



ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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LITTLE ROCK: Arkansas placed tenth in the nation in Quality Counts 2010, the annual report by Washington-based Education Week that ranks the 50 states and the District of Columbia based on education policies and student achievement. Overall, the state earned a 79.9 (B-minus), 7.6 points behind top-scoring Maryland.

On individual measures, Arkansas scored best in The Teaching Profession category (a B-plus to rank in second place) and in the Standards, Assessments and Accountability category (an A for a seventh-place tie with South Carolina).

Quality Counts 2010 was released today in print and at www.edweek.org. The overall ranking is available only online at www.edweek.org.

"Quality Counts is a highly respected report that assesses states using multiple measures, so we are quite pleased to again place in the top 10 in the country in their overall index," said Dr. Tom W. Kimbrell, Arkansas commissioner of education. "Our goal is to be in the top five, of course, and we believe that with the continued efforts of our educators and policymakers, that will indeed happen."

Only four of the six categories that the publication assesses were reevaluated for a grade in 2010: Chance for Success, Transitions and Alignment and School Finance. These grades are bolded in the chart below; the other categories reflect the 2009 grades.

Category	Arkansas	United States
Overall	B-	C
Chance for Success	C-	C+
K-12 Achievement	D	D+
Standards, Assessments and Accountability	A	B
Transitions and Alignment	B	C
The Teaching Profession	B+	C
School Finance	C	C

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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.