



## Press Release

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### **Arkansas Virtual School Shows Strong Results on ITBS Scores**

The Arkansas Department of Education has released the Arkansas Virtual School (ARVS) results on the Iowa Test of Basic Skills (ITBS) for the 2004-2005 school year. ARVS students posted very strong scores on the state-mandated assessments.

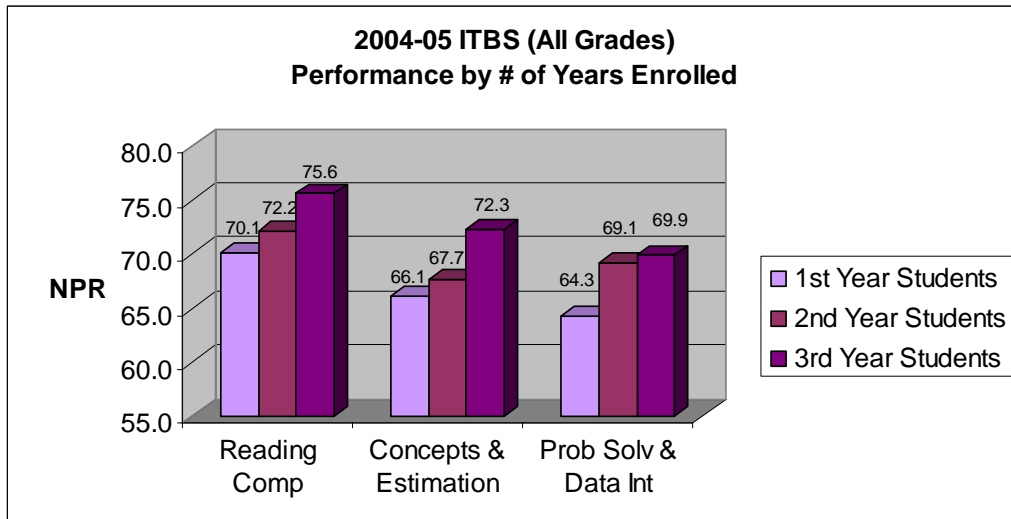
Students in grades K through 8 took the norm-referenced ITBS which compares students' performance against a national norm group. The ITBS can be used to compare the performance of one group of students against other groups of students. All ARVS students were tested at their local school districts alongside other students enrolled in the respective districts.

Among the highlights:

- Students who were enrolled in ARVS the longest performed the best on the ITBS tests (see graph on page 2).
- ARVS students in grades 3 through 8 were at or above the state average in all categories on the ITBS.
- Compared to all other school districts in the state, ARVS students in grades 5 through 8 ranked in the top 10 in reading comprehension.
- Compared to all other school districts in the state, ARVS students in seventh grade ranked 2<sup>nd</sup> in the state in reading comprehension and 5<sup>th</sup> in math on the ITBS.
- ARVS students in grades 3 through 8 scored at the 74<sup>th</sup> percentile in reading comprehension, exceeding the national average by 24 percentage points.

A complete analysis of the ARVS student performance on the ITBS is available on the ARVS website at [www.arvs.org/about/ARVS\\_ITBS\\_Results\\_Spring\\_2005.pdf](http://www.arvs.org/about/ARVS_ITBS_Results_Spring_2005.pdf) or you may contact Randall Greenway at 501-664-4225 or [rgreenway@arvs.org](mailto:rgreenway@arvs.org) to request a copy of the results by email or fax.

“The teachers and administration are very pleased with the overall performance of ARVS students on the Iowa Test of Basic Skills. The data provides evidence that the longer students stay in the ARVS program, the higher their performance on state assessments. ARVS students in middle grades are among the highest performing students in the state.” – Randall Greenway, ARVS Head of School.



### ARVS Program Description

The Arkansas Virtual School is a program of the Arkansas Department of Education offered to public school students in grades kindergarten through eighth grade. The ARVS program is currently in its fourth year of operation. ARVS uses the comprehensive standards-based curriculum provided by K12 Inc. The K12 curriculum provides a research-based curriculum and innovative instructional tools, blending traditional content with innovative technology. ARVS’ unique "team teaching" approach involves a powerful partnership between parents and teachers in which children receive individual attention and a personalized course of instruction. Students complete daily lessons delivered online by K12. However, most student work is completed away from the computer using books, workbooks, art supplies, and manipulatives.

This innovative public school program is available to students throughout the state, but enrollment is limited to approximately 430 students due to limited funding. In accordance with the guidelines of the U.S. Department of Education’s Voluntary Public School Choice Grant, ARVS grants priority enrollment to students assigned to attend low performing schools as identified by the Arkansas Department of Education in compliance with Arkansas Omnibus Education Act 1467 of 2003 and with the federal No Child Left Behind Act of 2001. ARVS enrolled 129 students for the 2004-05 school year from schools identified by the Arkansas Department of Education as in need of improvement. These students account for 80% of all newly enrolled students.

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