**How Are Letter Grades Earned?**

Stakeholders requested Arkansas align all accountability systems.  The Arkansas Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) plan (federal) was approved January 16, 2018. Act 744 of 2017 aligned the state accountability systems with the federal requirements and permitted the use of the ESSA School Index score as the universal score for accountability.

***Steps for Assigning Letter Grades Earned***

The ESSA School Index score and stakeholder recommended rating scale are used to determine the letter grades for schools. The following steps are utilized to determine letter grades or school ratings:

1. First each school is assigned to a grade span based on the grades the school serves - elementary, middle or high school. <http://www.arkansased.gov/public/userfiles/ESEA/Documents_to_Share/Grade_Spans_and_Grade_Configurations_rv.pdf>

1. Then a schools’ overall ESSA School Index score is calculated by determining the school’s weighted achievement score, value added growth score, graduation rate, and school quality and student success score.

<http://www.arkansased.gov/public/userfiles/ESEA/Documents_to_Share/What_is_the_ESSA_School_Index.pdf>  The scores are multiplied by the following weights:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Weight of Indicator within Index for Grade Spans**  **Elementary & Middle** |  | **Weight of Indicator within Index for Grade Span High School** |
| Weighted Achievement Indicator | 35% | Weighted Achievement and Academic Growth Indicators | 70% total  with Weighted Achievement accounting for half (35%) and Growth Score accounting for half (35%) |
| Growth Indicator  Academic Growth and  English Language Progress | 50% |
| Graduation Rate Indicator 4-Year Adjusted Cohort Rate  5-Year Adjusted Cohort Rate | NA | Graduation Rate Indicator 4-Year Adjusted Cohort Rate  5-Year Adjusted Cohort Rate | 15% total  4-Yr = 10%  5-Yr = 5% |
| School Quality and Student Success Indicator | 15% | School Quality and Student Success Indicator | 15% |

1. Finally, the total score for each school will determine the school rating. The school ratings for each grade span are listed below:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Grade Span | Letter Grade | Cut Scores effective October 1, 2018 |
| Elementary | A | 79.26 <= Score |
|  | B | 72.17 - 79.25 |
|  | C | 64.98 - 72.16 |
|  | D | 58.09 - 64.97 |
|  | F | Score < 58.09 |
| Middle | A | 75.59 <= Score |
|  | B | 69.94 - 75.58 |
|  | C | 63.73 - 69.93 |
|  | D | 53.58 - 63.72 |
|  | F | Score < 53.58 |
| High School | A | 73.22 <= Score |
|  | B | 67.96 - 73.21 |
|  | C | 61.10 - 67.95 |
|  | D | 52.95 - 61.09 |
|  | F | Score < 52.95 |

Arkansas Department of Education Rules Governing Public School Rating Systems on Annual School Performance and the School Recognition Program, Effective October 1, 2018

<http://www.arkansased.gov/public/userfiles/Legal/Legal-Current%20Rules/ade_334_--_Rules_Governing_the_School_Rating_System.pdf>