

Blue Ribbon School Calculations



Louis Ferren
Director of Data Quality for School Performance
Public School Accountability
Arkansas Department of Education
June 20, 2019

Vision

The Arkansas Department of Education is transforming Arkansas to lead the nation in student-focused education.

Mission

The Arkansas Department of Education provides leadership, support, and service to schools, districts, and communities so every student graduates prepared for college, career, and community engagement.



Blue Ribbon School Requirements

- At least one-third of the public schools nominated by each state must be schools with a high percentage (at least 40 percent) of students from disadvantaged backgrounds. Disadvantaged must include economically disadvantaged and may include students with disabilities and students who are limited English proficient, migrant, or receiving services under Title I.
- The Department also recommends that nominated schools reflect the demographic and geographic diversity of the state's public school-age population.
- The school has been in existence for five full years with tested grades at least the past three years.
- The school has not received the National Blue Ribbon Schools award in the past five years.
- No charges of testing irregularities have been brought against the school.
- The nominated school has not been identified by the state as “persistently dangerous” within the last two years.
- The nominated school or district is not refusing Office of Civil Rights (OCR) access to information; has not violated one or more of the civil rights statutes, neither has a pending suit alleging violating civil rights or the Constitution's equal protection clause.
- There are no findings of violations of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act or district has agreed to correct the findings.

Nominated Schools Additional Requirements

Nominated schools must meet the following additional requirements:

- enroll at least 100 students,
- have state assessment results in English language arts and mathematics for at least 10 students in each tested grade, and
- meet the state's performance targets for the all students group for the school year in English language arts, math and graduation rates.



Exemplary High Performing Requirements

- ❑ High schools must be in the **top 15 percent** (at or above 85th percentile of distribution) ranked on **graduation rate**. Schools must be in the **top 15 percent** ranked on the performance of **all students** on assessments in **English language arts and mathematics**

OR

a **composite score** that includes these assessment results and may also include results in other subject areas and/or other student performance measures, such as graduation rates or other indicators.

- ❑ Each of the **school's subgroups** meeting the minimum size must be in the **top 40 percent** (at or above 60th percentile of distribution) ranked on the performance of students in the subgroup on assessments in **English language arts** and **mathematics**

OR

a **composite score**.

Gap Closing Requirements

- ❑ High school's subgroups meeting the minimum size must be in the **top 40 percent** (at or above 60th percentile of distribution) ranked on **graduation rate**.
- ❑ Schools must be in the **top 15 percent** (at or above 85th percentile of distribution) of all public schools in the state when ranked on **closing the gap** between the performance of the **school's subgroup and the state's all-students group** comparing the most recent school year and the school year 2-4 years prior (state selects which prior year **2016 and 2018**). Each of the **school's subgroups** meeting the minimum size must be in the **top 40 percent** ranked on the performance of students in the subgroup on assessments in **English language arts** and **mathematics**

OR

a **composite score** that includes these assessment results and may also include results in other subject areas and/or other student performance measures, such as graduation rates or other indicators.

Values to Meet for High Performing and Gap Closing Schools

Blue Ribbon Subgroup	2017-18 60th Percentile of Index Distribution Performance	2017-18 85th Percentile of Index Distribution Performance	85th Percentile of Index Distribution Gap Closing
1 All	71.200	77.108	3.025
2 African American	62.396	67.873	2.440
3 Hispanic/Latino	70.714	75.814	6.274
4 White	73.696	79.954	3.545
5 Econ. Disadv.	67.954	72.268	3.400
6 EL	70.572	76.079	6.413
7 SPED	55.084	60.060	4.101



Exemplary Achievement Gap Closing School Subgroups

Blue Ribbon Subgroup	Student Subgroups have Minimum N of 15	2016 ESSA School Index Score	2018 ESSA School Index Score	Subgroups Must Meet 2018 ESSA Index 60th Percentile	2016 to 2018 School Subgroup to State All Students Gap Closure	Gap Subgroups Must Meet 2016 to 2018 top 15 Percent Gap Closure
School ECD Economically Disadvantaged	Yes	67.54	80.76	67.95	12.80	3.40
2016 State All Students Index 69.56 - 2016 School ECD 67.54 = 2.02	2018 State All Index 69.97 - 2018 School ECD 80.76 = -10.79	(2016 gap minus 2018 gap) ECD Gap Closure 2.02 - -10.79 = 12.8 *				
School White	Yes	74.95	83.24	73.70	7.87	3.54
2016 State All Students Index 69.56 - 2016 School White 74.95 = -5.39	2018 State All Index 69.97 - 2018 School White 83.24 = -13.27	(2016 gap minus 2018 gap) White Gap Closure -5.39 - -13.27 = 7.87 *				

* Gap closure calculations were done using more than two decimal places.



Gap Between School and State in 2016 Compared to Gap in 2018

The All Students group for Gap Closing Schools must also not lose ground relative to the statewide performance of all students. Therefore, for each of the schools in the top 15 percent of gap reduction for all its subgroups meeting the minimum size requirement, the state must also calculate the difference between the performance of the school's All Students group and the statewide performance of all public school students. This difference should be calculated for the most recent school year in which the state assessments were administered and the school year 2-4 years prior to that.

All Students 2016 ESSA School Index Score	All Students 2016 ESSA State Index Score	2016 Gap of School Compared to State (69.56-71.62)	All Students 2018 ESSA School Index Score	All Students 2018 ESSA State Index Score	All Students 2018 Gap of School Compared to State (69.97-82.69)
71.62	69.56	-2.06	82.69	69.97	-12.72

Gap Closure (improvement) of school compared to state from 2016 to 2018 (**2016 Gap – 2018 Gap**)

$-2.06 - -12.72 = 10.65$ *

* Calculations were done with more decimal places than the two digits shown.



Exemplary High Performing School

Blue Ribbon Subgroup	2018 ESSA School Index Score	2018 ESSA Index Subgroup Values to Meet for Exemplary High Performing Schools (60 th Percentile of Distribution)	2018 ESSA Index All Students Value to Meet for Nomination as Exemplary High Performing Schools (85 th Percentile of Distribution)
1 All	85.36		77.11
2 African American	77.89	62.40	
3 Hispanic/Latino	81.98	70.71	
4 White	87.26	73.70	
5 Economically Disadvantaged	81.90	67.95	
6 English Learners	76.87	70.57	
7 Students with Disabilities	72.60	55.08	



CONTACTS -

<p>Louis Ferren Louis.Ferren@arkansas.gov School Performance, Public School Accountability Director of Data Quality 501-682-4208</p>	<p>Alexandra Boyd, PhD Alexandra.Boyd@arkansas.gov School Performance, Public School Accountability Coordinator of Evaluation and School Performance 501-683-1024</p>
<p>Kevin Ward Kevin.Ward@arkansas.gov School Performance, Public School Accountability Systems Analyst 501-682-0689</p>	<p>Fred Hodge Fred.Hodge@arkansas.gov School Performance, Public School Accountability Administrative Analyst (501) 682-7339</p>

