



## PULASKI COUNTY SPECIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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PRESS RELEASE  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
December 5, 2000

### ***“District Superintendent ‘Generally Encouraged’ with ACTAAP Test Results, but says ‘More Work to be Done’”***

Commenting about changes on the fourth and eighth grade Spring 2000 ACTAAP test scores released this Fall, Dr. Gary Smith, Superintendent of Education, said “I am generally encouraged with the ‘movement’ of students from the ‘*Below Basic*’ to ‘*Basic*’ proficiency classifications as compared to a year ago. *Basic* indicates at least partial mastery of the required skills which are defined by the state and are linked with the state’s curriculum frameworks,” the Superintendent said. “But there is more work to be done. You must move larger numbers of students from *Below Basic* to *Basic* and *Basic* to *Proficient* in order to simultaneously move those students into the state’s classification of ‘*Proficient*’ or ‘*Advanced*.’ With continued hard work on our district-wide priority plan—Student Achievement Improvement Initiative 2000-01—by our students, teachers, principals and other staff, we are hoping for continued progress,” the Superintendent said.

The Superintendent noted that the district's ACTAAP scores generally paralleled the patterns seen at the state level, and that the district's current efforts at improving student learning are expected to push the district's percentage distributions of students in the four ACTAAP benchmark classifications above state averages. The Superintendent pointed out that the district was doing substantially better than the state when comparisons are made between black and white student test scores, adding that efforts toward decreasing disparity gaps between majority and minority students in PCSSD are working—and that, based on ACTAAP testing, disparity is less in PCSSD than at the state level.

Dr. Smith went on to say, "With the sustained growth we are seeing on our SAT-9 scores, along with the district's efforts to align our curriculum to the state frameworks, and skills required on the standardized tests, expectations are for improvement for this coming spring's ACTAAP testing." Dr. Smith added, "I said it in a press release two weeks ago, and I will say it again: We **will** focus on raising student achievement and we will see positive results."

### **Plans for Movement from *Below Basic* and *Basic* to *Proficiency* and Highlights**

Excellent results for our third graders that were involved in Balanced Literacy were evidenced in recent SAT-9 test scores, which should positively impact our ACTAAP 4<sup>th</sup> grade performance next Spring, and this should greatly assist with moving students from *Below Basic* to *Basic* and *Proficient* classifications.

In addition to Balanced Literacy, all teachers have been trained in Math Investigations and are making efforts to insure that the curriculum taught is aligned to state frameworks. Balanced Literacy and Math Investigations parallel the district's new initiative for curriculum alignment and accountability to state frameworks.

Action Plans and School Profiles of data from standardized tests derived from SAT-9 and ACTAAP testing, which were initiated last school year as part of the district's plan to raise student performance, will again be used in 2000-01 to identify and address the unique learning needs and learning skills of our students.

The district's *general* pattern of ACTAAP scores for students in PCSSD lags only slightly behind the state, paralleling the state in general but not in every aspect. This is an important factor because the state has established criteria for what it views as proficient. Highlights of the PCSSD's spring 2000 ACTAAP testing follow.

As comparisons within the district are made to the previous year's ACTAAP testing, the following improvements or patterns were seen:

- At 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Math: significantly greater movement to *Advanced*.
- At 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Literacy: fewer *Below Basic* and more movement into *Basic*.
- At 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Math: fewer *Below Basic* and more movement into *Basic*.
- At 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Literacy: patterns essentially the same as the previous year, with over 20% of students performing at *Proficient* or *Advanced*.

The PCSSD's black students are performing better than the state for the most recent ACTAAP testing at the following levels:

- At 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Math: fewer *Below Basic*; more were *Proficient* or *Advanced*.
- At 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Literacy: slightly fewer *Below Basic* and more movement into *Basic* (the percentages of black students at *Proficient* or *Advanced* matched those of the state).
- At 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Math: fewer *Below Basic* and more movement into *Basic*; more were *Proficient*.
- At 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Literacy: fewer *Below Basic* and more movement into *Basic*; more were *Proficient* or *Advanced*.

In looking at Literacy at the 4<sup>th</sup> grade:

- Twelve elementary schools were successful in increasing the percentage of students who moved from *Below Basic* to partial mastery or higher categories (recalling that *Basic* is partial mastery of skills as defined by the state).
- Seventy-four percent of students showed partial mastery or better for literacy.

