

## **KIPP Sets High Goals for Benchmarks**

By Josh Troy

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KIPP Delta College Preparatory School's sixth grade students scored well above state average on the Arkansas Benchmark exams last spring, but the goal is for the marks to continue to rise.

Scott Shirey, KIPP School director, reminded the board at Tuesday's meeting that he told them at July's meeting he still had to sort through the scores, which had just come in. However, Shirey had enough information to determine that the KIPP School's student scores were on the rise. Tuesday he presented exact figures.

Shirey explained the four levels of scoring - below basic, basic, proficient, and advanced.

According to a bar graph Shirey presented, 59 percent of the students are proficient or advanced in math. The state average for each school is 41 percent. Forty percent of the students are proficient or advanced in literacy - right at the state average.

"We out performed the state and out performed the three local schools in math by a significant amount," Shirey said. "We also out performed the local schools in literacy."

In math the following percentage of sixth grade students were proficient or advanced in the three local schools - 21 percent at Westside Elementary School, five percent at J.F. Wahl Elementary School, and three percent at Beechcrest Elementary School. The following percentages for the three local schools in literacy were - 25 percent at Westside, eight percent at J.F. Wahl, and seven percent at Beechcrest.

After reviewing the scores of the local schools, Shirey made it clear there was still work to be done.

"Obviously we want our scores 100 percent in the proficient or advanced categories," Shirey said.

Barton School District had the second highest Benchmark scores by a wide margin. Barton sixth graders were 42 percent proficient or

advanced in math. Westside was third at 21 percent. Marvell was followed at 15 percent and J.F. Wahl was at five percent. Beechcrest brought up the rear at three percent.

"Next year we should be well above the state average we hope," Shirey said.

Shirey also presented the same bar graph to show eighth grade Benchmark math scores. The KIPP School will begin educating eighth grade students in 2005-06.

Barton eighth grade students scored at 42 percent proficient or advanced in math. Marvell was at 15 percent and Eliza Miller Junior High School eighth had 10 percent.