



PULASKI COUNTY SPECIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

925 East Dixon Road/P.O. Box 8601
Little Rock, Arkansas 72216
(501) 490-2000

PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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“District Superintendent ‘both Encouraged and Disappointed’ with ACTAAP Test Results, Makes Comparisons With State-wide Scores”

The ACTAAP Piloting Test Score results from Spring 2001, which were released in December 2001 and January 2002, included 6th grade Literacy and 6th grade Math, along with End of Course results in Algebra I, Geometry, and 11th grade Literacy. Commenting on the release of these scores, Dr. Gary Smith, Superintendent of Education for the Pulaski County Special School District said, “In some respects I am disappointed with these results, but in other ways I am encouraged.”

In 6th grade Mathematics, for example, students were only two percentage points behind the State at less than *proficient*, but at the same time, 40% (two-fifths) of our elementary schools either beat or tied the state in Math, Smith said. Of the 20 elementary schools, Arnold Drive, at 41% *proficient* or *advanced*, Baker Elementary, at 36% *proficient* or *advanced*, and College Station Elementary, at 32% *proficient* or *advanced*, are particularly bright spots when compared to the State average, where only 17% of students State-wide scored at *proficient* or *advanced* levels.

In 6th grade Literacy, the District lagged behind the State by four percentage points at less than *proficient*, while nearly one-half of the elementary schools beat the State average of less than *proficient*. Baker, Tolleson, College Station, and Bayou Meto Elementary schools scored particularly well, with 43%, 42%, 36%, and 33%, respectively, of those schools scoring at *proficient* or *advanced*, compared to State-wide results where 20% of students scored at *proficient* or above.

Looking at the Algebra I scores is somewhat disappointing; only two of schools, Robinson Junior High (23%) and Sylvan Hills Junior High (48%), beat the State (21%) at *proficient* or *advanced* scores. The District lagged behind the State by nine percentage points for students who scored less than *proficient*, and that concerns me, Smith said. The good news is that the District had anticipated problems with the Algebra I scores and already have a full-day inservice for Algebra I and Algebra A & B teachers scheduled for next month. At the District-level inservice, teachers will take a close look at their individual building scores and consider strategies for raising those scores.

Geometry scores fared better than Algebra, with the District scoring five percentage points behind the State in the number of students at less than *proficient*. All of the junior high schools, however, beat the State in the percentage of students scoring at *proficient* or *advanced*. Fifty-two percent of Sylvan Hills Junior High and 66% of Robinson Junior High students in Geometry beat the State-wide *proficient* or *advanced* average of 20%. Obviously, the District has a lot of work to do at the higher grade levels in math, Smith said. The District has a full-day workshop for Geometry teachers scheduled for next month. Mathematics teachers will take a close look at student test scores in their individual schools and develop additional strategies and solutions to close the gap with the State and move beyond State averages.

Regarding 11th grade Literacy scores, the District averaged four percentage points behind the State for students scoring below *proficient*, although a third of the high schools (Mills University Studies and Sylvan Hills High School) beat the State for students scoring at *proficient* or *advanced* levels. A full-day District inservice is also scheduled next month to examine 11th grade Literacy scores.

Dr. Smith went on to say, "In an effort to continue to raise test scores, a plan was developed titled, *Increasing Student Achievement and Reducing Disparity: A District-wide Plan*, and was presented to the School Board this fall. Principals introduced this draft plan to all teachers throughout the District during a staff development day in December. Part of that staff development also went towards time for teachers to take an in-depth look at their students' past test scores as part of this effort, Smith said. The draft plan is comprehensive and is based on a full year's cycle to examine new test data as they come in and to develop strategies for improving student achievement. Although

still in the draft stages, that plan's key focus is to increase student achievement and reduce disparity between ethnic groups. To do this, informed, data-based decisions must be made in order to instructionally develop the best plans for our students' academic needs. "Making *informed* decisions about what students *need* to be taught and *how* they will be taught will improve their academic performance. The District is taking the right steps and I expect scores to grow," Smith said.

