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 4th 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 8th 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): 39th for third graders, 48th for fifth graders, and 48th for seventh graders.**

- **809 students dropped out (7-12th graders) in the past five years on record (2007-2011).**

- **For 9th 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.

**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

This Information was compiled by the Council for A Better Louisiana and can be found at www.cabl.org