Academic Facts: Ouachita Parish School District

The State education system as a whole has made **real 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 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 district academic indicators.**

- **“B” District Performance Grade** (2011-12)
  115.9 DPS compared to 100.5 State Performance Score (0-200 point scale); based on state LEAP, iLEAP, dropouts and graduation index. The district ranked **#15** out of 69 local school districts.

- **77%** of the district’s 3rd graders at or above **Basic** grade level in **reading/language arts** knowledge and skills (iLEAP 2012)

- **85%** of the districts 4th graders at or above **Basic** grade level in **reading/language arts** knowledge and skills; and **82%** at or above **Basic** grade level in **math** (LEAP 2012)

- **76%** of the districts 8th graders at or above **Basic** grade skills and knowledge in **English/language arts**; **71%** at or above **Basic** grade level in **math**; and **71%** at or above **Basic** grade skills and knowledge in **science** (LEAP 2012)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SCHOOL PERFORMANCE GRADES (2011-12)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Letter Grade</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</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.*

- **71%** 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): 58th for third graders, 63rd for fifth graders, and 59th for seventh graders.

- **1,713 students dropped out** (7-12th graders) in the past five years on record (2006-2010)

- For 9th grade freshmen, **72.9% graduated four years later** (2011).

- **30%** of college freshmen who graduated from this district’s high schools had to take non-credit **remedial courses** (2010)

- **20.5 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.

Additional district information:
- 56.9% of students were eligible for **free and reduced lunch** (2011)
- $9,562 was **spent per pupil** in this district compared to the $10,622 state average (2010)
- 19,680 **students were enrolled** in 2010-11 compared to 18,646 in 2005-06

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