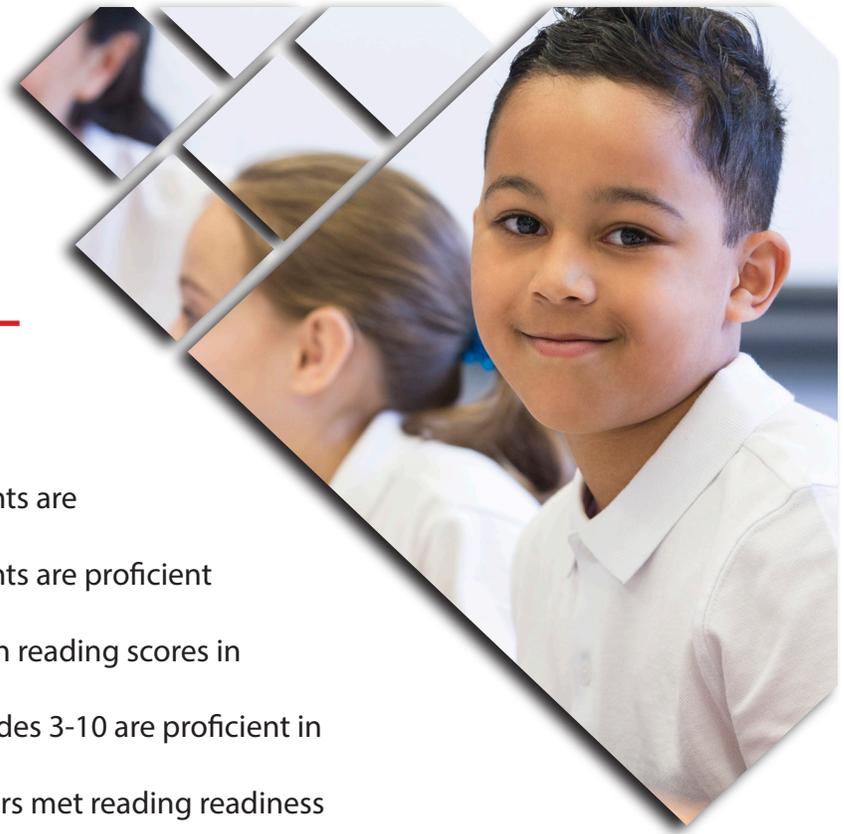


R.I.S.E. ARKANSAS

The Facts About Arkansas and a Reading Initiative Focused on Creating a Culture of Reading



Current Reality

- 31% of Arkansas' 4th-grade students are proficient in reading.
- 27% of Arkansas' 8th-grade students are proficient in reading.
- Arkansas ranks in the lower third in reading scores in comparison to other states.
- 48.6% of Arkansas' students in grades 3-10 are proficient in English language arts.
- 39% of Arkansas' graduating seniors met reading readiness benchmarks on the ACT (2015).

R.I.S.E. Arkansas Goals:

- Increase the number of students in grades 3-8 who meet the ACT Aspire reading readiness benchmark by 10% within 3 years.
- Rise above the bottom third in state comparisons within 5 years on the 4th-grade NAEP reading assessment.
- Increase the number of graduates meeting The ACT reading readiness benchmark by 10% within 5 years.

Reading Initiative Actions:

- Establish a culture of reading in Arkansas by coordinating a statewide reading campaign with community partners. Educate parents about the importance of reading, and increase access to books in the home.
- Increase the depth of knowledge for teachers in the areas of phonics and phonological awareness and how that knowledge impacts fluency, vocabulary, comprehension and writing. This includes focusing on the science of reading, or how a student learns.



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