

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 **8th 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** (2010-11): 67th for third graders, 68th for fifth graders, and 71st for seventh graders.
- **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.

SCHOOL PERFORMANCE GRADES (2011-12)

Letter Grade	# of Schools	% Students <i>Below</i> Basic
A	7	0-12%
B	5	13-24%
C	4	25-36%
D	0	37-61%
F	1	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:

- 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)

