary Literacy Academy (KIPP Delta)	P-5	92%	152	82.83
<b>4</b>	CB. Partee Elementary (Brinkley)	K-6	81%	103	81.76
<b>5</b>	McGehee Elementary (McGehee)	K-5	81%	232	80.55

**Beating the Odds: ELA ACT Aspire, 2022**

*Table 62: Top 10 “High-Poverty” Elementary Schools in Arkansas based on ACT Aspire ELA Growth*

	<b>School (District)</b>	<b>Region</b>	<b>Grades Served</b>	<b>% FRL</b>	<b># of Test Takers</b>	<b>ELA Content Growth</b>
<b>1</b>	Green Forest Elementary (Green Forest)	Northwest	P-3	81%	100	89.24
<b>2</b>	S.C. Tucker Elementary (Danville)	Northwest	K-4	76%	101	88.43
<b>3</b>	Dardanelle Primary (Dardanelle)	Northwest	K-3	71%	138	87.22
<b>4</b>	Woodrow Wilson Elementary (Paragould)	Northeast	2-4	71%	147	86.28
<b>4</b>	Paragould Primary (Paragould)	Northeast	P-1	75%	147	86.28
<b>5</b>	John Tyson Elementary (Springdale)	Northwest	K-5	74%	241	86.03
<b>6</b>	Asbell Elementary (Fayetteville)	Northwest	K-4	83%	96	85.42
<b>7</b>	Park Elementary (Corning)	Northeast	K-4	73%	101	85.33
<b>8</b>	Cedar Ridge Elementary (Cedar Ridge)	Northeast	K-5	77%	128	84.94
<b>9</b>	Cave City Elementary (Cave City)	Northeast	K-5	78%	216	84.91
<b>10</b>	Calico Rock Elementary (Calico Rock)	Northeast	K-6	82%	98	84.73
<b>10</b>	Des Arc Elementary (Des Arc)	Southeast	P-6	71%	167	84.73

Tables 63-68: Top 5 **High-Poverty** Elementary Schools in Arkansas by Region, **ELA** Growth



Table 63: Top 5 “High-Poverty” Elementary Schools in **Northwest** Region based on **ELA ACT Aspire Growth**

	<b>School (District)</b>	<b>Grades Served</b>	<b>% FRL</b>	<b># of Test Takers</b>	<b>ELA Content Growth</b>
<b>1</b>	Green Forest Elementary (Green Forest)	P-3	81%	100	89.24
<b>2</b>	S.C. Tucker Elementary (Danville)	K-4	76%	101	88.43
<b>3</b>	Dardanelle Primary (Dardanelle)	K-3	71%	138	87.22
<b>4</b>	John Tyson Elementary (Springdale)	K-5	74%	241	86.03
<b>5</b>	Asbell Elementary (Fayetteville)	K-4	83%	96	85.42



Table 64: Top 5 “High-Poverty” Elementary Schools in **Northeast** Region based on **ELA ACT Aspire Growth**

	<b>School (District)</b>	<b>Grades Served</b>	<b>% FRL</b>	<b># of Test Takers</b>	<b>ELA Content Growth</b>
<b>1</b>	Woodrow Wilson Elementary (Paragould)	2-4	71%	147	86.28
<b>1</b>	Paragould Primary (Paragould)	P-1	75%	147	86.28
<b>2</b>	Park Elementary (Corning)	K-4	73%	101	85.33
<b>3</b>	Cedar Ridge Elementary (Cedar Ridge)	K-5	77%	128	84.94
<b>4</b>	Cave City Elementary (Cave City)	K-5	78%	216	84.91
<b>5</b>	Calico Rock Elementary (Calico Rock)	K-6	82%	98	84.73



Table 65: Top 5 “High-Poverty” Elementary Schools in **Central** Region based on ELA ACT Aspire Growth

