2002-2003 District Composite Report

Natchitoches Parish

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Introduction

The passage of the Children First Act in 1988 ushered in a new era of data collection, analysis, and reporting about the overall quality and condition of education in Louisiana. Implemented in 1990, this major piece of legislation resulted in the publication of the Progress Profiles (School Report Cards, District Composite Report, and the Louisiana State Education Progress Report) with three main objectives: (1) to provide information about schools to parents and the general public, (2) to provide a basis for educational planning, and (3) to increase educational accountability at all levels.

The Children First Act, through its Progress Profiles program, also became the impetus toward the introduction of the statewide school accountability system, which was implemented in 1998-1999. The Louisiana School Accountability System, replacing the old Progress Profiles program, is focused on analysis and assessment of school performance with heavy emphasis on school improvement.

In its fifth year, the school accountability system has been successful in its mission, particularly in raising awareness of the importance of this initiative to our state. Furthermore, the end product of this system, the annual accountability reports, has become an important mechanism for disseminating information on the status and performance of public education in the state of Louisiana. With the induction of the new Louisiana District Accountability System in 2001-2002, two years of district-level accountability reports have been released and have added to the strength of the Louisiana accountability model.

On January 8, 2002, President Bush signed into law the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB), P.L.107-110. This law is a blueprint of the national agenda for educational reform that Congress has enacted to ensure that no child is left behind. As such, the blueprint focuses greatly on holding school systems accountable for producing results. A major tenet of the law is “increased accountability for student performance,” with an acknowledged priority of “improving the academic performance of disadvantaged children by closing the achievement gap.” To meet this goal, the law cites cause for the federal investment in Title I to be spent more effectively and with greater accountability. This proposal changed previous laws by requiring states, school districts, and schools receiving Title I funds to ensure that all student groups meet high standards. Efforts to close the achievement gap revolve around the implementation of accountability and high standards, annual academic assessments, and consequences for schools that fail to educate disadvantaged students (United States Department of Education, NCLB of 2001).

Fortunately, the existing Louisiana School and District Accountability System meets many of the requirements of the new law. The state of Louisiana was already engaged in annual assessments of its students, reporting on student groups, assessing adequate yearly progress, helping low performing schools via corrective action and technical and professional assistance, as well as rewarding high performing and growing schools. However, Louisiana had to modify and/or expand some of its existing system to come into full compliance with the new federal law. Since the signing of the NCLB law, the Louisiana Department of Education (LDE) has moved aggressively toward its implementation. All states were required to submit “Accountability Workbooks” to the U.S. Department of Education by January 31, 2003. Louisiana’s “Accountability Workbook” maintained most aspects of the original accountability system while incorporating additional elements as required by NCLB. Following the peer review and revision process, Louisiana’s “Accountability Workbook” was approved by the USDOE on May 17, 2003.

The new aspects of the Louisiana School and District Accountability System were reflected in the 2002-2003 school accountability release on November 20, 2003. Education Week, a nationally renowned K-12 education publication, ranked Louisiana’s standards and accountability programs as the best in the country as part of its Quality Counts 2004 Report. With every state in the nation focusing on accountability because of NCLB, this is an indication that Louisiana is at the cutting edge in education reform.

Key Facets of the Louisiana School and District Accountability System

There are five key facets to Louisiana’s School and District Accountability System, as shown below.
Facet 1—Challenging Curriculum and Content Standards. In the ongoing effort to raise educational performance, the Louisiana Department of Education (LDE) substantially upgraded the curriculum for public school students via the content standards in all major subject areas beginning in 1997. In order to be prepared for the demands of the classroom and for the fiercely-competitive job market, students must demonstrate competency in certain foundation skills (communication, problem solving, resource access and utilization, linking and generating knowledge, and citizenship). These foundation skills form the base for all content standards, which reflect the essential concepts and skills students are expected to know and perform. The content standards are specified for grade ranges (e.g., K-4, 5-8, and 9-12) and are further delineated through benchmarks. The content standards have been developed for all Louisiana students, including students with disabilities, gifted and talented students, and linguistically and culturally diverse students.

In February of 2004, Louisiana released the Grade-Level Expectations (GLEs) for English language arts, mathematics, science and social studies in grades PK through 12. A GLE is a statement that defines what all students should be able to do at the end of a grade level, thus adding further definition to the content standards and benchmarks. The state’s assessment programs will fully reflect the GLEs beginning in the spring of 2006.

Facet 2—Assessment Program. A new, rigorous assessment program for Louisiana students began in spring of 1999. Additional assessments for high school students and students with significant disabilities have been added in recent years. The assessment program includes:

- The criterion-referenced tests (CRT), or the Louisiana Educational Assessment Program for the 21st Century (LEAP 21) tests, measure how well students master the state’s content standards. The LEAP 21 tests are administered to students in 4th and 8th grades. In the spring of 2000, the English Language Arts (ELA) and the Mathematics LEAP 21 tests became high stakes tests: no 4th or 8th grade student scoring at the Unsatisfactory achievement level on the ELA or Mathematics test could be promoted fully to the next grade. The ELA and Mathematics tests of the new high school CRT, the Graduation Exit Examination for the 21st Century (GEE 21), were implemented in spring of 2001. The Science and Social Studies GEE 21 tests were implemented in the spring of 2002. To graduate from a Louisiana public school, a student who was a first-time 10th grader in 2000-2001 was required to score at the Approaching Basic achievement level or above on both the ELA and Mathematics tests. Students who were first-time 10th graders in 2001-2002 and thereafter must also score Approaching Basic or above on either the Science or the Social Studies test.

- The norm-referenced tests (NRT), or The Iowa Tests, compare the performance of Louisiana students to the performance of students nationally. The Iowa Tests are administered to students in grades 3, 5, 6, 7, 8 (for Option 2 students, or grade 8 repeaters on a high school campus), and 9 and to Options (PreGED/Skills) Program students.

- The LEAP Alternate Assessment (LAA) evaluates the progress of students with significant disabilities who do not participate in the typical statewide assessments (the CRT and NRT). The LAA test results were included in the school accountability results for the first time in the 2002-2003.

Facet 3—School and District Performance Monitoring and Reporting. Beginning with the 2002-2003 school accountability release, every public school was evaluated in two areas to determine if Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) had been made. The first area is the School Performance Score (SPS) Component. Each public school is assigned an SPS on an annual basis indicating the academic status of its
students. The SPS for each school is a weighted composite index, using indicators and weighting factors as outlined below. To make AYP for the SPS Component, a school had to have an SPS of 45 or above. Schools are assigned Performance Labels based on the SPS and Growth Labels based on the amount of growth achieved. In prior years, the school accountability model was comprised of two-year cycles, thus labels were assigned every other year, or once per cycle. Beginning in 2002-2003, the school accountability system became an annual determination of school performance and progress; therefore, labels will be assigned every year. The second area evaluated is the Subgroup Component. To make AYP for the Subgroup Component, each subgroup must meet requirements in three areas: test participation, academic performance, and an additional academic indicator (attendance rate or non-dropout rate) for all required subgroups. These subgroups include five ethnicity subgroups, students with disabilities, limited English proficient students, economically disadvantaged students, and all students in the school.

Each district receives a District Performance Score (DPS) using the same indicators and weighting factors as the SPS. The DPS is a roll-up of the student-level SPS data for a given year. Every other year, districts receive a District Responsibility Index (DRI) and the corresponding DRI Label. The DRI focuses on responsibilities of local school boards and district administrators and is comprised of four indicators (School Improvement, LEAP 21 Passing Rate, Summer School, and Certified Teachers). District-level subgroup performance is evaluated through the Subgroup Performance Scores (GPS) roll-up of the student-level SPS data by subgroup. Beginning with the 2002-2003 release of district accountability results, districts will be evaluated to determine if AYP is made for the district-level subgroup component. This DCR will be released before that data is available.

Facet 4—Assistance to Low Performing Schools and Districts. School Improvement (SI), formerly called Corrective Actions (CA), is a facet of the accountability system intended to help low performing and stagnant schools improve. A school that does not meet performance and growth requirements will enter or move further into School Improvement. A school in School Improvement shall receive additional support and assistance with the expectation that extensive efforts shall be made by students, parents, teachers, principals, administrators, and the school board to improve student achievement at the school. There are six levels of School Improvement, SI 1 through SI 6. Only the first four levels are applicable in 2002-2003.

Movement into and among the different levels of School Improvement is essentially dependent on the school’s SPS, whether AYP was made for the Subgroup Component, the amount of growth relative to the Growth Target, and the school’s prior SI/CA status. The type of remedies required for a given level of SI depends on the Title I status of the school and are additive in nature as a school moves to higher SI levels.

Districts that receive the lowest DRI Label, Unsatisfactory, shall become subject to an operational audit. If the district receives the Unsatisfactory label again within two years, the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (SBESE) shall have the authority to act on the audit findings. The SBESE and the Louisiana Department of Education are currently developing procedures for assisting low-performing districts, such as training in data interpretation and improvement planning and dialogue with districts over problematic areas.

For a more detailed description of the rules and regulations which apply to School Improvement, please refer to Bulletin 111: Louisiana School, District, and State Accountability Policy, which can be found on the LDE’s website at www.louisianaschools.net/lde/bese/home.html.

Facet 5—Recognition and Rewards. The LDE closely monitors the progress of schools against short-term goals, the Growth Targets, as
well as the long-term 2014 goal. Schools showing adequate progress by meeting or surpassing their Growth Targets are recognized with positive Growth Labels. Schools receive monetary rewards if they also show growth for two subgroups: high poverty students and students with disabilities. Reward amounts are calculated on a per pupil basis. Districts do not receive rewards but are recognized for their successes through their labels.

More information on the school accountability system can be found in Section 2, and more information on the district accountability system can be found in Section 1.

Public Reporting of Educational and Accountability Data

To offer the most comprehensive overview possible and to serve the specific needs of varied audiences, the LDE has provided three levels of reporting. Given the differences in perspective audiences as well as the differences in the intended use of this information, all levels of these reports are developed and disseminated on an annual basis.

1. School and District Accountability Reports are tailored to the needs of parents and the general public, as well as school and district administrators and other key personnel. Based on the NCLB requirements, all states are required to produce a state report card for every public school. Currently in Louisiana, this state report card is a combination of four reports, each created to meet the needs of different audiences. First, the School Report Card for Parents is written with the average parent and others of the general public in mind. It provides the highlights of the school accountability results, including the Subgroup Component. Copies of the School Report Card for Parents are delivered to the principals for distribution to all parents. Second, the School Accountability Report Card for Principals, is written to convey school level information to school administrators and faculty. It is more technical in content to provide information needed when planning school improvement efforts. Both School Report Cards provide an excellent overview of the school’s performance and progress toward achieving the state’s 2014 goal. Third, the School Accountability Results Report contains two tables (a summary of school accountability results by district and state and a listing of school-level information by district). This report is used by the media at the time of the data release, and the spreadsheet versions of this report on the web are useful to researchers wanting to further analyze the school accountability data. Finally, the Subgroup Component Report describes for each school the Subgroup Component of the accountability model. In addition, a report of the Subgroup Performance Scores (GPS) by school is provided on the web.

In May 2002, the first district-wide accountability scores were released, as well as the District Report Card, which provides an overview of the district’s performance. The Superintendent’s Diagnostic Report provides the details of the District Responsibility Index calculations for use by district administrators. A report of various rankings (e.g., District Performance Score ranking, growth ranking) of the public school districts is contained on the web. A report of district-level Subgroup Performance Scores (GPS) is also included on the web.

2. District Composite Reports (DCRs) are produced for all 66 Louisiana public school districts on an annual basis. The most detailed and comprehensive of the three levels of reporting, these reports contain longitudinal data on all indicators, including the accountability performance results. The DCRs are intended to serve as an effective tool to aid policymakers and district administrators in identifying opportunities for school improvement.

3. The Louisiana State Education Progress Report is best suited to the needs of the general reader. It provides a succinct overview of the major characteristics of Louisiana education based on accountability results and the supporting analysis of the various indicators.

Accurate and Reliable Reporting

Measurement is a process involving both theoretical as well as empirical considerations. Most assuredly, research based on the inadequate measurement of indicators does not result in a greater understanding of the particular indicator (Carmines and Zeller, 1979). Though it is widely recognized that the best educational policy is made when officials have access to accurate information, the use of inaccurate or unreliable data is more dangerous than no information at all. Recognizing this risk, the LDE has made every effort to ensure the reliability and validity of the data reported in the accountability reports. Prior to release and publication, LDE and district staff examine each indicator through a meticulous data correction and verification process. The accountability program has grown substantially over the past
several years. The LDE has established an elaborate process for data verification and analyses to ensure that quality is an intrinsic part of each accountability report.

Key Features of This Report

Longitudinal Analysis

Up to six years of data (the current year and the five previous years where available) are presented in the District Composite Report. Each year, this report is updated by adding the most current year’s data and deleting the data that are more than six years old. Incorporating longitudinal data in the District Composite Report enables policymakers to anticipate changes in educational outcomes, not just describe them (Smith, 1988). However, longitudinal reporting does complicate the presentation of data. To assist users in interpreting data, tables in the District Composite Report have been formatted as follows:

1. Cross-sectional data (i.e., for any given year) are presented vertically in columns. School-to-school comparisons can be made within any given year by scanning up and down columns.

2. Longitudinal data are presented horizontally in rows. An individual school’s progress on any single indicator can be charted over time by scanning left-to-right across columns.

3. Schools are listed in sequential order, based on school site code and school category.

To facilitate longitudinal and cross-sectional tracking of individual schools, the LDE has included in all the tables the six digit site code assigned to all public schools. In instances for which certain data may not be available for a school, the tilde symbol (~) will be displayed. There are also some tables for which the presence of data is “not applicable” for reasons such as the design requirements of the accountability model and the phasing in of the new criterion-referenced tests. In these cases, the notation “N/A” will be displayed. As always, longitudinal data for the prior years not contained in the current DCR are still accessible through the previous District Composite Reports available on the LDE web site (www.louisianaschools.net).

1998-1999 as the Initial Year of Data

The initial year of data reported in this DCR is the 1998-1999 data, where available. The 1998-1999 school year was chosen for two main reasons. First, 1998-1999 was the first year accountability results were released. Only schools with grades K-8 were included in the accountability model in 1998-1999. Second, in the 1998-1999 year the implementation of the new CRT, the LEAP 21, began with the first administration of the English Language Arts and Mathematics tests to grade 4 and 8 students.

The phasing in of the new high school CRT, the GEE 21, did not begin until 2000-2001, and subsequently grades 9 through 12 became part of the accountability model in 2000-2001. As a result, schools with grade configurations that include grades 9-12 may not have assessment and/or accountability data reported for years prior to 2000-2001.

Changes to the school accountability model in 2002-2003 have made some of the school accountability results incomparable longitudinally. In these instances, prior year accountability data have been omitted from this report and replaced with shaded cells.

School Categorization

School category comparison statistics are presented by district and for the state as a whole for those indicators that are not reported by grade level. The indicators with category averages include class size, attendance, suspension, and expulsion. This homogeneous grouping of schools by level of instruction fosters the fairest comparisons. The 1,551 Louisiana public schools have been placed into one of the four school categories of Elementary, Middle/Junior High, High, and Combination. The specific definition for each school category is provided in Section 2 of this report.

If a school has been re-categorized due to a change in grade structure, that school’s longitudinal data will appear in more than one category. For example, if Central High School had grades 9-12 from 1998-1999 through 2000-2001, its longitudinal data for those years would appear in the high school category. If Central High School became a K-12 school in 2001-2002, its data for 2001-2002 and thereafter would appear in the combination school category.
Organization and Contents of this Report

This report has been organized into five sections, each encompassing a series of related educational indicators.

- **Section 1. District Summary.** The summary tables in this section offer district-level information for all indicators, including the school and district accountability results. In addition to quick-reference tables on various indicators, district socioeconomic, demographic, and financial data are also included to give a more complete picture of the Louisiana school districts. School performance is influenced by community socioeconomic characteristics and by the level of local financial support for public education. Section 1 presents socioeconomic and financial indicators such as parish household income, unemployment rates, district revenues, expenditures, and average teacher salaries.

- **Section 2. School Characteristics and Accountability Information.** The context within which students are educated and the level of educational resources available to them impact learning and performance results. Section 2 provides a quick summary of each school’s accountability results (i.e., School Performance Score, Growth Label, Performance Label, Growth Target and School Improvement status). This section also focuses on key educational “inputs” and resources at the school level; i.e., the size of the student body and faculty, the school’s category (e.g., elementary schools, middle schools, etc.), class sizes, and the academic preparation of faculty.

- **Section 3. Student Participation.** For students to receive an education, they must first have the opportunity to learn; thus, the extent to which students are present and actively engaged in schooling is of vital importance (Oakes, 1989). Section 3 presents four indicators that provide some measure of student participation: attendance, suspensions/expulsions, retention, and dropouts.

- **Section 4. Student Achievement.** This section reports two types of school-level outputs: student performance on (1) criterion-referenced tests (CRTs), which measure students’ performance on state-prescribed curricula; and (2) norm-referenced tests (NRTs), which indicate how Louisiana students compare with other students nationally. The CRT results reported for grades 4 and 8 are based on the Louisiana Educational Assessment Program for the 21st Century or LEAP 21, implemented in the spring of 1999. The new Graduation Exit Examination (GEE 21), designed for high school students, is administered to initial testers in grades 10 and 11 and was implemented in spring of 2001. The NRT results, which are also part of the Louisiana Educational Assessment Program (LEAP), reflect student performance utilizing two tests. The first test, the *Iowa Tests of Basic Skills (ITBS)*, is administered to eligible students in grades 3, 5, 6, and 7; the second, the *Iowa Tests of Educational Development (ITED)*, is administered to eligible students in grade 9. The *ITED* is also administered to some grade 8 students (Option 2 students) and Options (PreGED/Skills) Program students.

