



School Performance Scores, October 2010

Fast Facts

- Public schools in New Orleans have continued their post-Katrina trajectory, improving steadily each year.
- Fewer schools were labeled “Academically Unacceptable”; down from 31 schools in 2009 to only 18 schools in 2010.
- More schools earned a performance rating of Two Stars or higher; up from 21 schools in 2009 to 26 schools in 2010.
- All school types in New Orleans, except the BESE charters, had SPS growth higher than the state average.
- SPS Growth (or decline) for individual schools ranged from -3.6 to 16.6 points.
- The OPSB is now the third-highest-performing district in the state while the RSD remains the second-lowest-performing.

Background

One important measure of school performance used in Louisiana’s accountability system is the School Performance Score (SPS). The SPS, calculated by the Louisiana Department of Education (LDE) is used as a measure of absolute school performance and as a means of calculating the growth needed in order to make Adequate Yearly Progress under the No Child Left Behind Act. It is based primarily on how well each student performs on the state’s standardized tests (LEAP, iLEAP, and GEE), as well as on drop-out rates, attendance, and, for high schools, the graduation cohort rate. (The graduation cohort rate is calculated by measuring how many students enter the ninth grade and graduate four years later.) Education stakeholders and the media frequently use the SPS as an accurate and complete measure of a school or district’s performance.

The SPS is calculated using two years of data, meaning that schools open for only one year do not receive a Baseline SPS. Almost all PK-12 public schools with at least two years of testing data receive a Baseline SPS. However, there are a number of schools which were open for the previous two years but did not receive an SPS for 2009-2010 because they were recently converted to a charter school, were absorbed by a charter school, changed charter school operators, were in the midst of reconfiguring the grades they served, were alternative schools, did not serve grades which are administered the state’s standardized tests, or were closed as of the 2010-2011 school year. These schools essentially start from scratch within the Louisiana accountability system as a new school would. Thus, for the 2009-2010 school year, 68 of New Orleans’ 89 schools received a School Performance Score. A list of each school receiving an SPS for 2008-2009, 2009-2010 or both, and the growth or decline over time, is appended.

Because two years of data are used, significant growth or decline in any given year—on any of the metrics used to calculate the SPS—is balanced somewhat by the prior year’s performance. This is done to provide a more accurate estimate of a school’s performance over time and to account for dramatic increases or declines over one year. School Performance Scores in Louisiana range from 0.0 to either 236.4 or 266.7 depending on a school’s grade configuration.

A Closer Look: School Performance in New Orleans

The 2010 scores, released in early October, revealed that schools in New Orleans have continued their post-Katrina trajectory, improving steadily each year. Each type of school operator in New Orleans showed improvement from 2009 in its average SPS score, with growth ranging from 1.3 points for BESE charters to 6.6 points for OPSB charters. Growth (or decline) for



individual schools ranged from -3.6 to 16.6 points. The growth a school is required to make to achieve Adequate Yearly Progress, as defined by the No Child Left Behind Act, is based on how many points it needs to achieve the statewide target of 120 by 2014, with some adjustments for the percentage of students with disabilities or limited English proficiency. 62.5 percent of OPSB schools met this growth target, and the state has not yet released this number for RSD schools.

