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**OUTSTANDING EDUCATIONAL PERFORMANCE AWARDS:
HIGHLIGHTING HIGH-GROWTH ARKANSAS SCHOOLS, 2023**

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

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	1
I. 2023 OEP AWARDS: HIGH GROWTH ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS IN ARKANSAS BASED ON CONTENT	
GROWTH IN THE ACT ASPIRE EXAMS	2
A. Elementary School Overall ACT Aspire Growth Scores, 2023	3
B. Elementary School Math ACT Aspire Growth Scores, 2023	7
C. Elementary School ELA ACT Aspire Growth Scores, 2023	11
Appendix	A1

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 2021-22 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 2022-23 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 an overall score for English Language Arts (ELA).

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.

This week, 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.

I. 2023 OEP AWARDS: HIGH GROWTH ELEMENTARY 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 2023 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.

A. Elementary School Overall ACT Aspire Growth Scores, 2023

Table 1: Top 20 Elementary Schools in Arkansas based on Overall ACT Aspire Growth

	School (District)	Region	Grades Served	Overall Content Growth
1	Pottsville Elementary (Pottsville)	Northwest	K-3	91.67
2	Emerson Elementary (Emerson-Taylor-Bradley)	Southwest	K-6	89.81
3	Genoa Central Elementary (Genoa Central)	Southwest	K-3	89.19
4	Parkview Elementary (Van Buren)	Northwest	K-5	89.11
5	Mountain Springs Elementary (Cabot)	Central	P-4	88.55
6	Stagecoach Elementary (Cabot)	Central	K-4	88.45
7	Root Elementary (Fayetteville)	Northwest	K-4	88.07
8	Vilonia Primary (Vilonia)	Central	K-3	88.01
9	Don Roberts Elementary (Little Rock)	Central	K-5	87.90
10	Green Forest Elementary (Green Forest)	Northwest	P-3	87.67
11	John Tyson Elementary (Springdale)	Northwest	K-5	87.62
12	Center Valley Elementary (Russellville)	Northwest	K-4	87.61
13	Apple Glen Elementary (Bentonville)	Northwest	K-4	87.36
14	S.C. Tucker Elementary (Danville)	Northwest	K-4	87.29
15	Vilonia Elementary (Vilonia)	Central	K-3	87.26
16	Maumelle Charter Elementary (Academics Plus Public Charter Schools)	Central	K-3	87.25
17	Carolyn Lewis Elementary (Conway)	Central	K-4	87.02
17	Hunt Elementary (Springdale)	Northwest	K-5	87.02
18	Ward Central Elementary (Cabot)	Central	P-4	86.98
19	Chenal Elementary (Pulaski County Special)	Central	K-5	86.81
20	Westside Elementary (Cabot)	Central	P-4	86.38
20	Washington Elementary (Fayetteville)	Northwest	K-4	86.38

Tables 2-6: Top 5 Elementary Schools in Arkansas by Region, Overall Growth



Table 2: Top 5 schools in Northwest Region based on Overall Elementary ACT Aspire Growth

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	Overall Content Growth
1	Pottsville Elementary (Pottsville)	K-3	123	91.67
2	Parkview Elementary (Van Buren)	K-5	179	89.11
3	Root Elementary (Fayetteville)	K-4	176	88.07
4	Green Forest Elementary (Green Forest)	P-3	82	87.67
5	John Tyson Elementary (Springdale)	K-5	229	87.62



Table 3: Top 5 schools in Northeast Region based on Overall Elementary ACT Aspire Growth

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	Overall Content Growth
1	Gosnell Elementary (Gosnell)	K-6	303	84.21
2	Weiner Elementary (Harrisburg)	K-6	45	84.17
3	Salem Elementary (Salem)	K-6	220	84.14
4	Hillcrest Elementary (Hillcrest)	K-6	107	83.74
5	Woodrow Wilson Elementary (Paragould)	2-4	138	83.67
5	Paragould Primary (Paragould)	P-1	138	83.67



Table 4: Top 5 schools in **Central** Region based on **Overall** Elementary ACT Aspire Growth

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	Overall Content Growth
1	Mountain Springs Elementary (Cabot)	P-4	175	88.55
2	Stagecoach Elementary (Cabot)	K-4	178	88.45
3	Vilonia Primary (Vilonia)	K-3	74	88.01
4	Don Roberts Elementary (Little Rock)	K-5	480	87.90
5	Vilonia Elementary (Vilonia)	K-3	102	87.26



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

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	Overall Content Growth
1	Emerson Elementary (Emerson-Taylor-Bradley)	K-6	69	89.81
2	Genoa Central Elementary (Genoa Central)	K-3	85	89.19
3	Oscar Hamilton Elementary (Foreman)	K-6	125	85.42
4	Nashville Elementary (Nashville)	4-6	361	83.83
5	Nashville Primary (Nashville)	K-3	132	82.86



