

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

**HIGH-ACHIEVING HIGH 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**

IV. 2015 OEP AWARDS: HIGH ACHIEVING HIGH SCHOOLS

This section highlights high-achieving high school across Arkansas based on the PARCC Math and Literacy examinations of the 2014-15 academic year. These are the schools that serve primarily 9th through 12th graders.

This section is divided into subsections based the two exams. Schools are ranked using the GPA performance measure (explained in the Introduction) in each subject. In the subsections, the tables present the high-achieving schools for the noted category and subject using the GPA performance measure. These tables include the region in which the school is located, the number of test takers, the percent of students that met or exceeded expectation, and the GPA of the school in that particular subject.

J. High School Overall PARCC Scores, 2015

Table 55: Top 20 *High Schools* in Arkansas based on *Overall PARCC Achievement*

	School (District)	Region	Grades Served	% Met/ Exceeded Expectations	GPA
1	Haas Hall Academy (Haas Hall Academy)	NW	8-12	96%	3.38
2	Bentonville High (Bentonville)	NW	9-12	60%	2.58
3	Benton High (Benton)	CN	10-12	57%	2.47
4	Rogers New Technology High (Rogers)	NW	9-12	57%	2.44
5	Concord High (Concord)	NE	7-12	55%	2.38
6	Benton Cty. School Of Arts High (Arkansas Arts Academy)	NW	9-12	50%	2.34
7	Norfolk High (Norfolk)	NW	7-12	53%	2.33
8	Valley View High (Valley View)	NE	10-12	45%	2.26
8	Bismarck High (Bismarck)	CN	9-12	44%	2.26
10	Marshall High (Searcy County)	NW	7-12	46%	2.25
11	Mt. Vernon/Enola High (Mt. Vernon/Enola)	CN	7-12	46%	2.24
12	Fayetteville High East(Fayetteville)	NW	9-12	46%	2.23
13	Rogers High (Rogers)	NW	9-12	44%	2.20
14	Cave City High (Cave City)	NE	9-12	45%	2.19
14	Marked Tree High (Marked Tree)	NE	9-12	42%	2.19
15	Gentry High (Gentry)	NW	9-12	43%	2.19
17	Southside High (Southside (Independence))	NE	10-12	41%	2.15
17	Conway High West(Conway)	CN	10-12	45%	2.15
19	Dardanelle High (Dardanelle)	NW	9-12	43%	2.14
20	Buffalo Is. Central High (Buffalo Is. Central)	NE	10-12	40%	2.13

Table 56-60: Top 5 **High Schools** in Arkansas by Region, **Overall PARCC** performance.



Table 56: Top 5 schools in **Northwest** Region based on **Overall High PARCC** performance

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	% Met/ Exceed Expectations	GPA
1	Haas Hall Academy (Haas Hall Academy)	8-12	309	96%	3.38
2	Bentonville High (Bentonville)	9-12	4,184	60%	2.58
3	Rogers New Technology High (Rogers)	9-12	537	57%	2.44
4	Benton Cty School Of Arts High (Arkansas Arts Academy)	9-12	230	50%	2.34
5	Norfolk High (Norfolk)	7-12	280	53%	2.33



Table 57: Top 5 schools in **Northeast** Region based on **Overall High PARCC** performance

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	% Met/ Exceed Expectations	GPA
1	Concord High (Concord)	7-12	275	55%	2.38
2	Valley View High (Valley View)	10-12	361	45%	2.26
3	Cave City High (Cave City)	9-12	363	45%	2.19
3	Marked Tree High (Marked Tree)	9-12	165	42%	2.19
5	Southside High (Southside (Independence))	10-12	262	41%	2.15



Table 58: Top 5 schools in **Central** Region based on **Overall High PARCC** performance

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	% Met/ Exceed Expectations	GPA
1	Benton High (Benton)	10-12	902	57%	2.47
2	Bismarck High (Bismarck)	9-12	345	44%	2.26
3	Mt. Vernon/Enola High (Mt. Vernon/Enola)	7-12	283	46%	2.24
4	Conway High West (Conway)	10-12	1,090	45%	2.15
5	Parkview Magnet High (Little Rock)	9-12	417	42%	2.13
5	Greenbrier High (Greenbrier)	10-12	379	42%	2.13



Table 59: Top 5 schools in **Southwest** Region based on **Overall High PARCC** performance