	School (District)	Grades Served	% FRL	# of Test Takers	ELA Content Growth
1	Wakefield Elementary (Little Rock)	P-5	98%	191	84.49
	Friendship Aspire Elementary Academy Little Rock (Friendship Aspire Academies Arkansas)	K-5	97%	28	83.71
3	Cutter-Morning Star Elementary (Cutter-Morning Star)	K-6	82%	178	83.00
4	Bismarck Elementary (Bismarck)	K-4	67%	111	82.46
5	Bates Elementary (Pulaski County Special)	P-5	75%	139	82.37



Table 66: Top 5 “High-Poverty” Elementary Schools in **Southwest** Region based on ELA ACT Aspire Growth

	School (District)	Grades Served	% FRL	# of Test Takers	ELA Content Growth
1	Wickes Elementary (Cossatot River)	P-6	81%	138	82.68
2	DeQueen Elementary (DeQueen)	3-5	82%	484	82.06
2	DeQueen Primary (DeQueen)	K-2	81%	484	82.06
3	Louise Durham Elementary (Mena)	K-2	67%	332	81.95
3	Holly Harshman Elementary (Mena)	3-5	72%	332	81.95
4	Gurdon Primary (Gurdon)	K-4	70%	85	81.33
5	North Heights Community (Texarkana)	K-5	81%	77	80.86



Table 67: Top 5 “High-Poverty” Elementary Schools in *Southeast* Region based on ELA ACT Aspire Growth

	<b>School (District)</b>	<b>Grades Served</b>	<b>% FRL</b>	<b># of Test Takers</b>	<b>ELA Content Growth</b>
<b>1</b>	Des Arc Elementary (Des Arc)	P-6	71%	167	84.73
<b>2</b>	McGehee Elementary (McGehee)	K-5	81%	233	81.83
<b>3</b>	Hermitage Elementary (Hermitage)	P-6	82%	97	80.13
<b>4</b>	KIPP Delta Elementary Literacy Academy (KIPP Delta)	P-5	92%	148	79.97
<b>5</b>	Eastside Elementary (Warren)	K-3	76%	82	78.89

## K. Middle Schools “Beating the Odds”

Beating the Odds: Overall ACT Aspire, 2022

Table 68: Top 10 “High-Poverty” Middle Schools in Arkansas based on Overall ACT Aspire Growth (Math and ELA combined)

	School (District)	Region	Grades Served	% FRL	# of Test Takers	Overall Content Growth
1	eStem East Village Junior High Public Charter (eStem Public Charter School)	Central	7-9	67%	298	86.05
2	Highland Middle (Highland)	Northeast	5-8	72%	426	84.78
3	Mansfield Middle (Mansfield)	Northwest	5-8	75%	191	83.73
4	Atkins Middle (Atkins)	Northwest	5-8	69%	303	83.30
5	DeQueen Middle (DeQueen)	Southwest	6-7	86%	346	83.09
6	Lamar Middle (Lamar)	Northwest	6-8	73%	283	82.87
7	Mena Middle (Mena)	Southwest	6-8	69%	353	82.61
8	Wonder Junior High (West Memphis)	Northeast	7-9	89%	270	82.57
9	Hope Academy of Public Service (Hope)	Southwest	5-8	84%	205	82.48
9	Lonoke Middle (Lonoke)	Central	6-8	69%	338	82.48
10	Star City Middle (Star City)	Southeast	6-8	67%	325	82.43

**Beating the Odds: Math ACT Aspire, 2022**

*Table 69: Top 10 “High-Poverty” Middle Schools in Arkansas based on ACT Aspire Math Growth*

