

ESSA School Index Reports

Executive Summary

The Arkansas Department of Education developed and implemented challenging academic standards to prepare students for college, career, and community engagement based on the Arkansas Academic Standards. All public schools are required to develop curriculum aligned to these standards. As well, the Department selected a variety of assessments that measure achievement, growth, and/or percent tested. Math and English language arts assessments are used to measure the academic achievement indicator in the support and accountability system, Every Student Succeed Act (ESSA) Plan.

ESSA Plan

The ESSA plan is a contract with the U.S. Department of Education that outlines how the USDE will hold Arkansas accountable for school performance in return for federal funding. Arkansas' ESSA plan was created with local stakeholder feedback and focuses on improvement and opportunity for all students. ESSA required states to include at least five indicators for success: 1. Achievement, 2. Growth, 3. English learner progress toward English language proficiency, 4. Graduation rate, and 5. School quality and student success.

Indicators

Weighted Achievement is intended to incentivize the movement of students from the lowest achievement level to the next level, then to grade level proficiency, and ultimately to exceeding grade level proficiency. Schools can earn partial points for students close to grade level proficiency, a single point for students at grade level proficiency, and extra points for students exceeding grade level proficiency for the number of students exceeding that are greater than the number in the lowest achievement level.

Value-added Growth Model describes the change in student achievement over a period of time and tells how much a student grew this year compared to how much we thought he/she would grow based on what we knew about his/her achievement in prior years.

English Learner Progress toward English Language Proficiency (ELP) is part of the Value-added Growth Model in the form of the mean ELP growth score that tells how much a student grew in ELP this year compared to how much we thought he/she would grow based on what we knew about his/her ELP achievement in prior years.

Four-year Adjusted Cohort Graduation Rate and the Five-year Adjusted Cohort Graduation Rate will be measured from a cohort of ninth grade students who matriculate and graduate within four years or five years.

School Quality and Student Success is a student-focused aggregation of indicators that focus on each student meeting important educational milestones (such as reading proficiently), important readiness criteria (minimum ACT score of 19 for Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship), and important postsecondary success indicators (attainment of AP, IB, concurrent credits). In essence, the school quality

and student success indicator combines measures of engagement, access, readiness, completion, and success criteria.

A look at the ESSA Index Report for Cloverdale Middle School, Henderson Middle School, and Hall High School will provide an overview of each school's performance through the new format. A representative from each school will provide insight on how they plan to address the indicators.