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	% Met/ Exceed Expectations	GPA
1	Foreman High (Foreman)	7-12	310	37%	2.03
2	Taylor High (Emerson-Taylor-Bradley)	7-12	197	42%	2.03
3	Horatio High (Horatio)	7-12	468	34%	2.02
4	Parkers Chapel High (Parkers Chapel)	7-12	457	35%	1.93
5	Mount Ida High (Mount Ida)	7-12	311	30%	1.87



Table 60: Top 5 schools in *Southeast* Region based on *Overall High PARCC* performance

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	% Met/ Exceed Expectations	GPA
1	Des Arc High (Des Arc)	7-12	344	35%	1.95
2	Monticello High (Monticello)	9-12	614	26%	1.75
3	Dewitt High (Dewitt)	9-12	375	25%	1.74
4	Drew Central High (Drew Central)	9-12	326	26%	1.73
4	Kipp Blytheville Collegiate High (Kipp Delta Public Schools)	9-12	88	26%	1.73

K. High School Math PARCC Scores, 2015

Table 61: Top 10 **High Schools** in Arkansas based on **PARCC Math** Achievement

	School (District)	Region	Grades Served	% Met/ Exceed Expectations	GPA
1	Haas Hall Academy (Haas Hall Academy)	NW	8-12	95%	3.22
2	Benton High (Benton)	CN	10-12	54%	2.45
3	Bentonville High (Bentonville)	NW	9-12	53%	2.42
4	Concord High (Concord)	NE	7-12	50%	2.29
5	Dardanelle High (Dardanelle)	NW	9-12	43%	2.26
6	Rogers New Technology High (Rogers)	NW	9-12	44%	2.18
7	Bismarck High (Bismarck)	CN	9-12	36%	2.15
7	Siloam Springs High (Siloam Springs)	NW	9-12	36%	2.14
9	Gentry High (Gentry)	NW	9-12	38%	2.13
10	Marshall High (Searcy County)	NW	7-12	41%	2.12

Tables 62-66: Top 5 **High Schools** in Arkansas by Regions, **Math** Achievement



Table 62: Top 5 schools in **Northwest** Region based on **High Math** PARCC performance

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	% Met/ Exceed Expectations	GPA
1	Haas Hall Academy (Haas Hall Academy)	8-12	126	96%	3.22
2	Bentonville High School (Bentonville)	9-12	1,991	53%	2.42
3	Dardanelle High School (Dardanelle)	9-12	210	43%	2.26
4	Rogers New Technology High School (Rogers)	9-12	263	44%	2.18
5	Siloam Springs High (Siloam Springs)	9-12	593	36%	2.14



Table 63: Top 5 schools in **Northeast** Region based on High **Math** PARCC performance

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	% Met/ Exceed Expectations	GPA
1	Concord High (Concord)	7-12	137	50%	2.29
2	Mccrory High (Mccrory)	7-12	167	41%	2.08
3	Marked Tree High (Marked Tree)	9-12	81	38%	2.06
4	Southside High (Southside (Independence))	10-12	130	34%	2.05
5	Valley View High (Valley View)	10-12	159	28%	2.04



Table 64: Top 5 schools in **Central** Region based on High **Math** PARCC performance

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	% Met/ Exceed Expectations	GPA
1	Benton High I (Benton)	10-12	548	54%	2.45
2	Bismarck High (Bismarck)	9-12	187	36%	2.15
3	Mt. Vernon/Enola High (Mt. Vernon/Enola)	7-12	139	36%	2.09
4	Lisa Academy High (Lisa Academy)	9-12	252	35%	1.98
4	Sheridan High (Sheridan)	9-12	570	33%	1.97



Table 65: Top 5 school in *Southwest* Region based on High *Math* PARCC performance

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	% Met/ Exceed Expectations	GPA
1	Horatio High (Horatio)	7-12	231	29%	1.90
2	Parkers Chapel High (Parkers Chapel)	7-12	220	30%	1.90
3	Taylor High (Emerson-Taylor-Bradley)	7-12	99	31%	1.89
4	Mount Ida High (Mount Ida)	7-12	152	26%	1.83
5	Foreman High (Foreman)	7-12	142	25%	1.82



Table 66: Top 5 schools in *Southeast* Region based on High *Math* PARCC performance

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	% Met/ Exceed Expectations	GPA
1	Des Arc High (Des Arc)	7-12	174	32%	1.91
2	Drew Central High (Drew Central)	9-12	168	23%	1.79
3	Monticello High (Monticello)	9-12	292	17%	1.72
4	Stuttgart High (Stuttgart)	9-12	221	24%	1.69
5	Star City High (Star City)	9-12	225	20%	1.68