	<b>School (District)</b>	<b>Region</b>	<b>Grades Served</b>	<b>% FRL</b>	<b># of Test Takers</b>	<b>Math Content Growth</b>
<b>1</b>	eStem East Village Junior High Public Charter (Estem Public Charter School)	Central	7-9	67%	298	87.56
<b>2</b>	Highland Middle (Highland)	Northeast	5-8	72%	426	85.29
<b>3</b>	Mansfield Middle (Mansfield)	Northwest	5-8	75%	191	85.27
<b>4</b>	Atkins Middle (Atkins)	Northwest	5-8	69%	303	85.22
<b>5</b>	DeQueen Middle (DeQueen)	Southwest	6-7	86%	346	84.10
<b>6</b>	Helen Tyson Middle (Springdale)	Northwest	6-7	82%	674	83.84
<b>7</b>	KIPP Delta College Prep (KIPP Delta)	Southeast	6-8	92%	171	83.34
<b>8</b>	Swifton Middle (Jackson)	Northeast	5-7	74%	177	83.33
<b>9</b>	Lamar Middle (Lamar)	Northwest	6-8	73%	283	83.28
<b>10</b>	Cave City Middle Career And Collegiate Preparatory (Cave City)	Northeast	6-8	80%	251	83.22



Tables 70-74: Top 5 **High-Poverty** Middle Schools in Arkansas by Region, **Math** Growth



Table 70: Top 5 “High-Poverty” Middle Schools in **Northwest** Region based on **Math** ACT Aspire Growth

	School (District)	Grades Served	% FRL	# of Test Takers	Math Content Growth
1	Mansfield Middle (Mansfield)	5-8	75%	191	85.27
2	Atkins Middle (Atkins)	5-8	69%	303	85.22
3	Helen Tyson Middle (Springdale)	6-7	82%	674	83.84
4	Lamar Middle (Lamar)	6-8	73%	283	83.28
5	Butterfield Trail Middle (Van Buren)	6-8	69%	564	82.00



Table 71: Top 5 “High-Poverty” Middle Schools in **Northeast** Region based on **Math** ACT Aspire Growth

	School (District)	Grades Served	% FRL	# of Test Takers	Math Content Growth
1	Highland Middle (Highland)	5-8	72%	426	85.29
2	Swifton Middle (Jackson)	5-7	74%	177	83.33
3	Cave City Middle Career And Collegiate Preparatory (Cave City)	6-8	80%	251	83.22
4	Wonder Junior High (West Memphis)	7-9	89%	270	83.12
5	Paragould Junior High (Paragould)	7-8	71%	412	82.46



Table 72: Top 5 “High-Poverty” Middle Schools in **Central** Region based on **Math** ACT Aspire Growth

	School (District)	Grades Served	% FRL	# of Test Takers	Math Content Growth
1	eStem East Village Junior High Public Charter (eStem Public Charter School)	7-9	67%	298	87.56
2	Lonoke Middle (Lonoke)	6-8	69%	338	81.45
3	North Little Rock Middle 6th Grade Campus (North Little Rock)	6-6	78%	463	80.75
4	Jack Robey Middle (Pine Bluff)	6-8	81%	541	80.30
5	Malvern Middle (Malvern)	7-8	80%	258	80.27



Table 73: Top 5 “High-Poverty” Middle Schools in **Southwest** Region based on **Math** ACT Aspire Growth

	School (District)	Grades Served	% FRL	# of Test Takers	Math Content Growth
1	DeQueen Middle (DeQueen)	6-7	86%	346	84.10
2	Mena Middle (Mena)	6-8	69%	353	82.96
3	Arkansas Middle (Texarkana)	6-8	75%	838	81.13
4	Hope Academy of Public Service (Hope)	5-8	84%	205	80.71
5	Magnolia Middle (Magnolia)	6-8	73%	593	80.13



Table 74: Top 5 “High-Poverty” Middle Schools in **Southeast** Region based on **Math** ACT Aspire Growth

	<b>School (District)</b>	<b>Grades Served</b>	<b>% FRL</b>	<b># of Test Takers</b>	<b>Math Content Growth</b>
<b>1</b>	KIPP Delta College Prep (KIPP Delta)	6-8	92%	171	83.34
<b>2</b>	Star City Middle (Star City)	6-8	67%	325	83.00
<b>3</b>	Drew Central Middle (Drew Central)	5-8	74%	311	81.29
<b>4</b>	Warren Middle (Warren)	6-8	70%	358	80.98
<b>5</b>	Hamburg Middle (Hamburg)	6-8	67%	349	80.59

