

Academic Facts: Acadia Parish School District

The State education system as a whole has made **real progress** in the past 15 years (more students at basic grade level, fewer dropouts, better school performance) with the implementation of the top-rated School & District Accountability System and other major state policies. But, significant gaps in student achievement remain. While many local school districts have made improvements, we have a long way to go in others. **What remains is a state with a quarter-million kids below minimum basic grade skills (standards which are actually lower than national proficiency), yearly dropouts still in the thousands, and many graduates underprepared for careers or college.** While the State continues to pursue more recent programs that support instructional quality and school choice for at-risk kids, it's clear that local education officials and educators make the difference in student learning. **Below is a snapshot of some key district academic indicators.**



- **"C" District Performance Grade (2011-12)**
99.7 DPS compared to 100.5 State Performance Score (0-200 point scale); based on state LEAP, iLEAP, dropouts and graduation index. The district ranked #39 out of 69 local school districts.
- **60% of the district's 3rd graders** at or above *Basic* grade level in reading/language arts knowledge and skills (iLEAP 2012)
- **69% of the districts 4th graders** at or above *Basic* grade level in reading/language arts knowledge and skills; and **69% at or above Basic** grade level in math (LEAP 2012)
- **66% of the districts 8th graders** at or above *Basic* grade skills and knowledge in English/language arts; **58% at or above Basic** grade level in math; and **61%** at or above *Basic* grade skills and knowledge in science (LEAP 2012)
- **64% of high school students** scored at or above *Basic* skills and knowledge in science on (Graduate Exit Exam, all initial test takers 2012).
- **National Percentile Ranks** (2010-11): 50th for third graders, 54th for fifth graders, and 52nd for seventh graders.
- **910 students dropped out** (7-12th graders) in the past five years on record (2007-2011)
 - For 9th grade freshmen, **75.3% graduated four years later** (2011).
- **40% of college freshmen** who graduated from this district's high schools had to take non-credit **remedial courses** (2010)
- **18.8 Average ACT score** compared to **20.3 State Average** and **21.1 National Average** (2012)

Note on State LEAP/iLEAP tests: Grade-level skills and knowledge students achieve on these tests are rated as *Advanced, Mastery, Basic (minimum needed), Approaching Basic, and Unsatisfactory*. The State's goal has been to educate all students to at least the **minimum Basic** grade level - not a mastery of skills and knowledge. **How many kids in your district have not been educated to this minimum level?** LA's *Basic* level is also considered a **lower standard than national levels of Proficiency**. The good news is that LA is raising standards and transitioning from LEAP to "Common Core" tests (consortium of 45 states) in the next 1-2 years.

SCHOOL PERFORMANCE GRADES (2011-12)

Letter Grade	# of Schools	% Students <i>Below</i> Basic
A	2	0-12%
B	8	13-24%
C	6	25-36%
D	8	37-61%
F	2	62-100%

School performance scores/grades are currently based on state test scores, dropouts, graduation index, and new 'bonus points' for certain gains.

Additional district information:

- 69.7% of students were eligible for **free and reduced lunch** (2011)
- \$9,281 was **spent per pupil** in this district compared to the \$10,622 state average (2010)
- **9545 students were enrolled** in 2010-11 compared to 9551 in 2005-06

