

WESTSIDE HIGH SCHOOL

Michael J. Graham, Principal
Chris George, Assistant Principal
Committed to Learn... Committed to Lead
1630 Hwy 91 West · Jonesboro, AR 72404
(870) 935-7501 · Fax (870) 268-9119
www.westsideschools.org
Office of the Principal



October 12, 2018

Attention: Parents, Community, Students, Staff and News Media

Subject: Westside High School 2017 - 2018 ESSA School Index Report and School Rating Report

Westside School Community,

Each year the Arkansas Department of Education takes into account the performance of every school in the state to produce what is called the **ESSA School Index Report and School Rating**. The report encompasses several aspects of our school from achievement levels on the ACT Aspire to certain school quality indicators. Westside High School has earned a **B** (above average rating) for 2017-2018. Visit myschoolinfo.arkansas.gov to compare the state's schools.

**Westside High School
has earned a *B* rating.
Placing us in the top
performing high schools
in Northeast Arkansas.**

*According to myschoolinfo.arkansas.gov

We are very excited about the direction of our school

and our performance on the rating system. Last year WHS earned an average, or C rating. WHS has seen tremendous growth in school choice applications, academic performance, athletics, and extracurricular activities, winning several awards across many of our programs. We strive to create **a great place to work and learn** providing our students, staff and community with an excellent school experience. Although academics is our main focus, our teachers are working to meet the needs of the **whole child**. We know that social-emotional learning, community service, mental health, physical health, work-based learning and student-community engagement contribute to the growth of our students. The **whole child** approach takes care of student needs so they can thrive academically in the classroom and after high school when they enter college or career.

Westside High School's Core Belief #1

**High Quality Teachers are
the most important factor on
student achievement.**

School Ratings Explained

- 35% of the school rating is based on grades 8-10 achievement on ACT Aspire
 - The score for achievement is based on individual student achievement data in Mathematics and English Language Arts. Each student will receive a score of **In Need of Support, Close, Ready or Exceeding**.
 - **54.4% of WHS students achieved.**
- 35% of the school rating is based on grades 8-10 individual student **growth** on ACT Aspire Mathematics and English Language Arts.
 - If a student did not achieve (Ready or Exceeding), but for example showed *growth*; moving from **In Need of Support** to **Close**, we get points toward a higher school rating because our teachers helped our students get closer to achievement.
 - **80.52% of students made academic improvements in 2017-2018.**
- 15% of the school rating is based on the graduation rate.
 - **88% of students starting 9th grade in 2014 graduated in the class of 2018.**
 - *In 2014 WHS graduation rate was 74%*
- 15% of the school rating is based on *School Quality and Student Success Index (SQSS)*.

Of 392 students
in grades 8-10
100 were
Exceeding in
English Language
Arts.

4 out of 5 WHS
Students did better in
2018
On ACT Aspire testing.

SQSS 15% of Total Rating - WHS Rating

Attendance rate - 95%	ACT scores (not ACT Aspire) 11th and 12th - WHS Average 19.5 - State 19.9
Reading at Grade Level - 43%	Advanced Placement Classes - 5
ACT Aspire Science Achievement - 37.5%	Computer Science and Service
On time credits toward graduation - 96%	Learning credits earned by end of 12th grade - 27
Cumulative GPA >2.8 upon graduation 69%	

Our rating signals to the community that we are doing great! When our school performs this well, people notice. **Businesses, real estate professionals, high quality teachers looking to move to our district, the regional chamber of commerce and taxpayers** read these ratings and make decisions to invest in our school based on how we are doing.

More students + more businesses + high quality teachers= more funding and better outcomes for WHS Students.

It is a great time to be a Warrior.

