

ARKANSAS EDUCATION REPORT
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**OUTSTANDING EDUCATIONAL PERFORMANCE AWARDS:
HIGHLIGHTING HIGH-ACHIEVING ARKANSAS SCHOOLS,
2015**

**HIGH-ACHIEVING ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS IN
ARKANSAS BASED ON PERFORMANCE ON THE
PARCC EXAMINATIONS**

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INTRODUCTION

Since our founding in 2003, the mission of the Office for Education Policy has been looking at pressing issues through the lens of academic research and disseminating our findings to educators, policymakers, and other stakeholders around Arkansas. Every once in a while, however, we think it is okay to stray from issue analysis and simply share some good news!

In this Arkansas Education Report (AER), we aim to highlight excellent performance and offer our congratulations. To that end, we are happy to highlight many excellent schools around the state in our now-annual AER, entitled the **Outstanding Educational Performance Awards**, or the OEP awards.

In the 2014-15 academic year, Arkansas students have undergone a change in their assessment of student performance to better operate in collaboration with the Common Core Standards. The **Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC)** replaced the Arkansas Comprehensive Testing, Assessment, and Accountability Program (ACTAAP) for literacy and math exams for most students in the state.

As promised, with the release of the PARCC results at the school and district level, the spring edition of the **OEP Awards** will highlight high-performing schools in Arkansas based on their performance in the Math and Literacy exams at the Elementary, Middle, Junior High and High School level.

In this report we are continuing to rate schools' performance based on the **"GPA" rating system** that was introduced in 2012, however modifications had to be made as student performance categories differed in PARCC in relation to those of the Benchmark exams. PARCC assessed student performance based on whether or not they fall under one of the following five categories: Not Met Expectations, Partially Met Expectations, Approached Expectations, Met Expectations or Exceeded Expectations. The 4.0 grading scale was still utilized; 0 points were allocated to those that "Did not meet expectations" and 4 points were allocated to those who "Exceeded Expectations". This GPA measure does reflect a more accurate representation of student performance and is something that is familiar and meaningful to the public.

Category	GPA Points Awarded
Exceeded Expectations	4.0
Met Expectations	3.0
Approached Expectations	2.0
Partially Met Expectations	1.0
Did Not Meet Expectations	0.0

In this report, we are presenting a list of the top 20 schools in each area. In some cases, these “top 20 lists” will contain more than 20 schools as some schools’ GPA scores will be identical. This is not a new phenomenon, as we also exceeded 20 schools in previous reports when using the percent proficient and advanced metric as an indicator for student achievement; however, there are fewer ties using the more precise GPA measure.

In the following weeks, we will focus on high-performing 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 achievement while serving a high percentage of low-income students). Our release schedule is:

- **High-Achieving Elementary Schools**
- **High-Achieving Middle Schools**
- **High-Achieving Junior High Schools**
- **High-Achieving High Schools**
- **Beating the Odds: High-Achieving Schools Serving Low-Income Communities**

I. 2015 OEP AWARDS: HIGH ACHIEVING ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS IN ARKANSAS BASED ON PERFORMANCE ON THE PARCC EXAMS

This section highlights high-performing elementary schools across the state based on the Arkansas PARCC exams. The PARCC examinations in math and literacy were administered to students in grades 3 through 11 in April 2015. Algebra 2 and Grade 11 Literacy were not included in the results as those exams were optional for students to take.

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 is located, the grades served at the school, the percent of students met or exceeded expectation in 2015, and the GPA of the school in that particular subject.

For the purposes of this report, elementary schools are defined as schools which primarily serve grades 3-5, and middle schools are defined as schools which primarily serve grades 6-8. High schools that also serve middle school grades, e.g. schools that serve grades 6-12, are categorized as middle schools in this report. In the cases where these grades overlap, we used enrollment data to determine whether a school served more elementary or middle school students (see Appendix B).

A. Elementary School Overall PARCC Scores, 2015

Table 1: Top 20 Elementary Schools in Arkansas based on Overall PARCC Achievement

