

## 2013 Academic Facts: Natchitoches School District



The State education system as a whole has made **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 some 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 can make the difference in student learning. **Below is a snapshot of some key district academic indicators.**

- **“C” District Performance Grade** (2012)  
94.51 DPS compared to 100.5 State Performance Score (0-200 point scale); based on state LEAP, iLEAP, dropouts and graduation index. **The district ranked #49 out of 69 local school districts.**
- **58% of the district’s 3-8th graders at or above Basic grade level (2013), with 0% growth from 2012.** State had 1% growth this past year. (LEAP& iLEAP 2013)
- **62% of 4<sup>th</sup> graders are at or above Basic grade level in reading/language arts; and 53% at or above Basic grade level in math** (LEAP 2013)
- **64% of 8<sup>th</sup> graders at or above Basic grade skills and knowledge in English/language arts; 63% at or above Basic grade level in math.** (LEAP 2013)
- **51% of high school students** scored at or above *Basic* skills and knowledge **in science** on (Graduate Exit Exam, 2012).
- **National Percentile Ranks** (2011-12): 39<sup>th</sup> for third graders, 48<sup>th</sup> for fifth graders, and 48<sup>th</sup> for seventh graders.
- **809 students dropped out** (7-12th graders) in the past five years on record (2007-2011)
- For 9<sup>th</sup> grade freshmen, **68.7% graduated four years later** (2011).
- **44%** of college freshmen who graduated from this district’s high schools had to take non-credit **remedial courses** (2010)
- **18.6** 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, just Basic. How many kids in your district have not been educated to this minimum level?** In addition, LA’s *Basic* level is considered a **lower standard than national levels of Proficiency.** The good news is that LA is raising standards and transitioning from LEAP to the national “Common Core” (consortium of 45 states) in the next 1-2 years.

### SCHOOL PERFORMANCE GRADES (FALL 2012)

Letter Grade	# of Schools	% Students <i>Below</i> Basic
A	3	0-12%
B	3	13-24%
C	1	25-36%
D	4	37-61%
F	4	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:

- 74.0% of students were eligible for **free and reduced lunch** (2011)
- \$9,564 was **spent per pupil** in this district compared to the \$10,622 state average (2010)
- 6,805 **students were enrolled** in 2010-11 compared to 7,001 in 2005-06