In looking at Mathematics at the 4<sup>th</sup> grade:

- Twenty of 25 elementary schools were successful in increasing the percentage of students who moved into the *Advanced* category.
- Fifty-four percent of students showed partial mastery or better of math skills.

In looking at Literacy at the 8<sup>th</sup> grade:

- One-half of junior high schools were successful in increasing the percentage of students who moved into *Advanced* over the previous year.
- Sixty-four percent of students showed partial mastery or better for literacy skills.

In looking at Math at the 8<sup>th</sup> grade:

- Five of six junior high schools were successful in increasing the percentage of students who moved from *Below Basic* to *Basic*.
- Fifty-nine percent of students showed partial mastery or better of math skills.

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*This press release may be found on our website or by the following direct link:  
[http://pcssdweb.k12.ar.us/account/Press\\_Release\\_ACTAAP\\_12\\_5\\_2000.PDF](http://pcssdweb.k12.ar.us/account/Press_Release_ACTAAP_12_5_2000.PDF)*

# Pulaski County Special School District

## ACTAAP RESULTS SPRING 2000

### 4th Grade Literacy

LITERACY					LITERACY					LITERACY CHANGES			
4th Grade Spring 1999 ACTAAP					4th Grade Spring 2000 ACTAAP					1999 to 2000	1999 to 2000	1999 to 2000	1999 to 2000
School	% Below Basic	% Basic	% Proficient	% Advanced	School	% Below Basic	% Basic	% Proficient	% Advanced	Below Basic Change	Basic Change	Proficient Change	Advanced Change
Adkins	74	23	3	0	Adkins	47	30	20	3	Fewer Below Basic	More Basic	More Proficient	More Advanced
Arnold	15	31	50	4	Arnold	12	38	50	0	Fewer Below Basic	More Basic	SAME	Fewer Advanced
Baker	36	24	36	5	Baker	6	20	74	0	Fewer Below Basic	Fewer Basic	More Proficient	Fewer Advanced
Bates	57	23	19	0	Bates	65	17	17	0	More Below Basic	Fewer Basic	Fewer Proficient	SAME
Bayou Meto	24	30	41	4	Bayou Meto*	28	23	47	2	More Below Basic	Fewer Basic	More Proficient	Fewer Advanced
Cato	32	23	45	0	Cato	23	39	37	2	Fewer Below Basic	More Basic	Fewer Proficient	More Advanced
Clinton	29	32	38	1	Clinton	30	43	26	1	More Below Basic	More Basic	Fewer Proficient	SAME
College Station	23	20	53	3	College Station	10	22	63	5	Fewer Below Basic	More Basic	More Proficient	More Advanced
Crystal Hill	18	31	50	1	Crystal Hill	21	36	35	9	More Below Basic	More Basic	Fewer Proficient	More Advanced
Dupree	33	17	50	0	Dupree	37	21	40	2	More Below Basic	More Basic	Fewer Proficient	More Advanced
Fuller	58	32	11	0	Fuller	25	46	29	0	Fewer Below Basic	More Basic	More Proficient	SAME
Harris	44	31	25	0	Harris	48	32	20	0	More Below Basic	More Basic	Fewer Proficient	SAME
Jacksonville	50	28	22	0	Jacksonville	27	45	28	0	Fewer Below Basic	More Basic	More Proficient	SAME
Landmark	37	37	26	0	Landmark	44	32	24	0	More Below Basic	Fewer Basic	Fewer Proficient	SAME
Lawson	10	19	67	5	Lawson	33	28	39	0	More Below Basic	More Basic	Fewer Proficient	Fewer Advanced
Oak Grove	53	24	24	0	Oak Grove	28	41	31	0	Fewer Below Basic	More Basic	More Proficient	SAME
Oakbrooke	29	23	48	0	Oakbrooke	7	25	66	2	Fewer Below Basic	More Basic	More Proficient	More Advanced
Pine Forest	7	21	66	5	Pine Forest	18	31	51	0	More Below Basic	More Basic	Fewer Proficient	Fewer Advanced
Pinewood	22	54	22	2	Pinewood	24	38	38	0	More Below Basic	Fewer Basic	More Proficient	Fewer Advanced
Robinson	36	34	30	0	Robinson	16	36	44	4	Fewer Below Basic	More Basic	More Proficient	More Advanced
Scott	65	15	20	0	Scott	75	13	13	0	More Below Basic	Fewer Basic	Fewer Proficient	SAME
Sherwood	41	35	24	0	Sherwood	30	33	38	0	Fewer Below Basic	Fewer Basic	More Proficient	SAME
Sylvan Hills	29	31	39	2	Sylvan Hills	10	41	47	2	Fewer Below Basic	More Basic	More Proficient	SAME
Taylor	38	38	22	2	Taylor	29	50	21	0	Fewer Below Basic	More Basic	Fewer Proficient	Fewer Advanced
Tolleson	15	34	49	2	Tolleson	18	43	36	2	More Below Basic	More Basic	Fewer Proficient	SAME
<b>District</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>2</b>	Fewer Below Basic	More Basic	More Proficient	SAME