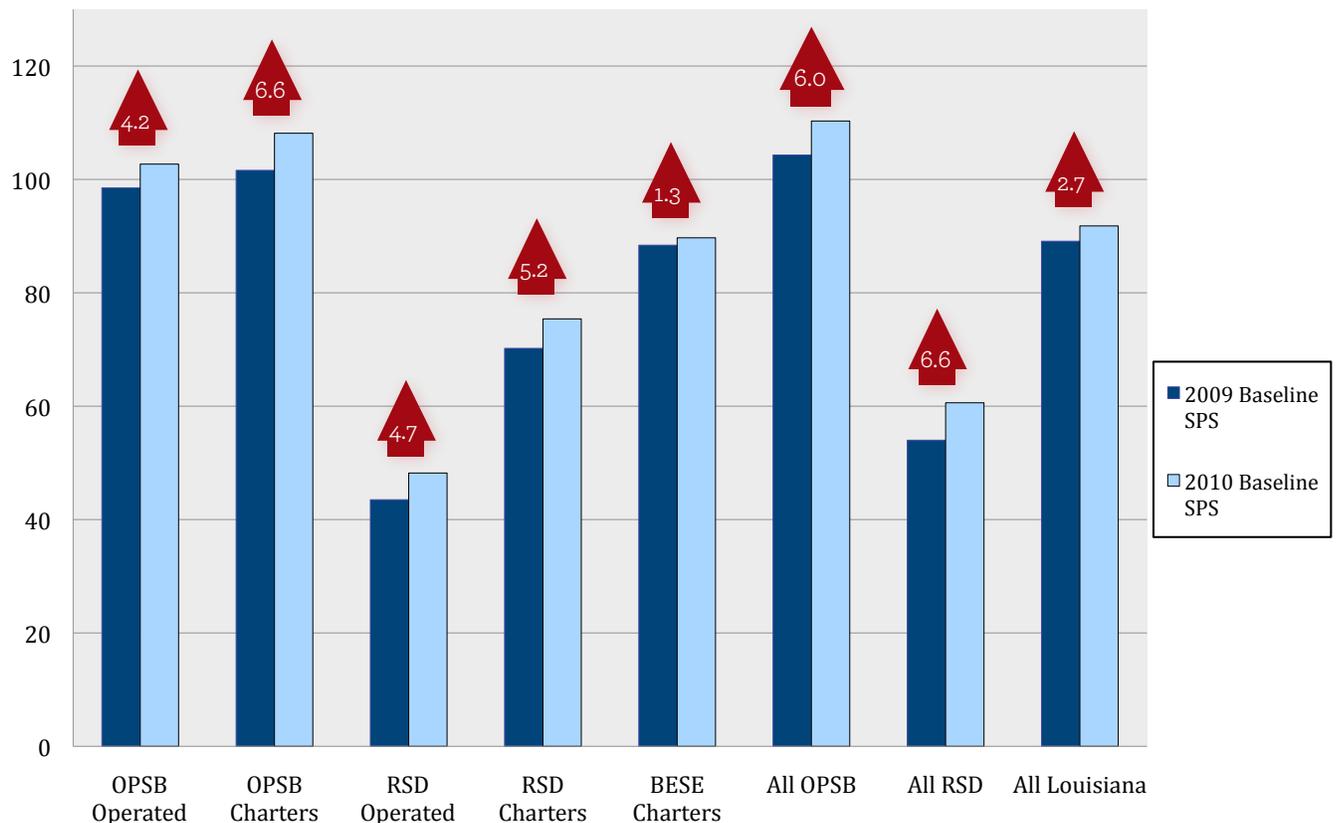
The average SPS for all schools in Orleans Parish was 75.2. This number, however, is different from the District Performance Score (DPS) calculated for all districts. Were all schools in New Orleans part of a single district, the DPS for 2008-2009 for New Orleans would have been 70.6. At the time of this writing, the DPS for all New

Orleans schools had not yet been calculated by the LDE, though based on the performance of most individual schools and the average SPS for all schools, there will surely be some growth. Regardless of what the DPS is finally calculated to be, it will be a marked improvement over the last pre-Katrina DPS of 56.9 for the 2004-2005 school year.

Top 5 Schools with the Greatest SPS Growth, 2009-2010:

1. Robert Russa Moton Charter School (+16.6)
2. Arthur Ashe Charter School (+16.6)
3. McDonogh #28 City Park Academy (+13.9)
4. Lafayette Academy of New Orleans (+13.5)
5. O.P. Walker Senior High School (+12.5)