- **Section 5. College Readiness.** One goal of elementary-secondary schooling is to ensure that those students seeking an advanced education are adequately prepared for college. This report presents two indicators of college readiness: (1) student performance on the American College Test (ACT), a national test commonly used for college placement purposes and (2) the percentage of first-time college freshmen who take developmental courses.

A brief narrative introduces each indicator presented in this report and is organized as follows:

- an introduction to the indicator and its significance in the study and/or promotion of student learning;
- a description of how data are organized in the accompanying table(s);
- definitions of key terms, where applicable;
- formulas/equations used to calculate statistics, where applicable; and
- the source(s) of the data presented.

A glossary at the end of this report provides operational definitions for additional key terms.
References


For Additional Information

The Louisiana Department of Education maintains an extensive list of education-related publications, which are available to the general public. The following provides a listing of key reports:

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For more information, please visit the LDE Web site at [www.louisianaschools.net](http://www.louisianaschools.net).
Section 1. District Summary

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District Indicator Summary Results

This section presents the district-level results for the six groups of education indicators. The overall objective of this section is to provide the readers with a brief summary of the district’s performance in the six areas as described below. It should be noted that state level results are also included (when available) in this summary section.

1) **School Characteristics and Accountability Information:** A data summary of the district’s school accountability results (i.e., Performance Labels, Growth Labels, School Improvement, Rewards, and Adequate Yearly Progress) is provided. District Accountability results are also presented, including the District Performance Score (DPS) and the district-level Subgroup Performance Scores (GPS). Both scores are roll-ups of the student-level School or Subgroup Performance Score data from one year. All school and district accountability information displayed is post-appeals. Key educational “inputs” and resources at the school level, such as the size of the student body and faculty, the school’s category (e.g., elementary schools, middle schools, etc.), class size, and the academic preparation of the faculty, are presented in tables 1a through 1j, in addition to the school and district accountability information.

2) **Student Participation:** District-level summary results on four key student participation indicators, including attendance, suspensions and expulsions, retention, and dropouts, are presented in tables 2a through 2d.

3) **Student Achievement:** District-level summary results on two types of output indicators are reported. These indicators include (1) criterion-referenced tests (CRT), which measure students’ performance on state-prescribed curricula; and (2) norm-referenced tests (NRT), which compare the performance of students in Louisiana with that of students nationally. These indicators can be found in tables 3a through 3c.

4) **College Readiness:** District-level summary results on two key indicators of college readiness are found in tables 4a and 4b. These indicators include (1) student performance on the American College Test (ACT), a national test commonly used for college placement purposes; and (2) number and percent of first-time college freshmen who enroll in developmental courses.

5) **Parish Socioeconomic and Demographic Profile:** This section offers an overview of the parish’s socioeconomic and demographic makeup based on the recent census data. Figure 5 presents this data.

6) **District Financial Profile:** This section offers a financial overview of the district and provides the reader with a clear picture of the financial supports within the district. Figure 6 presents various sorts of financial data.
# District Indicator Results

## School Characteristics and Accountability Information

### Table 1a: Public Schools

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<td>16</td>
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<td>15</td>
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<tr>
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### State

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### Table 1b: Schools by Performance Label* (Starting from 2002-2003)

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<td>Four Stars (****)</td>
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<tr>
<td>One Star (*)</td>
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<tr>
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### State

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* Starting in 2002-2003, schools were assigned revised Performance Labels.

Natchitoches Parish, Page 1-2
## District Indicator Results

### School Characteristics and Accountability Information

### Table 1c: Schools By Growth Label

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</table>

* No label is assigned to schools with a Baseline or Growth SPS of 100 or more which have not met their Growth Targets.

N/A = Not Applicable: Growth Labels have been assigned once every two years.
### District Indicator Results

**School Characteristics and Accountability Information**

#### Table 1d: Schools By Level of School Improvement*

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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>Percent</td>
<td>Number</td>
<td>Percent</td>
<td>Number</td>
<td>Percent</td>
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* Starting in 2002-2003, schools that do not meet the performance and growth requirements are placed in School Improvement.
## District Indicator Results

### School Characteristics and Accountability Information

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<td>Subgroup Performance Scores (GPS)</td>
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<td>- White</td>
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<td>- Economically Disadvantaged (Free and Reduced Lunch)</td>
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<td>- Students with Disabilities</td>
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<td>- Limited English Proficient (LEP)</td>
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N/A = Not Applicable: School rewards have been determined and distributed once every two years.

~ = Unavailable or insufficient data

* District Performance Scores and district subgroup reporting started in 2000-2001 for K-8 grades only and was expanded to grades (K-12) beginning with 2001-2002. 2002-2003 data were not available at the time of this publication.
## District Indicator Results

*School Characteristics and Accountability Information*

| Table 1f: State Accountability and Subgroup Performance Scores* |
|-------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| State             |          |          |          |          |          |          |
| **K-8 Grades only** |          |          |          |          |          |          |
| State Performance Score |          |          | 80.8    | 80.8    | ~        |          |
| **Subgroup Performance Scores (GPS)** |          |          |          |          |          |          |
| - African American/Black |          |          | 60.3    | 59.9    | ~        |          |
| - American Indian/Native Alaskan |          |          | 79.7    | 76.1    | ~        |          |
| - Asian/Pacific Islander |          |          | 101.5   | 103.3   | ~        |          |
| - Hispanic |          |          | 83.4    | 83.1    | ~        |          |
| - White |          |          | 100.9   | 100.9   | ~        |          |
| - Economically Disadvantaged (Free and Reduced Lunch) |          |          | 69.2    | 68.5    | ~        |          |
| - Students with Disabilities |          |          | 42.9    | 48.9    | ~        |          |
| - Limited English Proficient (LEP) |          |          | 71.6    | 77.9    | ~        |          |
| **K-12 Grades** |          |          |          |          |          |          |
| State Performance Score |          |          | ~       | 77.6    | ~        |          |
| **Subgroup Performance Scores (GPS)** |          |          |          |          |          |          |
| - African American/Black |          |          | ~       | 55.7    | ~        |          |
| - American Indian/Native Alaskan |          |          | ~       | 74.4    | ~        |          |
| - Asian/Pacific Islander |          |          | ~       | 101.5   | ~        |          |
| - Hispanic |          |          | ~       | 79.9    | ~        |          |
| - White |          |          | ~       | 98.0    | ~        |          |
| - Economically Disadvantaged (Free and Reduced Lunch) |          |          | ~       | 64.8    | ~        |          |
| - Students with Disabilities |          |          | ~       | 42.1    | ~        |          |
| - Limited English Proficient (LEP) |          |          | ~       | 72.7    | ~        |          |

~ = Unavailable or insufficient data

* State Performance Scores and State subgroup reporting started in 2000-2001 for K-8 grades only and was expanded to grades (K-12) beginning with 2001-2002. 2002-2003 data were not available at the time of this publication.
### District Indicator Results

**School Characteristics and Accountability Information**

#### Table 1g: Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) Data*

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* = Unavailable or insufficient data

* Beginning in 2002-2003, AYP was determined for each school.

** This information became available for reporting starting in 2002-2003.

*** Core classes are English, math, science, social studies, foreign languages and the arts.
## District Indicator Results

### School Characteristics and Accountability Information

**Table 1j: Class Size Characteristics**

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~ = Unavailable or insufficient data
**District Indicator Results**

*School Characteristics and Accountability Information*

Table 1j: Class Size Characteristics

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~ = Unavailable or insufficient data
# District Indicator Results

**Student Participation**

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~ = Unavailable or insufficient data
## District Indicator Results

### Student Participation

#### Table 2b: Student Suspensions and Expulsions

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~ = Unavailable or insufficient data
## District Indicator Results

### Student Participation

#### Table 2b: Student Suspensions and Expulsions

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~ = Unavailable or insufficient data
### District Indicator Results

#### Student Participation

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~ = Unavailable or insufficient data
## District Indicator Results

### Student Participation

**Table 2d: Student Dropouts**

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~ = Unavailable or insufficient data

* Current year's Student Dropout data were not available at the time of this publication. Previous year's data are displayed as the most recently available data.
## District Indicator Results

### Student Achievement

### Table 3a: LEAP 21 Test Results

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* Starting in spring 2003, the Proficient achievement level was changed to Mastery.
## District Indicator Results
### Student Achievement

**Table 3a: LEAP 21 Test Results**

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## District Indicator Results
### Student Achievement

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~ = Unavailable or insufficient data

N/A = Not Applicable: Science and Social Studies tests of the LEAP 21 test were first administered to 4th and 8th graders in spring 2000.

* Starting in spring 2003, the Proficient achievement level was changed to Mastery.
### District Indicator Results

#### Student Achievement

Table 3b: Graduation Exit Examination (GEE 21) Results

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~ = Unavailable or insufficient data

N/A = Not Applicable: English Language Arts and Mathematics tests of the new GEE 21 test were first administered in spring 2001.

Science and Social Studies tests of the GEE 21 test were first administered in spring 2002.

* Starting in spring 2003, the Proficient achievement level was changed to Mastery.
# District Indicator Results

## Student Achievement

Table 3b: Graduation Exit Examination (GEE 21) Results

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# District Indicator Results

## Student Achievement

Table 3c: The Iowa Test Results and Percentile Rank of Average Standard Scores

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~ = Unavailable or insufficient data

1 Please use caution when comparing the spring of 2003 The Iowa Test Results with the results from prior years because a new form of the test was used in the spring of 2003.

2 The four quartiles comprise the following ranges of percentile ranks: 1-24 (first quartile), 25-49 (second quartile), 50-74 (third quartile), and 75-99 (fourth quartile).
## District Indicator Results

### Student Achievement

Table 3c: The Iowa Test Results\(^1\) and Percentile Rank of Average Standard Scores

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<td>15.9</td>
<td>18.3</td>
<td>18.7</td>
<td>20.0</td>
<td>14.9</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Third Quartile</td>
<td>24.6</td>
<td>24.8</td>
<td>25.8</td>
<td>27.7</td>
<td>23.9</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second Quartile</td>
<td>31.4</td>
<td>32.3</td>
<td>32.9</td>
<td>33.6</td>
<td>32.6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First Quartile</td>
<td>28.1</td>
<td>24.7</td>
<td>22.6</td>
<td>18.7</td>
<td>28.6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Percentile Rank</strong></td>
<td>45</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>44</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Grade 07</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fourth Quartile</td>
<td>15.2</td>
<td>17.0</td>
<td>18.0</td>
<td>17.9</td>
<td>18.7</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Third Quartile</td>
<td>24.1</td>
<td>26.1</td>
<td>25.6</td>
<td>26.6</td>
<td>24.3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second Quartile</td>
<td>31.4</td>
<td>30.0</td>
<td>30.3</td>
<td>30.1</td>
<td>33.1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First Quartile</td>
<td>29.4</td>
<td>26.8</td>
<td>26.1</td>
<td>25.5</td>
<td>23.9</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Percentile Rank</strong></td>
<td>44</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>48</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Grade 09</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fourth Quartile</td>
<td>16.5</td>
<td>17.3</td>
<td>20.1</td>
<td>18.7</td>
<td>18.4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Third Quartile</td>
<td>24.8</td>
<td>26.2</td>
<td>29.1</td>
<td>27.7</td>
<td>25.4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second Quartile</td>
<td>29.5</td>
<td>29.4</td>
<td>30.5</td>
<td>31.0</td>
<td>31.1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First Quartile</td>
<td>29.2</td>
<td>27.1</td>
<td>20.2</td>
<td>22.6</td>
<td>25.1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Percentile Rank</strong></td>
<td>44</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>47</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\(^{-}\) = Unavailable or insufficient data

\(^{1}\) Please use caution when comparing the spring of 2003 The Iowa Test Results with the results from prior years because a new form of the test was used in the spring of 2003.

\(^{2}\) The four quartiles comprise the following ranges of percentile ranks: 1-24 (first quartile), 25-49 (second quartile), 50-74 (third quartile), and 75-99 (fourth quartile).
**District Indicator Results**

*College Readiness*

**Table 4a: American College Test (ACT) Results**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>ACT Average Composite Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>District</td>
<td>18.6 18.6 19.1 18.5 18.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State</td>
<td>19.6 19.6 19.6 19.6 19.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Table 4b: First-Time College Freshmen Performance**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>Percent</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Percent</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Percent</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Percent</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Percent</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of High School Graduates ¹</td>
<td>1 311</td>
<td>326</td>
<td>1 342</td>
<td>354</td>
<td>1 353</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HS Graduates Who Were First-Time College Freshmen</td>
<td>45.3 141</td>
<td>46.9 153</td>
<td>40.9 140</td>
<td>43.5 154</td>
<td>47.3 167</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First-Time Freshmen Enrolled in College Developmental Courses</td>
<td>51.8 73</td>
<td>54.9 84</td>
<td>56.4 79</td>
<td>42.2 65</td>
<td>53.3 89</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**State**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>Percent</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Percent</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Percent</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Percent</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Percent</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of High School Graduates ¹</td>
<td>1 38,360</td>
<td>38,038</td>
<td>38,959</td>
<td>38,314</td>
<td>37,905</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HS Graduates Who Were First-Time College Freshmen</td>
<td>42.7 16,382</td>
<td>42.2 16,055</td>
<td>40.7 15,867</td>
<td>39.9 15,299</td>
<td>42.0 15,925</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First-Time Freshmen Enrolled in College Developmental Courses</td>
<td>45.6 7,472</td>
<td>41.7 6,691</td>
<td>40.6 6,437</td>
<td>38.6 5,900</td>
<td>39.5 6,293</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

~ = Unavailable or insufficient data

¹ Represents diploma graduates from the previous school year.
Parish Socioeconomic And Demographic Profile

The socioeconomic and demographic composition of the parish may shed light on household situations, and thus, the educational system of a school district. Issues such as income, poverty rate, single parent households, and teen pregnancy affect family function, which is strongly linked to achievement. This section examines state- and national-level information for each parish’s socioeconomic and demographic indicator presented.

Definitions

- **Population by Race** is divided into three major groups: white, black, and “other.” The “other” category consists of Native Americans and Asian/Pacific Islanders. It should be noted that, according to the 1990 Bureau of Census data, Hispanic origin can be viewed as the ancestry, nationality group, lineage, or country of birth of the person or the person’s parents or ancestors before their arrival in the United States. Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race and are, therefore, included in the categories of white, black, and “other.”

- **Population Change During the Past Decade**

  In Census 2000, people were counted at their *usual residence*, a principle followed in each census since 1790. *Usual residence* has been defined as the place where the person lives and sleeps most of the time. This place is not necessarily the same as the person's voting residence or legal residence. Noncitizens who are living in the United States are included, regardless of their immigration status. Persons temporarily away from their usual residence, such as on vacation or on a business trip on Census Day, were counted at their usual residence. People who live at more than one residence during the week, month, or year were counted at the place where they live most of the year. People without a usual residence, however, were counted where they were staying on Census Day.

  **Population-Scope and Methodology:**

  The scope of residence was derived from answers to questions that were asked of all people in Census 2000. Population percent change, 1990 to 2000, is derived by dividing the difference between the population in 2000 and 1990 by the 1990 population.

- **Education Attainment** is divided into three levels:
  1. **Less than high school degree**: persons of compulsory school attendance age or above who are not enrolled in school and are not high school graduates.
  2. **High school degree**: persons whose highest degree is a high school diploma or its equivalent and those who have attempted some college or have received an associate degree. Persons who completed the twelfth grade but did not receive a diploma are not included.
  3. **Bachelor's degree or higher**: persons who have received a college, university, or professional degree.

- **Student Participation in Free and Reduced Price Lunch Program**

  In educational research, the percentage of students participating in the federally-subsidized Free and Reduced Price Lunch Program is used as an indicator of family economic condition. The bar graph shows the percentage of Louisiana public school student body who participated in the Free or Reduced Price Lunch Program for the parish as well as the state. Data were taken from the Student Information System (SIS).

  These following types of data were supplied by the Bureau of the Census.

- **Median Household Income** is the sum of money income received in the previous calendar year by all household members 15 years old and over, including household members not related to the householder, people living alone, and others in nonfamily households. The median household income reported here was produced through statistical modeling. These data support a 1997 model-based estimate and were supplied by the 2000 Bureau of the Census.

- **Persons and Children Living Below Poverty**

  Families and persons are classified as below poverty level if their total family income or unrelated individual income was less than the poverty threshold specified for the applicable family size, age of householder, and number of related children under 18 present (see link below for poverty level thresholds). The state and county (or parish) estimates were produced through statistical modeling.
Poverty status is determined for all families (and, by implication, all family members). For persons not in families, poverty status is determined by their income in relation to the appropriate poverty threshold. Thus, two unrelated individuals living together may not have the same poverty status. The poverty thresholds are updated every year to reflect changes in the Consumer Price Index. See source for more details or see Poverty Definition, Thresholds, and Guidelines at http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/poverty.html. See http://www.census.gov/hhes/poverty/threshld/thresh97.html for Poverty Thresholds in 1997, by Size of Family and Number of Related Children Under 18 Years.

- **Teenage Birth Rate** is the total number of pregnant women under the age of 19 divided by the total number of pregnant women.

- **Female Parent Household Rate** is the number of single parent households (defined as a “female householder with no husband, with or without her own children under the age of 18”) divided by the total number of households. These data are supplied by the 2000 Bureau of the Census.

- **Unemployment Rate** is the total number of persons not working, who are available and seeking work, regardless of age, as a percentage of the civilian labor force. This information is considered the official unemployment rate and is typically cited in comparisons. These data were supplied by the Department of Labor and were reported in the 2000 Bureau of the Census Data.
Natchitoches Parish Socioeconomic and Demographic Overview

Figure 5

As each school district works toward its educational vision and goals, social and economic factors within the parish may directly or indirectly affect the educational experience of students. An overview of the relevant demographic and socioeconomic profile of each parish places the education indicator data presented in this report in the proper context. These data provide a socioeconomic and demographic profile of the parish as a whole, not the public school district. In preparing this section, every effort was made to obtain the most recent data available for each indicator.