*For more information, contact:
Dr. Robert L. Clowers, Director of Accountability
(501) 490-2000, ext. 269*

*This press release may be found on our website or by the following direct link:
http://pcssdweb.k12.ar.us/account/Press_Release_ACTAAP_1_28_2002.PDF*

	Below Scores Basic	State Score Basic	State Score Basic	State Score Proficient	State Score Advanced	State Score	State Score Advanced	State Score	Not Proficient	State Score	Proficient Advanced	State Score
District	49%	46%	37%	38%	13%	15%	1%	2%	86%	84%	14%	17%
Arnold Drive Elementary	15%	46%	44%	38%	41%	15%	0%	2%	59%	84%	41%	17%
Baker Interdistrict	29%	46%	36%	38%	31%	15%	5%	2%	65%	84%	36%	17%
Bates Elementary	84%	46%	12%	38%	4%	15%	0%	2%	96%	84%	4%	17%
Bayou Meto	27%	46%	53%	38%	20%	15%	0%	2%	80%	84%	20%	17%
Cato Elementary	38%	46%	47%	38%	16%	15%	0%	2%	85%	84%	16%	17%
Clinton Interdistrict	36%	46%	53%	38%	11%	15%	0%	2%	89%	84%	11%	17%
College Station	26%	46%	43%	38%	28%	15%	4%	2%	69%	84%	32%	17%
Crystal Hill Elementary	36%	46%	42%	38%	22%	15%	0%	2%	78%	84%	22%	17%
Harris Elementary	75%	46%	15%	38%	10%	15%	0%	2%	90%	84%	10%	17%
Jax Middle School	62%	46%	32%	38%	5%	15%	1%	2%	94%	84%	6%	17%
Landmark	67%	46%	24%	38%	9%	15%	0%	2%	91%	84%	9%	17%
Lawson Elementary	35%	46%	45%	38%	20%	15%	0%	2%	80%	84%	20%	17%
Oak Grove Elementary	60%	46%	36%	38%	5%	15%	0%	2%	96%	84%	5%	17%
Oakbrooke Elementary	56%	46%	38%	38%	7%	15%	0%	2%	94%	84%	7%	17%
Pine Forest Elementary	32%	46%	41%	38%	21%	15%	6%	2%	73%	84%	27%	17%
Robinson Elementary	61%	46%	24%	38%	14%	15%	2%	2%	85%	84%	16%	17%
Scott Elementary	78%	46%	22%	38%	0%	15%	0%	2%	100%	84%	0%	17%
Sherwood Elementary	42%	46%	53%	38%	5%	15%	0%	2%	95%	84%	5%	17%
Sylvan Hills Elementary	45%	46%	36%	38%	16%	15%	3%	2%	81%	84%	19%	17%
Tolleson	37%	46%	47%	38%	16%	15%	0%	2%	84%	84%	16%	17%

	Below Scores	State Basic Score	State Basic Score	State Score	Proficient	State Score	Advanced	State Score	Not Proficient	State Score	Proficient Advanced	State Score
District	41%	35%	43%	45%	16%	19%	1%	1%	84%	80%	17%	20%
Arnold Drive Elementary	20%	35%	56%	45%	24%	19%	0%	1%	76%	80%	24%	20%
Baker Interdistrict	12%	35%	45%	45%	43%	19%	0%	1%	57%	80%	43%	20%
Bates Elementary	73%	35%	25%	45%	1%	19%	0%	1%	98%	80%	1%	20%
Bayou Meto	22%	35%	45%	45%	33%	19%	0%	1%	67%	80%	33%	20%
Cato Elementary	28%	35%	56%	45%	16%	19%	0%	1%	84%	80%	16%	20%
Clinton Interdistrict	30%	35%	56%	45%	11%	19%	3%	1%	86%	80%	14%	20%
College Station	17%	35%	47%	45%	34%	19%	2%	1%	64%	80%	36%	20%
Crystal Hill Elementary	23%	35%	49%	45%	27%	19%	0%	1%	72%	80%	27%	20%
Harris Elementary	70%	35%	25%	45%	5%	19%	0%	1%	95%	80%	5%	20%
Jax Middle School	59%	35%	36%	45%	5%	19%	0%	1%	95%	80%	5%	20%
Landmark	59%	35%	37%	45%	4%	19%	0%	1%	96%	80%	4%	20%
Lawson Elementary	20%	35%	55%	45%	25%	19%	0%	1%	75%	80%	25%	20%
Oak Grove Elementary	38%	35%	48%	45%	14%	19%	0%	1%	86%	80%	14%	20%
Oakbrooke Elementary	36%	35%	42%	45%	22%	19%	0%	1%	78%	80%	22%	20%
Pine Forest Elementary	22%	35%	54%	45%	21%	19%	3%	1%	76%	80%	24%	20%
Robinson Elementary	58%	35%	31%	45%	12%	19%	0%	1%	89%	80%	12%	20%
Scott Elementary	67%	35%	33%	45%	0%	19%	0%	1%	100%	80%	0%	20%
Sherwood Elementary	24%	35%	61%	45%	16%	19%	0%	1%	85%	80%	16%	20%
Sylvan Hills Elementary	52%	35%	41%	45%	8%	19%	0%	1%	93%	80%	8%	20%
Tolleson	9%	35%	49%	45%	42%	19%	0%	1%	58%	80%	42%	20%