\*Data Recognition Corporation sent revised data to the District, received 12-8-00, for Bayou Meto Elementary. This also effected District-wide 4th grade math results.

Note: Some percentage totals may vary from 100% due to rounding.  
Also, some cells showing 0% may be due to decimal numbers rounding to the whole number zero.

# Pulaski County Special School District

## ACTAAP RESULTS SPRING 2000

### 4th Grade Mathematics

MATHEMATICS					MATHEMATICS					MATHEMATICS CHANGES			
4th Grade Spring 1999 ACTAAP					4th Grade Spring 2000 ACTAAP					1999 to 2000	1999 to 2000	1999 to 2000	1999 to 2000
School	% Below Basic	% Basic	% Proficient	% Advanced	School	% Below Basic	% Basic	% Proficient	% Advanced	Below Basic Change	Basic Change	Proficient Change	Advanced Change
Adkins	77	16	6	0	Adkins	63	23	10	3	Fewer Below Basic	More Basic	More Proficient	More Advanced
Arnold	35	38	19	8	Arnold	36	14	26	24	More Below Basic	Fewer Basic	More Proficient	More Advanced
Baker	21	29	33	17	Baker	20	17	29	34	Fewer Below Basic	Fewer Basic	Fewer Proficient	More Advanced
Bates	70	26	2	2	Bates	83	9	4	4	More Below Basic	Fewer Basic	More Proficient	More Advanced
Bayou Meto*	32	29	26	13	Bayou Meto*	34	14	25	27	More Below Basic	Fewer Basic	Fewer Proficient	More Advanced
Cato	47	18	21	13	Cato	58	10	10	23	More Below Basic	Fewer Basic	Fewer Proficient	More Advanced
Clinton	39	32	18	10	Clinton	54	16	16	14	More Below Basic	Fewer Basic	Fewer Proficient	More Advanced
College Station	31	13	31	26	College Station	15	0	32	54	Fewer Below Basic	Fewer Basic	More Proficient	More Advanced
Crystal Hill	41	23	16	20	Crystal Hill	43	20	12	25	More Below Basic	Fewer Basic	Fewer Proficient	More Advanced
Dupree	40	33	21	5	Dupree	51	16	16	16	More Below Basic	Fewer Basic	Fewer Proficient	More Advanced
Fuller	66	22	5	7	Fuller	54	17	19	10	Fewer Below Basic	Fewer Basic	More Proficient	More Advanced
Harris	47	31	19	3	Harris	76	8	16	0	More Below Basic	Fewer Basic	Fewer Proficient	Fewer Advanced
Jacksonville	55	26	15	3	Jacksonville	63	17	11	9	More Below Basic	Fewer Basic	Fewer Proficient	More Advanced
Landmark	56	23	14	7	Landmark	72	18	8	2	More Below Basic	Fewer Basic	Fewer Proficient	Fewer Advanced
Lawson	24	24	38	14	Lawson	52	20	13	15	More Below Basic	Fewer Basic	Fewer Proficient	More Advanced
Oak Grove	63	18	18	0	Oak Grove	44	18	26	13	Fewer Below Basic	SAME	More Proficient	More Advanced
Oakbrooke	34	25	32	9	Oakbrooke	27	18	27	29	Fewer Below Basic	Fewer Basic	Fewer Proficient	More Advanced
Pine Forest	14	18	36	32	Pine Forest	31	14	26	29	More Below Basic	Fewer Basic	Fewer Proficient	Fewer Advanced
Pinewood	41	29	18	13	Pinewood	28	42	12	18	Fewer Below Basic	More Basic	Fewer Proficient	More Advanced
Robinson	36	32	21	11	Robinson	28	16	24	32	Fewer Below Basic	Fewer Basic	More Proficient	More Advanced
Scott	55	32	9	5	Scott	75	25	0	0	More Below Basic	Fewer Basic	Fewer Proficient	Fewer Advanced
Sherwood	45	37	11	8	Sherwood	45	13	30	13	SAME	Fewer Basic	More Proficient	More Advanced
Sylvan Hills	40	30	22	8	Sylvan Hills	32	25	22	20	Fewer Below Basic	Fewer Basic	SAME	More Advanced
Taylor	58	20	18	4	Taylor	65	15	13	8	More Below Basic	Fewer Basic	Fewer Proficient	More Advanced
Tolleson	36	27	24	14	Tolleson	39	32	20	9	More Below Basic	More Basic	Fewer Proficient	Fewer Advanced
<b>District</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>District*</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	More Below Basic	Fewer Basic	Fewer Proficient	More Advanced