### Population by Race

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Race</th>
<th>Parish Number</th>
<th>Parish Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>22,608</td>
<td>57.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black</td>
<td>15,017</td>
<td>38.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>1,455</td>
<td>3.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>39,080</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Population Change During the Past Decade (1990-2000)

Parish: 13.1%
State: 5.9%
Nation: 4.9%

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000.

### Educational Attainment at State and National Levels

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Educational Level</th>
<th>Parish</th>
<th>State</th>
<th>Nation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Less Than High School</td>
<td>21.4%</td>
<td>7.2%</td>
<td>24.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High School but Less Than Bachelor’s</td>
<td>59.1%</td>
<td>58.4%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bachelor’s or Higher</td>
<td>19.5%</td>
<td>21.5%</td>
<td>24.4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


### Income and Poverty

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Parish</th>
<th>State</th>
<th>Nation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Median Household Income</td>
<td>$23,874</td>
<td>$30,466</td>
<td>$37,005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Persons Below Poverty</td>
<td>24.9%</td>
<td>18.4%</td>
<td>13.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children Below Poverty</td>
<td>33.5%</td>
<td>26.0%</td>
<td>19.9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000.

### Teenage Birth and Single Motherhood

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Parish</th>
<th>State</th>
<th>Nation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Teenage Birth Rate (1)</td>
<td>20.0%</td>
<td>17.0%</td>
<td>12.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female Householders (2)</td>
<td>17.7%</td>
<td>16.6%</td>
<td>12.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000.
District Financial Profile

Financial information broadens the understanding of how public school districts function and provides additional context for the interpretation of educational indicators. The two major components of the financial information are revenues and expenditures.

Definitions

- **Revenues**—Financial resources received by the LEA from various sources for use in providing public education to students.

  Revenues are received from three main sources:
  1. **Local**: monies collected directly by a district through local taxes (ad valorem, sales, and use taxes), bonds, revenues from other local government units, tuition, transportation fees, earnings of investments, food service operations, and community service operations.
  2. **State**: monies appropriated by the state government to the local public school districts, such as the Minimum Foundation Program (MFP) formula, grants-in-aid, and other specific programs such as 8(g) and Education Excellence Fund.
  3. **Federal**: monies received from the federal government and allocated to the local public school districts through a variety of programs such as No Child Left Behind (NCLB), Reserve Officer Training Corps Program (ROTC), Headstart Programs, School Food Service, Adult Basic Education, and Special Education.
  4. **District revenues per pupil**: total revenues divided by the October 1 Elementary/Secondary Membership.

- **Expenditures**—Charges incurred for providing public education, whether paid or unpaid, which benefit the current fiscal year. Total expenditures include the following categories:
  1. **Instructional expenditures**: monies spent for classroom instruction, pupil support, and instructional staff support.
  2. **Non-instructional expenditures**: monies spent for school administration, business services, operations and maintenance, transportation, food services, enterprise operation, and community services.
  3. **Facility acquisition and construction services**: monies spent for activities concerned with acquiring land and buildings, remodeling buildings, constructing buildings and additions to buildings, initially installing or extending service systems and other built-in equipment, and improving sites.
  4. **District expenditures per pupil**: current expenditures (total expenditures less equipment, Facility Acquisition and Construction and Debt Service) divided by the October 2 Elementary and Secondary Membership.

- **Elementary and Secondary Membership**—The number of pre-Kindergarten (PK), grades K-12, and non-graded (NG) students in membership as of October 2, 2001. This number includes regular education and prekindergarten students and does not include special education preschool students and infants.

- **Average Classroom Teacher's Salary**—The average of actual salaries, including Professional Improvement Program (PIP) payments, reported for all full-time and part-time classroom teachers (excluding rehired retirees and ROTC instructors), who were employed during any period of the school year by the public school districts. Data are based on teacher-level data submitted by districts to the LDE via the End-of-year Profile of Educational Personnel (PEP) report. The average classroom teacher’s salary is calculated as follows:

  \[
  \text{Total Actual Salaries (including PIP)} \div \text{Total Related Teachers' Full-Time Equivalents}
  \]

Note: District data are as of the publication date of this report. Audits of student and financial data may result in revision subsequent to the publication of this report. Some districts’ financial data may be adjusted after the publication of this report because of audits.
Natchitoches Parish Financial Profile

Figure 6

District Revenue by Source

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Revenue Source</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>% of District Total</th>
<th>State Average %</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>% of District Total</th>
<th>State Average %</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>% of District Total</th>
<th>State Average %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Local</td>
<td>$13,393,488</td>
<td>30.1%</td>
<td>39.0%</td>
<td>$14,152,958</td>
<td>30.5%</td>
<td>39.7%</td>
<td>$13,427,241</td>
<td>28.4%</td>
<td>38.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State</td>
<td>$23,654,959</td>
<td>53.2%</td>
<td>49.3%</td>
<td>$24,474,483</td>
<td>52.8%</td>
<td>48.7%</td>
<td>$25,543,917</td>
<td>54.0%</td>
<td>48.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal</td>
<td>$7,418,677</td>
<td>16.7%</td>
<td>11.7%</td>
<td>$7,746,209</td>
<td>16.7%</td>
<td>11.6%</td>
<td>$8,318,598</td>
<td>17.6%</td>
<td>12.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$44,467,124</strong></td>
<td><strong>100.0%</strong></td>
<td><strong>100.0%</strong></td>
<td><strong>$46,373,651</strong></td>
<td><strong>100.0%</strong></td>
<td><strong>100.0%</strong></td>
<td><strong>$47,289,756</strong></td>
<td><strong>100.0%</strong></td>
<td><strong>100.0%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Notes:

1. District financial data may be adjusted as a result of audits conducted by the Louisiana Department of Education.
2. Percentages may not total to 100% due to rounding.
3. Revenue per pupil and operating expenditures per pupil are based on October 2 Elementary/Secondary Membership.

Natchitoches Parish, Page 1-28
Section 2. School Characteristics and Accountability Information

School Characteristics and Accountability Information ..................................2-1
Faculty with a Master’s Degree or Higher ....................................................2-24
Teacher Quality ..........................................................................................2-26
Class Size Characteristics .........................................................................2-28
School Characteristics and Accountability Information

School Definition

To interpret school-level data correctly and in its proper context, one must have a clear understanding of the definition of a school. For purposes of this report, the following definition applies.

School—an institution that provides preschool, elementary, and/or secondary instruction; has one or more grade groupings or is nongraded; has one or more teachers to give instruction or care; is located in one or more buildings; and has an assigned administrator(s). (LDE and the National Center for Educational Statistics, NCES)

School Categorization

As mentioned in the Introduction Section, in order to facilitate an equitable comparison of school performance results, this report categorizes the Louisiana public schools into the following four types, based on their grade level composition:

- **Elementary**—any school whose grade structure falls within the PK-8 range that excludes grades in the 9-12 range, and which does not fit the definition for middle/junior high.
- **Middle/Junior high**—any school whose grade structure falls within the 4-9 range, which includes grades 7 or 8, and which excludes grades in the PK-3 and 10-12 ranges.
- **High**—any school whose grade structure falls within the 6-12 range and includes grades in the 10-12 range, or any school that contains only grade 9.
- **Combination**—any school whose grade structure falls within the PK-12 range and that is not described by any of the above definitions. These schools generally contain some grades in the K-6 range and some grades in the 9-12 range. Examples would include grade structures such as K-12; K-3, 9-12; and 4-6, 9-12.

The school, district and state results for the following indicators have been organized and are presented by the four types of school categories:

- Class Size
- Attendance
- Suspensions and Expulsions

School Accountability System

In 1998-1999, the school accountability system went into effect with two implementation phases for Louisiana public schools. Schools containing grade levels kindergarten through eighth (K-8) entered into the accountability system in 1998-1999. Schools with grades 9-12 (or what is better known as the high school grades) entered the accountability system in 2000-2001. The 9-12 portions of schools with K-12 grade structures also entered the system at this time.

As part of the accountability system, each school annually receives a School Performance Score (SPS), which indicates how well its students are performing. Specifically, each school’s effectiveness and progress are measured, based on results from statewide testing programs (LEAP 21/GEE 21 and The Iowa Tests), school attendance, and dropout data.

From 1998-1999 through 2002-2003, the school accountability model was based on a two-year accountability cycle. Five accountability cycles made up a 10-year time frame, at the end of which schools were expected to achieve the state’s 10-year SPS goal of 100. At the beginning of a cycle, a Growth Target was assigned identifying how many points the school had to grow to stay on track for meeting the 10-year goal. Also, Performance Labels were assigned describing a school’s performance. At the end of a cycle, a school was examined to determine if the Growth Target had been achieved. Growth Labels were assigned describing the level of growth achieved by the school relative to its Growth Target. At that time rewards were distributed to eligible schools. Schools were also assigned to Corrective Actions if they did not meet performance and/or growth requirements.

As discussed in the Introduction, the Louisiana School and District Accountability System has undergone many recent changes to bring the accountability system into compliance with federal guidelines as mandated by the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act of 2001. One significant change is the system will no longer be based on two-year cycles, but will become an annual system with important decisions made every year about the performance of Louisiana public schools. In other words, Performance and Growth Labels, School Improvement (formerly Corrective Actions), and rewards decisions will be made on an annual basis beginning in 2002-2003. In addition, Louisiana schools are now striving toward a 2014 SPS goal of 120 instead of the 10-year goal of 100.
Two Components of the School Accountability Model

The Louisiana School and District Accountability System has two components that are evaluated for Louisiana schools: the School Performance Score (SPS) Component and the Subgroup Component. Schools are required to make Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) for both components. Under the NCLB Act of 2001, a state’s definition of AYP must apply the same high standards of academic achievement to all public elementary and secondary school students in the state and result in continuous and substantial academic improvement for all students. To make AYP for the SPS Component, a school must have a 2003 Growth SPS of 45 or above. In future years, schools may have to show adequate growth to make AYP for the SPS Component. The SPS Component was evaluated for all schools that received a 2003 Growth SPS. To make AYP for the Subgroup Component, a school must meet requirements in three areas: test participation, academic performance, and an additional academic indicator (attendance rate or non-dropout rate) for all required subgroups (five ethnicity subgroups, students with disabilities, limited English proficient students, economically disadvantaged students, and all students in the school). The Subgroup Component was evaluated for all schools with grades 4, 8, and/or 10.

SPS Indicators

The SPS for each school is calculated as a weighted composite index, using 60% weight for the criterion-referenced test (CRT) index (based on the LEAP 21 and/or GEE 21 tests), 30% weight for the norm-referenced test (NRT) index (based on The Iowa Tests), and a total of 10% weight for the attendance and dropout results.

The maximum upper range for the SPS is between 231.8 and 255.4, depending on a school’s grade levels that take The Iowa Tests and whether the school has dropouts. An SPS of 120 indicates that a school has reached Louisiana’s 2014 goal. In 2002-2003 schools received two SPSs, the Growth SPS and the Baseline SPS. The Growth SPS was compared to the previous Baseline SPS to determine if adequate growth was achieved and to determine the corresponding Growth Label. In addition, the Growth SPS was used to determine a school’s reward eligibility, SPS Component AYP status, and School Improvement status. The new Baseline SPS was used to calculate the new Growth Target. A one-year Growth Target was calculated based on how far the Baseline SPS is from the 2014 goal, with an adjustment for the proportions of students with disabilities and limited English proficient students. The Baseline SPS was also used to determine a school’s Performance Label. If a school’s Growth SPS was less than 45, a one-year Growth SPS was calculated and used to determine the school’s SPS Component AYP status, School Improvement level, and Performance Label.

In 2002-2003, both the Growth SPS and the Baseline SPS were based on two years of data and included all four subjects of the LEAP 21/GEE 21 and grades K-12, where available. The difference between the two SPSs was that the Baseline SPS included LAA and LAA-B students, whereas the Growth SPS did not. This difference allowed for an apples-to-apples comparison between the Growth SPS and the 2000-2001 Baseline SPS. Current policy states that in future years the only difference between the two SPSs is that the Growth SPS will be based on one year of data, and the Baseline SPS will continue to be based on two years. This could change to phase in modifications needed as Louisiana continues transitioning to a model that is fully compliant under NCLB.

It is important to note when interpreting the accountability data in table 7 that in 2000-2001, two SPSs (a Growth SPS and a Baseline SPS) were calculated and were different for other reasons than in 2002-2003. Two SPSs were needed to phase-in changes to the accountability model, including moving to a two-year SPS and using all the LEAP 21 subject area tests. The 2000-2001 Growth SPS used two LEAP 21 subject area tests and one year of data. The 2000-2001 Baseline SPS had all four LEAP 21 subject area tests and used
two years of data for K-8. Because the GEE 21 was new, only one year of ELA and Math GEE 21 tests results were used, and as a result, the Growth Targets calculated in 2000-2001 for high schools were adjusted to 75%.

“Pairing” and “Sharing” Arrangements

A school must have both types of test data (at least one grade of CRT data and one grade of NRT data) to receive an SPS. A school that does not meet this requirement is considered a “non-standard school” in the Louisiana School and District Accountability System and must be “paired” or “shared” with another school in the district. A “non-standard school” is “paired” or “shared” with the school that receives the largest percentage of students from the “non-standard school” by promotion. A “pairing” or “sharing” decision is binding for 10 years unless the “non-standard school” acquires a sufficient number of testing units or the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (SBSE) grants an appeal to change this decision due to special circumstances such as redistricting and grade configuration changes.

If a “non-standard school” is lacking grade level test results or has too few units for either the CRT or NRT, but not both, it must “share” with another school that has at least one grade level of the needed test. The shared test results (one grade only) from the second school will be used in formulating the SPS for the “non-standard school.” The grade that is shared must come from the grade level closest to the grade level in the “non-standard school.” Each school will have a unique and separate SPS because its own attendance data, dropout data, and other testing data are not shared.

When a “non-standard school” has no test data at all or has an insufficient number of students taking both of the tests, it will then be “paired” with another school. “Pairing” will mean that in formulating the SPS, all test results, attendance, and dropout data of the “paired” schools are combined together. The schools will essentially receive the same SPS.

Beginning in 2002-2003, the determination of whether a school has too few scores is based on the data for one year of assessment. The number of years used prior to 2002-2003 depended on the number of years used in the SPS calculation. A school with too few scores can request a waiver of the “pairing and sharing” policy if it wishes to be scored as a stand-alone school and receive an SPS based on its data alone, despite the small number of test units.

Growth Labels

The Growth Label is a descriptive label that describes the level of growth achieved by a school and is based on the school’s success in attaining its Growth Target. The Growth Label a school receives determines if the school is potentially eligible for monetary rewards. In prior years, Growth Labels were assigned every other year. Beginning in 2002-2003, Growth Labels will be assigned annually.

The 2000-2001 accountability release marked the first time that K-8 and K-12 schools in the accountability system received a Growth Label. Growth was calculated by measuring the difference between the 1998-1999 Baseline SPS and the 2000-2001 Growth SPS.

In 2002-2003, all schools in the accountability system received Growth Labels, including high schools for the first time. Growth was determined by comparing the difference between the 2000-2001 Baseline SPS and the 2002-2003 Growth SPS.

Schools with a new Baseline or Growth SPS of 100 or greater do not receive a negative label (a label which conveys negative connotations with regard to growth), and therefore, receive a No Label Assigned designation. The following Growth Labels were assigned in 2000-2001 to K-8 and K-12 schools and in 2002-2003 to all schools in the accountability system. In 2003-2004 the definitions of the Growth Labels will change.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Growth Label</th>
<th>Description of Growth</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exemplary Academic Growth</td>
<td>School exceeding its Growth Target by 5.0 points or more</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recognized Academic Growth</td>
<td>School meeting or exceeding its Growth Target by fewer than 5.0 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minimal Academic Growth</td>
<td>School improving some, but not meeting its Growth Target</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No Growth</td>
<td>School with a change in SPS of 0 to minus (-) 5.0 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School in Decline</td>
<td>School with a declining SPS of more than minus (-) 5.0 points</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Rewards

The possibility of receiving monetary rewards is an incentive for schools to achieve their Growth Targets. The State of Louisiana allocated 4.9 million dollars in the executive budget to be used as rewards for those schools receiving the Exemplary Academic Growth or the Recognized Academic Growth labels and demonstrating growth within high poverty and students with disabilities subgroups. Reward amounts were calculated on a per pupil basis.

The 2002-2003 accountability results yielded 119 Exemplary Academic Growth schools, which received a total award amount of $1,908,442.45 and 212 Recognized Academic Growth schools, which received a total award amount of $2,469,159.25. The amount of individual school rewards varied, with the highest reward being $67,526.80 and the lowest being $2,643.85. The remaining funds will be dispersed when the appeals process concludes.

Performance Labels

A school’s Performance Label is the descriptive label that describes a school’s level of performance based on its SPS. In prior years, Performance Labels were assigned every other year. The table below defines the Performance Labels that were used in 1998-1999 and 2000-2001. Two applicable state averages have been calculated in the past, one for elementary/middle/junior high schools and one for high/combination schools.


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Performance Label</th>
<th>SPS Range</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>School of Academic Excellence</td>
<td>150.0 or above</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School of Academic Distinction</td>
<td>125.0 – 149.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School of Academic Achievement</td>
<td>100.0 – 124.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Academically Above the State Average</td>
<td>applicable state average – 99.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Academically Below the State Average</td>
<td>30.1 – just below the applicable state average</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Academically Unacceptable School</td>
<td>30.0 or below</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Beginning in 2002-2003, Performance Labels are assigned annually. In addition, in 2002-2003 the labels themselves and their definitions changed to better describe the performance of Louisiana schools.

