

Chalkboard

By

Judy Winslett-District Test Coordinator

Current law and the State Board of Education regulations require the administration of criterion-referenced tests (CRTs), and norm-referenced tests (NRTs). All students are expected to participate in state assessments. The state-mandated criterion-referenced testing includes the Benchmark Exams at grades 3-8, End-of-Course Exams in Algebra I and Geometry, and a Grade 11 Literacy Exam. These CRTs are aligned to the state math and English language arts frameworks and were developed by Arkansas teachers and the Arkansas Department of Education.

The charts below indicate the percent of students scoring Proficient and Advanced in the area of literacy and math. Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) is the expected performance standard for student achievement as part of No Child Left Behind (NCLB) legislation. Included also in the chart are the percent of students scoring Proficient and Advance for both the state and the Northwest Arkansas region. As you can see the patrons of Gentry Public Schools have reason to be very proud of the accomplishments of both the students and teachers in the district.

Spring 2007 Benchmark/EOC Test Scores

Literacy

Grade	AYP*	State	Region	Gentry
3	49.60%	59%	62%	74%
4	49.60%	58%	64%	63%
5	49.60%	59%	63%	61%
6	43.30%	59%	65%	88%
7	43.30%	57%	64%	62%
8	43.30%	63%	68%	79%
11	43.56%	50%	57%	53%

*Adequate Yearly Progress

Math

Grade	AYP*	State	Region	Gentry
3	47.50%	75%	77%	86%
4	47.50%	65%	70%	69%
5	47.50%	61%	65%	59%
6	37.96%	68%	75%	82%
7	37.96%	58%	64%	65%
8	37.96%	47%	55%	57%
Algebra	38.05%	61%	66%	74%
Geometry	38.05%	59%	66%	70%

• Adequate Yearly Progress

Norm references tests (NRT) provide information that compares the performance of students against the performance of a sample of students from across the country. The scores stated in the chart below are reported by national percentile rank with 40-59 representing an average range.

Grade	Reading	Language	Math
K	56	68	60
1	53	57	48
2	77	72	73
3	64	71	66
4	58	68	70
5	54	65	55
6	58	60	64
7	57	48	59
8	49	44	51
9	40	46	55

*Score listed in percentile rank

The Iowa Tests were administered in the Spring of 2007, but will be replaced this year with an augmented test including both criterion and norm referenced test questions. This will reduce the amount of class time by four to five days that students will be required to spend taking tests.

Below is the 2007-08 testing schedule, which has been established by the Arkansas Department of Education and Gentry Public Schools.

January 22-23, 2008	Mid-Year EOC Algebra I
January 24-25, 2008	Mid-Year EOC Geometry
March 4-5, 2008	Grade 11 Literacy Exam
April 7-11, 2008	K-2 & Grade 9 Norm Referenced Test
April 14-18, 2008	Augmented Benchmark Grades 3-8
April 16-17, 2008	EOC Biology
April 22-23, 2008	EOC Geometry
April 24-25, 2008	EOC Algebra I
May 7, 2008	Algebra II