

Section 9.13.1 of the Arkansas Department of Education Rules Governing the Arkansas Comprehensive Testing, Assessment and Accountability Program (ACTAAP) and the Academic Distress Program

9.13.1 Pursuant to Ark. Code Ann. § 6-15-2107, ~~m schools performing at the top twenty percent (20%) of all public schools in Arkansas in combined student performance, student academic growth, and for a secondary school, graduate rate, are eligible for Arkansas School Recognition Program rewards and performance-based funding.~~ public schools that experience high student performance and those with high student academic growth, which includes high school graduation rate comparisons for secondary schools, shall be eligible for the Arkansas School Recognition Program.

9.13.1.1 For the purpose of the Arkansas School Recognition program, student academic growth will be calculated using the Value-Added Model (VAM).

9.13.1.2 Stakeholders were consulted through a series of meetings over several years to learn about and evaluate the use of a student-level growth model during the transition from Arkansas Benchmark Exams to the new exams that assess students' college and career readiness. Simply stated, a student growth model describes the change in student achievement over time. A student growth model becomes value-added when students' growth is attributed to a particular entity such as a classroom, a program, or a school, for example. There are many different VAMs. The VAM used for 2015 Rewards is a simple longitudinal student growth model that uses a students' score history (as many years of prior achievement as are available) to predict how that student will perform. The student's actual performance is compared to hi/hers predicted performance to provide a difference score (residual). The difference score, averaged at the school level, is considered the value added by the school.