Arkansas State Report Card

Are We 5th or 49th?

February 21, 2013
Arkansas House Education Committee

Goals for Today’s Session

• What We Offer
• Where to Find Our Work
• Arkansas State Report Card
• Where Do We Really Rank?

http://www.officeforeducationpolicy.org/
OEP is a research center within the College of Education and Health Professions at the University of Arkansas that specializes in Education Research and Policy.

http://www.officeforeducationpolicy.org/

Accessing Data Resources through the OEP

Arkansas School Data

Refer to menu bar at the top left of the OEP homepage. http://www.officeforeducationpolicy.org/

Click on Arkansas School Data

Arkansas School Data has multiple databases at both school and district levels.
**Accessing Report Cards, Education Reports and Policy Briefs through the OEP**

Refer to menu bar at the top left of the OEP homepage. 
www.uark.edu/uap/oep

OEPublications leads to options such as Report Cards, Education Reports and Policy Briefs.

Remember to sign up for our weekly e-mail, OEP Web Links (OWL), to get updated on current education news across the state and nation. Please e-mail oep@uark.edu to sign up. 
Also, sign up for the OEP Blog at www.officeforedpolicy.com to receive alerts when the latest OEP Blog posts are published.

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**Arkansas State Report Card**

- Our latest publication summarizes the year in education outcomes for the state, as well as school demographics and teacher characteristics.

- Summaries of Benchmark, ITBS, NAEP, EOC, and ACT tests are included.

http://www.officeforedpolicy.org/
Arkansas’ Achievement on State Tests

- Grade 3 – 8 students have continued to achieve growth on the Arkansas Benchmark Exam in literacy and math.
  - In math:
    - In 2005-06, 55% of students scored proficient or advanced in math.
    - In 2011-12, 78% of students scored proficient or advanced in math.
  - In literacy:
    - In 2005-06, 59% of students scored proficient or advanced in literacy.
    - In 2011-12, 81% of students scored proficient or advanced in literacy.

Arkansas’ Achievement on National Tests

The NAEP, often called “The Nation’s Report Card”, is administered to a representative sample of Arkansas students in grades 4, 8, and 12 every other year. In the most recent administration of the NAEP (Spring 2011), math and reading subtests were given across the nation.

As can be seen in the NAEP graphs, Arkansas’ performance continues to lag behind that of the country as a whole in math and reading.

- In math, in grades 4 and 8, Arkansas’s students have decreased the gap between Arkansas and the nation on the NAEP.
- However, Arkansas still performs less well than the nation in math and literacy in grades 4 and 8 on the NAEP.
Quality Counts Report

- Education Week’s *Quality Counts* Report recently ranked Arkansas at 5th in the nation in education with an overall score of B-.

- The measure used to determine the state’s overall ranking places a significant amount of weight on education inputs (and little weight on student achievement).

- Arkansas’ *Quality Counts* grades:
  - Standards, Accountability, and Assessments: A
  - Transitions and Alignments: A
  - Teaching Profession: B+
  - Chance for Success: C+
  - School Finance: C
  - K-12 Achievement: D

How Can We Know Our Real Rank?

- Some would reference Education Week’s *Quality Counts* Report that places Arkansas at #5, but there are issues with this ranking.

- Others will reference the percentage of adults with a bachelor’s degree, which has Arkansas nearly at the bottom (49th).

- Which is it, and how do we know?

- How could we do a better job of assessing our situation?
NAEP Scores by Poverty Status

- Figure 1 shows basic NAEP scores by subject and poverty level.
- Arkansas compares well to surrounding states and to the nation when scores are compared by poverty level.
- Our state suffers in the overall category because more of our students are in the low income group than in other states.

Figure 1. Grade 4 NAEP Average Scale Scores in Math and Reading by Student Income Level, 2011

NAEP Gains by Poverty Status

- Figure 2 shows NAEP gains in scores by subject and poverty level.
- Over the past decade, Arkansas scores have grown by leaps and bounds, but that statistic is padded by lower baseline scores.
- The greatest gains come in Math and for High Income students.

Figure 2. Grade 4 NAEP Score Gains in Math and Reading by Income Level, 2003 to 2011
Ranking States by Achievement

• Figure 3 ranks gives Arkansas’ rank when comparing simple NAEP scores and a ranking for when each state’s demographics are taken into consideration.

• Although Arkansas’ scores are lower than other states, the state as a whole does well when our demographics are taken into consideration.

![Table: Arkansas NAEP Scores and Ranks](http://www.officeforeducationpolicy.org/)

Another Possible Report Card

• Our office has developed a school report card that we may release to the public.

• The purpose of this report card is to provide clear information about Arkansas’ schools to parents and other stakeholders.

• The report card takes into account achievement and improvement (based on growth) on the Benchmark and EOC exams.

• In our current ranking system, only 12% of Arkansas’ schools receive a D or F.
Questions?

Thank you for your input!