WHS Improvement Needs

It is very important that we not only highlight our accomplishments but also our areas for growth. To create the **Greatest School on Planet Earth**, which is our goal, we need to celebrate what we are doing well, but also understand that with hard work we can grow. Westside High School is highly influenced by the [Growth Mindset](#) approach to learning. It is the idea that there are two mindsets students have when approaching challenges. In the **fixed mindset** students believe that their ability is fixed no matter how hard they work. People with the fixed mindset often believe they are not good at math or reading and they often give up on getting better. People with the **growth mindset** have a view that with hard work they can get better. It is very important that parents encourage a growth mindset in their children. Using growth mindset vocabulary when your children are facing an obstacle helps them realize that with hard work they can achieve. Our teachers are using these tactics at school and with reinforcement at home we will continue to grow.

Fixed vs. Growth Mindset Vocabulary/Examples

"I am not good at math, why even try?"	"My math grades are low, I haven't mastered Algebra, yet."
"You are so smart!" (This reinforces fixed mindset. Some students believe that they are either born intelligent or not.)	"You worked really hard, I am proud of you!" (With growth mindset, when students see a challenge and succeed they attribute their success to working through a difficult task, not their God given ability. They might not be naturally good at the challenge, but they do not care about natural ability. They care about how much work they put in to see the good result.

Areas of focused growth for WHS:

ACT Aspire Achievement - 54% Grades 8-10 achievement goal for 2018-19 is 65%. Our greatest gains can be realized with improvement in Mathematics. The state average is 49% on ACT Aspire Achievement; although we are above state average we need to see growth in achievement especially in Math.	Reading at grade level - 43% ACT Aspire calculates reading level. Currently only 43% of our students are reading at their grade level. This will increase as parents and teachers place more importance on reading. Push your child to read 30 min per day. Use the growth mindset approach.
Graduation Rate - 88% Although we have increased graduation rate by 14% in 4 years, our goal for 2019 is 96%. On time credits is at 96% - so over the next 4 year period we can expect at least a 96% grad rate.	Science Achievement - 37.5% Careers in science are growing rapidly. WHS students need more growth in science to be prepared for jobs or college. This is not exclusively college bound students. Many careers need basic science achievement to be successful. *See table below.
Computer Science credits earned - 27 Computer science will be relevant in the future for nearly every job. Westside has 4 courses that earn computer science credits. *See table below for current workforce information on how computer science can pay big!	College or Career Readiness Westside believes that college is not for everyone. We encourage after high school education, but that can take many forms. Traditional college is an option for many high paying jobs, but it is not the only option. *See the tables for opportunities for WHS Students.

***Science Jobs without college degree**

Job Title	Median Salary (2016)*	Job Growth (2014-2024)*
Veterinary Assistant and Laboratory Animal Caretaker	\$25,250	9%
Nursing Assistant	\$26,590	18%
Dental Laboratory Technician	\$37,680	11%
Forestry and Conservation Worker	\$26,940	4%
Agricultural and Food Science Technician	\$37,550	5%

***High-paying tech jobs you can get without a college degree involving Computer Science**

Job Title	Median Salary	Who is hiring?
Web developer	\$64,970	UnitedHealth Group , Amazon , Aerojet Rocketdyne
Programmer	\$79,530	Amazon , Zillow , NVIDIA
Systems Analyst	\$85,800	AT&T , Level 3 Communications , Sirius Computer Solutions
Network Engineer	\$69,718	NVIDIA , UnitedHealth Group , Amazon
Social Media Marketing - Yes! Companies will pay you to post to FB, Instagram and Twitter for marketing.	\$49,501	UnitedHealth Group , Rodan & Fields , Uline

***Westside High School Work Based Learning**

Release time for work, college or service learning.	WHS has several opportunities for students to gain work force ready skills. Mrs. Edlemon oversees our off campus internship program. Eligible students (on track for graduation) can leave school and earn high school credit for working (and getting paid by their employer) during school time.
Opportunities for Work Based Learning	Students that have special needs (IEP) are eligible to work on and off campus making \$8.50 per hour while earning high school credit. This is part of a grant from the Arkansas Vocational Rehabilitation Service to provide students with disabilities pre-employment transition skills.
Jobs for America's Graduates (JAG) 2019-2020	We have applied to the Arkansas Department of Education to get this class that prepares students at risk for dropping out with jobs while earning high school credit.