**Academic Facts: Orleans Parish School Board**

The State education system as a whole has made some progress in the past 15 years 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 OPSB academic indicators.**

- **OPSB oversees 19 schools in Orleans Parish; the State Recovery School District has authority for 62 schools in Orleans due to previous chronic low performance under OPSB.**

- **“A” District Performance Grade** (2011-12)
  133.8 DPS compared to 100.5 State Performance Score (0-200 scale on state LEAP, iLEAP, dropouts, graduation index). Ranked #2 out of 69 districts.

- 84% of the district’s 3rd graders at or above Basic grade level in reading/language arts (iLEAP 2012)

- 92% of the districts 4th graders at or above Basic grade level in reading/language arts knowledge and skills; and 91% at or above Basic in math (LEAP 2012)

- 83% of the districts 5th graders at or above Basic grade skills and knowledge in English/language arts; 74% at or above Basic in math; and 73% at or above Basic grade level in science (LEAP 2012)

- **69% 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**

- **2,324 students dropped out** (7-12th graders) in the past five years on record (2006-2010).

- **93.5% 9th grade freshmen who 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)

- **19.5 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 “Common Core” tests (consortium of 45 states) in the next 1-2 years.

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**SCHOOL PERFORMANCE GRADES (2011-12)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
<th># of Schools</th>
<th>% Students Below Basic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>0-12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>13-24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>25-36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>37-61%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>62-100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

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**Additional district information:**
- 66.3% of students were eligible for free and reduced lunch (2011), 66.2% State average;
- $14,534 was spent per pupil in this district compared to the $10,622 state average (2010)
- 10,493 students were enrolled in 2010-11 compared to 5,874 in 2005-06 (post-Katrina year)