New Performance Labels (Beginning in 2002-2003)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Performance Label</th>
<th>SPS Range</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Five Stars</td>
<td>140.0 or above</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Four Stars</td>
<td>120.0 – 139.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Three Stars</td>
<td>100.0 – 119.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two Stars</td>
<td>80.0 – 99.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One Star</td>
<td>60.0 – 79.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Academic Warning</td>
<td>45.0 – 59.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Academically Unacceptable</td>
<td>Below 45</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

School Improvement

School Improvement (SI), formerly called Corrective Actions (CA), is a facet of the accountability system intended to help low performing and stagnant schools improve. A school that does not meet performance and growth requirements will enter or move further into School Improvement. A school in School Improvement shall receive additional support and assistance, with the expectation that extensive efforts shall be made by students, parents, teachers, principals, administrators, and the school board to improve student achievement at the school. There are six levels of School Improvement, SI 1 through SI 6. Only the first four levels are applicable in 2002-2003.

Movement into and among the different levels of School Improvement is essentially dependent on the school’s SPS, whether AYP was made for the Subgroup Component, the amount of growth relative to the Growth Target, and the school’s prior SI/CA status. The type of remedies required for a given level of SI depends on the Title I status of the school and are additive in nature as a school moves to higher SI levels.

For a more detailed description of the rules and regulations which apply to School Improvement, please refer to Bulletin 111: Louisiana School,
Natchitoches Parish, Page 2-5

District, and State Accountability Policy, which can be found on the Louisiana Department of Education’s website at www.louisianaschools.net.

Data Presentation
Table 7 presents school demographic and accountability data for all schools included in the accountability model for this district. All five years of accountability data presented in table 7 are post-appeals data. In other words, all data changes from approved appeals are reflected in the reported data. A description of each data element used in the following tables is provided below:

- **Grade structure** refers to the various educational grade levels that a school contains and for which instruction is provided (i.e., K-8, or Kindergarten through grade 8).

- **School Type** is the classification of schools into one of the following four categories of schools: elementary, middle/junior high, high, or combination schools. This school type designation may differ from the three accountability school types (elementary/middle/junior high, high, and combination).

- **October 1 Membership** is the total number of students enrolled in a school on October 1 of the current school year.

- **Number on Free/Reduced Lunch** is the number of students eligible to participate in the Free and Reduced-Price Lunch Program.

- **Percent on Free/Reduced Lunch** is the percent of students eligible to participate in the Free and Reduced-Price Lunch Program.

- **Number of Faculty** is the total number of school-based instructional personnel employed at a school.

- **Paired/Shared** status indicates whether the school was “paired” with another school or “shared” data with another school in the calculation of its School Performance Score.

- **Growth School Performance Score (SPS)** is the SPS that is compared to the prior Baseline SPS to determine if a school has achieved its Growth Target. The Growth SPS is used to determine Growth Labels and to determine reward eligibility.

- **Point Change in SPS** is the difference between the Growth SPS and the prior Baseline SPS. If no Growth SPS is calculated for a given year, the point change is the difference between the SPS for the Current Year and the prior Baseline SPS.

- **Met Growth Target** indicates whether a school achieved its Growth Target for that year.

- **Growth Label** is the descriptive label that describes the level of growth achieved by a school and is based on the school’s success in attaining its Growth Target.

- **Reward Eligibility** indicates whether a school received a monetary reward by earning either the Exemplary Academic Growth label or the Recognized Academic Growth label and by showing growth for its high poverty and students with disabilities subgroups.

- **Baseline School Performance Score (SPS)** is the SPS used to determine the school’s Growth Target and Performance Label. It will be compared against the future Growth SPS to determine if adequate growth is achieved.

- **Growth Target** is the amount of progress a school must make to remain on target for reaching the state’s goal. It is calculated by subtracting the Baseline SPS from the state goal and dividing by the number of years (or cycles prior to 2002-2003) remaining to attain the state goal.

- **Performance Label** is the descriptive label that describes a school’s level of performance based on its SPS.

- **SPS for Current Year** is the Baseline SPS during the years it was calculated; otherwise, it is the Interim SPS.

- **School Improvement Status** is the level of School Improvement (if any) in which the school is currently placed.
• *Made AYP for SPS Component* indicates whether a school has made Adequate Yearly Progress by having a Growth SPS at or above 45.

• *Made AYP for Subgroup Component* indicates whether a school has made Adequate Yearly Progress by meeting requirements in test participation, academic performance, and an additional academic indicator (attendance or non-dropout rate) for all required subgroups.
## Table 7

**School Characteristics and Accountability Information of Natchitoches Parish**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<th></th>
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<td>4-6,NG</td>
<td>4-6,NG</td>
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<td>Elementary</td>
<td>Elementary</td>
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<td>245</td>
<td>250</td>
<td>245</td>
<td>251</td>
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<tr>
<td>Number on Free/Reduced Lunch</td>
<td>156</td>
<td>164</td>
<td>173</td>
<td>172</td>
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<td>Percent on Free/Reduced Lunch</td>
<td>65.5</td>
<td>66.9</td>
<td>69.2</td>
<td>70.2</td>
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<td>18</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>19</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>NO</td>
<td>NO</td>
<td>NO</td>
<td>NO</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
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<td>78.2</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>80.3</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
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<td>3.2</td>
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<tr>
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<td>N/A</td>
<td>NO</td>
<td>N/A</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>N/A</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
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<td>NO</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>NO</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
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<td>83.7</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>80.3</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Growth Target</td>
<td>5.0</td>
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<td>5.0</td>
<td>N/A</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>N/A</td>
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<tr>
<td>SPS for Current Year</td>
<td>75.0</td>
<td>88.1</td>
<td>83.7</td>
<td>83.1</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Made AYP for SPS Component</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Made AYP for Subgroup Component</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

~ = Unavailable or insufficient data      PK = Prekindergarten      NG = Nongraded

N/A = Not Applicable: Baseline SPS, School Performance Label, Growth Target, Growth SPS, Growth Label, and Reward Eligibility are determined and assigned once every two years. High Schools were first added to the Accountability Model in 2000-2001.

1 Growth Label: 1 = No Growth Label Assigned - No label is assigned to schools with a Baseline or Growth SPS of 100 or more which have not met their Growth Targets.
2 = Exemplary Academic Growth 3 = Recognized Academic Growth 4 = Minimal Academic Growth 5 = No Growth 6 = School In Decline

2 Performance Label: 1 = School of Academic Excellence 2 = School of Academic Distinction 3 = School of Academic Achievement (1998-99 thru 2001-02) 4 = Academically Above the State Average 5 = Academically Below the State Average 6 = Academically Unacceptable School

Starting in 2002-2003, the Performance Labels were as follows:

1 = Five Stars (*****) 2 = Four Stars (****) 3 = Three Stars (***) 4 = Two Stars (**) 5 = One Star (*) 6 = Academic Warning 7 = Academically Unacceptable

3 Starting in 2002-2003, schools that do not meet the performance and growth requirements are placed in School Improvement.

4 Starting in 2002-2003, schools were required to make their Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) for both the subgroup component and the SPS component.
Table 7  
School Characteristics and Accountability Information of Natchitoches Parish

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<th></th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Grade Structure</td>
<td>PK,K-6,NG</td>
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<td>PK,K-6,NG</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>October 1 Membership</td>
<td>563</td>
<td>541</td>
<td>569</td>
<td>540</td>
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<td>Number on Free/Reduced Lunch</td>
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<td>Percent on Free/Reduced Lunch</td>
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<td>80.4</td>
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<td>81.4</td>
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<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>62.9</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Point Change in SPS</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>NO</td>
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<td>N/A</td>
<td>5</td>
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<td>6</td>
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<td>Baseline SPS</td>
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<td>61.1</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Growth Target</td>
<td>6.7</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>7.5</td>
<td>N/A</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Performance Label²</td>
<td>5</td>
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<td>YES</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

~ = Unavailable or insufficient data  
PK = Prekindergarten  
NG = Nongraded  
N/A = Not Applicable: Baseline SPS, School Performance Label, Growth Target, Growth SPS, Growth Label, and Reward Eligibility are determined and assigned once every two years. High Schools were first added to the Accountability Model in 2000-2001.

¹ Growth Label:  
1 = No Growth Label Assigned - No label is assigned to schools with a Baseline or Growth SPS of 100 or more which have not met their Growth Targets.  
2 = Exemplary Academic Growth  
3 = Recognized Academic Growth  
4 = Minimal Academic Growth  
5 = No Growth  
6 = School In Decline

² Performance Label:  
1 = School of Academic Excellence  
2 = School of Academic Distinction  
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4 = Academically Above the State Average  
5 = Academically Below the State Average  
6 = Academically Unacceptable School

Starting in 1998-99 thru 2001-02, the Performance Labels were as follows:  
1 = Five Stars (*****), 2 = Four Stars (****), 3 = Three Stars (**), 4 = Two Stars (**), 5 = One Star (*), 6 = Academic Warning, 7 = Academically Unacceptable

³ Starting in 2002-2003, schools that do not meet the performance and growth requirements are placed in School Improvement.

⁴ Starting in 2002-2003, schools were required to make their Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) for both the subgroup component and the SPS component.
Table 7
School Characteristics and Accountability Information of Natchitoches Parish

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade Structure</th>
<th>School Type</th>
<th>October 1 Membership</th>
<th>Number on Free/Reduced Lunch</th>
<th>Percent on Free/Reduced Lunch</th>
<th>Number of Faculty</th>
<th>Paired/Shared</th>
<th>Growth School Performance Score (SPS)</th>
<th>Point Change in SPS</th>
<th>Met Growth Target</th>
<th>Growth Label 1</th>
<th>Reward Eligibility</th>
<th>Baseline SPS</th>
<th>Growth Target</th>
<th>Performance Label 2</th>
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<th>Made AYP for Subgroup Component 4</th>
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NG = Nongraded  
N/A = Not Applicable: Baseline SPS, School Performance Label, Growth Target, Growth SPS, Growth Label, and Reward Eligibility are determined and assigned once every two years. High Schools were first added to the Accountability Model in 2000-2001.

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3 = Recognized Academic Growth  
4 = Minimal Academic Growth  
5 = No Growth  
6 = School In Decline

2 Performance Label:  
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2 = School of Academic Distinction  
3 = School of Academic Achievement  
4 = Academically Above the State Average  
5 = Academically Below the State Average  
6 = Academically Unacceptable School

Starting in 2002-2003, the Performance Labels were as follows:  
1 = Five Stars (*****)  
2 = Four Stars (****)  
3 = Three Stars (***)  
4 = Two Stars (*)  
5 = One Star (*)  
6 = Academic Warning  
7 = Academically Unacceptable

3 Starting in 2002-2003, schools that do not meet the performance and growth requirements are placed in School Improvement.

4 Starting in 2002-2003, schools were required to make their Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) for both the subgroup component and the SPS component.

Natchitoches Parish, Page 2-9
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1 = School of Academic Excellence  
2 = School of Academic Distinction  
3 = School of Academic Achievement  
(1998-99 thru 2001-02)  
4 = Academically Above the State Average  
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Table 7
School Characteristics and Accountability Information of Natchitoches Parish

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School Type</th>
<th>October 1 Membership</th>
<th>Number on Free/Reduced Lunch</th>
<th>Percent on Free/Reduced Lunch</th>
<th>Number of Faculty</th>
<th>Paired/Shared</th>
<th>Growth School Performance Score (SPS)</th>
<th>Point Change in SPS</th>
<th>Met Growth Target</th>
<th>Growth Label¹</th>
<th>Reward Eligibility</th>
<th>Baseline SPS</th>
<th>Growth Target</th>
<th>Performance Label²</th>
<th>SPS for Current Year</th>
<th>School Improvement Status ³</th>
<th>Made AYP for SPS Component⁴</th>
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<td>N/A</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>YES</td>
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</table>

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Natchitoches Parish, Page 2-11
# Table 7

## School Characteristics and Accountability Information of Natchitoches Parish

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<th>Middle/Jr. High</th>
<th>Middle/Jr. High</th>
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</tbody>
</table>

| School Improvement Status ³ | 1 |
| Made AYP for SPS Component ⁴ | YES |
| Made AYP for Subgroup Component ⁴ | YES |

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### Table 7

#### School Characteristics and Accountability Information of Natchitoches Parish

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5 = No Growth  
6 = School In Decline

Performance Label:  
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2 = School of Academic Distinction  
3 = School of Academic Achievement  
4 = Academically Above the State Average  
5 = Academically Below the State Average  
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Starting in 2002-2003, the Performance Labels were as follows:  
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5 = One Star (*)  
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3 Starting in 2002-2003, schools that do not meet the performance and growth requirements are placed in School Improvement.

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### Table 7
**School Characteristics and Accountability Information of Natchitoches Parish**

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<td>Made AYP for Subgroup Component 4</td>
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2 Performance Label: 1 = School of Academic Excellence  2 = School of Academic Distinction  3 = School of Academic Achievement (1998-99 thru 2001-02)  4 = Academically Above the State Average  5 = Academically Below the State Average  6 = Academically Unacceptable School

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Natchitoches Parish, Page 2-14
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6 = School In Decline

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1 = School of Academic Excellence  
2 = School of Academic Distinction  
3 = School of Academic Achievement  
(1998-99 thru 2001-02)  
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### Table 7
#### School Characteristics and Accountability Information of Natchitoches Parish

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Natchitoches Parish, Page 2-16
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School Characteristics and Accountability Information of Natchitoches Parish

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~ = Unavailable or insufficient data      PK = Prekindergarten      NG = Nongraded
N/A = Not Applicable: Baseline SPS, School Performance Label, Growth Target, Growth SPS, Growth Label, and Reward Eligibility are determined and assigned once every two years. High Schools were first added to the Accountability Model in 2000-2001.
¹ Growth Label: 1 = No Growth Label Assigned - No label is assigned to schools with a Baseline or Growth SPS of 100 or more which have not met their Growth Targets. 2 = Exemplary Academic Growth 3 = Recognized Academic Growth 4 = Minimal Academic Growth 5 = No Growth 6 = School In Decline
² Performance Label: 1 = School of Academic Excellence 2 = School of Academic Distinction 3 = School of Academic Achievement (1998-99 thru 2001-02) 4 = Academically Above the State Average 5 = Academically Below the State Average 6 = Academically Unacceptable School
Starting in 2002-2003, the Performance Labels were as follows:
1 = Five Stars (*****) 2 = Four Stars (****) 3 = Three Stars (***)
4 = Two Stars (**) 5 = One Star (*) 6 = Academic Warning 7 = Academically Unacceptable
³ Starting in 2002-2003, schools that do not meet the performance and growth requirements are placed in School Improvement.
⁴ Starting in 2002-2003, schools were required to make their Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) for both the subgroup component and the SPS component.
# Table 7
## School Characteristics and Accountability Information of Natchitoches Parish

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<thead>
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<td>70.1</td>
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</table>

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¹ Growth Label:  
1 = No Growth Label Assigned - No label is assigned to schools with a Baseline or Growth SPS of 100 or more which have not met their Growth Targets.  
2 = Exemplary Academic Growth  
3 = Recognized Academic Growth  
4 = Minimal Academic Growth  
5 = No Growth  
6 = School In Decline

² Performance Label:  
1 = School of Academic Excellence  
2 = School of Academic Distinction  
3 = School of Academic Achievement  
4 = Academically Above the State Average  
5 = Academically Below the State Average  
6 = Academically Unacceptable School

Starting in 2002-2003, the Performance Labels were as follows:  
1 = Five Stars (******)  
2 = Four Stars (****)  
3 = Three Stars (****)  
4 = Two Stars (**)  
5 = One Star (*)  
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7 = Academically Unacceptable

³ Starting in 2002-2003, schools that do not meet the performance and growth requirements are placed in School Improvement.

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### Table 7

**School Characteristics and Accountability Information of Natchitoches Parish**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade Structure</th>
<th>October 1 Membership</th>
<th>Number on Free/Reduced Lunch</th>
<th>Percent on Free/Reduced Lunch</th>
<th>Number of Faculty</th>
<th>Paired/Shared</th>
<th>Growth School Performance Score (SPS)</th>
<th>Point Change in SPS</th>
<th>Met Growth Target</th>
<th>Growth Label</th>
<th>Reward Eligibility</th>
<th>Baseline SPS</th>
<th>Growth Target</th>
<th>Performance Label</th>
<th>SPS for Current Year</th>
<th>School Improvement Status</th>
<th>Made AYP for SPS Component</th>
<th>Made AYP for Subgroup Component</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PK,7-12,NG</td>
<td>620</td>
<td>398</td>
<td>64.2</td>
<td>50</td>
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<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
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<td>52.4</td>
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<td>52.4</td>
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<td>62.6</td>
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<td>60.2</td>
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<td>PK,7-12,NG</td>
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<td>PK,7-12,NG</td>
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<td>5</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

---

1 = Exemplary Academic Growth  3 = Recognized Academic Growth  4 = Minimal Academic Growth  5 = No Growth  6 = School In Decline

Starting in 2002-2003, the Performance Labels were as follows:

1 = Five Stars (*****), 2 = Four Stars (****), 3 = Three Stars (***) , 4 = Two Stars (**), 5 = One Star (*), 6 = Academic Warning, 7 = Academically Unacceptable

Starting in 2002-2003, schools that do not meet the performance and growth requirements are placed in School Improvement.

