

K-12 Academic Tests Scores

	1999	2004	2005
% All Students At or Above "Basic" on LEAP test*			
4th Grade English/Language Arts	55%	60%	64%
4th Grade Math	42%	53%	61%
8th Grade English/Language Arts	43%	47%	50%
8th Grade Math	38%	53%	51%

IOWA Test Percentiles (out of 100)

3rd Grade	45th	55th	57th
5th Grade	44th	56th	59th
6th Grade	45th	44th	47th
7th Grade	44th	48th	49th
9th Grade	44th	47th	49th

% Passing Rate Grade 10 Graduate Exit Exam**

English Language Arts	85%	81%	85%
Math	74%	76%	76%

*LEAP test scale: Advanced, Mastery, Basic, Approaching Basic and Unsatisfactory.

**GEE passing level is set at the "Approaching Basic" skills level.

Top 5 Trends

1 LEAP Up, IOWA Out, iLEAP Coming

Louisiana continues to see progress on many academic indicators, most notably in the percent of students scoring at "Basic" levels on LEAP and on IOWA scores. The state has used the IOWA national test in its top-rated School Accountability System for 3rd, 5th, 6th, 7th and 9th graders since the 98-99 baseline year. But, the federal No Child Left Behind Act now requires states to give a LEAP-like standards-based *proficiency* test in *all* grades. The new iLEAP will be used in Spring 2006. Louisiana will keep its Graduation Exit Exam, which is already measured on a proficiency basis.

2

Reading Is Key...Right?

Despite gains in LEAP scores in language arts, Louisiana's 4th and 8th graders are showing minimal improvement on national reading tests such as NAEP. Since the first NAEP reading test was given 14 years ago, the state's 4th grade average reading score has increased only 5 points and remains below the national average. Meanwhile, 8th graders made no gains in the past 8 years since NAEP first tested in that grade. The percent of students reading at or above "Basic" grade level on NAEP tracks this same pattern. The state's new "reading" factor added to School Performance Scores for 2005-06 may get the attention of school districts.

NAEP: % Total Students At or Above "Basic" Level

National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) is a national education assessment program in which Louisiana voluntarily participates. NAEP tests 4th and 8th graders on reading, mathematics, science, and writing on a rotating basis.

4th Grade Reading	1992	1998	2003	2005
LA	46%	44%	49%	53%
US	60%	58%	62%	62%
4th Grade Math	1992	1996	2003	2005
LA	39%	44%	67%	74%
US	57%	61%	76%	79%
8th Grade Reading	1998	2002	2003	2005
LA	63%	68%	64%	64%
US	71%	74%	72%	71%
8th Grade Math	1992	1996	2003	2005
LA	37%	38%	57%	59%
US	56%	59%	67%	68%

School Accountability

School Performance Scores: All Schools

SPS Index is from 0-200; Index is based on LEAP & IOWA tests, attendance and dropout rates.

Label	Index Score	Rating System	Averaged 99/00+00/01	Annual 2003/04	Annual 2004/05
Academic Excellence	>140	5 star school ★★★★★	4 schools	8 schools	10 schools
Academic Distinction	120-139	4 star school ★★★★	15	39	52
Academic Achvment	100-119	3 star school ★★★	203	268	315
Approaching Basic	80-99	2 star school ★★	455	463	456
Below Basic	60-79	1 star school ★	665	367	352
Academic Warning*	45-59	same label	n/a	152	n/a
Academically Unacceptable	< 60	same label	39	79	170

*Academic Warning category was eliminated in 2005 when the Academically Unacceptable index score was increased from 45 to 60.

The goal for all schools is 100 by 2009 & 120 by 2014 or students at /above the “basic” level on average.

Growth Targets

Schools that met their growth targets	59%	46%	53%
Schools that had improvement, didn't reach target	14	19	20
Schools that had no growth or declined	19	44	18
No Label Assigned*	8	n/a	9

*Schools with an SPS score of 100 or more are not assigned negative Growth Labels.



3 Many Schools On First, Second Base... High-Poverty Schools Not in the Ballpark.

The state's average School Performance Score has risen from 83 to 87. But a majority of schools, 978 of 1,345 (or 73%), are below the state's 10-year goal of 100. We're supposed to hit that goal in 2008-09. Of these, 170 are chronically failed schools and another 352 are low-performing – all are high-poverty schools. Research shows that stubborn problems in these schools can be remedied with “whole-school” change models. But, why are many school systems unable or unwilling to institute research-based strategies or choose experienced school leaders? Some failing schools will eventually be taken over by the state's Recovery School District, as have an unprecedented 107 in New Orleans. Is the RSD going to be the *only* place where these schools can hope to change?

