

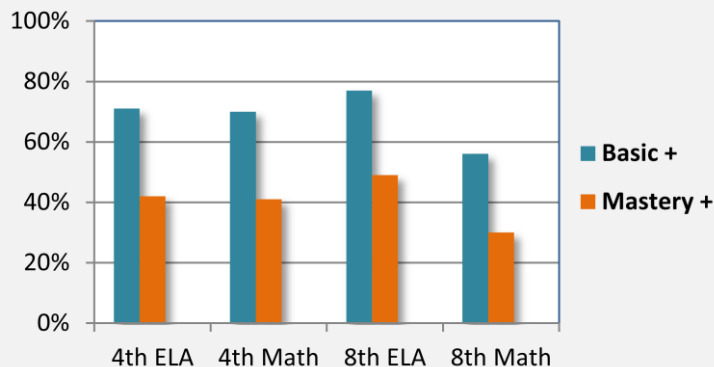
## REPORT CARD

## On Major Education Indicators

Council for A Better Louisiana



### State LEAP Tests: % Students Achieving At/Above “Basic” and Those At/Above “Mastery” level, Spring 2016



Grade-level knowledge and skills measured by LEAP: 1-Unsatisfactory, 2-Approaching Basic, 3-Basic (minimum - previous state goal), 4-Mastery (new state goal), 5-Advanced

### Highlight 1 In shift to higher standards, some gains made, but room for growth remains.

Since the State Accountability testing began in 1998-99, schools have posted steady gains in the number of students achieving at least the “Basic” in grade-level skills and knowledge in key subjects. But from 2008-11, results stalled. Even more troubling, “Basic” on LEAP tests is **not reflective of students having mastered the knowledge and skills for that grade, only a minimum**. To improve learning, Louisiana moved to higher standards of national comparison in math and English during the past 5 years. Old standards were not set at a rigor such that most students could *fully* grasp important subject matter nor be *solidly* prepared for skilled training or the technical and college credits needed in our dynamic economy. **The new State goal for 2025 is for students (on average) to be at the “Mastery” level.** 2016 LEAP tests show that more students are reaching “Mastery” (except 8<sup>th</sup> grade math). **But, results also indicate that a significant number of young students (23-44%) remain below even “Basic.”**

### Highlight 2 National rankings inching up, but gaps remain significant.

As aforementioned, a majority of Louisiana students achieve at “Basic” levels in reading and math, but **only 2-3 out of 10 students are at/above the national (NAEP) standard of Proficient in core subjects.** Why? NAEP sets the bar for *proficiency* at a level that is in line with the “Mastery” level in Louisiana -- hence, the State’s goal for average school performance set at a higher bar for 2025. **Though still relatively low, the State is moving up the needle on national rankings – not an easy feat, given that other states are moving up as well.**

## NATIONAL MEASURES

### 2017 QUALITY COUNTS *Education Week, January 2016*

|                      | Louisiana | National Ranking                  |
|----------------------|-----------|-----------------------------------|
| - Chance for Success | C-        | 47th                              |
| - K-12 Achievement   | D         | 49th                              |
| - School Finance     | C         | 28th                              |
| <b>Overall Grade</b> | <b>D+</b> | <b>46th</b> (up from 49th in '12) |

### NAEP *NATIONAL ASSESSMENT OF EDUCATIONAL PROGRESS*

NAEP is a program in which Louisiana voluntarily participates, as do all other states. NAEP tests are given to a sample of students in reading, math, science, and writing on a rotating basis every two years. **For 2015 in math and reading, students at national “proficient” level & national rank:**

4<sup>th</sup> Reading **29%** (up from 2013), ranked 43th

4<sup>th</sup> Math **30%** (up from 2013), ranked 45th

8<sup>th</sup> Reading **23%** (static), ranked 48th

8<sup>th</sup> Math **18%** (down some from 2013), ranked 49th

## KEY OUTCOMES FOR LOUISIANA PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOLS

**Dropouts:** The **number of public school dropouts in grades 7-12** declined from 15-16,000+ annually in the early 2000s to 10-11,000 dropouts annually in recent years. It remains a serious issue with 10,264 students dropping out in 2014

**Cohort graduation rate:** More high school students are **graduating on time** with the state posting an *all-time high* cohort graduation rate of **77.5%** (freshmen who graduated in four years) **in 2015**, up from 64.8% in 2006.

**End-of-Course Tests (2014 & 2015 combined) % students who scored 'Good' or 'Excellent'** (Range: Needs Improvement, Fair, Good, Excellent)

|                 |                    |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| Algebra 1 - 54% | Biology – 58%      |
| English 2 - 72% | U.S. History – 65% |

### ACT Average (2016)

- Louisiana = **19.5** (out of 36) with all seniors taking the exam; an increase of .1 from previous year. U.S. average = 21.0.
- **6837 more students scored 18 or higher and can enter some form of college in the state,**
- But only about 19% met ACT *Benchmarks* for College Readiness (75% chance of a 'C' or better in college core subjects).