Starting in 2002-2003, schools were required to make their Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) for both the subgroup component and the SPS component.
Table 7
School Characteristics and Accountability Information of Natchitoches Parish

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School Type</th>
<th>Grade Structure</th>
<th>October 1 Membership</th>
<th>Number on Free/Reduced Lunch</th>
<th>Percent on Free/Reduced Lunch</th>
<th>Number of Faculty</th>
<th>Paired/Shared</th>
<th>Baseline SPS</th>
<th>Performance Label</th>
<th>Growth Target</th>
<th>Growth School Performance Score (SPS)</th>
<th>School Improvement Status</th>
<th>Made AYP for SPS Component</th>
<th>Made AYP for Subgroup Component</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>035030</td>
<td>Natchitoches Education Center</td>
<td>~ ~ 4-12,NG PK,4-12,NG PK,4-12,NG</td>
<td>~ ~ 149 111 144</td>
<td>~ ~ 80.5 80.2 74.3</td>
<td>~ ~ 17 17 16</td>
<td>N/A N/A N/A</td>
<td>N/A N/A N/A</td>
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<td>N/A N/A</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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<td>Total Number of Schools</td>
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<td>16</td>
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<td>6,978</td>
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### Schools by Performance Label (Starting in 2002-03)

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<th>Percent</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Percent</th>
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### Schools By Growth Label 1

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<th>Percent</th>
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<th>Percent</th>
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<td>3</td>
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<td>4</td>
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### Schools By Levels of School Improvement

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<th>Percent</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Percent</th>
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<th>Percent</th>
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### Schools by Reward Eligibility

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<th>Number</th>
<th>Percent</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Percent</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Percent</th>
<th>Number</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>5</td>
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### Schools by AYP Status 2

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<th>Number</th>
<th>Percent</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Percent</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Percent</th>
<th>Number</th>
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<tr>
<td>Made AYP for SPS Component</td>
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<td>Made AYP for Subgroup Component</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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1 No label is assigned to schools with a Baseline or Growth SPS of 100 or more which have not met their Growth Targets.

2 Starting in 2002-2003, schools were required to make their Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) for both the Subgroup Component and the SPS Component.
Table 7
School Characteristics and Accountability Information of Natchitoches Parish

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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N/A = Not Applicable: Performance Labels, Growth Labels, and Reward Eligibility are assigned once every two years.

1 No label is assigned to schools with a Baseline or Growth SPS of 100 or more which have not met their Growth Targets.

2 Starting in 2002-2003, schools were required to make their Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) for both the Subgroup Component and the SPS Component.

Natchitoches Parish, Page 2-23
Faculty with a Master’s Degree or Higher

Perhaps the most vital educational resource available to students is the school faculty. One indicator of faculty preparation is the level of academic training the staff has completed.

Data Presentation

Table 8, Faculty with a Master’s Degree or Higher, presents the number and percent of faculty attaining a master’s degree or higher. Data are presented for all faculty members in all schools in each district. Schools are presented in site code order. District and state totals are presented for comparison purposes.

Definition

- Faculty—school-based instructional personnel. In addition to full-time classroom teachers, these individuals include principals, assistant principals, guidance counselors, librarians, and other instructional/administrative staff.

Method of Calculation

The formula used to compute the percentage of faculty who have a master’s degree or higher is presented below. Itinerant staff members who are employed at multiple school sites are counted at each school in which they teach, but are counted only once in district and state percentages.

Data Sources

District-reported data submitted to the Louisiana Department of Education via the Profile of Educational Personnel (PEP).

Formula Used to Calculate Percent of Faculty with a Master’s Degree or Higher

\[
\text{Percent of Faculty with a Master’s Degree or Higher} = \left( \frac{\text{Number of Faculty with a Master’s Degree or Higher}}{\text{Total Number of Faculty at All Education Levels}} \right) \times 100
\]
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~ = Unavailable or insufficient data
Teacher Quality

It is imperative that our students receive academic instruction from highly qualified professionals. One mechanism for ensuring teacher quality is the licensure or certification of classroom teachers. Research suggests that teacher certification in the field of instruction is essential. Rigorous certification and licensure requirements, as well as strengthening teacher preparation programs, are thought to be keys to ensuring quality public education.

Data Presentation

Table 9 provides a view of the public school instruction quality by assessing the qualification of teachers teaching core classes. Specifically, it presents the percent and number of core classes taught by highly qualified teachers. District and state totals are presented for comparison purposes.

Definitions

- **Highly Qualified Teachers**- are defined as certified teachers who meet the following criteria:
  - hold an A, B, C, L1, L2, or L3 certificate as well as those who hold out-of-state and Practitioner's Licenses (PL);
  - teach a core course (English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, Foreign Language or the Arts) in grades 1-12; and
  - their area of certification matches each core academic course they teach in addition to having demonstrated competency in teaching each course.

Method of Calculation

The percent and numbers for this report were determined on a class-by-class basis. As some schools had no core courses for the 2002-2003, no highly-qualified teacher data were available for them.

Data Sources

The number of standard and non-standard teaching certificates is district-reported data submitted to the Louisiana Department of Education via the Annual School Report (ASR) database. The Annual School Report (ASR) database for school year 2002-2003 provided the data on the courses being taught by each teacher. Those teachers teaching core courses in grades 1-12 were checked against the Teacher Certification (TCR) database to ascertain whether or not they held the appropriate certificates (determined as highly qualified) for every core course taught.

Formula Used

\[
\text{Percent of Classes Taught By Highly Qualified Teachers} = \frac{\text{Total Number of Core Classes in Grades 1-12 Taught by Highly Qualified Teachers}}{\text{Total Number of All Core Classes In Grades 1-12}}
\]
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~ = Unavailable or insufficient data
* = This information became available for reporting starting 2002-2003.
** = Core classes are English, math, science, social studies, foreign language, and the arts.
Class Size Characteristics

Small classes generally allow more time for pupil-teacher interaction; therefore, they are instrumental in promoting student learning, especially at the lower elementary grades. In recognition of that fact, the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education has set specific limits on the maximum size of classes at various grade levels (Bulletin 741). The maximum enrollment in grades K-3 is 26 students, while in grades 4-12 the maximum enrollment is 33 students. The limits do not apply to activity classes such as physical education, chorus, and band.

Data Presentation

Tables 10a-10d (Class Size Characteristics for Elementary, Middle/Junior High, High, and Combination Schools, respectively) present the number and percentage of classes that fall within various class size ranges. This report provides the class size information for grades PK-12 by four ranges: 1-20, 21-26, 27-33 and 34+. Category percentages are provided for comparison purposes. Data are presented for all schools in each district, with schools presented by category and in site code order. District and state percentages are presented for comparison of all schools. Since 1993-94, district and state percentages based on school category also have been provided.

Definition

- **Class**—a grouping of children under the primary supervision and instruction of an individual teacher for all or part of the instructional day, as reported for the purposes of the Annual School Report (ASR) and as identified by a specific ASR course code.

Method of Calculation

The following criterion was applied to Annual School Report (ASR) data to determine which classes should be included/excluded from the class size calculations:

- Activity classes (which have a maximum allowable student count greater than 33) are excluded because their inclusion in the computation would skew the results.
- Non-graded, infant, and preschool classes are excluded.

Data Source

District-reported data from the Annual School Report (ASR).

Formulas Used to Calculate Percent of Classes in Each of the Specific Class Size Ranges

\[
\text{Percent of Classes in Specific Class Size Range} = \frac{\text{Number of Classes in Specific Class Size Range}}{\text{Total Number of Classes}} \times 100^* \]

*Note: Because of school categorization, the numerator and denominator will vary. For example, Percent of Classes in Elementary Schools in Specific Class Size Range = (Number of Classes in Elementary Schools in Specific Class Size Range / Total Number of Classes in Elementary Schools) \times 100.
### Table 10a: Class Size Characteristics

#### Elementary Schools

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Table 10a: Class Size Characteristics

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**Middle/Jr. High Schools**

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## Table 10c: Class Size Characteristics

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035026 Lakeview Junior-Senior High School

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035030 Natchitoches Education Center

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Section 3. Student Participation

Student Attendance ................................................................. 3-1
Student Suspensions and Expulsions ........................................ 3-7
Student Retention ................................................................... 3-14
Student Dropouts .................................................................. 3-18
Student Attendance

More than a decade ago, American schools were challenged by *A Nation at Risk* to do whatever necessary to reduce the amount of instructional time lost to absenteeism (Bennett, 1988). As educators have long recognized, occasional absences cause some learning disruption, but frequent student absences can severely reduce academic progress (Bamber, 1979).

The percent of student attendance reflects the percentage of time the average student is present within the total number of instructional days. Since 1993-94, attendance has been calculated to the nearest half day.

Data Presentation

This report presents the percent of student attendance for all grades (PK-12, non-graded) in the school, district, and state, based on the school category. Tables 11a-11d present the percent of student attendance for each school in the district. District and state percentages are presented for comparison of all schools. Schools are presented by category and in site code order.

It should be noted that, for purposes of this report, the percent of students in attendance represents the current year’s data; however, the accountability attendance index displayed in previous publications was based on previous year’s attendance data due to data collection timelines.

Definitions

- **Aggregate days attendance**—the total number of days that students are *present* at the school site over the course of the school year.

- **Aggregate days membership**—the total number of days that students are *enrolled* (but not necessarily *present*) at the school site over the course of the school year.

- **Day of attendance**—effective with the 1992-93 school year, when a student “(1) is physically present at a school site or is participating in an authorized school activity and (2) is under the supervision of authorized personnel. This definition extends to students who are homebound, assigned to and participating in drug rehabilitation programs that contain a State-approved education component, or participating in school-authorized field trips.” (Bulletin 741)

“Students who meet the above criteria and are present at the school site for more than 25% but not more than 50% of the student’s instructional day shall be credited with a half day of attendance. Those who meet the above criteria and are present for more than 50% of the student’s instructional day are credited with a whole day of attendance. Students who are not physically present or who are participating for 25% or less of their instructional day will be considered absent for reporting purposes. Absences, whether excused or unexcused, shall be counted as an absence for reporting to the Department.” (Bulletin 741)

The above definition refers to the “amount” of time receiving instruction that is required to be considered in attendance. This definition was piloted for the 1992-93 school year and has been in effect statewide since the 1993-94 school year.

- **Percent of student attendance**—the ratio of aggregate days student attendance to aggregate days membership.

Method of Calculation

Attendance is calculated for all grades (PK-12, non-graded) in the school, district, and state, based on the school category. The formulas used in calculating percent of student attendance are presented on the following page.

Data Sources

The attendance indicator is based on district-reported data submitted to the Louisiana Department of Education via the *Student Information System* (SIS).
References


Formulas Used to Calculate Percent of Student Attendance

**School-level Aggregation**

\[
\text{Percent of Student Attendance} = \frac{\text{Aggregate Days of Attendance}}{\text{Aggregate Days of Membership}} \times 100
\]

**District-level Aggregation**

\[
\text{Percent of Student Attendance} = \frac{\text{Total Aggregate Days of Attendance for All Schools in the District}}{\text{Total Aggregate Days of Membership for All Schools in the District}} \times 100^*
\]

**State-level Aggregation**

\[
\text{Percent of Student Attendance} = \frac{\text{Total Aggregate Days of Attendance for All Schools in the State}}{\text{Total Aggregate Days of Membership for All Schools in the State}} \times 100^*
\]

*Note: Because of school categorization, the numerator and denominator will vary. For example, Percent of Student Attendance in Elementary Schools = (Aggregate Days of Attendance for All Elementary Schools / Aggregate Days of Membership for All Elementary Schools) X 100.
### Table 11a: Percent of Student Attendance

**Elementary Schools**

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<td>93.1</td>
<td>93.4</td>
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<tr>
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<td>96.3</td>
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<td>92.6</td>
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~ = Unavailable or insufficient data
## Table 11b: Percent of Student Attendance

### Middle/Jr. High Schools

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<td>91.9</td>
<td>92.7</td>
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Table 11c: Percent of Student Attendance

High Schools

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### Table 11d: Percent of Student Attendance

**Combination Schools**

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<td>91.9</td>
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<td>91.9</td>
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<td>93.7</td>
<td>93.8</td>
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~ = Unavailable or insufficient data
Student Suspensions and Expulsions

Student suspension harms not only students by depriving them of valuable instruction, but also communities, the individual school, and school district (Garibaldi, 1978).

Data Presentation

Tables 12a-12d present the number and percent of students suspended and the number and percent of students expelled for each school in the district. School category statistics are provided at the district and state level for comparison purposes. Schools are presented by school category and in site code order. It should be pointed out that the “students suspended” number reflects the number of students at the school site who were suspended at least once during the school year (unduplicated count).

Definitions

- **Cumulative Enrollment**—the sum of all students enrolled in a school or district for at least one school day during the course of the school year, used as the denominator for calculating school- and district-level suspension and expulsion percents.

- **In-school Expulsion**—a student temporarily removed from his/her usual classroom placement to an alternative setting for a period of time specified by the LEA; no interruption of instructional services occurs.

- **In-school Suspension**—a student temporarily removed from his/her usual classroom placement to an alternative setting for a minimum of one complete school day; no interruption of instructional services occurs.

- **Out-of-school Expulsion**—the removal (exit) of a student from school for a determined number of days with no provision of instructional services.

- **Out-of-school Suspension**—a student temporarily prohibited from participating in his/her usual placement within school, with no provision of instructional service; only suspensions resulting in removal for at least one full day are included.

Method of Calculation

Suspension and expulsion rates are calculated for students enrolled in grades PK-12 and non-graded. The formulas listed at the bottom of this page were used to calculate the desired school and district-level percentages for each school category, as well as district-level percentages for all schools. The number is the count of students receiving one or more of the specified discipline type (in-school expulsion, in-school suspension, out-of-school expulsion, out-of-school suspension). For example, “the unduplicated count of students receiving one or more in-school suspension.”

Data Sources

The suspension and expulsion indicators are based on district-reported data submitted to the Louisiana Department of Education via the Student Information System (SIS).

References


Formulas Used to Calculate Percent of Students Suspended, Expelled

**School-level Aggregation**

\[
\text{Percent of Students Suspended} = \frac{\text{Number of Students Suspended (unduplicated count)}}{\text{Cumulative Enrollment}} \times 100
\]

\[
\text{Percent of Students Expelled} = \frac{\text{Number of Students Expelled (unduplicated count)}}{\text{Cumulative Enrollment}} \times 100
\]

**District-level Aggregation**

\[
\text{Percent of Students Suspended} = \frac{\text{Total Number of Students Suspended for All Schools in the District (unduplicated count)}}{\text{Cumulative Enrollment for All Schools in the District}} \times 100^*
\]

\[
\text{Percent of Students Expelled} = \frac{\text{Total Number of Students Expelled for All Schools in the District (unduplicated count)}}{\text{Cumulative Enrollment for All Schools in the District}} \times 100^*
\]

*Note: Because of school categorization, the numerator and denominator will vary. For example, Percent of Elementary Students Suspended = (Number of Elementary Students Suspended / Cumulative Elementary Student Enrollment) \times 100.
### Table 12a: Student Suspensions and Expulsions

#### Elementary Schools

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</thead>
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<td></td>
<td>Percent</td>
<td>Number</td>
<td>Percent</td>
<td>Number</td>
<td>Percent</td>
<td>Number</td>
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<td>Suspended (In School)</td>
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<td>3,089</td>
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<td>3,227</td>
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<td>3,643</td>
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~ = Unavailable or insufficient data
### Table 12c: Student Suspensions and Expulsions

#### High Schools

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<td>6</td>
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#### District (High Schools)

|        | Suspended (In School)            | 7.4     | 2.7     | 62      | 0.0     | 0       | 0       | 0       | 0       |
|        | Suspended (Out of School)        | 18.9    | 16.9    | 384     | 0.0     | 0       | 0       | 0       | 0       |
|        | Expelled (In School)             | 0.0     | 0.1     | 3       | 0.0     | 0       | 0       | 0       | 0       |
|        | Expelled (Out of School)         | 0.5     | 0.7     | 15      | 0.0     | 0       | 0       | 0       | 0       |

#### District (All Schools)

|        | Suspended (In School)            | 10.1    | 6.4     | 482     | 7.5     | 580     | 7.2     | 533     | 9.0     | 671     |
|        | Suspended (Out of School)        | 12.3    | 11.8    | 890     | 12.5    | 961     | 14.8    | 1,091   | 13.7    | 1,022   |
|        | Expelled (In School)             | 0.0     | 0.1     | 5       | 0.0     | 2       | 0.0     | 2       | 0.0     | 0       |
|        | Expelled (Out of School)         | 0.3     | 0.5     | 35      | 0.9     | 66      | 0.5     | 40      | 0.3     | 24      |

#### State (High Schools)

|        | Suspended (In School)            | 11.8    | 12.3    | 26,567  | 14.3    | 29,213  | 14.7    | 29,717  | 14.8    | 30,006  |
|        | Suspended (Out of School)        | 14.9    | 13.5    | 29,224  | 12.9    | 26,389  | 13.5    | 27,269  | 14.2    | 28,718  |
|        | Expelled (In School)             | 0.3     | 0.4     | 810     | 0.5     | 1,060   | 0.7     | 1,425   | 0.7     | 1,347   |
|        | Expelled (Out of School)         | 0.8     | 0.6     | 1,317   | 0.6     | 1,207   | 0.7     | 1,468   | 0.7     | 1,406   |

#### State (All Schools)

|        | Suspended (In School)            | 8.1     | 8.3     | 65,115  | 9.3     | 72,473  | 9.8     | 74,491  | 9.6     | 73,140  |
|        | Suspended (Out of School)        | 10.5    | 9.6     | 74,907  | 9.7     | 75,601  | 10.8    | 82,456  | 11.2    | 84,755  |
|        | Expelled (In School)             | 0.2     | 0.3     | 2,127   | 0.4     | 2,805   | 0.5     | 3,609   | 0.5     | 3,536   |
|        | Expelled (Out of School)         | 0.5     | 0.4     | 2,839   | 0.4     | 3,089   | 0.4     | 3,227   | 0.5     | 3,643   |

~ = Unavailable or insufficient data
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>Percent</td>
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<td>Percent</td>
<td>Number</td>
<td>Percent</td>
<td>Number</td>
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<td>High</td>
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<td>High</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>High</td>
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<td>197</td>
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<td>High</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>0.1</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Expelled (Out of School)</td>
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<td>High</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>0.9</td>
<td>14</td>
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**District (Combination Schools)**

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<th>035030</th>
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<tr>
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<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Suspended (Out of School)</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Expelled (In School)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Expelled (Out of School)</td>
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<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
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**District (All Schools)**

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<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expelled (Out of School)</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>0.5</td>
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</table>

**State (Combination Schools)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Natchitoches Parish, Page 3-13</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Suspended (In School)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Suspended (Out of School)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expelled (In School)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expelled (Out of School)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**State (All Schools)**

| Suspended (In School)           | 8.1    | 63,578   | 8.3    |
| Suspended (Out of School)       | 10.5   | 82,290   | 9.6    |
| Expelled (In School)            | 0.2    | 1,779    | 0.3    |
| Expelled (Out of School)        | 0.5    | 3,601    | 0.4    |

~ = Unavailable or insufficient data
Student Retention

Socially promoting failing children to the next grade is a practice that has been costly to children, families, educational institutions and future employers. Schools ultimately fail students by allowing them to move successfully through each grade, eventually graduating with skills too meager to qualify for good jobs. Approximately half of the nation’s major urban school districts currently are in the process of ending social promotion (USA Today, 1999). One of the strategies being employed to end social promotion is student retention with the intent to remediate. Louisiana is proactively retaining students who are failing in their grade and not acquiring the academic skills necessary for future success. This retention is the outcome of the State’s larger accountability and high-stakes testing system, which seeks to remediate failing students in the hopes of future promotion. Student Retention is an issue of debate, for many states weighed heavily against the negative backdrop of social promotion. The importance of student retention as an indicator of educational fitness is essential and has only recently been included in the DCR.

