2011 Exemplary Schools

Arkansas is required to identify a reasonable number of high performance and high progress schools for designation as Exemplary (Reward) Schools on an annual basis beginning with 2011. Four categories of performance were identified by stakeholders as notable performance for Exemplary School designation. These were schools demonstrating high performance, schools with large populations of at risk students with high performance, schools with high progress; and schools with large populations of at risk students with high progress.

The Targeted Achievement Gap Group (TAGG) was used as a measure of the size of the population of at risk students within a school. Schools were considered to have high TAGG populations when two-thirds (66.7%) of the students tested are members of the TAGG, i.e., economically disadvantaged, ELs and/or SWD.

To determine Exemplary Schools for high performance, high progress, high-TAGG performance and high-TAGG progress three years of Arkansas Benchmark and End of Course Exam results were used to calculate a three-year average percentage of students Proficient/Advanced for math and literacy combined for 2009 through 2011.

$$\frac{(\#Prof/Adv_{math11}+\#Prof/Adv_{Lit11}+\#Prof/Adv_{math10}+\#Prof/Adv_{Lit10}+\#Prof/Adv_{math09}+\#Prof/Adv_{Lit09})}{(\#Attempts_{math11}+\#Attempts_{Lit11}+\#Attempts_{math10}+\#Attempts_{Lit10}+\#Attempts_{math09}+\#Attempts_{Lit09})} \times 100$$

Combining the grade levels and the years for each school provides a more stable percentage for comparability and accountability purposes.

High Performing and High TAGG High Performing schools were ranked within K – 5, 6 – 8, and 9 – 12 grade ranges. Over 78 schools were considered for Exemplary Designation based on ranking at or above the 95th state percentile within their grade ranges. Schools were required to be removed from consideration if their achievement gap between TAGG and Non-TAGG students was larger than the gap size of the 25 percent of schools with the smallest achievement gap sizes, or if schools' graduation rates were below the state median graduation rate of 83.78 percent.

Progress was calculated based on the difference between schools' three year percentage of students Proficient/Advanced for math and literacy for 2008 to 2010 scores and the three year percentage of students Proficient/Advanced for math and literacy for 2009 to 2011scores. The difference scores represent the gain or loss in proficiency for a school between the two time periods.

High Progress and High TAGG High Progress schools were ranked based on their difference scores within the three grade ranges. Over 52 schools were considered for Exemplary Designation based on ranking at or above the 95th state percentile for gains within their grade ranges. Schools were required to be removed from consideration if their achievement gap between TAGG and Non-TAGG students was larger than the gap size of the 25 percent of schools with the smallest achievement gap sizes, or if schools' graduation rates were below the state median graduation rate of 83.78 percent.

These schools are identified for 2011 Exemplary status:

School	District
Cotton Plant Elementary	Augusta School District
Clinton Junior High	Clinton School District
Van Cove Elementary	Cossatot School District
Haas Hall Academy	
Park Magnet	Hot Springs School District
Tuckerman Elementary	Jackson County School District
Tuckerman High	Jackson County School District
Kingston Elementary	Jasper School District
KIPP Delta High School	
Mount Pleasant Elementary	Melbourne School District
Norfork Elementary	Norfork School District
West Elementary	Osceola School District
Pea Ridge Middle	Pea Ridge School District
Arnold Drive Elementary	Pulaski County Special School District
Marshall High School	Searcy County School District
Luxora Elementary	South Mississippi County School District
Valley Springs Middle	Valley Springs School District
Academy of Technology	Vilonia School District
Academy of Service and Technology	Vilonia School District