### Remedial courses

**34% college freshmen** (2012) who graduated from public high schools had to take non-credit remedial courses

### Advance Placement (college) courses (2016)

- Public high school students **enrolled in AP® courses have vastly increased** from 17,540 in 2012 to 35,562 in 2016.
- **Students making a "Qualifying" or passing score (3+ out of 5) on AP® Exams increased 11% from 2015 to 2016** -- that equates to 845 more graduates with AP® college credits for a total of 8,548 in 2016.
- Louisiana **ranks low nationally** on the % of students who took the AP® courses and actually made a passing score: only 24%.

## Highlight 3 HS gains improving preparation for job training and college.

Louisiana has reported a steady decline in dropouts in the last decade and has significantly **improved its 4-year graduation rate**. But over 10,00 students are still dropping out each year.

It's important to note, that **over half of Louisiana jobs** in the next decade **will require more than a high school diploma**, as in associate, technical, and 4-year college training and degrees. The good news is that since 2012, more students can now *enter* some level of college. In 2016, the state posted the largest gain in average scores among states that give the ACT to all students and therefore, increased the number of students

qualified for TOPS or TOPS Tech awards.



But, Louisiana has traditionally ranked low in both preparation and

**completion** of 2- and 4-year college degrees. **And unfortunately, ACT college readiness benchmarks continue to signal low chances for many students to succeed (19%).**

The **benchmarks show math and science prep are particularly low, a critical gap for the many STEM jobs in our state's economy**. Louisiana continues to help graduates be better prepared through more rigorous course standards and by greatly expanding participation in dual enrollment, AP®, career and technical-high skill courses – with the number of students passing and getting credits rising. **But again, high schools have a ways to go in helping more students taking AP® courses actually achieve a passing score for credit** – currently a low percentage compared to other states.

## Highlight 4 School Performance

**Scores/Letter Grades Static** At present, tracking progress with **School Performance Scores (SPS)** and accompanying **School Letter Grades** from 1998-99 when they were first established in the state's Accountability System to present, is not an "apples to apples" comparison. This is due to the State's frequent changes in the scale and factors used in SPS calculations (i.e., different tests, bonus points, various weights). Additionally, during the transition to higher academic standards in key subjects and new tests, **BESE and the legislature set a "curve" distribution based on 2012 grades in 2013-14, 2014-15, 2015-16 and 2016-17 for the state as a whole, so that significant change overall from the previous year was not expected.** Schools could get higher grades under this "curve" but not go down -- plus, they could get bonus points -- all contributing to School Letter Grade *inflation*. Still, results show there continues to be room for improvement, **with 687 schools rated 'C', 'D' and 'F' -- meaning that many or most of their students remain below "Basic" or minimum grade level and well below "Mastery" of skills and knowledge.**

### SCHOOL PERFORMANCE SCORES AND LETTER GRADES, FALL 2016

| Letter Grade     | SPS Range | # of Schools |     |
|------------------|-----------|--------------|-----|
| A                | 100-150   | 296          | 22% |
| B                | 85-99.9   | 345          | 26% |
| C                | 70-84.9   | 345          | 26% |
| D                | 50-69.9   | 241          | 18% |
| F                | 0-49.0    | 101          | 8%  |
| T (transitional) |           | 3            | <1% |

*SPSs and corresponding Letters Grades are based on a formula of test scores (LEAP, ACT, End of Course, AP), graduation rates, courses, diplomas and bonus points. 2015-16 reflects the first year of a new 2-year baseline to gauge how Louisiana students are achieving on more rigorous content standards in core subjects.*

**Highlight 5 Careers of the future...is Louisiana ready?** Louisiana lags the nation in the number of its citizens with associate degree or higher. In 2018, 51% of all jobs in Louisiana will require some form of postsecondary education, but today only 29.6% of adults in the state have earned an associate degree or higher. In just five years, the number of jobs requiring an associate degree or a job training credential will grow by nearly 20%. The good news is that Louisiana's enrollment in community and technical colleges is steadily climbing and associate degrees and certificates have **significantly increased.**



#### EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT OF ADULTS

##### AGE 25-64 (2013) Associate Degree or Higher

LA: 29.6% SREB States: 36.4%  
US: 40.0%

#### ASSOCIATE DEGREES

##### Awarded from 2-year & technical colleges (public)

2005 2,567 2013 5,404

#### POST-SECONDARY ENROLLMENT (FTE) TREND in Louisiana...

4-year colleges/universities

2-year community/technical colleges

#### in the South...

4-year colleges/universities

2-year community/technical colleges

2003 2008 2013

75% 72% 66%

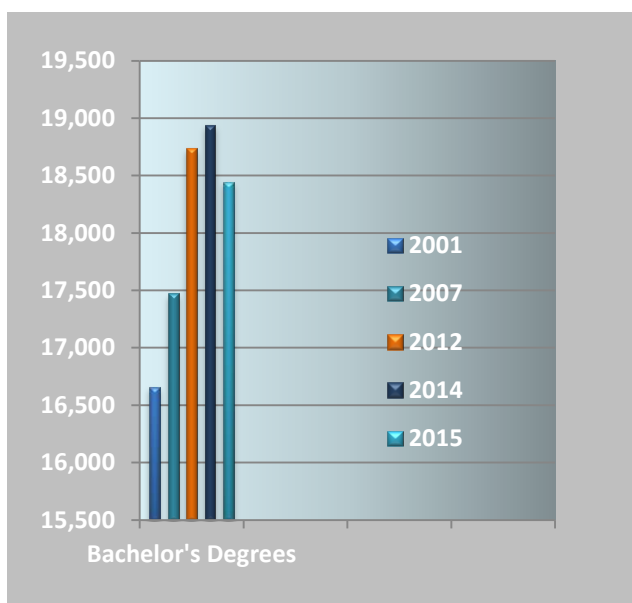
25% 28% 34%

55% 55% 53%

45% 45% 47%

*Traditionally, the state has had disproportionately more students enrolled in 4-year than 2-year or technical schools compared to the South and US. The ratio is still outside the norm, but improving.*

## BACHELOR'S DEGREES AWARDED –



## Highlight 6 Some Indicators Rise for Post-secondary Schools.

Despite a tumultuous decade of natural disasters and State revenue cuts, Louisiana has shown improvement on some key indicators for public colleges. These improvements have been credited to more effective strategies at institutions and higher admission standards. Bachelor's degrees awarded increased significantly from the 2000s, although the trend slowed a bit with 18,942 degrees in 2013-14 down to 18,444 in 2014-15. Statewide, colleges have also done a better job of helping students stay in school with Year 1 to Year 3 retention rates up from 58.7% in 2007-08 to 62.6% in 2014-15. **Most colleges have increased their 6-year graduation rates (counting transfers), but the Louisiana's average still falls below that of the Southern region as a whole and 5 campuses continue to graduate less than 40% of its freshmen in six years.**

## Louisiana Public College 6-Year Graduation

**Rates** (Full-time freshmen cohort; as reported by the Louisiana Board of Regents, which includes transfers.)

| Campus               | 2005<br>Freshmen fall '99 | 2009<br>Freshmen fall '03 | 2012<br>Freshmen fall '06 | 2014<br>Freshmen fall '08 |
|----------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| LSU – BR             | 64%                       | 66%                       | 72.9%                     | 71.4%                     |
| LA Tech              | 54%                       | 52%                       | 52.1%                     | 56.6%                     |
| UL, Lafayette        | 43%                       | 46%                       | 48.9%                     | 53.4%                     |
| McNeese              | 35%                       | 37%                       | 39.1%                     | 42.4%                     |
| Grambling            | 37%                       | 29%                       | 31.4%                     | 32.2%                     |
| Northwestern         | 35%                       | 35%                       | 39.4%                     | 40.1%                     |
| UL, Monroe           | 31%                       | 32%                       | 41.3%                     | 45.5%                     |
| Southeastern         | 29%                       | 34%                       | 39.3%                     | 41.1%                     |
| Southern Univ. BR    | 28%                       | 32%                       | 30.2%                     | 33.6%                     |
| Nicholls State       | 32%                       | 31%                       | 42.0%                     | 43.6%                     |
| UNO                  | 26%                       | 28%                       | 38.9%                     | 36.6%                     |
| LSU- S               | 26%                       | 28%                       | 36.6%                     | 40.1%                     |
| LSU- A               | n/a                       | n/a                       | 17.6%                     | 28.8%                     |
| SUNO                 | 9%                        | 10%                       | 14.2%                     | 15.0%                     |
| <b>STATE</b>         | <b>42%</b>                | <b>42%</b>                | <b>47.6%</b>              | <b>49.8%</b>              |
| <b>SOUTH (SREB)*</b> | <b>52%</b>                | <b>52%</b>                | <b>56%</b>                | <b>n/a</b>                |

\*\*SREB rate for the South (56%) does **not** include transfers and reports LA's 6-year graduation rate at 43%.

**Sources:**

**ACT National and State Scores;** *ACT Profile Report – LA State Executive Summary*

**Louisiana Department of Education:** *State Performance Summaries, School Performance Scores Summary, District Performance Scores Summary, End-of- Course Tests Summary Reports, GEE Science Results, LEAP Achievement Level Summary Reports, District Dropout Rates Grades 9-12 Report, Historical Statewide Cohort Graduation Rates for Louisiana, Louisiana Annual Dropout Rates*

**Louisiana Board of Regents:** *Table – Board of Regents 6-year College Graduation Rates; Higher Education State Fact Book 2015-16*

**National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP),** national and state reports

**College Board,** (AP) *Student Achievement Report, Executive Summary (Louisiana – Public Schools)*

**U.S. Census Bureau:** *Selected Social Characteristics, American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, US and Louisiana*

**SREB State Data Exchange:** *Degrees and Other Awards Conferred All Public Institutions; Student Progression Rates- Full-time Bachelor’s Seeking Undergraduates - Public 4-year Colleges and Universities; Total FTE Enrollment Public 4-Year Institutions*

**Education Week Quality Counts-** *National and State Report Card*

**Louisiana Workforce Investment Council,** *Accountability and Performance Measures Report*