Data Presentation

Table 13 presents five years of grade retention data for students enrolled in school from 1998-99 to 2002-03. The following explains the methodology used to derive the reported retention rates. Retention data for grades 4, 8, 9 and the total for the school (K-12) are presented. Schools are presented in site code order. District and State totals are presented for comparison purposes.

Method of Calculation

Data used for the study

This study used data drawn from the Student Information System (SIS). Two consecutive years of SIS data were used to obtain each year’s retention results: for example, the 1998-99 retention results were obtained by linking the previous school year of 1997-98 with the school year of 1998-99 SIS data. As such, a given year’s retention rate reflects student achievement from the previous year.

For example; 9.1% of students failed to progress at the end of the 1997-1998 school year. The 1998-1999 retention rate is 9.1%.

Students included in the study

The total number of students included in this study reflects K-12 students who were enrolled in Louisiana public schools for at least one day in both school years or who had graduated from high school in the previous school year.

Students excluded from the study

Students enrolled in grades other than K-12, such as preschoolers, infants, pre-kindergarten, and non-graded students were excluded from this study. Students enrolled in Louisiana public schools in the previous school year only were also excluded. These included students who had enrolled in the previous school year, then transferred out-of-state, left Louisiana public schools to attend private school or home school, or dropped out during the previous school year. Because of these exclusions, the total number of students included in this study may be less than the total student enrollment.

Grade Retention definition

In this study, grade-level retention was defined as students who failed to progress to the next grade. Student grade placement in the previous school year was compared with the grade placement in the reporting school year. If a student had the same grade placement in both years, the student was determined as retained: for example, if a student was shown as a 7th grader in both 1997-98 and 1998-99, this student would be identified as retained and, therefore, included in the number of students retained for 1998-99.

Data Sources

The Student Retention indicator used data from the Louisiana Department of Education’s Student Information System (SIS).
Formula Used to Calculate Percent of Students Retained

The retention rate was calculated per grade. The retention rate was calculated by dividing the total number of students retained (per grade) by the total number of students included in the retention study, and then multiplying by 100. Two consecutive years of SIS data were used to obtain each retention rate.

References

Formula Used to Calculate Student Retention Rate

\[
\text{Student Retention Rate} = \frac{\text{Total Number of Students Retained (per grade)}}{\text{Total Students per grade}} \times 100
\]
Table 13: Student Retention  
Percent and Number of Students Retained by Selected Grades (4, 8, 9 and all grades)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School</th>
<th>Grade 4</th>
<th>Grade 8</th>
<th>All Grades (K-12)</th>
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</thead>
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<td>1.4</td>
<td>22.0</td>
<td>11.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fairview-Alpha Elementary School</td>
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<td>32.9</td>
<td>11.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Goldonna Elementary School</td>
<td>33.3</td>
<td>30.8</td>
<td>7.7</td>
</tr>
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<td>Martaville Elem/Jr. High School</td>
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<td>41.2</td>
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</tr>
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<td>Natchitoches Central High School</td>
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<tr>
<td>Natchitoches Junior High School</td>
<td>5.5</td>
<td>47.9</td>
<td>17.9</td>
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<td>66.1</td>
<td>52.5</td>
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<td>19.2</td>
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~ = Unavailable or insufficient data
### Table 13: Student Retention

**Percent and Number of Students Retained by Selected Grades (4, 8, 9 and all grades)**

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</thead>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>Number</td>
<td>Percent</td>
<td>Number</td>
<td>Percent</td>
<td>Number</td>
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<td>8.9</td>
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<td>8.9</td>
<td>37</td>
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<td>58,232</td>
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~ = Unavailable or insufficient data
Student Dropouts

Students who drop out of school deprive our country of potentially priceless human resources. Research indicates that dropping out of school has negative consequences both for the individual who drops out and for society (Curry, Payson, and Sandhu, 1990).

Over the last 20 years, there has been a general increase in high school completion rates. Despite these gains, dropout rates remain at unacceptably high levels. The monitoring of high school dropout rates provides one measure of our progress in increasing the educational attainment of the state’s youth. Unfortunately, determining the exact number of students who actually drop out of school is extremely difficult due to lack of uniformity in reporting the reasons students exit from their respective school systems.

Data Presentation

Table 14, Student Dropouts, presents by grade level the number and percent of students who have dropped out of school for grades 7-12. District and state percents are also presented for the various grade levels. Data are presented by school site code for all schools in the district whose grade structure includes grade seven or higher. As found throughout this publication, district and state numbers and percents are offered for comparison purposes.

Definitions

- **Cumulative Enrollment**—the unduplicated count of all students enrolled in a school or district for at least one school day during the course of the school year.
- **Dropout Denominator**—cumulative enrollment plus any dropouts not included in cumulative enrollment (e.g., reported and non-reported summer dropouts).
- **Dropout**—Students who have dropped out of school (event rate) for grades 7-12. For any given year (the "current year") a dropout is a student who (1) was enrolled at the end of the previous year (therefore expected to return in current year), and who does not enroll on or before October 1 of current year, and therefore becomes a current year dropout or (2) a student who attended school at any point in the current year, and then exits (during the current year), and who does not re-enter school on or before October 1 of following year, and therefore becomes a current year dropout.

Exceptions: Students exited for following reasons are not considered dropouts:

- graduated or completed other approved educational program
- temporary absence due to illness or expulsion
- transfer to correctional institution
- transfer to non-public school or home-schooling
- transfer out of state
- death

For the purpose of this dropout definition,

- a school year is the 12-month period of time beginning with the normal opening of school in the fall (operationally set as October 1”), with dropouts from the previous summer reported for the year and grade for which they fail to enroll;
- an individual has graduated from high school or completed an approved education program upon receipt of formal recognition from school authorities; and
- a state- or district-approved education program may include special education programs, home-based instruction, and school-sponsored secondary (but NOT adult) programs leading to a GED or some other certification differing from the regular diploma (NCES, 1993).
Method of Calculation

Louisiana’s school- and district-level student dropout percents are calculated by dividing the total number of student dropouts in each grade for grades 7-12 by the dropout denominator for that grade. The formulas used to produce percent of student dropouts are presented at the bottom of this page.

Data Sources

The dropout indicator is based on district-reported data submitted to the Louisiana Department of Education via the Student Information System (SIS).

Formulas Used to Calculate Percent of Student Dropouts

(Grades 7-12)

School-level Aggregation

\[
\text{Percent of Student Dropouts (By Grade Level)} = \frac{\text{Number of Student Dropouts (By Grade Level)}}{\text{Dropout Denominator (By Grade Level)}} \times 100
\]

District-level Aggregation

\[
\text{Percent of Student Dropouts (By Grade Level)} = \frac{\text{Total Number of Student Dropouts (By Grade Level) For All Schools in the District}}{\text{Dropout Denominator (By Grade Level) For All Schools in the District}} \times 100
\]

State-level Aggregation

\[
\text{Percent of Student Dropouts (By Grade Level)} = \frac{\text{Total Number of Student Dropouts (By Grade Level) For All Schools in the State}}{\text{Dropout Denominator (By Grade Level) For All Schools in the State}} \times 100
\]

References


# Table 14: Student Dropouts

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N/A = Not Applicable
~ = Unavailable or insufficient data
* Current year's Student Dropout data was not available at the time of this publication. Previous year's data is displayed as the most recently available data.

Natchitoches Parish, Page 3-20
### Table 14: Student Dropouts

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| District                          |         |         |         |         |         |         |
|                                   | Percent | Number  | Percent | Number  | Percent | Number  |
| Grade 7                           | 2.3     | 14      | 1.8     | 11      | 1.7     | 11      | 1.8     | 11      | ~       | ~       |
| Grade 8                           | 2.3     | 13      | 2.6     | 14      | 4.3     | 30      | 3.7     | 27      | ~       | ~       |
| Grade 9                           | 15.6    | 134     | 10.4    | 84      | 19.5    | 132     | 9.9     | 64      | ~       | ~       |
| Grade 10                          | 13.7    | 61      | 11.5    | 49      | 9.7     | 41      | 7.6     | 22      | ~       | ~       |
| Grade 11                          | 11.3    | 46      | 6.0     | 24      | 7.5     | 33      | 6.6     | 27      | ~       | ~       |
| Grade 12                          | 3.8     | 14      | 7.4     | 28      | 5.1     | 20      | 3.2     | 12      | ~       | ~       |
| Grades 9 - 12                     | 12.3    | 255     | 9.2     | 185     | 11.7    | 226     | 7.2     | 125     | ~       | ~       |

| State                             |         |         |         |         |         |         |
|                                   | Percent | Number  | Percent | Number  | Percent | Number  |
| Grade 7                           | 2.1     | 1,309   | 2.2     | 1,333   | 2.0     | 1,216   | 1.5     | 936     | ~       | ~       |
| Grade 8                           | 2.9     | 1,703   | 3.2     | 1,898   | 3.4     | 2,236   | 3.3     | 2,100   | ~       | ~       |
| Grade 9                           | 10.3    | 7,181   | 9.5     | 6,572   | 8.4     | 4,934   | 6.3     | 3,823   | ~       | ~       |
| Grade 10                          | 9.6     | 5,572   | 8.9     | 5,073   | 7.7     | 4,373   | 6.8     | 3,535   | ~       | ~       |
| Grade 11                          | 8.5     | 4,185   | 8.1     | 3,943   | 7.4     | 3,589   | 6.4     | 3,069   | ~       | ~       |
| Grade 12                          | 8.8     | 3,985   | 7.4     | 3,411   | 7.6     | 3,465   | 7.0     | 3,151   | ~       | ~       |
| Grades 9 - 12                     | 9.4     | 20,923  | 8.6     | 18,999  | 7.8     | 16,361  | 6.6     | 13,578  | ~       | ~       |

N/A = Not Applicable
~ = Unavailable or insufficient data
* Current year's Student Dropout data was not available at the time of this publication. Previous year's data is displayed as the most recently available data.
Section 4. Student Achievement
The LEAP for the 21st Century tests (or LEAP 21), Louisiana’s criterion-referenced tests (CRTs) at the elementary and middle school levels, measure how well a student has mastered the state content standards. The LEAP 21 English Language Arts and Mathematics tests (for grade 4 and grade 8) were first administered in the spring of 1999, with the initial administration of the Science and Social Studies tests following in the spring of 2000.

In the spring of 2001, the new high school CRT, or Graduation Exit Examination for the 21st Century (GEE 21), was administered for the first time. The GEE 21 is a CRT that is intended to replace the old GEE, which has served as the standard high school CRT since the spring of 1989. This new high school exit examination is further explained in the second part of the Student Achievement section.

The LEAP 21 tests differ from the previous CRT tests in the areas described below.

- The LEAP 21 tests are directly aligned with the state’s content standards; by law these tests must be as rigorous as those of the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP).
  - The new English Language Arts tests have longer reading passages and a greater variety of item types. Some constructed-response questions require written responses to what the students read, and students in each grade must write a composition in response to a writing prompt.
  - The new Mathematics tests reflect greater difficulty, with a broader and more challenging range of test items and problem types. For example, there are open-ended problems as well as problems with more than one solution and/or more than one path to a solution.
  - The new Science tests contain multiple-choice questions that assess students’ comprehension of science concepts and the process of inquiry. Short-answer items and essay questions allow students to demonstrate a deeper understanding of science and to apply scientific knowledge. Grade 4 students complete and draw conclusions from a comprehensive science task, while grade 8 students respond to a written scenario.
  - The new Social Studies tests challenge students to expand their thinking across the boundaries of the four core disciplines in social studies by assessing their knowledge, conceptual understanding, and application of skills in geography, civics, economics, and history. Some constructed-response questions require higher-order thinking in a social studies context.
- Students no longer receive a pass/fail designation but instead receive one of five achievement ratings:
  - Advanced—A student at this level has demonstrated superior performance beyond the mastery level.
  - Mastery (formerly named Proficient)—A student at this level has demonstrated competency over challenging subject matter and is well prepared for the next level of schooling.
  - Basic—A student at this level has demonstrated only the fundamental knowledge and skills needed for the next level of schooling.
  - Approaching Basic—A student at this level has only partially demonstrated the fundamental knowledge and skills needed for the next level of schooling.
  - Unsatisfactory—A student at this level has not demonstrated the fundamental knowledge and skills needed for the next level of schooling.

In the spring of 2000, the LEAP 21 tests became high stakes tests for 4th and 8th graders. To be promoted fully to the 5th or 9th grade at the end of the 1999-2000 school year, students had to score at the Approaching Basic achievement level or above on both the English Language Arts and the Mathematics LEAP 21 tests. Intensive summer remediation was offered for students who scored at the Unsatisfactory achievement level, with a retest opportunity at the end of the summer remediation session. Local school systems were given the authority to grant appeals and waivers based on certain circumstances.

All students take the LEAP 21 tests, except for students whose Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) indicate that they have met the participation criteria for alternate assessment (LAA), which began in the 2000-2001 school year, or for LAA-B, which began in the 1999-2000 school year.
Data Presentation

Tables 15a-15h provide LEAP 21 test results for grades 4 and 8. The tables reflect both the number and percent of students who score at each achievement level for each subject area. The tables present the LEAP 21 results in school site code order for each school in the district. Also, comparison data are presented for the district and the state.

Furthermore, the data presented are LEAP 21 scores for all students included in the accountability CRT index score at each school. As a result, the data in the District Composite Report may not match the data contained in reports issued by the testing contractor.

Differences may exist because of the following reasons. First, students with LEAP 21 index scores of zero are included in the Unsatisfactory achievement level. Zero scores are assigned to students who are not exempt and who did not take the test and to students with testing irregularities. Second, students from Option I alternative schools are included in the results of their home school. Third, if a school had insufficient data for one grade, the presented results will include scores from the shared grade of another school. Finally, results for students who took the LAA or LAA-B also were included.

Definition

- **Criterion-referenced tests (CRTs)**—tests that produce a score that tells how individuals/schools perform in achieving established criteria.

Data Source

The LEAP 21 results are based on student-level data provided to the Louisiana Department of Education by Data Recognition Corporation (DRC), the testing contractor for the Louisiana Educational Assessment Program for the 21st Century tests (LEAP 21) for grades 4 and 8.
Table 15a: LEAP 21 Test Results - Grade 4 English Language Arts
Percent and Number of Students by Achievement Levels

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035005 East Natchitoches Elementary School

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035006 Fairview-Alpha Elementary School

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* Starting in spring 2003, the Proficient achievement level was changed to Mastery.
Table 15a: LEAP 21 Test Results - Grade 4 English Language Arts

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035017 Provencial Elementary & Junior High School

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~ = Unavailable or insufficient data
* Starting in spring 2003, the Proficient achievement level was changed to Mastery.
Table 15a: LEAP 21 Test Results - Grade 4 English Language Arts

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* Starting in spring 2003, the Proficient achievement level was changed to Mastery.
### Table 15b: LEAP 21 Test Results - Grade 4 Mathematics

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* Starting in spring 2003, the Proficient achievement level was changed to Mastery.
### Table 15b: LEAP 21 Test Results - Grade 4 Mathematics

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* Starting in spring 2003, the Proficient achievement level was changed to Mastery.
# Table 15b: LEAP 21 Test Results - Grade 4 Mathematics

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* Starting in spring 2003, the *Proficient* achievement level was changed to *Mastery.*
Table 15c: LEAP 21 Test Results - Grade 4 Science

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~ = Unavailable or insufficient data
N/A = Not Applicable: Science and Social Studies tests of the LEAP 21 test were first administered to the 4th and 8th graders in spring 2000.
* Starting in spring 2003, the Proficient achievement level was changed to Mastery.
## Table 15c: LEAP 21 Test Results - Grade 4 Science

**Percent and Number of Students by Achievement Levels**

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~ = Unavailable or insufficient data

N/A = Not Applicable: Science and Social Studies tests of the LEAP 21 test were first administered to the 4th and 8th graders in spring 2000.

