



# Arkansas Department of Education

*Division of Elementary and Secondary Education*

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## **2021 State, Federal Accountability Reports for Schools Released**

*97 Percent of Students Tested Statewide, 12 Percent of Schools Improved*

**LITTLE ROCK** — The Arkansas Department of Education’s Division of Elementary and Secondary Education released today the 2021 accountability reports for public schools. The reports include data from the 2020-2021 school year, including 2021 ACT Aspire results.

“There is no doubt that it has been a challenging year-and-a-half in education,” ADE Secretary Johnny Key said. “Arkansas students and educators have faced unprecedented circumstances, but they have risen above them all and continued learning. The results released today reflect some highlights and positive movement among some school districts, and because of that, we know student learning can and will persist despite the circumstances. While we know there is still work to do, today, as always, I am proud of our educators and students who faced the pandemic head-on and rose above its challenges.”

This year’s reports reflect three years of trend data (2018, 2019, 2021) for all students and student subgroups (Black/African American, Hispanic/Latino, White, Economically Disadvantaged, English Learners, and Students with Disabilities). The user may select the year to hide or show the data. Trend data give schools a sense of how students perform academically over time and whether schools are improving access and opportunity for success within all ESSA School Index indicators and components.

### **ESSA School Index**

Available on the division’s My School Info website, the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) School Index report includes students’ weighted achievement and growth on state-required assessments for third through tenth grade, graduation rates, and school quality and student success indicators. Act 89 of 2021 suspended school letter grades for the 2020-2021 school year.

### **School Rating**

The Accountability-at-a-Glance (School Rating) report, also available on the [My School Info](#) website, provides a quick one-page overview of the accountability scores for the school. This year, DESE included an adjusted and unadjusted ESSA School Index Score for the school and student subgroups. Schools that tested at least 95 percent of students will have the same adjusted and unadjusted score; however, if a school tested less than 95 percent of its students, the adjusted and

unadjusted scores may differ. Only the adjusted ESSA School Index Score is used for accountability purposes. Both scores are available this year to highlight the importance of testing 95 percent and the impact of COVID-19.

### **ESSA School Index Improvements**

The results below show the total number of schools that increased in overall ESSA School Index Score, Weighted Achievement, and Value-Added Growth for 2020-2021 compared to 2018-2019. Some of the highlights listed below also are reflected on DESE's Schools on the Move Towards Excellence webpage at <https://bit.ly/2SYnhFZ>.

- A total of 125 schools improved their overall ESSA School Index Score (all students).
- A total of 40 schools improved their Weighted Achievement Score.
- A total of 531 schools scored 80 or more points on Value Added Growth Score. [1] [SEP]

### **Communication**

Each school's ESSA School Index data can be found on the My School Info website (<https://myschoolinfo.arkansas.gov/>). After searching for a particular school, click on the school's name and then the Reports tab. The ESSA School Index tab will then be available. To learn more about how to access the reports for each school, visit the 2021 ESSA School Index Public Release video at <https://bit.ly/3lJkjCT>.

All stakeholders, including students, caregivers, educators, and community members, are encouraged to review their schools' data and discuss how to meet the educational needs of all students. Schools are encouraged to utilize these reports to revisit their school-level improvement plan. Districts may also review their district support plan and reallocate resources as needed to ensure successful implementation of school plans. The COVID-19 pandemic impacted the 2020-2021 academic year. Results may reflect the unusual circumstances for instruction and assessment. Please use caution when comparing the results.

Additional information about Arkansas' ESSA plan and informational documents are available on the DESE website at <https://bit.ly/3oH1yC4>.

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