



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 26, 2008

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Julie Johnson Thompson
Office: 683-4786 Cell: (501) 580-6508
Email: julie.thompson@arkansas.gov

ARKANSAS RANKS IN TOP 16 IN LATEST ISSUE OF TECHNOLOGY COUNTS

Arkansas earned an overall grade of B-minus in *Technology Counts 2008: STEM: The Push to Improve Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics*, which was released today by the Washington, D.C., based journal *Education Week*. Six other states scored a B-minus and nine states scored a B or above, with West Virginia receiving the only A.

"We are pleased that the grade of B-minus is better than the national average but we expect to do even better next year," said Jim Boardman, the Arkansas Department of Education's assistant commissioner for research and technology. "The State Board of Education adopted a new Arkansas Technology plan last month which will improve our score in capacity."

Grades were also given in specific categories: Access (Arkansas earned a C; the average state was a C); Use (Arkansas earned an A-minus and the average state a C-plus); and Capacity (Arkansas earned a B-minus and the average state a C).

"I am especially pleased with Arkansas' A-minus in "use" of technology compared to the national average of C-plus because access and capacity mean little if you are not using the technology," Boardman said.

The full reports are available on the Web at www.edweek.org.

--ADE--

The Arkansas Department of Education strives to ensure that all children in the state have access to a quality education by providing educators, administrators and staff with leadership, resources and training.