* Starting in spring 2003, the Proficient achievement level was changed to Mastery.
Table 15c: LEAP 21 Test Results - Grade 4 Science  
Percent and Number of Students by Achievement Levels

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* Starting in spring 2003, the Proficient achievement level was changed to Mastery.
Table 15d: LEAP 21 Test Results - Grade 4 Social Studies

**Percent and Number of Students by Achievement Levels**

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### Table 15d: LEAP 21 Test Results - Grade 4 Social Studies

**Percent and Number of Students by Achievement Levels**

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~ = Unavailable or insufficient data

N/A = Not Applicable: Science and Social Studies tests of the LEAP 21 test were first administered to the 4th and 8th graders in spring 2000.

* Starting in spring 2003, the *Proficient* achievement level was changed to *Mastery.*
Table 15d: LEAP 21 Test Results - Grade 4 Social Studies
Percent and Number of Students by Achievement Levels

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~ = Unavailable or insufficient data
N/A = Not Applicable: Science and Social Studies tests of the LEAP 21 test were first administered to the 4th and 8th graders in spring 2000.
* Starting in spring 2003, the Proficient achievement level was changed to Mastery.
### Table 15e: LEAP 21 Test Results - Grade 8 English Language Arts

**Percent and Number of Students by Achievement Levels**

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~ = Unavailable or insufficient data
* Starting in spring 2003, the Proficient achievement level was changed to Mastery.
Table 15e: LEAP 21 Test Results - Grade 8 English Language Arts

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~ = Unavailable or insufficient data
* Starting in spring 2003, the Proficient achievement level was changed to Mastery.
Table 15f: LEAP 21 Test Results - Grade 8 Mathematics
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~ = Unavailable or insufficient data
* Starting in spring 2003, the Proficient achievement level was changed to Mastery.
## Table 15f: LEAP 21 Test Results - Grade 8 Mathematics

*Percent and Number of Students by Achievement Levels*

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~ = Unavailable or insufficient data

* Starting in spring 2003, the *Proficient* achievement level was changed to *Mastery.*
## Table 15g: LEAP 21 Test Results - Grade 8 Science

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~ = Unavailable or insufficient data
N/A = Not Applicable: Science and Social Studies tests of the LEAP 21 test were first administered to the 4th and 8th graders in spring 2000.

* Starting in spring 2003, the Proficient achievement level was changed to Mastery.
## Table 15g: LEAP 21 Test Results - Grade 8 Science

*Percent and Number of Students by Achievement Levels*

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~ = Unavailable or insufficient data

N/A = Not Applicable: Science and Social Studies tests of the LEAP 21 test were first administered to the 4th and 8th graders in spring 2000.

* Starting in spring 2003, the Proficient achievement level was changed to Mastery.
### Table 15h: LEAP 21 Test Results - Grade 8 Social Studies

#### Percent and Number of Students by Achievement Levels

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**Note:**

- ~ = Unavailable or insufficient data
- N/A = Not Applicable: Science and Social Studies tests of the LEAP 21 test were first administered to the 4th and 8th graders in spring 2000.
- * Starting in spring 2003, the Proficient achievement level was changed to Mastery.

Natchitoches Parish, Page 4-21
Table 15h: LEAP 21 Test Results - Grade 8 Social Studies

Percent and Number of Students by Achievement Levels

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~ = Unavailable or insufficient data
N/A = Not Applicable: Science and Social Studies tests of the LEAP 21 test were first administered to the 4th and 8th graders in spring 2000.

* Starting in spring 2003, the Proficient achievement level was changed to Mastery.
The new high school CRT is the **Graduation Exit Examination for the 21st Century (GEE 21)**, replacing the old GEE, in use for more than a decade. Like the previous GEE, the goal of the GEE 21 is to ensure that students graduate from high school with basic skills knowledge in English, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies. Furthermore, the GEE 21 is used to measure how well a student has mastered the state content standards. The GEE 21 assesses students’ abilities according to the state’s more rigorous standards for what students should know and be able to do. The GEE 21 is of the same rigor as the LEAP 21, administered in grades 4 and 8.

The GEE 21 has only four subject area tests: English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies. Instead of receiving pass or fail designations, students receive an achievement level, ranging from a top level of *Advanced* to a failing level of *Unsatisfactory*.

The first cohort of students to take the GEE 21 were the students who were in the 10th grade in the spring of 2001 (the graduating class of 2003). These students needed to score *Approaching Basic* or above on only the English Language Arts and Mathematics tests to graduate. If they did not achieve *Approaching Basic*, they were allowed four more opportunities to retest during their junior and senior years. The Science and Social Studies tests were administered to first-time eleventh graders beginning in the spring of 2002. All classes beginning with the graduating class of 2004 have to score *Approaching Basic* or above on both the English Language Arts and the Mathematics tests and on either the Science or Social Studies tests to graduate from high school.

**Data Presentation**

Tables 16a-16d provide the GEE 21 results for first-time GEE 21 test takers. The tables reflect both the number and percent of students at each achievement level in the GEE 21 subject area component. The GEE 21 results are presented in school site code order for each school in the district. Also, comparison data are presented for the district and the state.

Furthermore, the data presented are GEE 21 scores for all students included in the accountability CRT index score at each school. As a result, the data in the *District Composite Report* may not match the data contained in reports issued by the testing contractor.

Differences may exist because of the following reasons. First, students with GEE 21 index scores of zero are included in the *Unsatisfactory* achievement level. Zero scores are assigned to students who are not exempt and who did not take the test, and to students with testing irregularities. Second, students from Option I alternative schools are included in the results of their home school. Third, if a school had insufficient data for one grade, the presented results will include scores from the shared grade of another school. Finally, results for students who took the LAA or LAA-B were also included.

**Data Source**

The GEE 21 results are based on student-level data provided to the Louisiana Department of Education by Data Recognition Corporation (DRC), the testing contractor for this portion of the Louisiana Educational Assessment Program (LEAP).
Table 16a: Graduation Exit Examination (GEE 21) Results - English Language Arts

Percent and Number of Students by Achievement Levels

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~ = Unavailable or insufficient data
N/A = Not Applicable: English Language Arts and Mathematics tests of the new GEE 21 test were first administered in spring 2001.
* Starting in spring 2003, the Proficient achievement level was changed to Mastery.
## Table 16b: Graduation Exit Examination (GEE 21) Results - Mathematics

**Percent and Number of Students by Achievement Levels**

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~ = Unavailable or insufficient data
N/A = Not Applicable: English Language Arts and Mathematics tests of the new GEE 21 test were first administered in spring 2001.
* Starting in spring 2003, the Proficient achievement level was changed to Mastery.
### Table 16c: Graduation Exit Examination (GEE 21) Results - Science

**Percent and Number of Students by Achievement Levels**

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~ = Unavailable or insufficient data
N/A = Not Applicable: Science and Social Studies tests of the new GEE 21 test were first administered in spring 2002.

* Starting in spring 2003, the Proficient achievement level was changed to Mastery.
Table 16d: Graduation Exit Examination (GEE 21) Results - Social Studies
Percent and Number of Students by Achievement Levels

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</table>

~ = Unavailable or insufficient data
N/A = Not Applicable: Science and Social Studies tests of the new GEE 21 test were first administered in spring 2002.
* Starting in spring 2003, the Proficient achievement level was changed to Mastery.
Norm-Referenced Test (NRT) – The Iowa Tests Results

The Louisiana Educational Assessment Program (LEAP) utilizes norm-referenced tests (NRTs) for national student comparisons with Louisiana students. In 1998, the NRT administered to Louisiana students changed from the California Achievement Test to the Iowa Tests of Basic Skills (ITBS) and the Iowa Tests of Educational Development (ITED).

The Iowa Tests is a standardized achievement test battery with items presented in a traditional multiple-choice format. A nationally representative group of students took The Iowa Tests under specified directions and certain conditions. Their scores became the norms used to compare individual students and groups of students to students in the nation.

In the spring of 2003, a new form of The Iowa Tests, the Iowa/03, was administered. The majority of the tests that make up the Complete Batteries of the ITBS for grades 3, 5, 6, and 7 include Vocabulary, Reading Comprehension, Spelling, Capitalization, Punctuation, Usage and Expression, Math Concepts and Estimation, Math Problem Solving and Data Interpretation, Social Studies, Science, Maps and Diagrams and Reference Materials. A Mathematics Computation test was administered only at grade 3; Mathematics Computation is not used to calculate the Mathematics Total, Core Total, or the Composite score. The Iowa Tests of Basic Skills Composite score is the average of the scores for Reading Total, Language Total, Mathematics Total, Social Studies, Science, and Sources of Information Total.

The ITED consists of seven tests: Vocabulary, Reading Comprehension, Correctness and Appropriateness of Expression, Ability to Do Language: Revising Written Materials, Mathematics: Concepts and Problem Solving, Social Studies, Science, and Sources of Information. The Iowa Tests of Educational Development Composite score is the average of the scores for the seven tests.

In the spring of 2003, approximately 277,500 public school students were given the test. Among them, 218,500 students in grades 3, 5, 6, and 7 took the Complete Batteries of the ITBS. Approximately 50,000 public school students in grade 9 were also tested, taking the Complete Battery of the ITED. In addition, 4,300 grade 8 (Option 2 students, or grade 8 repeaters on a high school campus) and 2,400 Options (PreGED/Skills) Program students took the ITED.

These tests are administered to all students, except for students whose Individual Education Programs (IEPs) indicate that they have met the participation criteria for alternate assessment (LAA), which began in the 2000-2001 school year, or for LAA-B assessment, which began in the 1999-2000 school year.

Data Presentation

Tables 17a–17e present the NRT results for grades 3, 5, 6, 7, and 9, respectively. Test results are shown for all public schools in the district with schools listed in site code order. District, state, and national results are presented for comparison purposes.

The data presented are based on national percentile ranks. A percentile rank is the percent of students in the national norm group who scored at or below a particular score. Data are grouped as follows:

- **Fourth Quartile**—the percent of students who scored between the 75th and 99th percentile ranks, or in other words, the percent of students in the top 25 percent of students in the national norm group. If 32 of 100 students had percentile ranks in this range, Quartile 4 would read 32 percent.

- **Third Quartile**—the percent of students who scored between the 50th and the 74th national percentiles.
• **Second Quartile**—the percent of students who scored between the 25th and 49th national percentiles.

• **First Quartile**—the percent of students who scored between the 1st and 24th national percentiles.

• **Percentile Rank of the Average Standard Score for the National Student Norms**—percentile rank of the average student in the school, district, or state. For example, a percentile rank of 48 for a school means that 48 percent of the students nationally (in the norm group) scored at or below the average score obtained by the students in the school.

The user of this report should use caution when comparing spring 2003 The Iowa Tests results with the results of prior years (spring 1999 to spring 2002) for the following reasons: 1) the spring 2003 scores are based on the new form of The Iowa Tests, form Iowa/03, which uses interpolated spring 2000 norms, while prior years’ scores are based on the old form of the test, which used interpolated spring 1995 norms, 2) the new and old forms of The Iowa Tests have different test questions, and 3) minor differences, such as changes in time limits and number of questions, have been made to the new form.

**Definition**

• **Norm-referenced tests (NRTs)**—These tests produce scores that tell how individuals, schools, districts, and the state perform in comparison with the national norm group.

**Data Source**

The Iowa Tests results are based on student-level data provided to the Louisiana Department of Education, Division of Planning, Analysis and Information Resources by Riverside Publishing, the testing contractor for The Iowa Tests.
Table 17a: The Iowa Tests Results\(^1\) - Grade 3

**Percent of Students by National Quartiles\(^2\) and Percentile Rank of Average Standard Scores**

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\(^{~}\) = Unavailable or insufficient data

\(^{1}\) Please use caution when comparing the spring of 2003 The Iowa Test Results with the results from prior years because a new form of the test was used in the spring of 2003.

\(^{2}\) The four quartiles comprise the following ranges of percentile ranks: 1-24 (first quartile), 25-49 (second quartile), 50-74 (third quartile), and 75-99 (fourth quartile).
Table 17a: The Iowa Tests Results\(^1\)- Grade 3
Percent of Students by National Quartiles\(^2\) and Percentile Rank of Average Standard Scores

| 035015 | George L. Parks Elementary School | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Fourth Quartile | 1.2 | 1.9 | 6.8 | 3.9 | 3.3 |
| Third Quartile | 8.4 | 9.3 | 16.9 | 11.8 | 28.3 |
| Second Quartile | 22.9 | 33.3 | 39.0 | 36.8 | 33.3 |
| First Quartile | 67.5 | 55.6 | 37.3 | 47.4 | 35.0 |
| Percentile Rank | 20 | 22 | 32 | 27 | 36 |

| 035017 | Provencal Elementary & Junior High School | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Fourth Quartile | 5.9 | 17.5 | 27.3 | 32.4 | 34.6 |
| Third Quartile | 38.2 | 35.0 | 33.3 | 23.5 | 28.8 |
| Second Quartile | 20.6 | 32.5 | 27.3 | 44.1 | 25.0 |
| First Quartile | 35.3 | 15.0 | 12.1 | 0.0 | 11.5 |
| Percentile Rank | 38 | 54 | 56 | 61 | 65 |

| 035021 | M.R. Weaver Elementary School | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Fourth Quartile | 22.1 | 18.2 | 30.4 | 23.8 | 22.0 |
| Third Quartile | 29.4 | 34.8 | 39.3 | 31.7 | 37.0 |
| Second Quartile | 36.8 | 42.4 | 21.4 | 30.2 | 35.0 |
| First Quartile | 11.8 | 4.5 | 8.9 | 14.3 | 6.0 |
| Percentile Rank | 55 | 56 | 62 | 55 | 59 |

| 035024 | Cloutierville Elementary School | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Fourth Quartile | 5.3 | 10.5 | 14.3 | 15.4 | 15.4 |
| Third Quartile | 26.3 | 23.7 | 34.3 | 23.1 | 38.5 |
| Second Quartile | 28.9 | 36.8 | 40.0 | 43.6 | 30.8 |
| First Quartile | 39.5 | 28.9 | 11.4 | 17.9 | 15.4 |
| Percentile Rank | 34 | 37 | 51 | 46 | 51 |

\(^\sim\) = Unavailable or insufficient data

\(^1\) Please use caution when comparing the spring of 2003 The Iowa Test Results with the results from prior years because a new form of the test was used in the spring of 2003.

\(^2\) The four quartiles comprise the following ranges of percentile ranks: 1-24 (first quartile), 25-49 (second quartile), 50-74 (third quartile), and 75-99 (fourth quartile).
Table 17a: The Iowa Tests Results\(^1\) - Grade 3

Percent of Students by National Quartiles\(^2\) and Percentile Rank of Average Standard Scores

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\(~ = \text{Unavailable or insufficient data}\)

\(^1\) Please use caution when comparing the spring of 2003 The Iowa Test Results with the results from prior years because a new form of the test was used in the spring of 2003.

\(^2\) The four quartiles comprise the following ranges of percentile ranks: 1-24 (first quartile), 25-49 (second quartile), 50-74 (third quartile), and 75-99 (fourth quartile).
Table 17b: The Iowa Tests Results\(^1\)- Grade 5
Percent of Students by National Quartiles\(^2\) and Percentile Rank of Average Standard Scores

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### Table 17b: The Iowa Tests Results\(^1\) - Grade 5

**Percent of Students by National Quartiles\(^2\) and Percentile Rank of Average Standard Scores**

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Natchitoches Parish, Page 4-34
Table 17b: The Iowa Tests Results\(^1\) - Grade 5

Percent of Students by National Quartiles\(^2\) and Percentile Rank of Average Standard Scores

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\(^{\sim}\) = Unavailable or insufficient data

\(^1\) Please use caution when comparing the spring of 2003 The Iowa Test Results with the results from prior years because a new form of the test was used in the spring of 2003.

\(^2\) The four quartiles comprise the following ranges of percentile ranks: 1-24 (first quartile), 25-49 (second quartile), 50-74 (third quartile), and 75-99 (fourth quartile).
### Table 17c: The Iowa Tests Results\(^1\)- Grade 6

**Percent of Students by National Quartiles\(^2\) and Percentile Rank of Average Standard Scores**

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\(^1\) Please use caution when comparing the spring of 2003 The Iowa Test Results with the results from prior years because a new form of the test was used in the spring of 2003.

\(^2\) The four quartiles comprise the following ranges of percentile ranks: 1-24 (first quartile), 25-49 (second quartile), 50-74 (third quartile), and 75-99 (fourth quartile).

Natchitoches Parish, Page 4-36
Table 17c: The Iowa Tests Results\(^1\) - Grade 6  
Percent of Students by National Quartiles\(^2\) and Percentile Rank of Average Standard Scores

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\(~ = \text{Unavailable or insufficient data})

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### Table 17c: The Iowa Tests Results\(^1\) - Grade 6

**Percent of Students by National Quartiles\(^2\) and Percentile Rank of Average Standard Scores**

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1 Please use caution when comparing the spring of 2003 The Iowa Test Results with the results from prior years because a new form of the test was used in the spring of 2003.

2 The four quartiles comprise the following ranges of percentile ranks: 1-24 (first quartile), 25-49 (second quartile), 50-74 (third quartile), and 75-99 (fourth quartile).
Table 17d: The Iowa Tests Results\(^1\) - Grade 7

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\(\sim\) = Unavailable or insufficient data

\(^1\) Please use caution when comparing the spring of 2003 The Iowa Test Results with the results from prior years because a new form of the test was used in the spring of 2003.