**Beating the Odds: ELA ACT Aspire, 2022**

*Table 62: Top 10 “High-Poverty” Middle Schools in Arkansas based on ACT Aspire ELA Growth*

	<b>School (District)</b>	<b>Region</b>	<b>Grades Served</b>	<b>% FRL</b>	<b># of Test Takers</b>	<b>ELA Content Growth</b>
<b>1</b>	eStem East Village Junior High Public Charter (eStem Public Charter School)	Central	7-9	67%	297	84.48
<b>2</b>	Highland Middle (Highland)	Northeast	5-8	72%	426	84.27
<b>3</b>	Hope Academy of Public Service (Hope)	Southwest	5-8	84%	205	84.25
<b>4</b>	Lonoke Middle (Lonoke)	Central	6-8	69%	336	83.53
<b>5</b>	Beryl Henry Upper Elementary (Hope)	Southwest	5-6	89%	186	83.22
<b>6</b>	Hamburg Middle (Hamburg)	Southeast	6-8	67%	349	82.66
<b>7</b>	Lamar Middle (Lamar)	Northwest	6-8	73%	283	82.47
<b>8</b>	Decatur Middle (Decatur)	Northwest	5-8	81%	148	82.37
<b>9</b>	Robert F Morehead Middle (Pine Bluff)	Central	6-8	92%	194	82.31
<b>10</b>	Mena Middle (Mena)	Southwest	6-8	69%	353	82.26

Tables 76-80: Top 5 **High-Poverty** Middle Schools in Arkansas by Region, **ELA** Growth



Table 76: Top 5 “High-Poverty” Middle Schools in **Northwest** Region based on **ELA** ACT Aspire Growth

	School (District)	Grades Served	% FRL	# of Test Takers	ELA Content Growth
1	Lamar Middle (Lamar)	6-8	73%	283	82.47
2	Decatur Middle (Decatur)	5-8	81%	148	82.37
3	Mansfield Middle (Mansfield)	5-8	75%	191	82.20
4	Berryville Middle (Berryville)	6-8	73%	387	82.11
5	Cedarville Middle (Cedarville)	5-8	73%	200	81.70



Table 77: Top 5 “High-Poverty” Middle Schools in **Northeast** Region based on **ELA** ACT Aspire Growth

	School (District)	Grades Served	% FRL	# of Test Takers	ELA Content Growth
1	Highland Middle (Highland)	5-8	72%	426	84.27
2	Wonder Junior High (West Memphis)	7-9	89%	270	82.01
3	Cave City Middle Career And Collegiate Preparatory (Cave City)	6-8	80%	250	81.66
4	Mountain View Middle (Mountain View)	5-8	73%	305	81.16
5	Riverview Junior High (Riverview)	7-8	68%	159	80.86



Table 78: Top 5 “High-Poverty” Middle Schools in **Central** Region based on **ELA ACT Aspire Growth**

	<b>School (District)</b>	<b>Grades Served</b>	<b>% FRL</b>	<b># of Test Takers</b>	<b>ELA Content Growth</b>
<b>1</b>	eStem East Village Junior High Public Charter (eSem Public Charter School)	7-9	67%	297	84.48
<b>2</b>	Lonoke Middle (Lonoke)	6-8	69%	336	83.53
<b>3</b>	Robert F Morehead Middle (Pine Bluff)	6-8	92%	194	82.31
<b>4</b>	Westwind School for Performing Arts (Westwind School For Performing Arts)	6-8	78%	47	82.21
<b>5</b>	Friendship Aspire Middle Academy Little Rock (Friendship Aspire Academies Arkansas)	6-8	94%	65	81.86



Table 79: Top 5 “High-Poverty” Middle Schools in **Southwest** Region based on **ELA ACT Aspire Growth**