High School Indicators

	00/01	03/04	04/05
Annual School Dropouts Grades 7-12	19,813	18,186	n/a
ACT Composite Score public & nonpublic (U.S. Average 20.9, out of 36)	19.6	19.8	19.8
Public High School Students Who Qualify for AP College Courses (2005)	2.5%	National Rank #50	
Public High Schools that Offer AP Courses (2004) Southern States Ranking includes 14 southern states	24%	Southern Rank #14	
Adults Without HS Diploma or GED (US Census 2004 est.)	20.1%		

4 Dropping Out and Going Nowhere.

School dropouts increased to 18,186 in 2003-04, up 385 from the year before. In fact, in the most recent four years of record, a total of 72,414 students dropped out in grades 7-12. These numbers do not include those on a GED tract, in the high school Career Options Program or transfers to other schools. Where do all these young people go? The answer is reflected in Louisiana's workforce problems, crime stats and continued poverty. Research shows that the whole school experience has to change and attitudes at home must change as well. The state is crafting high school redesign policies and an early warning system, but there's nothing preventing school districts from instituting research-based models.



The Workforce Gap

How Louisiana's Class of 2002 (not just graduates) Choose to Prepare for the Workforce

- 31% entered 4-year public/private colleges
- 6% entered 2-year or technical colleges, proprietary schools or apprenticeships
- 29% graduated and entered labor market
- 34% dropped out of the system or left the state

VS.

U.S. Jobs Profile Forecast for 2012

- 23% require college degree
- 54% require 2-year associate degrees or post- high school training
- 23% require minimum skills for employment

Source: Louisiana Workforce Commission

Demographics /Teacher Data

	00/01	03/04	04/05
Students in Public School System	737,223	728,791	731,351
Percent Minority Public School Children	51%	51.5%	51.6%
Percent White Public School Children	49%	48.5%	48.3%
At-risk 4-Year-Olds Not Enrolled in Early Childhood Education	approx. 9,000	approx. 6,800	N/A
Average Teacher Salary (Southern Average is currently \$42,333)	\$35,179	\$38,300	\$38,880
Number of Uncertified Teachers	8,499 15.2%	5,101 9.2%	4,208 7.5%
Teachers Who Leave Public Schools Within 3 Years	33%	43%	N/A

Number of Nonpublic Schools (2003) 373

Students in Nonpublic Schools (2003) 18.4%

Higher Education Indicators

Bachelor degrees awarded

(source, SREB)

2001	2003	2004
16,659	17,298	17,450

First-time College Freshmen in Non-credit Developmental Courses

(source, LDOE)

39%	36%	32%
-----	-----	-----

Public Colleges and Universities 6-year graduation rate*

(The graduation rate in the Southeast region was 52% in 2004, SREB)

*The six-year graduation rates vary widely among individual institutions (see below).

36%	37%	39%
-----	-----	-----

Percentage of FTE Post-secondary Students Enrolled in 4-year colleges/universities

Fall	2001	2003	2004
LA	76%	75%	75%
South	56%	55%	55%

2-year community colleges/technical

LA	24%	25%	25%
South	44%	45%	45%

Educational Attainment of Adults >25

	LA	US
Associate Degree (2004 est.)	4.3%	7.1%
Bachelor's Degree (2004 est.)	21.5%	27.0%

LA Public College 6-Year Graduation Rates (includes transfers)

Campus	2001 freshmen fall '95	2003 freshmen fall '97	2005 freshmen fall '99
LSU – BR	62%	61%	64%
LA Tech	57	55	54
Nicholls State	30	32	32
UL, Lafayette	31	33	43
UL, Monroe	30	31	31
Grambling	32	33	37
LSU Shreveport	27	30	26
McNeese	28	30	35
UNO	28	26	26
Southeastern	29	26	29
Southern University	29	26	28
SUNO	11	12	9
State	36%	37%	42%
South*	48%	50%	N/A

Source: LA Board of Regents

*SREB rate does not account for transfers, meaning the actual rate is likely to be slightly higher than reported.



5 College's 6-Year Grad Rates Up For Some, Others Lag Behind.

Since 2001, Louisiana's overall college six-year graduation rate for full-time freshmen has risen 6 percentage points. LSU-BR, the largest institution, leads the state at 64%. Some regional colleges have made gains: ULL, Nicholls, Grambling and McNeese, though these and the state overall rank below the Southern region. While recent state reforms are addressing key problems in higher education, some campus rates fell in the same time period: SUNO (a staggering 9%), LSUS (26%), UNO (26%) and Southern-BR (28%). Though La. Tech dropped some, it remains above the Southern average. How can the state expect taxpayers and parents to fund mediocrity or failure? The good news is that more students are in community/technical colleges. But the ratio of four-year to two-year levels is still distinctively imbalanced – not good news for the workforce in light of future labor markets.

The Report Card is also available online at www.cabl.org.
For additional copies, contact CABL at 225-344-2225.