	Below Scores	Below Basic	State Score	State Basic	State Score	Proficient	State Score	Advanced	State Score	Not Proficient	State Score	Proficient Advanced	State Score
District	33%	29%	54%	49%	12%	19%	1%	2%	87%	78%	13%	21%	
Alpha Academy	85%	29%	15%	49%	0%	19%	0%	2%	100%	78%	0%	21%	
Fuller Junior High	37%	29%	53%	49%	10%	19%	1%	2%	90%	78%	11%	21%	
Jacksonville Junior High	15%	29%	75%	49%	10%	19%	0%	2%	90%	78%	10%	21%	
Northwood Junior High	16%	29%	68%	49%	15%	19%	1%	2%	84%	78%	16%	21%	
Robinson Junior High	23%	29%	53%	49%	22%	19%	1%	2%	76%	78%	23%	21%	
Sylvan Hills Jr. High	2%	29%	50%	49%	44%	19%	4%	2%	52%	78%	48%	21%	
Jacksonville High	56%	29%	41%	49%	3%	19%	0%	2%	97%	78%	3%	21%	
Mills U. Studies High	73%	29%	24%	49%	2%	19%	2%	2%	97%	78%	4%	21%	
North Pulaski High	45%	29%	52%	49%	4%	19%	0%	2%	97%	78%	4%	21%	
Oak Grove High	41%	29%	51%	49%	7%	19%	1%	2%	92%	78%	8%	21%	
Joe T. Robinson High	80%	29%	20%	49%	0%	19%	0%	2%	100%	78%	0%	21%	
Sylvan Hills High	27%	29%	69%	49%	4%	19%	0%	2%	96%	78%	4%	21%	

	Scores	Below Basic	State Score	Basic	State Score	Proficient	State Score	Advanced	State Score	Not Proficient	State Score	Proficient Advanced	State Score
District	36%	33%	50%	48%	14%	18%	1%	2%	86%	81%	15%	20%	
Alpha Academy	88%	33%	13%	48%	0%	18%	0%	2%	101%	81%	0%	20%	
Fuller Junior High	16%	33%	50%	48%	32%	18%	3%	2%	66%	81%	35%	20%	
Jacksonville Junior High	9%	33%	63%	48%	28%	18%	0%	2%	72%	81%	28%	20%	
Northwood Junior High	2%	33%	61%	48%	33%	18%	4%	2%	63%	81%	37%	20%	
Robinson Junior High	0%	33%	34%	48%	63%	18%	3%	2%	34%	81%	66%	20%	
Sylvan Hills Jr. High	0%	33%	48%	48%	44%	18%	8%	2%	48%	81%	52%	20%	
Jacksonville High	39%	33%	52%	48%	9%	18%	0%	2%	91%	81%	9%	20%	
Mills U. Studies High	49%	33%	47%	48%	4%	18%	0%	2%	96%	81%	4%	20%	
North Pulaski High	44%	33%	54%	48%	2%	18%	0%	2%	98%	81%	2%	20%	
Oak Grove High	39%	33%	53%	48%	8%	18%	0%	2%	92%	81%	8%	20%	
Joe T. Robinson High	61%	33%	33%	48%	6%	18%	0%	2%	94%	81%	6%	20%	
Sylvan Hills High	44%	33%	47%	48%	9%	18%	0%	2%	91%	81%	9%	20%	

	Below Scores	State Basic Scores	Basic	State Score	Proficient	State Score	Advanced	State Score	Not Proficient	State Score	Proficient Advanced	State Score
District	30%	25%	50%	51%	19%	23%	1%	1%	80%	76%	20%	24%
Jacksonville High	33%	25%	49%	51%	17%	23%	0%	1%	82%	76%	17%	24%
Mills U. Studies High	27%	25%	47%	51%	24%	23%	3%	1%	74%	76%	27%	24%
North Pulaski High	39%	25%	49%	51%	12%	23%	0%	1%	88%	76%	12%	24%
Oak Grove High	33%	25%	45%	51%	21%	23%	1%	1%	78%	76%	22%	24%
Joe T. Robinson High	32%	25%	51%	51%	16%	23%	0%	1%	83%	76%	16%	24%
Sylvan Hills High	20%	25%	56%	51%	24%	23%	1%	1%	76%	76%	25%	24%