	<b>School (District)</b>	<b>Grades Served</b>	<b>% FRL</b>	<b># of Test Takers</b>	<b>ELA Content Growth</b>
<b>1</b>	Hope Academy of Public Service (Hope)	5-8	84%	205	84.25
<b>2</b>	Beryl Henry Upper Elementary (Hope)	5-6	89%	186	83.22
<b>3</b>	Mena Middle (Mena)	6-8	69%	353	82.26
<b>4</b>	DeQueen Middle (DeQueen)	6-7	86%	346	82.09
<b>5</b>	Nashville Junior High (Nashville)	7-9	74%	450	81.27



Table 80: Top 5 “High-Poverty” Middle Schools in **Southeast** Region based on **ELA ACT Aspire Growth**

	<b>School (District)</b>	<b>Grades Served</b>	<b>% FRL</b>	<b># of Test Takers</b>	<b>ELA Content Growth</b>
<b>1</b>	Hamburg Middle (Hamburg)	6-8	67%	349	82.66
<b>2</b>	Star City Middle (Star City)	6-8	67%	325	81.87
<b>3</b>	Dumas Junior High (Dumas)	7-9	73%	235	81.09
<b>4</b>	Drew Central Middle (Drew Central)	5-8	74%	311	81.07
<b>5</b>	KIPP Delta College Prep (KIPP Delta)	6-8	92%	171	80.34

## L. High Schools “Beating the Odds”

Beating the Odds: Overall ACT Aspire, 2022

Table 81: Top 10 “High-Poverty” High Schools in Arkansas based on Overall ACT Aspire Growth (Math and ELA combined)

	School (District)	Region	Grades Served	% FRL	# of Test Takers	Overall Content Growth
1	Cave City High Career & Collegiate Preparatory (Cave City)	Northeast	9-12	76%	164	83.87
2	Dardanelle High (Dardanelle)	Northwest	9-12	71%	303	83.76
3	Booneville High (Booneville)	Northwest	10-12	67%	65	83.72
4	Jessieville High (Jessieville)	Central	9-12	66%	121	83.70
5	Green Forest High (Green Forest)	Northwest	9-12	78%	206	83.28
6	Jasper High (Jasper)	Northwest	7-12	69%	109	82.89
7	Dollarway High (Pine Bluff)	Central	9-12	90%	101	82.88
8	North Little Rock Center of Excellence (North Little Rock)	Central	9-12	74%	155	82.16
9	DeQueen Junior High (DeQueen)	Southwest	8-9	80%	371	82.15
10	Cedar Ridge High (Cedar Ridge)	Northeast	6-12	67%	238	82.14



**Beating the Odds: Math ACT Aspire, 2022**

*Table 82: Top 10 “High-Poverty” High Schools in Arkansas based on ACT Aspire Math Growth*

	<b>School (District)</b>	<b>Region</b>	<b>Grades Served</b>	<b>% FRL</b>	<b># of Test Takers</b>	<b>Math Content Growth</b>
<b>1</b>	Dardanelle High (Dardanelle)	Northwest	9-12	71%	303	85.44
<b>2</b>	Jessieville High (Jessieville)	Central	9-12	66%	121	84.98
<b>3</b>	Dollarway High (Pine Bluff)	Central	9-12	90%	100	84.74
<b>4</b>	Green Forest High (Green Forest)	Northwest	9-12	78%	206	83.93
<b>5</b>	Cave City High Career & Collegiate Preparatory (Cave City)	Northeast	9-12	76%	164	83.89
<b>6</b>	DeQueen Junior High (DeQueen)	Southwest	8-9	80%	371	83.79
<b>7</b>	Jasper High (Jasper)	Northwest	7-12	69%	109	83.59
<b>8</b>	Booneville High (Booneville)	Northwest	10-12	67%	65	83.42
<b>9</b>	Marion High (Marion)	Northeast	10-12	71%	236	82.71
<b>9</b>	East Poinsett County High (East Poinsett)	Northeast	7-12	73%	181	82.71
<b>10</b>	Horatio High (Horatio)	Southwest	7-12	76%	203	82.62