	School (District)	Region	Grades Served	% Met/ Exceeded Expectations	GPA
1	Forest Park Elementary (Little Rock)	CN	P-5	75%	2.88
2	Vandergriff Elementary (Fayetteville)	NW	K-5	72%	2.74
3	Park Magnet (Hot Springs)	CN	K-5	68%	2.71
4	Don Roberts Elementary (Little Rock)	CN	P-5	68%	2.70
5	Baker Interdistrict Elementary (Pulaski County Special)	CN	K-5	65%	2.63
6	Janie Darr Elementary (Rogers)	NW	K-5	60%	2.52
7	Armored Elementary (Armored)	NE	K-6	56%	2.48
7	Skyline Heights Elementary (Harrison)	NW	K-4	58%	2.48
9	Euper Lane Elementary (Fort Smith)	NW	K-6	56%	2.47
9	Northwest Arkansas Classical Academy (Responsive Ed Solutions Northwest Ark Classical Academy)	NW	K-6	56%	2.47
11	Salem Elementary (Salem)	NE	K-6	57%	2.46
12	Cooper Elementary (Bentonville)	NW	K-4	57%	2.44
13	Academy Of Technology (Vilonia)	CN	2-4	52%	2.43
13	Bellview Elementary (Rogers)	NW	K-5	58%	2.43
13	Central Park At Morning Star (Bentonville)	NW	K-4	57%	2.43
16	Mount Pleasant Elementary (Melbourne)	NE	K-6	54%	2.41
17	Caldwell Elementary (Benton)	CN	K-5	53%	2.40
17	Norfolk Elementary (Norfolk)	NW	K-6	51%	2.40
19	Greenbrier Westside Elementary (Greenbrier)	CN	K-5	52%	2.39
20	Cowsert Elementary (Clinton)	NW	K-3	59%	2.38

Tables 2-6: Top 5 Elementary Schools in Arkansas by Regions, **Overall** Achievement



Table 2: Top 5 schools in **Northwest** Region based on **Overall** Elementary PARCC performance

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	% Met/ Exceed Expectations	GPA
1	Vandergriff Elementary (Fayetteville)	K-5	668	72%	2.74
2	Janie Darr Elementary (Rogers)	K-5	430	60%	2.52
3	Skyline Heights Elementary (Harrison)	K-4	294	58%	2.48
4	Euper Lane Elementary (Fort Smith)	K-6	412	56%	2.47
4	Northwest Arkansas Classical Academy (Responsive Ed Solutions Northwest Ark Classical Academy)	K-6	493	56%	2.47



Table 3: Top 5 schools in **Northeast** Region based on **Overall** Elementary PARCC performance

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	% Met/ Exceed Expectations	GPA
1	Armored Elementary (Armored)	K-6	227	56%	2.48
2	Salem Elementary (Salem)	K-6	481	57%	2.46
3	Mount Pleasant Elementary (Melbourne)	K-6	160	54%	2.41
4	Westside Elementary (Searcy)	K-3	216	51%	2.23
5	Buffalo Is. Central West Elementary (Buffalo Is. Central Sch. Dist.)	P-6	250	42%	2.15



Table 4: Top 5 schools in **Central** Region based on **Overall** Elementary PARCC performance

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	% Met/ Exceed Expectations	GPA
1	Forest Park Elementary (Little Rock)	P-5	408	75%	2.88
2	Park Magnet (Hot Springs)	K-5	196	69%	2.71
3	Don Roberts Elementary (Little Rock)	P-5	810	68%	2.70
4	Baker Interdistrict Elementary (Pulaski County Special)	K-5	412	65%	2.63
5	Academy Of Technology (Vilonia)	2-4	102	52%	2.43



Table 5: Top 5 schools in **Southwest** Region based on **Overall** Elementary PARCC performance

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	% Met/ Exceed Expectations	GPA
1	Taylor Elementary (Emerson-Taylor-Bradley)	K-6	246	44%	2.20
2	Genoa Central Elementary (Genoa Central)	K-4	350	44%	2.19
3	Hugh Goodwin Elementary (El Dorado)	K-4	346	44%	2.16
4	Centerpoint Primary (Centerpoint)	P-3	120	43%	2.10
5	Wickes Elementary (Cossatot River)	P-6	360	42%	2.09



Table 6: Top 5 schools in *Southeast* Region based on **Overall** Elementary PARCC performance

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	% Met/ Exceed Expectations	GPA
1	Gillett Elementary (Dewitt)	P-5	82	59%	2.35
2	Des Arc Elementary (Des Arc)	P-6	333	43%	2.04
3	Kingsland Elementary (Cleveland County)	K-5	106	33%	1.95
4	Dewitt Elementary (Dewitt)	K-5	454	27%	1.79
4	C.B. Partee Elementary (Brinkley)	K-6	274	29%	1.79

B. Elementary School Math PARCC Scores, 2015

Table 7: Top 10 Elementary Schools in Arkansas based on PARCC Math Achievement

	School (District)	Region	Grades Served	% Met/ Exceed Expectations	GPA
1	Forest Park Elementary (Little Rock)	CN	P-5	70%	2.80
2	Park Magnet (Hot Springs)	CN	K-5	67%	2.73
3	Vandergriff Elementary (Fayetteville)	NW	K-5	71%	2.73
4	Baker Interdistrict Elementary Sch. (Pulaski County Special)	CN	K-5	62%	2.62
5	Don Roberts Elementary (Little Rock)	NW	K-4	63%	2.61
6	Cooper Elementary (Bentonville)	CN	P-5	64%	2.59
7	Cowsert Elementary (Clinton)	NW	K-3	63%	2.52
8	Armored Elementary (Armored)	NE	K-6	56%	2.47
9	Skyline Heights Elementary (Harrison)	NW	K-4	57%	2.46
9	Northwest Arkansas Classical Academy (Responsive Ed Solutions Northwest Ark Classical Academy)	NW	K-6	54%	2.46

