

Arkansas Department of Education

Dr. Tom Kimbrell, commissioner

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ARKANSAS STUDENTS SHOW CONTINUED IMPROVEMENT ON BENCHMARKS

LITTLE ROCK—The Department of Education released results from the 2011 Arkansas Augmented Benchmark Exams for all school districts in the state today. Results show continued overall academic improvement by public school students.

“Our increased use of data for decision making at the classroom and administrative levels is paying off,” said Dr. Tom Kimbrell, Commissioner of Education. “We did well this year as we continue to build upon the success of data-based decision making implemented over the past few years. But, we have a long way to go, and we’re ready to take all of our students to the next level.”

From 2010 to 2011, overall scores increased on 10 of 14 exams. In some cases, the percent of students scoring proficient have nearly doubled since 2005.

“We’re making gains every year and with the implementation of the Common Core State Standards that will kick-off this fall in grades K-2, we’re on the right path for preparing our students for college and careers,” said Dr. Gayle Potter, Director of Assessment.

Potter attributed the improved test scores to the state's emphasis on professional development of teachers and a strict standards-based education system that sets high expectations.

"Is that progress? Yes," Kimbrell said. "Is that victory? Don't think so. We will continue to support Arkansas educators and best practices to multiply the gains we applaud today."

Results are available at http://ArkansasEd.org/testing/test_scores.html