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ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Tony Wood, Commissioner

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67 Schools Improve, Receive Achieving Status

A total of 67 public schools showed sufficient improvement on test scores to meet annual targets that were approved by the U.S. Department of Education and are designated as Achieving schools. The Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) was re-authorized by the U.S. Congress in 2001 as the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB). Under NCLB, the proficiency targets for all student subgroups were 100 percent for the year 2014.

In 2012, Arkansas received flexibility from some of the NCLB requirements. Under the approved flexibility, all schools are required to meet Annual Measurable Objectives (AMOs), or yearly targets, designed to reduce the proficiency, growth and graduation gaps by half by the end of six years. Test scores from 2011 were used to determine the proficiency, growth and graduation gap (based on 2010 data) to establish the targets for each school. Students are classified into two main categories: the All Students group and the Targeted Achievement Gap Group (TAGG), which includes students in one or more of the economically disadvantaged, English Learners and Students With Disabilities subgroups.

Schools that do not meet their annual targets are classified as Needs Improvement schools. Also, to be Achieving, a school must test at least 95 percent of the All Students group and the TAGG for both literacy and math. In 2012, the Needs Improvement Focus designation was given to 10 percent of schools that showed the largest three-year gap between Non-TAGG student scores and TAGG student scores. Needs Improvement Priority schools, which represent the lowest 5 percent of schools based on proficiency over three years in both literacy and math, were identified in 2012 as well. Achieving schools in which every student subgroup meets the AMOs can be designated as Exemplary. If a Priority or Focus school meets requirements to be Achieving for two consecutive years, they are removed from the Priority or Focus list.

One Priority school met AMOs for two years in a row to move from the Needs Improvement Priority list to the Achieving list.

- Lakeside High School in the Lakeside School District (Chicot)

One Focus school met AMOs for two years in a row to move from the Needs Improvement Focus list to the Achieving list.

- Seventh Street Elementary School in the North Little Rock School District

Four Focus schools met the 2014 exit criteria for the first time this year.

- Langston Magnet School in the Hot Springs School District
- Kirby High School in the Kirby School District
- Springdale High School in the Springdale School District
- Parson Hills Elementary School in the Springdale School District

One Priority school met the 2014 exit criteria for the first time this year.

- Augusta High School in the Augusta School District

One school met the 2014 criteria for Exemplary.

- Bergman High School in the Bergman School District

The 2014 results show that 877 schools are identified in the Needs Improvement category. Many of these schools continue to show improvement; however, they did not meet their AMO for the year. There were 37 Priority schools and 85 Focus schools in 2014.

To view the complete 2014 accountability results, go to <https://adedata.arkansas.gov/arc/>.

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