\*Data Recognition Corporation sent revised data to the District, received 12-8-00, for Bayou Meto Elementary. This also effected District-wide 4th grade math results.

Note: Some percentage totals may vary from 100% due to rounding.  
Also, some cells showing 0% may be due to decimal numbers rounding to the whole number zero.

## Pulaski County Special School District ACTAAP RESULTS SPRING 2000 8th Grade Literacy

LITERACY					LITERACY					LITERACY CHANGES			
8th Grade Spring 1999 ACTAAP					8th Grade Spring 2000 ACTAAP					1999 to 2000	1999 to 2000	1999 to 2000	1999 to 2000
School	% Below Basic	% Basic	% Proficient	% Advanced	School	% Below Basic	% Basic	% Proficient	% Advanced	Below Basic Change	Basic Change	Proficient Change	Advanced Change
Fuller Jr.	34	28	34	5	Fuller Jr.	36	29	26	9	More Below Basic	More Basic	Fewer Proficient	More Advanced
Jax Jr.	45	41	12	1	Jax Jr.	43	47	11	0	Fewer Below Basic	More Basic	Fewer Proficient	Fewer Advanced
Oak Grove Jr.	35	51	14	0	Oak Grove Jr.	44	47	7	2	More Below Basic	Fewer Basic	Fewer Proficient	More Advanced
Northwood Jr.	28	46	26	0	Northwood	37	48	14	0	More Below Basic	More Basic	Fewer Proficient	SAME
Robinson Jr.	35	43	21	1	Robinson Jr.	32	40	27	2	Fewer Below Basic	Fewer Basic	More Proficient	More Advanced
Sylvan Hills Jr.	28	47	24	2	Sylvan Hills Jr.	21	49	29	0	Fewer Below Basic	More Basic	More Proficient	Fewer Advanced
<b>District</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>2</b>	More Below Basic	More Basic	Fewer Proficient	SAME

Note: Some percentage totals may vary from 100% due to rounding.  
Also, some cells showing 0% may be due to decimal numbers rounding to the whole number zero.

# Pulaski County Special School District

## ACTAAP RESULTS SPRING 2000

### 8th Grade Mathematics

MATHEMATICS					MATHEMATICS					MATHEMATICS CHANGES			
8th Grade Spring 1999 ACTAAP					8th Grade Spring 2000 ACTAAP					1999 to 2000	1999 to 2000	1999 to 2000	1999 to 2000
School	% Below Basic	% Basic	% Proficient	% Advanced	School	% Below Basic	% Basic	% Proficient	% Advanced	Below Basic Change	Basic Change	Proficient Change	Advanced Change
Fuller Jr.	46	32	17	6	Fuller Jr.	42	37	16	5	Fewer Below Basic	More Basic	Fewer Proficient	Fewer Advanced
Jacksonville Jr.	54	37	8	1	Jax Jr.	46	46	7	1	Fewer Below Basic	More Basic	Fewer Proficient	SAME
Oak Grove Jr.	54	43	3	0	Oak Grove Jr.	47	46	6	2	Fewer Below Basic	More Basic	More Proficient	More Advanced
Northwood Jr.	42	45	13	1	Northwood	36	50	13	1	Fewer Below Basic	More Basic	SAME	SAME
Robinson Jr.	39	40	18	3	Robinson Jr.	41	42	18	0	More Below Basic	More Basic	SAME	Fewer Advanced
Sylvan Hills Jr.	46	41	12	0	Sylvan Hills Jr.	35	54	10	1	Fewer Below Basic	More Basic	Fewer Proficient	More Advanced
<b>District</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>2</b>	Fewer Below Basic	More Basic	Fewer Proficient	SAME

Note: Some percentage totals may vary from 100% due to rounding.  
Also, some cells showing 0% may be due to decimal numbers rounding to the whole number zero.