

# Arkansas State Report Card

Are We 5<sup>th</sup> or 49<sup>th</sup>?

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?



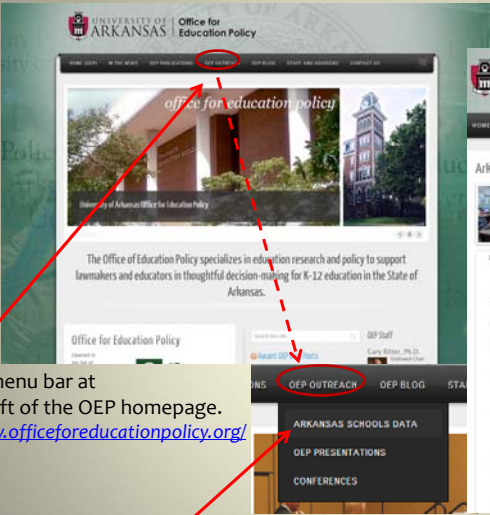

*office for education policy*

- AR Education Reports
- Policy Briefs
- Report Cards
- Newsletters
- Data Resources

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.officeducationpolicy.org/>

## Accessing Data Resources through the OEP

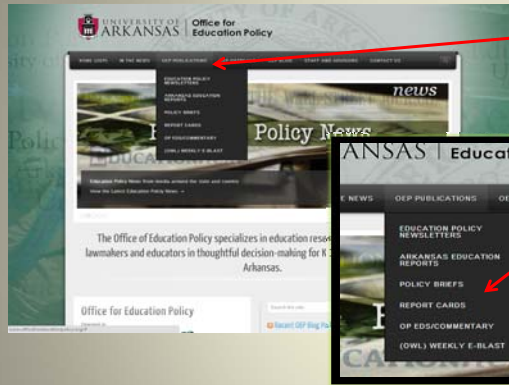
Refer to menu bar at the top left of the OEP homepage.  
<http://www.officeducationpolicy.org/>

Click on **Arkansas School Data**

**Arkansas School Data** has multiple databases at both school and district levels.

<http://www.officeducationpolicy.org/>

## 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/ua/oepp](http://www.uark.edu/ua/oepp)

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 [oepp@uark.edu](mailto:oepp@uark.edu) to sign up.  
 Also, sign up for the OEP Blog at [www.officeforeducationpolicy.com](http://www.officeforeducationpolicy.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.

Office for Education Policy

2012 Report Card on Arkansas  
Public Schools

6. Pres/Secondary School and Teacher Characteristics

achievement gap.

- A low percentage of Arkansas students are academically ready for college as measured by the 2012 administration of the ACT. Students' college readiness is lower than in nearby states and in the nation.
- Arkansas teachers are paid well compared to teachers in nearby states, and compared to the nation as a whole, when regional cost of living is taken into account.
- Arkansas has fewer 4-year-olds enrolled in preschool but spends more money per-preschool pupil than bordering states and the nation.

Thank you for reading and we hope you enjoy!

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## 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**

Figure 1.1: AR Benchmark: Percent Proficient and Advanced in Math, 2005, 2011, & 2012

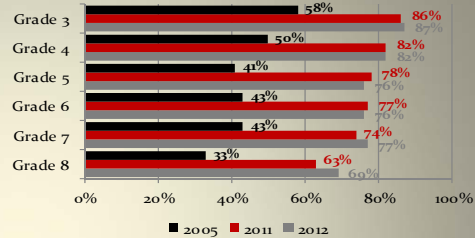
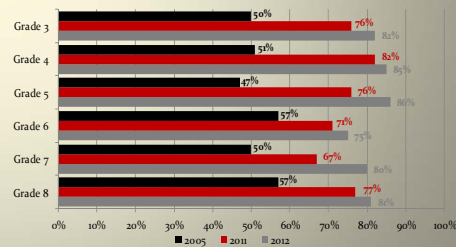


Figure 1.2: AR Benchmark: Percent Proficient and Advanced in Literacy, 2005, 2011, & 2012



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## 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.

Figure 2.1: NAEP: Math Proficiency, Grade 4, 1992-2011

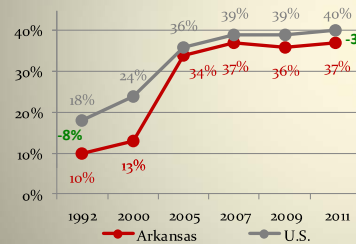
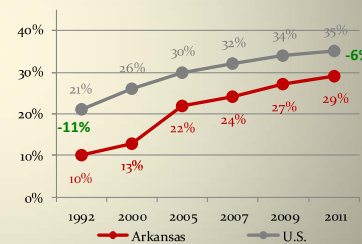


Figure 2.2: NAEP: Math Proficiency, Grade 8, 1992-2011



- 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.