Table 6: Top 5 schools in **Southeast** Region based on **Overall Elementary ACT Aspire Growth**

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	Overall Content Growth
1	KIPP Delta Elementary Literacy Academy (KIPP Delta)	P-5	177	83.99
2	Eudora Elementary (Lakeside Chicot)	P-3	16	83.78
3	McGehee Elementary (McGehee)	K-5	206	82.08
4	Anna Strong Learning Academy (Lee County)	P-6	142	81.33
5	Noble Elementary (Hamburg)	K-2	253	81.17
5	Allbritton Elementary (Hamburg)	3-5	253	81.17

B. Elementary School Math ACT Aspire Growth Scores, 2023

Table 7: Top 10 Elementary Schools in Arkansas based on ACT Aspire *Math* Growth

	School (District)	Region	Grades Served	Math Content Growth
1	Pottsville Elementary (Pottsville)	Northwest	K-3	93.40
2	Stagecoach Elementary (Cabot)	Central	K-4	91.26
3	Emerson Elementary (Emerson-Taylor-Bradley)	Southwest	K-6	90.32
4	Don Roberts Elementary (Little Rock)	Central	K-5	89.90
5	Parkview Elementary (Van Buren)	Northwest	K-5	89.76
6	Vilonia Primary (Vilonia)	Central	K-3	89.44
7	Jefferson Elementary (Little Rock)	Central	K-5	89.20
8	Mountain Springs Elementary (Cabot)	Central	P-4	89.14
9	Founders Classical Academies of Arkansas Bentonville (Founders Classical Academies Of Arkansas)	Northwest	K-6	88.78
10	Pine Forest Elementary (Pulaski County Special)	Central	K-5	88.61

Tables 8-12: Top 5 *Elementary Schools* in Arkansas by Region, *Math Growth*



Table 8: Top 5 schools in *Northwest* Region based on Elementary *Math* ACT Aspire Growth

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	Math Content Growth
1	Pottsville Elementary (Pottsville)	K-3	123	93.40
2	Parkview Elementary (Van Buren)	K-5	178	89.76
3	Founders Classical Academies of Arkansas Bentonville (Founders Classical Academies Of Arkansas)	K-6	226	88.78
4	Butterfield Elementary (Fayetteville)	K-4	167	88.42
5	John Tyson Elementary (Springdale)	K-5	228	88.34



Table 9: Top 5 schools in *Northeast* Region based on Elementary *Math* ACT Aspire Growth

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	Math Content Growth
1	Gosnell Elementary (Gosnell)	K-6	303	86.96
2	Hillcrest Elementary (Hillcrest)	K-6	107	85.67
3	Riverside West Elementary (Riverside)	K-6	131	85.07
4	Weiner Elementary (Harrisburg)	K-6	45	84.80
5	North Elementary (Osceola)	P-K	133	84.68
5	Carroll Smith Elementary (Osceola)	1-4	133	84.68



Table 10: Top 5 schools in **Central** Region based on Elementary **Math** ACT Aspire Growth

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	Math Content Growth
1	Stagecoach Elementary (Cabot)	K-4	177	91.26
2	Don Roberts Elementary (Little Rock)	K-5	479	89.90
3	Vilonia Primary (Vilonia)	K-3	74	89.44
4	Jefferson Elementary (Little Rock)	K-5	164	89.20
5	Mountain Springs Elementary (Cabot)	P-4	175	89.14



Table 11: Top 5 schools in **Southwest** Region based on Elementary **Math** ACT Aspire Growth

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	Math Content Growth
1	Emerson Elementary (Emerson-Taylor-Bradley)	K-6	69	90.32
2	Genoa Central Elementary (Genoa Central)	K-3	85	88.36
3	Oscar Hamilton Elementary (Foreman)	K-6	125	86.44
4	Nashville Primary (Nashville)	K-3	132	84.92
5	Nashville Elementary (Nashville)	4-6	361	84.67



Table 12: Top 5 schools in **Southeast** Region based on Elementary **Math** ACT Aspire Growth

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	Math Content Growth
1	Eudora Elementary (Lakeside Chicot)	P-3	16	87.08
2	Eastside Elementary (Warren)	K-3	92	84.84
3	KIPP Delta Elementary Literacy Academy (KIPP Delta)	P-5	176	84.30
4	Noble Elementary (Hamburg)	K-2	253	83.04
4	Allbritton Elementary (Hamburg)	3-5	253	83.04
5	Monticello Elementary (Monticello)	K-2	321	82.61
5	Monticello Intermediate (Monticello)	3-5	321	82.61