Tables 8-12: Top 5 Elementary Schools in Arkansas by Regions, Math Achievement



Table 8: Top 5 schools in Northwest Region based on Elementary Math PARCC performance

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	% Met/ Exceed Expectations	GPA
1	Vandergriff Elementary (Fayetteville)	K-5	333	71%	2.73
2	Cooper Elementary (Bentonville)	K-4	247	64%	2.59
3	Cowsert Elementary (Clinton)	K-3	88	63%	2.52
4	Skyline Heights Elem. (Harrison)	K-4	147	57%	2.46
4	Northwest Arkansas Classical Academy (Responsive Ed Solutions Northwest Ark Classical Academy)	K-6	206	54%	2.46



Table 9: Top 5 schools in **Northeast Region** based on Elementary **Math** PARCC performance

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	% Met/ Exceed Expectations	GPA
1	Armored Elementary (Armored)	K-6	113	56%	2.47
2	Mount Pleasant Elementary (Melbourne)	K-6	80	54%	2.41
3	Salem Elementary (Salem)	K-6	240	54%	2.40
4	Westside Elementary (Searcy)	K-3	108	50%	2.25
5	Buffalo Is. Central West Elementary (Buffalo Is. Central)	P-6	125	43%	2.15



Table 10: Top 5 schools in **Central Region** based on Elementary **Math** PARCC performance

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	% Met/ Exceed Expectations	GPA
1	Forest Park Elementary (Little Rock)	P-5	204	70%	2.80
2	Park Magnet (Hot Springs)	K-5	98	67%	2.73
3	Baker Interdistrict Elem. Sch. (Pulaski County Special)	K-5	206	62%	2.62
4	Don Roberts Elementary (Little Rock)	P-5	405	63%	2.61
5	Greenbrier Westside Elementary (Greenbrier)	K-5	224	53%	2.43



Table 11: Top 5 school in *Southwest* Region based on Elementary *Math* PARCC performance

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	% Met/ Exceed Expectations	GPA
1	Genoa Central Elementary (Genoa Central)	K-4	175	49%	2.25
2	Centerpoint Primary (Centerpoint)	P-3	60	47%	2.23
2	Hugh Goodwin Elementary (El Dorado)	K-4	173	42%	2.23
4	Van Cove Elementary (Cossatot River)	P-6	108	40%	2.16
5	Wickes Elementary (Cossatot River)	P-6	180	39%	2.11
5	DeQueen Elementary (DeQueen)	3-5	507	36%	2.11



Table 12: Top 5 schools in *Southeast* Region based on Elementary *Math* PARCC performance

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	% Met/ Exceed Expectations	GPA
1	Gillett Elementary (Dewitt)	P-5	41	63%	2.44
2	Des Arc Elementary (Des Arc)	P-6	166	41%	2.06
3	Kingsland Elementary (Cleveland County)	K-5	53	28%	1.83
4	C.B. Partee Elementary (Brinkley)	K-6	137	27%	1.80
5	Crossett Elementary (Crossett)	P-4	242	30%	1.79

C. Elementary School Literacy PARCC Scores, 2015

Table 13: Top 10 Elementary Schools in Arkansas based on PARCC Literacy Achievement

	School (District)	Region	Grades Served	% Met/ Exceed Expectations	GPA
1	Forest Park Elementary (Little Rock)	CN	P-5	81%	2.97
2	Don Roberts Elementary (Little Rock)	CN	P-5	74%	2.78
3	Vandergriff Elementary (Fayetteville)	NW	K-5	73%	2.75
4	Park Magnet School (Hot Springs)	CN	K-5	69%	2.69
4	Gibbs Magnet Elementary (Little Rock)	CN	K-5	66%	2.69
6	Baker Interdistrict Elementary (Pulaski County Special)	CN	K-5	67%	2.64
7	Janie Darr Elementary (Rogers)	NW	K-5	65%	2.60
8	Academy Of Technology (Vilonia)	CN	2-4	57%	2.55
9	Salem Elementary (Salem)	NE	K-6	60%	2.53
9	Jefferson Elementary (Little Rock)	CN	P-5	60%	2.53

Tables 14-18: Top 5 Elementary Schools in Arkansas by Regions, Literacy Achievement.