\(^2\) The four quartiles comprise the following ranges of percentile ranks: 1-24 (first quartile), 25-49 (second quartile), 50-74 (third quartile), and 75-99 (fourth quartile).
Table 17e: The Iowa Tests Results\(^1\)- Grade 9  
Percent of Students by National Quartiles\(^2\) and Percentile Rank of Average Standard Scores

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\(^2\) The four quartiles comprise the following ranges of percentile ranks: 1-24 (first quartile), 25-49 (second quartile), 50-74 (third quartile), and 75-99 (fourth quartile).
### Table 17e: The Iowa Tests Results\(^1\) - Grade 9

**Percent of Students by National Quartiles\(^2\) and Percentile Rank of Average Standard Scores**

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\(^2\) The four quartiles comprise the following ranges of percentile ranks: 1-24 (first quartile), 25-49 (second quartile), 50-74 (third quartile), and 75-99 (fourth quartile).
Section 5. College Readiness

American College Test (ACT) Results ................................................5-1
First-Time College Freshmen Performance ......................................5-3
American College Test (ACT) Results

The American College Test (ACT) measures academic achievement in English, mathematics, reading, and science reasoning. The English component measures usage and mechanics of standard written English and rhetorical skills. The mathematics component contains primarily algebra and geometry items with some trigonometry items. Students are required to apply reasoning skills to practical problems in mathematics. The reading component is made up of four passages, which are similar to the type of writing encountered in college freshmen courses. Students have to display an understanding of both explicit and implicit information contained in the passages as well as be able to draw appropriate conclusions. The science reasoning component measures higher-order thinking skills as applied to the natural sciences (ACT 2000).

Data Presentation

Table 18 presents the average ACT composite scores for each public school in the district having both a twelfth grade and student ACT scores. Schools are shown in school site code order. Comparison data are presented for the district, state, and nation.

Method of Calculation

The ACT composite score for a student is an average score based on the scores for the four ACT assessment tests (English, mathematics, reading, and science reasoning). The composite score, which ranges from 1 to 36, is a measure of the student’s general educational development across these four subject areas.

The school, district, state, and national ACT scores are the averages of the students’ most recently obtained composite scores. Students who were or who would have been members of the graduating class for any given year are included in these averages. In other words, the aggregated composite scores include test scores for (1) twelfth graders who took the test in the current year and (2) twelfth graders who took the test as eleventh graders and elected not to retake it as seniors. If a student took the test in both the eleventh and twelfth grades, only the twelfth grade score has been included in the averages.

The district composite score is based on public school students only. However, the reported statewide ACT score includes both public and nonpublic student scores. This reporting method was deliberately selected to keep state statistics consistent with nationally reported figures, which are based on the combined performance of public and nonpublic students.

Data Source

The ACT indicator is based on data supplied to the Louisiana Department of Education by the testing contractor, American College Testing.

References

Table 18: American College Test (ACT) Results

Average Composite Scores*

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</table>

~= Unavailable or insufficient data

* The scores of schools with fewer than 10 students tested are not listed but are included in the district average.
First-Time College Freshmen Performance

Information about the number of Louisiana public school students who enrolled as first-time freshmen (FTF) in this state’s colleges and universities has been collected since 1987. The 1993 Louisiana Legislature believed that the FTF data made an important statement about the quality of secondary schooling. The 1993 Legislature mandated that the FTF information be incorporated into the Progress Profile School Report Cards so that information might be more widely accessible to parents.

Since FTF data are provided for only public schools that have grade 12 diploma graduates and such schools may not have received Accountability Reports prior to 2001, other First Time Freshmen reports have been prepared for the high schools. In addition, FTF information is included in DCRs when it is available.

The Organization for Economic Co-Operation and Development (OECD, 2000) has indicated a high school education often serves as the minimum credential for entry into the labor market, as well as the foundation for all types of post-secondary programs, including college/university studies. Therefore, the number of high school diploma graduates provides some insight about the size of a school’s graduating class.

Since the quality of each high school preparation program can be one factor that impacts whether or not a diploma graduate will be accepted into a college, it is of interest to study the college-going rates of each high school and of each district. The college-going rates estimate the proportion of a high school graduating class that made an immediate transition to an in-state college or university.

Furthermore, if the quality of a high school’s program is poor, then the school’s diploma graduates who do enroll in college may need to complete several developmental courses prior to enrolling in college credit courses. Thus, when it is found that a large percent of a high school’s diploma graduates enrolled in developmental courses, the high school should take action to improve the preparation and college-readiness of its students.

Data Presentation

Table 19 presents the number and/or percent of students who (1) were diploma graduates from the district’s public schools that had grade 12 and (2) enrolled as full-time, first-time freshmen during the following fall semester at any of Louisiana’s two- or four-year public and private colleges/universities. Thus, these FTF are recent graduates who made an immediate transition to a college or university. The table also reports the number and percent of first-time college freshmen who were enrolled in at least one developmental course during their first regular semester of college study. Comparison data are also presented at the district and state levels.

Note: For any given school year, the first-time college freshmen data represent information on the high school diploma graduates from the previous school year. Further, the district results may reflect data from additional schools, which were open during the previous school year. Finally, the state results are based on all public schools that had diploma graduates in the previous school year.

Definitions

- **Graduate**—a student who successfully completes a SBESE-approved education program, passes the Graduation Exit Examination (GEE), and thus earns a State-approved diploma. Students who earn GEDs are not included.
- **First-Time college freshman**—a student who graduates from high school during a given school year and who is enrolled full time in a Louisiana higher education institution (both public and private) the following fall semester. A student must begin the fall semester with fewer than 12 hours of credit previously attempted (not including advanced placement credits and correspondence study) to be considered a first-time freshman.
• Developmental course—a course designed by a university to prepare students to succeed academically in college-level courses. Developmental courses may be offered for institutional credit (i.e., they are taken into consideration in determining whether students are enrolled part time or full time), but do not carry degree credit.

Method of Calculation
The two formulas used in calculating the first-time college freshmen indicator are presented below. The percent of high school graduates who become first-time college freshmen is calculated for public high school diploma graduates who attend in-state colleges or universities.

Formulas Used to Calculate First-Time College Freshmen Percentages

\[
\text{Percent of High School Graduates Who Were First-Time College Freshmen} = \frac{\text{Number of First-Time College Freshmen}}{\text{Total Number of High School Graduates}} \times 100
\]

\[
\text{Percent of First-Time College Freshmen Who Enrolled in a Developmental Course} = \frac{\text{Number of First-Time College Freshmen Who Enrolled in a Developmental Course}}{\text{Total Number of First-Time College Freshmen}} \times 100
\]

Data Source
The first-time college freshmen indicator is based on data submitted to the Louisiana Department of Education by Louisiana public and private colleges or universities. The number of high school graduates is drawn from the Student Information System (SIS).

References
Table 19
First-Time College Freshmen Performance

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~ = Unavailable or insufficient data

1 Represents diploma graduates from the previous school year.
Glossary

achievement level—one of the following five LEAP 21/GEE 21 achievement ratings:
- **Advanced**—A student at this level has demonstrated superior performance beyond the mastery level.
- **Mastery (formerly named Proficient)**—A student at this level has demonstrated competency over challenging subject matter and is well prepared for the next level of schooling.
- **Basic**—A student at this level demonstrated only the fundamental knowledge and skills needed for the next level of schooling.
- **Approaching Basic**—A student at this level has only partially demonstrated the fundamental knowledge and skills needed for the next level of schooling.
- **Unsatisfactory**—A student at this level has not demonstrated the fundamental knowledge and skills needed for the next level of schooling.

**Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP)**—the minimum level of achievement or improvement that a school must achieve within a set time frame. The No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 requires that every state form its own definition of AYP. Louisiana evaluates whether schools make AYP for two components:
- **SPS Component**—To make AYP a school must have a Growth SPS of 45 or above; and
- **Subgroup Component**—To make AYP a school must meet requirements in test participation, academic performance, and the additional academic indicator (attendance rate or non-dropout rate) for all required subgroups.

**aggregate days attendance**—the total number of days that students are present at the school site over the course of the school year.

**aggregate days membership**—the total number of days that students are enrolled (but not necessarily present at the school site) over the course of the school year.

**alternate assessment**—The LEAP Alternate Assessment (LAA) is a performance-based, "on-demand" student assessment for students whose IEPs reflect significant modifications of the general education curriculum with an emphasis on functional and life skills. These students are working toward a Certificate of Achievement.

**average classroom teacher’s salary**—The average of actual salaries, including Professional Improvement Program (PIP) payments, reported for all full-time and part-time classroom teachers (excluding rehired retirees and ROTC instructors), who were employed during any period of the school year by the public school districts.

**Baseline School Performance Score (SPS)**—the SPS used to determine the school’s Growth Target and Performance Label. It will be compared against the future Growth SPS to determine if adequate growth is achieved.

**class**—a grouping of children under the primary supervision and instruction of an individual teacher for all or part of the instructional day, as reported for purposes of the Annual School Report (ASR) and as identified by a specific ASR course code.

**combination school category**—any school whose grade structure falls within the PK-12 range and which is not described by any of the other school category definitions. These schools generally contain some grades in the K-6 range and some grades in the 9-12 range. Examples would include grade structures such as K-12; K-3, combined with 9-12; and 4-6, combined with 9-12.

**criterion-referenced test (CRT)**—a test that produces a score that tells how individuals/schools perform in achieving established criteria.

**cumulative enrollment**—the unduplicated count of students enrolled in a school or district for at least one school day during the course of the school year.

**current expenditures**—total expenditures minus equipment, facilities acquisitions and construction services costs, and debt services costs.

**day of attendance**—effective with the 1992-93 school year, when a student “(1) is physically present at a school site or is participating in an authorized school activity and (2) is under the supervision of authorized personnel. This definition extends to students who are homebound, assigned to and participating in drug rehabilitation.
programs that contain a State-approved education component, or participating in school-authorized field trips.” (Bulletin 741)

“Students who meet the above criteria and are present at the school site for 26-50% of the student’s instructional day shall be credited with a half day’s attendance. Those who meet the above criteria and are present for more than 50% of the student’s instructional day are credited with a whole day’s attendance. Students who are not physically present or who are participating for 25% or less of their instructional day will be considered absent for reporting purposes. Absences, whether excused or unexcused, shall be counted as an absence for reporting to the Department.” (Bulletin 741) The definition of the “amount” of time receiving instruction that is required to be in attendance has been in effect statewide since the 1993-94 school year.

debt services—servicing the debt of the LEA, including payments of both principal and interest. Debt service and other long-term obligations are not included in expenditure figures because these monies provide services during multiple years and should not be attributed to only one year.

developmental course—a course designed by a university to prepare students to succeed academically in college-level courses. Developmental courses may be offered for college credit (i.e., they are taken into consideration in determining whether students are part-time or full-time) but do not carry degree credit.

District Performance Score (DPS)—a roll-up of the student-level School Performance Score (SPS) data in the district for one year.

dropout—“an individual who was enrolled in school at some time during the previous school year, was not enrolled at the beginning of the current school year, has not graduated from high school or completed an approved educational program, and does not meet any of the following exclusionary conditions: transfer to another public school district outside of Louisiana, private school, or state- or district-approved education program; temporary absence due to suspension or illness; or death.” (NCES, 1993).

For purposes of applying the dropout definition, the definitions below also apply.

1. A school year is defined as the 12-month period of time beginning October 1, with dropouts from the previous summer reported for the year and grade for which they fail to enroll.

2. An individual has graduated from high school or completed a state- or district-approved education program upon receipt of formal recognition from school authorities.

3. A state or district approved program may include special education programs, home-based instruction, and school-sponsored secondary (but NOT adult) programs leading to a GED or some other certification differing from the regular diploma (NCES, 1993).

dropout denominator—cumulative enrollment plus any dropouts not included in cumulative enrollment (e.g., reported and non-reported summer dropouts).

eight-and-a-halfers—Term often used in reference to Option 2 students (see definition).

Elementary and Secondary Membership—The number of pre-kindergarten (PK), grades K-12, and non-graded (NG) students in membership as of October 2, 2001. This number includes regular education and pre-kindergarten students and does not include special education preschool students and infants.

elementary school category—any school whose grade structure falls within the PK-8 range, which excludes grades in the 9-12 range, and which does not fit the definition for middle/junior high.

faculty—school-based instructional personnel. In addition to full-time classroom teachers, these individuals include principals, assistant principals, guidance counselors, librarians, and other instructional/administrative staff.

first-time college freshman—a student who graduates from high school during a given school year and who is enrolled full time in a Louisiana higher education institution (both public and private) the following fall semester. A student must begin the fall semester with fewer than 12 hours credit previously attempted (not including advanced placement credits and correspondence study) to be considered a first-time freshman.
grade structure—the various educational grade levels that a school contains and for which instruction is provided (i.e., K-8, or Kindergarten through grade 8).

graduate—a student who successfully completes a SBESE-approved education program, passes the Graduation Exit Examination (GEE), and thus earns a State-approved diploma. Students who earn GEDs are not included.

Growth Label—the descriptive label that describes the level of growth achieved by a school and is based on the school’s success in attaining its Growth Target. Growth Labels are as follows:

- Exemplary Academic Growth (a school exceeding its Growth Target by 5 points or more);
- Recognized Academic Growth (a school meeting its Growth Target or exceeding it by less than 5 points);
- Minimal Academic Growth (a school improving some, but not meeting its Growth Target);
- No Growth (a school that declines from zero to minus (-) 5.0 points);
- School In Decline (a school that declines more than minus (-) 5.0 points); and
- No Label Assigned (a school with either a Growth or new Baseline SPS of 100.0 or more that did not achieve its Growth Target).

Growth School Performance Score (SPS)—is calculated at the end of a cycle and compared to the Baseline SPS to determine if a school has achieved its Growth Target for that cycle.

Growth Target— the amount of progress a school must make to remain on target for reaching the state’s goal. It is calculated by subtracting the Baseline SPS from the state goal and dividing by the number of years (or cycles prior to 2002-2003) remaining to attain the state goal.

high school category—any school whose grade structure falls within the 6-12 range and which includes grades in the 10-12 range, or any school that contains only grade 9.

highly qualified teachers—certified teachers who meet the following criteria:

- Hold an A, B, C, L1, L2, or L3 certificate as well as those who hold out-of-state and Practitioner’s Licenses (PL);
- Teach a core course (English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies, Foreign Language, or the Arts) in grades 1-12; and
- Their area of certification matches each core academic course they teach in addition to having demonstrated competency in teaching each course.

Individualized Education Programs (IEPs)— Written statements developed, reviewed, and revised in a meeting in accordance with §440—445 for each student with a disability.

in-school expulsion—a student temporarily removed from his/her usual classroom placement to an alternative setting for a period of time specified by the LEA; no interruption of instructional services occurs.

in-school suspension—a student temporarily removed from his/her usual classroom placement to an alternative setting for a minimum of one complete school day; no interruption of instructional services occurs.

Limited English Proficient (LEP)— A Limited English Proficient student is an individual A)who (1) was not born in the US or whose native language is a language other than English and comes from an environment where a language other than English is dominant; or (2) is a Native American or Alaska Native or who is a native resident of the outlying areas and comes from an environment where a language other than English has had significant impact on such individual’s level of English language proficiency; or (3) is migratory and whose native language is other than English and comes from an environment where a language other than English is dominant; and B) who has sufficient difficulty speaking, reading, writing, or understanding the English language and whose difficulties may deny such individual the opportunity to learn successfully in classrooms where the language of instruction is English or to participate fully in our society. (P.L. 103–382, Title VII, Part E, Section 7501 [8])

middle/junior high school category—any school whose grade structure falls within the 4-9 range, which includes grades 7 or 8, and which excludes grades in the PK-3 and 10-12 ranges.
norm-referenced test (NRT)—a test that produces a score that tells how individuals, schools, districts, and the state perform in comparison with the national norm group.

number of faculty—the total number of school-based instructional personnel employed at a school.

October 1 membership—total number of students enrolled in a school on October 1 of the current school year.

Option 2 students—8th grade students who passed at the Approaching Basic or above achievement level on either the English Language Arts or Mathematics component of LEAP 21 and participated in both the summer remediation program offered by the LEA and the summer testing. Students in Option 2 participate in a transitional program on the high school campus. They retake the 8th-grade component of LEAP 21 previously failed and all parts of The Iowa Tests at the 9th-grade level.

out-of-school expulsion—the removal (exit) of a student from school for a determined number of days with no provision of instructional services.

out-of-school suspension—a student temporarily prohibited from participation in his/her usual placement within school, with no provision of instructional service; only suspensions resulting in removal for at least one full day are included.

paired/shared status—whether the school was paired with another school or shared data with another school in the calculation of its School Performance Score.

Performance Label—the descriptive label that describes a school’s level of performance based on its SPS. The Performance Labels are as follows:

- Five Stars (SPS 140.0 or higher);
- Four Stars (SPS 120.0 – 139.9);
- Three Stars (SPS 100.0 – 119.9);
- Two Stars (SPS 80.0 – 99.9);
- One Star (SPS 60.0 – 79.9);
- Academic Warning (SPS 45.0 – 59.9); and
- Academically Unacceptable (SPS of below 45.0).

percent of student attendance—the ratio of aggregate days student attendance to aggregate days membership.

Percentile Rank of Average Standard Scores for national student norms—percentile rank of the average student in the school, district, or state. For example, a percentile rank of 48 for a school means that 48 percent of the students in the norm group scored at or below the average score obtained by the students in the school.

reward eligibility—whether a school received a monetary reward by earning either the Exemplary Academic Growth label or the Recognized Academic Growth label and by showing growth for its high poverty and students with disabilities subgroups.

school—an institution that provides preschool, elementary, and/or secondary instruction; has one or more grade groupings or is non-graded; has one or more teachers to give instruction or care; is located in one or more buildings; and has an assigned administrator(s) (LDE and NCES).

School Improvement status—the level of School Improvement (if any) that the school is currently placed in.

School Performance Score (SPS)—the primary measure of a school’s overall performance.

school type—the classification of schools into one of the four categories of schools (elementary, middle/junior high, high, or combination schools). This school type designation may differ from the three accountability school types (elementary/middle/junior high, high, and combination).