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# Quality Counts Report

- Education Week's *Quality Counts* Report recently ranked Arkansas at 5<sup>th</sup> 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****



- Our office recently released a report summarizing the *Quality Counts* Report.

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# How Can We Know Our Real Rank?

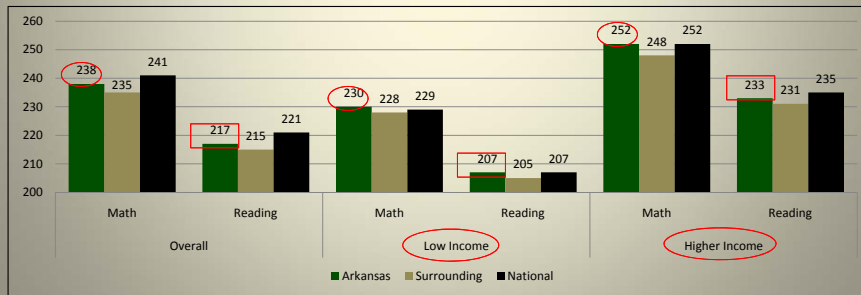
- Some would reference Education Week's *Quality Counts* Report that places Arkansas at #5, but there are issues with this ranking.
- Others will reference the percentage of adults with a bachelor's degree, which has Arkansas nearly at the bottom (49<sup>th</sup>).
- Which is it, and how do we know?
- How could we do a better job of assessing our situation?

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## 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.

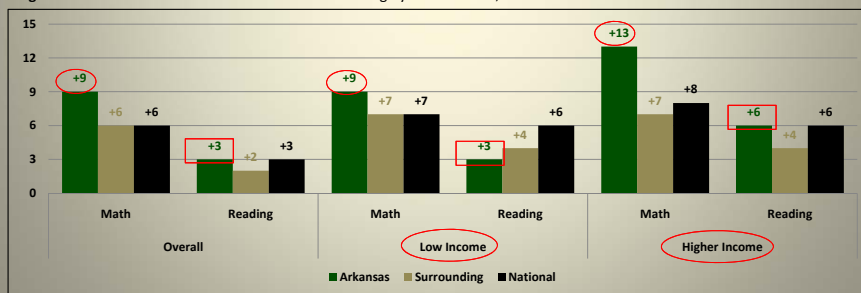
Figure 1. Grade 4 NAEP Average Scale Scores in Math and Reading by Student Income Level, 2011



## 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

Figure 3. Arkansas NAEP Scores and Ranks

Achievement Measure	4 <sup>th</sup> Grade Math	4 <sup>th</sup> Grade Reading	8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Math	8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Reading
2011 NAEP Scaled Score	238	217	279	259
Scaled Score Rank (50 States + DC)	36	38	39	43
Difference Score (Achieved – Expected)	+2.6	+2.6	+2.6	+0.6
Difference Score Rank (50 States + DC)	14	11	12	21

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## 2011-12 Arkansas School Report Card

Ruth Barker Middle School

District: Bentonville

School Type: Middle

Grades Served: 5-6

### % of Students Scoring Proficient or Advanced

<b>Math</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>Literacy</b>
All: 94%	93%	All: 92%
Targeted: 89%		Targeted: 84%

Targeted students (known as TAGG, or Targeted Achievement Gap Group) includes low-income students, English language learners and students with disabilities. The overall proficiency score is an average of the Math and Literacy scores for all students.

### 2011 to 2012 Improvement: Meeting State Growth Goals

<b>Math</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>Literacy</b>
All: 2011 93% 2012 94% Met	3 of 4 Met	All: 2011 88% 2012 92% Met
Targeted: 2011 89% 2012 89% Did Not Meet		Targeted: 2011 75% 2012 84% Met

The state sets yearly improvement goals for schools, called Annual Measurable Objectives (AMOs). This measure counts whether the school met its four growth goals: 4-A, 3-B, 2-C, 1-D, 0-F.

### National Percentile Rankings (NPR) Iowa Test of Basic Skills

<b>Math</b>	<b>Literacy</b>
2012 NPR: 75%	2012 NPR: 60%
2011 NPR: 73%	2011 NPR: 65%

### State Grading Summary

	#	% A	% B	% C	% D	% F
AR Middle Schools	95	21%	42%	27%	7%	2%
All Schools	893	21%	38%	29%	10%	2%

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Total: \$9,753  
Net Current: \$8,427  
(includes capital expenses)  
Avg. Teacher Salary: \$53,594  
**STATE STATS**  
% Proficient or Advanced  
Math: 78%  
Literacy: 80%

## 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!

