



# ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

**For Immediate Release**  
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LITTLE ROCK: The 2009 Arkansas School Performance Report Card is now online at <http://ArkansasEd.org> and copies are being mailed to every parent or legal guardian of the 460,000-plus students in the state's public schools. "We send this information to each student's home in order to empower parents and community leaders to become more involved in helping local schools provide quality education for students," said Dr. Charity Smith, ADE assistant commissioner of public school academic accountability, whose office is responsible for issuing the reports.

While the reports contain a plethora of facts and figures, the following questions may serve as a guide for parents on how to use the reports in meaningful ways:

## **Questions to Consider About Your Child's School**

- Is the percentage of students scoring at grade level higher or lower than overall district and state averages?
- How does the attendance rate compare with that of the district?
- How does the percentage of certified teachers at the school compare with the overall statewide percentage?
- Are policies used to ensure a safe learning environment?
- Are there specific areas in which the school performed better than the overall district and state averages?
- Is the school fully accredited by state standards?

## **Questions to Discuss in Your Community**

- What is being done to increase school college-ready performance?
- What can I do to help the school improve?
- What can I do to help my child increase his/her academic achievement?
- What kind of parental activities are offered at the school, and how do I get involved?
- Has the performance of the school improved or declined?
- How can the local community support school improvement and student achievement in my district?

*The Arkansas Department of Education strives to ensure that all children in the state have access to a quality education by providing educators, administrators and staff with leadership, resources and training.*