



## NEWS RELEASE

### 2016 ACT Aspire Results Released for Rogers Public Schools

ROGERS, Ark. – The Arkansas Department of Education has released the 2016 testing results and accountability statuses for the Rogers School District.

Overall, the Rogers School District and its schools met nearly all of their Annual Measurable Objectives. Rogers continued to perform above the state average and in many cases above the national average for the ACT Aspire assessment.

Due to the ACT Aspire assessment being new and not having enough prior years' data for comparison, the Arkansas Department of Education opted to reassign the 2014 accountability statuses for every school and district again in 2016. According to the 2014 statuses, the district and each of its schools, except Eastside Elementary, need improvement to further reduce the percentage of students who are not proficient.

The staff and students of Rogers Public Schools are striving every day to prepare every student to be college and career ready when they graduate. The district staff will analyze the testing results to identify areas where we can improve and will work to meet the needs of every student.

For more information, please contact Charles Lee, assistant superintendent of secondary curriculum and instruction, or Dr. Virginia Abernathy, assistant superintendent for elementary curriculum and instruction, at 479-636-3910.

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## **District Improvement Plans**

The Rogers School District constantly works on improving curriculum and instruction as well as on mentoring our students and the teachers and administrators will continue to try to meet every state target in a number of ways.

To further improve math achievement, the district plans to continue to focus on teaching higher-level thinking skills and providing students with a deeper understanding of mathematical concepts. The district uses Cognitively Guided Instruction and other related professional development for teachers to help students learn through problem solving rather than memorization. The middle schools have implemented the Connected Math Project (CMP3) curriculum now in every grade. These problem-solving approaches dovetail with the district's curriculum, which also focuses on increasing students' depth of knowledge and understanding.

Besides focusing on teaching higher-level thinking skills, the district will work to enhance classroom instruction to meet the individual needs of students. Year by year, the district has increased the number of teachers trained in research-based ways to improve instruction that have been identified by a nationally renowned educational consultant, Dr. Jane Pollock. Each school also has academic facilitators, who share effective teaching strategies and best practices and coach teachers in using them.

Improving the graduation rate, in particular, is a top priority for the district. The schools have placed a high priority on helping sixth graders and freshmen successfully transition into their new schools through a student mentoring program. Overall, the drop-out rate has been decreasing thanks in part to these efforts, our credit recovery program and research-based software programs to help struggling students make the gains they need.

Through credit recovery, mentoring, early interventions, individual attention, and professional development, the district is trying to keep every student K-12 on track to graduate.