Table 14: Top 5 schools in Northwest Region based on Elementary Literacy PARCC performance

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	% Met/ Exceed Expectations	GPA
1	Vandergriff Elementary School (Fayetteville)	K-5	335	73%	2.75
2	Janie Darr Elementary School (Rogers)	K-5	215	65%	2.60
3	Norfolk Elementary School (Norfolk)	K-6	123	60%	2.52
3	Euper Lane Elementary School (Fort Smith)	K-6	211	58%	2.52
5	Skyline Heights Elem. School (Harrison)	K-4	147	59%	2.50



Table 15: Top 5 schools in **Northeast** Region based on Elementary **Literacy** PARCC performance

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	% Met/ Exceed Expectations	GPA
1	Salem Elementary (Salem)	K-6	241	60%	2.54
2	Armored Elementary (Armored)	K-6	114	55%	2.51
3	Mount Pleasant Elementary (Melbourne)	K-6	80	55%	2.41
4	Richland Elementary (West Memphis)	K-6	293	51%	2.30
5	Tuckerman Elementary (Jackson Co.)	K-4	108	49%	2.22



Table 16: Top 5 schools in **Central** Region based on Elementary **Literacy** PARCC performance

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	% Met/ Exceed Expectations	GPA
1	Forest Park Elementary (Little Rock)	P-5	204	81%	2.97
2	Don Roberts Elementary (Little Rock)	P-5	405	74%	2.80
3	Park Magnet (Hot Springs)	K-5	98	69%	2.69
4	Gibbs Magnet Elementary (Little Rock)	K-5	126	66%	2.69
5	Baker Interdistrict Elementary (Pulaski County Special)	K-5	206	67%	2.64



Table 17: Top 5 school in *Southwest* Region based on Elementary *Literacy* PARCC performance

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	% Met/ Exceed Expectations	GPA
1	Emerson Elementary (Emerson-Taylor-Bradley)	K-6	123	55%	2.36
2	Taylor Elementary (Emerson-Taylor-Bradley)	K-6	97	45%	2.21
3	Spring Hill Elementary (Spring Hill)	K-6	150	38%	2.15
4	Genoa Central Elementary(Genoa Central)	K-4	175	40%	2.13
5	Centerpoint intermediate (Centerpoint)	4-5	149	39%	2.09
5	Hugh Goodwin Elementary (El Dorado)	K-4	173	46%	2.09



Table 18: Top 5 schools in *Southeast* Region based on Elementary *Literacy* PARCC performance

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	% Met/ Exceed Expectations	GPA
1	Gillett Elementary (Dewitt)	P-5	41	54%	2.27
2	Kingsland Elementary (Cleveland County)	K-5	53	38%	2.06
3	Des Arc Elementary (Des Arc)	P-6	167	45%	2.02
4	Hazen Elementary (Hazen)	P-8	268	38%	1.90
5	Portland Elementary (Hamburg)	P-5	56	32%	1.86

APPENDIX

A. Methods

The Office for Education Policy strives to make all of our calculations and publications transparent to our readers. Thus, in this appendix we describe our data source, calculations performed on these data for the purposes of our reporting, and our method for determining a school's classification as an elementary, middle, or high school.

All data used in this report were obtained from the Arkansas Department of Education via the link <http://www.arkansased.gov/divisions/learning-services/student-assessment/test-scores/year?y=2015>. Other data, such as the percent of students eligible for free and reduced lunch, were obtained from the Arkansas Department of Education Data Center (<http://adedata.arkansas.gov>).

All data were analyzed at the grade / course level.

As previously discussed in the introduction, in order to calculate the GPA measure we treat the PARCC test scores similar to the existing grade point system.

Category	GPA Points Awarded
Exceeded Expectations	4.0
Met Expectations	3.0
Approached Expectations	2.0
Partially Met Expectations	1.0
Did Not Meet Expectations	0.0

We calculated the GPA measure for every Math and Literacy score. The GPA measure is comprehensive in that it takes into account all of the test score levels (Exceeded, Met, Approached, Partially Met, Did not Meet Expectations), instead of lumping together Met or Exceeded Expectations.

B. School Classification

For the OEP Awards, we classified schools based on the following rules:

- Elementary School: primarily grades 3-5 (minimum grade P, K, 1, 2, 3, or 4)
- Middle School: primarily grades 6-8 (minimum grade of 4, 5, or 6 and maximum grade of 7 or 8)

There were also a few “comprehensive schools,” such as K-8 or K-12 schools, that we included as either middle schools or elementary schools based on their enrollment numbers. The following table lists every grade configuration and their classifications.

Table A: School Classifications

Elementary Schools		Middle Schools
1-4		4-6
1-5		4-8
1-6		5-6
1-8		5-7
2-3		5-8
2-4		5-9
2-5		5-12
2-6		6
3-4		6-12
3-5		6-7
3-6		6-8
4-5		
5		
K-3		
K-4		
K-5		
K-6		
K-7		
K-8		
K-9		
K-12		
P-2		
P-3		
P-4		
P-5		
P-6		
P-7		
P-8		