C. Elementary School ELA ACT Aspire Growth Scores, 2023

Table 13: Top 10 Elementary Schools in Arkansas based on ACT Aspire ELA Growth

	School (District)	Region	Grades Served	ELA Content Growth
1	Green Forest Elementary (Green Forest)	Northwest	P-3	91.54
2	Genoa Central Elementary (Genoa Central)	Southwest	K-3	90.16
3	Pottsville Elementary (Pottsville)	Northwest	K-3	89.94
4	Center Valley Elementary (Russellville)	Northwest	K-4	89.51
5	Vilonia Elementary (Vilonia)	Central	K-3	89.42
6	Parkview Elementary (Van Buren)	Northwest	K-5	88.45
7	Root Elementary (Fayetteville)	Northwest	K-4	88.21
8	Mountain Springs Elementary (Cabot)	Central	P-4	87.95
9	Maumelle Charter Elementary (Academics Plus Public Charter Schools)	Central	K-3	87.94
10	Emerson Elementary (Emerson-Taylor-Bradley)	Southwest	K-6	87.74

Tables 14-18: Top 5 Elementary Schools in Arkansas by Region, ELA Growth



Table 14: Top 5 schools in Northwest Region based on Elementary ELA ACT Aspire Growth

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	ELA Content Growth
1	Green Forest Elementary (Green Forest)	P-3	82	91.54
2	Pottsville Elementary (Pottsville)	K-3	123	89.94
3	Center Valley Elementary (Russellville)	K-4	130	89.51
4	Parkview Elementary (Van Buren)	K-5	179	88.45
5	Root Elementary (Fayetteville)	K-4	176	88.21



Table 15: Top 5 schools in Northeast Region based on Elementary ELA ACT Aspire Growth

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	ELA Content Growth
1	Sidney Deener Elementary (Searcy)	K-3	77	85.62
2	Woodrow Wilson Elementary (Paragould)	2-4	138	84.95
2	Paragould Primary (Paragould)	P-1	138	84.95
3	Westside Elementary (Searcy)	K-3	88	84.31
4	Salem Elementary (Salem)	K-6	220	84.12
5	Melbourne Elementary (Melbourne)	K-6	218	83.76
5	Pocahontas Elementary (Pocahontas)	P-3	112	83.76



Table 16: Top 5 schools in **Central** Region based on Elementary **ELA** ACT Aspire Growth

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	ELA Content Growth
1	Vilonia Elementary (Vilonia)	K-3	102	89.42
2	Mountain Springs Elementary (Cabot)	P-4	175	87.95
3	Maumelle Charter Elementary (Academics Plus Public Charter Schools)	K-3	131	87.94
4	Carolyn Lewis Elementary (Conway)	K-4	209	87.56
5	Ward Central Elementary (Cabot)	P-4	139	87.32



Table 17: Top 5 schools in **Southwest** Region based on Elementary **ELA** ACT Aspire Growth

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	ELA Content Growth
1	Genoa Central Elementary (Genoa Central)	K-3	84	90.16
2	Emerson Elementary (Emerson-Taylor-Bradley)	K-6	58	87.74
3	Hugh Goodwin Elementary (El Dorado)	K-4	182	86.29
4	Sparkman Elementary (Harmony Grove Ouchita))	K-6	17	85.18
5	Oscar Hamilton Elementary (Foreman)	K-6	125	84.39



Table 18: Top 5 schools in **Southeast** Region based on Elementary **ELA** ACT Aspire Growth

	School (District)	Grades Served	# of Test Takers	ELA Content Growth
1	KIPP Delta Elementary Literacy Academy (KIPP Delta)	P-5	173	83.46
2	DeWitt Elementary (DeWitt)	K-5	230	82.91
3	Dermott Elementary (Dermott)	K-6	88	82.19
4	McGehee Elementary (McGehee)	K-5	206	81.73
5	Des Arc Elementary (Des Arc)	P-6	176	81.26

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 2022-23 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
- Combined Content Growth Score Number of Students Current Year
- Combined Math Growth Score Number of Students Current Year
- Combined ELA Growth Score Number of Students Current Year

Notes:

- When charter systems are located in a different geographic region than an associated charter school, we determine region based on school location.
- OEP Awards are limited to schools with at least 10 students included in the growth calculation.

For more information about how school levels were assigned, see https://dese.ade.arkansas.gov/Files/20201126142421_Grade%20Spans%20and%20Grade%20Configurations%20rv%201%2024%2020.pdf

For more information about how growth values were calculated, see https://dese.ade.arkansas.gov/Files/20201126144918_School%20Growth%20Explanation%20for%20ES%20and%20DC%20111017.pdf