Tables 83-87: Top 5 **High-Poverty** High Schools in Arkansas by Region, **Math Growth**



Table 83: Top 5 “High-Poverty” High Schools in **Northwest** Region based on **Math ACT Aspire Growth**

	School (District)	Grades Served	% FRL	# of Test Takers	Math Content Growth
1	Dardanelle High (Dardanelle)	9-12	71%	303	85.44
2	Green Forest High (Green Forest)	9-12	78%	206	83.93
3	Jasper High (Jasper)	7-12	69%	109	83.59
4	Booneville High (Booneville)	10-12	67%	65	83.42
5	Cedarville High (Cedarville)	9-12	68%	117	82.11



Table 84: Top 5 “High-Poverty” High Schools in **Northeast** Region based on **Math ACT Aspire Growth**

	School (District)	Grades Served	% FRL	# of Test Takers	Math Content Growth
1	Cave City High Career & Collegiate Preparatory (Cave City)	9-12	76%	164	83.89
2	Marion High (Marion)	10-12	71%	236	82.71
2	East Poinsett County High (East Poinsett)	7-12	73%	181	82.71
3	Trumann High (Trumann)	9-12	70%	202	82.03
4	Rural Special High (Mountain View)	7-12	67%	59	82.02
5	Cedar Ridge High (Cedar Ridge)	6-12	67%	238	81.55



Table 85: Top 5 “High-Poverty” High Schools in **Central** Region based on **Math** ACT Aspire Growth

	School (District)	Grades Served	% FRL	# of Test Takers	Math Content Growth
1	Jessieville High (Jessieville)	9-12	66%	121	84.98
2	Dollarway High (Pine Bluff)	9-12	90%	100	84.74
3	Pine Bluff High (Pine Bluff)	9-12	79%	383	82.30
4	North Little Rock Center of Excellence (North Little Rock)	9-12	74%	155	82.28
5	Malvern High (Malvern)	9-12	72%	270	81.81



Table 86: Top 5 “High-Poverty” High Schools in **Southwest** Region based on **Math** ACT Aspire Growth

	School (District)	Grades Served	% FRL	# of Test Takers	Math Content Growth
1	DeQueen Junior High (DeQueen)	8-9	80%	371	83.79
2	Horatio High (Horatio)	7-12	76%	203	82.62
3	Lafayette County High (Lafayette County)	7-12	84%	149	81.08
4	Nashville High (Nashville)	10-12	73%	141	80.52
5	DeQueen High (DeQueen)	10-12	77%	131	80.37



Table 87: Top 5 “High-Poverty” High Schools in **Southeast** Region based on **Math** ACT Aspire Growth

	<b>School (District)</b>	<b>Grades Served</b>	<b>% FRL</b>	<b># of Test Takers</b>	<b>Math Content Growth</b>
<b>1</b>	KIPP Blytheville Collegiate High (KIPP Delta)	7-12	85%	72	82.13
<b>2</b>	Lee High (Lee County)	7-12	87%	171	81.66
<b>3</b>	Lakeside High (Lakesidechicot))	9-12	78%	117	81.43
<b>4</b>	Star City High (Star City)	9-12	67%	194	81.25
<b>5</b>	KIPP Delta Collegiate High (KIPP Delta)	9-12	88%	107	81.01

**Beating the Odds: ELA ACT Aspire, 2022**

*Table 88: Top 10 “High-Poverty” High Schools in Arkansas based on ACT Aspire ELA Growth*

