



We believe it is imperative that all Louisiana students be prepared for the challenges of a 21st-century economy that relies on education, innovation, and technology.

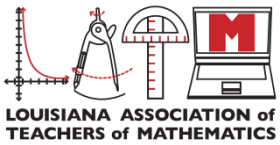
We believe that all Louisiana students can learn, meet, and exceed the high bar we set for them. Over the past two decades, Louisiana has strategically and consistently elevated the educational standards and benchmarks that define proficiency and success – and students, teachers, and schools have met and, in many cases, exceeded these expectations. More Louisiana students are on grade level, graduating from high school, passing Advanced Placement tests, and achieving college-ready scores on the ACT.

Despite progress, we believe student achievement in Louisiana must continue to significantly improve to meet the demands of a modern economy. While LEAP tests show that 74% of 4th grade students in our state are able to read on grade level, more rigorous state-by-state comparison tests show that only 23% of 4th grade students are proficient in reading. This means Louisiana’s students are stuck, struggling, and falling far behind their peers in other parts of the country – and the world – at a time when their growth is imperative for their success in both college and career and beyond.

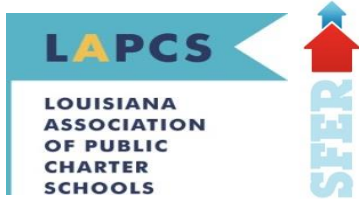


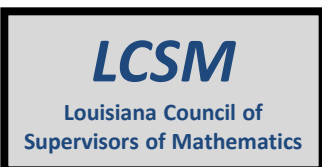
We believe the Common Core State Standards will build on solid educational foundation and accelerate our students' path to academic and professional success.

Because Louisiana's policy requires updating standards periodically, our state took advantage of the opportunity to adopt higher standards that would provide all students with deeper, richer learning experiences that will prepare them for the challenges of the real world, college, and career. In 2010, our public education system joined the vast majority of U.S. states in adopting new, more rigorous standards for math and English, recognizing the importance of raising our expectations and measuring our progress against national benchmarks developed by experienced educators and renowned experts.



We believe those closest to students – parents, teachers, local schools, districts, and states – should have the freedom and autonomy to make decisions that are in the best interests of their students. Louisiana's policy sets the standards while providing local school districts complete authority to decide the most appropriate curriculum and textbooks to meet these standards.





We believe that progress has been made to ensure that empowered teachers, school leaders, and districts are prepared, knowledgeable, supported, and effective in their efforts to help Louisiana’s students reach higher levels of achievement and succeed with higher standards. The foundation for success is in place, as thousands of Louisiana teachers have been trained and teacher teams have convened in every school across the state to support one another in the transition. Additionally, 86% of districts in Louisiana have upgraded their technology to ensure that more students have access, a critical component for preparedness for the jobs of the future. Louisiana’s years of preparation for higher standards puts us well ahead of other states in readiness.

We believe the Common Core State Standards will give our children what they deserve – the opportunity to compete to the best of their ability locally, nationally, and globally. Louisiana has a dynamic and changing economy that now more than ever is demanding higher levels of education and job skills from our citizens. More rigorous standards in public education will help our state develop the qualified professional and highly-skilled workforce we need to drive our economy and make Louisiana’s citizens competitive across the nation and around the world.