**Academic Facts: Plaquemines 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.**

- **“A” District Performance Grade** (2011-12)
  123.0 DPS compared to **100.5** State Performance Score (0-200 point scale); based on state LEAP, iLEAP, dropouts and graduation index. The district ranked **#5** out of 69 local school districts.

- **86%** of the district’s 3rd graders at or above **Basic** grade level in **reading/language arts** knowledge and skills (iLEAP 2012)

- **94%** of the districts 4th graders at or above **Basic** grade level in **reading/language arts** knowledge and skills; and **92%** at or above **Basic** grade level in **math** (LEAP 2012)

- **77%** of the districts 6th graders at or above **Basic** grade skills and knowledge in **English/language arts**; **78%** at or above **Basic** grade level in **math**; and **71%** at or above **Basic** grade skills and knowledge in **science** (LEAP 2012)

- **78%** 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): 65th for third graders, 63rd for fifth graders, and 57th for seventh graders.

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

- For 9th grade freshmen, **79.5%** graduated four years later (2011).

- **36%** of college freshmen who graduated from this district’s high schools had to take non-credit remedial courses (2010)

- **19.9** 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)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
<th># of Schools</th>
<th>% Students Below Basic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0-12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>13-24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>25-36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>37-61%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>0</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.

---

**Additional district information:**

- 57.4% of students were eligible for **free and reduced lunch** (2011)
- $14,830 was spent per pupil in this district compared to the $10,622 state average (2010)
- 3,822 students were enrolled in 2010-11 compared to 2,944 in 2005-06

---

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