	<b>School (District)</b>	<b>Region</b>	<b>Grades Served</b>	<b>% FRL</b>	<b># of Test Takers</b>	<b>ELA Content Growth</b>
<b>1</b>	Booneville High (Booneville)	Northwest	10-12	67%	65	84.02
<b>2</b>	Cave City High Career & Collegiate Preparatory (Cave City)	Northeast	9-12	76%	160	83.86
<b>3</b>	Maynard High (Maynard)	Northeast	7-12	70%	137	83.08
<b>4</b>	Two Rivers High (Two Rivers)	Northwest	5-12	78%	325	82.82
<b>5</b>	Flippin High (Flippin)	Northwest	9-12	69%	126	82.77
<b>6</b>	Cedar Ridge High (Cedar Ridge)	Northeast	6-12	67%	238	82.73
<b>7</b>	Green Forest High (Green Forest)	Northwest	9-12	78%	204	82.62
<b>8</b>	Highland High (Highland)	Northeast	9-12	71%	220	82.58
<b>9</b>	St. Joe K-12 (Ozark Mountain)	Northwest	K-12	72%	94	82.52
<b>10</b>	Jessieville High (Jessieville)	Central	9-12	66%	121	82.42

Tables 89-93: Top 5 **High-Poverty** High Schools in Arkansas by Region, **ELA Growth**



Table 89: Top 5 “High-Poverty” High Schools in **Northwest** Region based on **ELA ACT Aspire Growth**

	<b>School (District)</b>	<b>Grades Served</b>	<b>% FRL</b>	<b># of Test Takers</b>	<b>ELA Content Growth</b>
1	Booneville High (Booneville)	10-12	67%	65	84.02
2	Two Rivers High (Two Rivers)	5-12	78%	325	82.82
3	Flippin High (Flippin)	9-12	69%	126	82.77
4	Green Forest High (Green Forest)	9-12	78%	204	82.62
5	St. Joe K-12 (Ozark Mountain)	K-12	72%	94	82.52



Table 90: Top 5 “High-Poverty” High Schools in **Northeast** Region based on **ELA ACT Aspire Growth**

	<b>School (District)</b>	<b>Grades Served</b>	<b>% FRL</b>	<b># of Test Takers</b>	<b>ELA Content Growth</b>
1	Cave City High Career & Collegiate Preparatory (Cave City)	9-12	76%	160	83.86
2	Maynard High (Maynard)	7-12	70%	137	83.08
3	Cedar Ridge High (Cedar Ridge)	6-12	67%	238	82.73
4	Highland High (Highland)	9-12	71%	220	82.58
5	Forrest City High (Forrest City)	9-12	73%	271	82.15



Table 91: Top 5 “High-Poverty” High Schools in **Central** Region based on ELA ACT Aspire Growth

	School (District)	Grades Served	% FRL	# of Test Takers	ELA Content Growth
1	Jessieville High (Jessieville)	9-12	66%	121	82.42
2	England High (England)	7-12	74%	179	82.32
3	North Little Rock Center of Excellence (North Little Rock)	9-12	74%	153	82.24
4	Mountain Pine High (Mountain Pine)	7-12	80%	174	81.98
5	Malvern High (Malvern)	9-12	72%	267	81.53



Table 92: Top 5 “High-Poverty” High Schools in **Southwest** Region based on ELA ACT Aspire Growth

	School (District)	Grades Served	% FRL	# of Test Takers	ELA Content Growth
1	Horatio High (Horatio)	7-12	76%	203	81.60
2	Centerpoint High (Centerpoint)	6-12	68%	361	81.57
3	Prescott High (Prescott)	9-12	68%	147	81.11
4	Camden Fairview High (Camden Fairview)	9-12	71%	339	81.00
5	DeQueen Junior High (DeQueen)	8-9	80%	371	80.51



Table 93: Top 5 “High-Poverty” High Schools in **Southeast** Region based on ELA ACT Aspire Growth

	<b>School (District)</b>	<b>Grades Served</b>	<b>% FRL</b>	<b># of Test Takers</b>	<b>ELA Content Growth</b>
<b>1</b>	Lakeside High (Lakesidechicot))	9-12	78%	117	81.85
<b>2</b>	KIPP Blytheville Collegiate High (KIPP Delta)	7-12	85%	72	81.43
<b>3</b>	Warren High (Warren)	9-12	69%	209	81.35
<b>4</b>	Hermitage High (Hermitage)	7-12	69%	134	81.33
<b>5</b>	Lee High (Lee County)	7-12	87%	171	81.27



## 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](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)