L. High School Literacy PARCC Scores, 2015

Table 67: Top 10 **High Schools** in Arkansas based on PARCC **Literacy** Achievement

	School (District)	Region	Grades Served	% Met/ Exceed Expectations	GPA
1	Haas Hall Academy(Haas Hall Academy)	NW	8-12	97%	3.54
2	Bentonville High (Bentonville)	NW	9-12	67%	2.75
3	Benton Cty Of Arts High (Arkansas Arts Academy)	NW	9-12	68%	2.73
4	Rogers New Technology High (Rogers)	NW	9-12	69%	2.69
5	Fayetteville High East (Fayetteville)	NW	9-12	64%	2.64
6	Norfolk High (Norfolk)	NW	7-12	65%	2.56
7	Parkview Magnet High (Little Rock)	CN	9-12	58%	2.52
8	Benton High (Benton)	CN	10-12	61%	2.50
8	Pottsville High (Pottsville)	NW	10-12	62%	2.50
10	Valley View High (Valley View)	NE	10-12	58%	2.49

Tables 68-72: Top 5 **High Schools** in Arkansas by Regions, **Literacy** Achievement



Table 68: Top 5 schools in **Northwest** Region based on High **Literacy** PARCC performance

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	% Met/ Exceed Expectations	GPA
1	Haas Hall Academy (Haas Hall Academy)	8-12	183	97%	3.54
2	Bentonville High (Bentonville)	9-12	2,193	67%	2.75
3	Benton Cty School Of Arts High (Arkansas Arts Academy)	9-12	124	68%	2.73
4	Rogers New Technology High (Rogers)	9-12	274	69%	2.69
5	Fayetteville High School East (Fayetteville)	9-12	622	64%	2.64



Table 69: Top 5 schools in **Northeast** Region based on High Literacy PARCC performance

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	% Met/ Exceed Expectations	GPA
1	Valley View High (Valley View)	10-12	202	58%	2.49
2	Concord High (Concord)	7-12	138	59%	2.47
3	Buffalo Is. Central High (Buffalo Is. Central Sch. Dist.)	10-12	58	57%	2.38
3	Cave City High (Cave City)	9-12	189	54%	2.38
5	Timbo High (Mountain View)	7-12	63	51%	2.37



Table 70: Top 5 schools in **Central** Region based on High Literacy PARCC performance

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	% Met/ Exceed Expectations	GPA
1	Parkview Magnet High School (Little Rock)	9-12	540	58%	2.52
2	Benton High School (Benton)	10-12	354	60%	2.50
3	Mt. Vernon/Enola High (Mt. Vernon/Enola)	7-12	150	55%	2.40
4	Bismarck High School (Bismarck)	9-12	158	53%	2.37
4	Conway High West (Conway)	10-12	656	55%	2.37



Table 71: Top 5 school in *Southwest* Region based on High *Literacy* PARCC performance

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	% Met/ Exceed Expectations	GPA
1	Foreman High (Foreman)	7-12	168	46%	2.25
2	Taylor High (Emerson-Taylor-Bradley)	7-12	98	52%	2.17
3	Horatio High (Horatio)	7-12	237	40%	2.14
4	Fouke High (Fouke)	9-12	166	42%	2.09
5	Smackover High (Smackover-Norphlet)	7-12	256	41%	2.06



Table 72: Top 5 schools in *Southeast* Region based on High *Literacy* PARCC performance

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	% Met/ Exceed Expectations	GPA
1	Des Arc High (Des Arc)	7-12	169	39%	2.00
2	Kipp Blytheville Collegiate High School (Kipp Delta Public Schools)	9-12	54	37%	1.98
3	Hazen High School (Hazen)	9-12	99	33%	1.94
4	Dewitt High School (Dewitt)	9-12	189	36%	1.86
5	Monticello High School (Monticello)	9-12	322	34%	1.78

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, 8, or 9)

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		
P-2		
P-3		
P-4		
P-5		
P-6		
P-7		
P-8		
K-12		

C. School Classification – High School Awards

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

- Junior High: primarily grades 7 – 9 (maximum grade of 9)
- High School: primarily grades 9 – 12

For the Algebra EOC, schools are classified differently, as the test is taken at different levels. These classifications are explained in the Algebra EOC section.

Table B: School Classifications

Junior High		High School
7-8		7-12
7-9		8-12
8-9		9-12
8		10-12
9		11-12
		9-10