Baseline School Performance Score Growth by School Type



Louisiana Department of Education, 2010



Baseline School Performance Score Growth by School Type

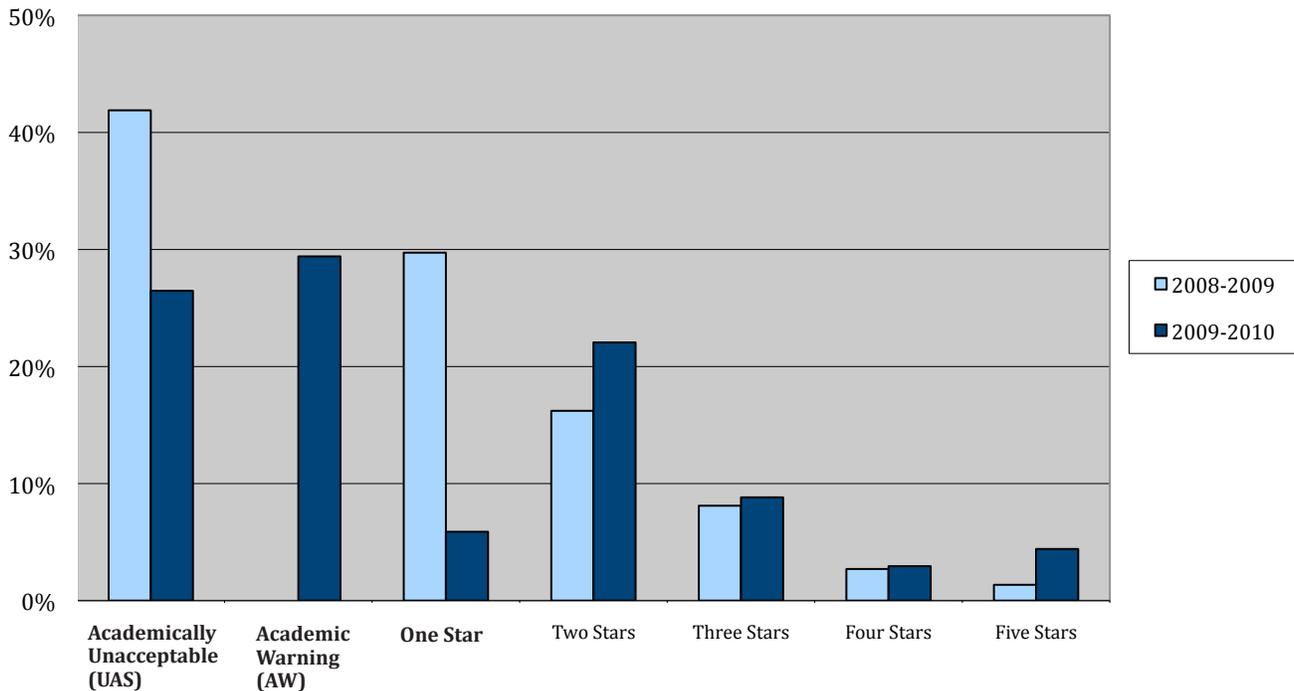
School Type	2008-2009 Baseline SPS	2009-2010 Baseline SPS	Growth
OPSB Operated	98.5	102.7	4.2
OPSB Charters	101.6	108.2	6.6
RSD Operated	43.5	48.2	4.7
RSD Charters	70.2	75.4	5.2
BESE Charters	88.4	89.7	1.3
All OPSB	104.3	110.3	6.0
All NOLA RSD	54	60.6	6.6
All Louisiana	89.1	91.8	2.7

Fewer Failing Schools

The Louisiana Department of Education also gives each school a performance label based on a school's SPS. A school with an SPS of 60 or below is given the performance label Academically Unacceptable. Beginning this year, schools with an SPS between 60.0 and 74.9 receive the label Academic Warning. This is because, within two years, state policy will change so that schools with an SPS score below 75 will be considered Academically Unacceptable.

In New Orleans as a whole, fewer schools were labeled Academically Unacceptable and more schools earned two stars or higher in 2010 than 2009. However, nearly 30 percent of schools fall under the Academic Warning label, meaning that they must raise their SPS above 75 within two years or they will be considered Academically Unacceptable under the new policy.

Percentage of Schools with each Performance Label



Louisiana Department of Education, 2010



Number and Percentage of Schools by Performance Label

Label	2009#	2009%	2010#	2010%
Academically Unacceptable (UAS)	31	41.9%	18	26.5%
Academic Warning (AW)	NA	0.0%	20	29.4%
One Star	22	29.7%	4	5.9%
Two Stars	12	16.2%	15	22.1%
Three Stars	6	8.1%	6	8.8%
Four Stars	2	2.7%	2	2.9%
Five Stars	1	1.4%	3	4.4%

Looking Forward

In general, the 2009-2010 School Performance Scores confirm that public schools in New Orleans are on an upward trajectory with an increasing number of schools moving out of the “Academically Unacceptable” category (from 31 schools in 2009 to only 18 schools in 2010) and more schools than ever earning a performance rating of Two Stars or higher (from 21 in 2009 to 26 schools in 2010). Growth in SPS was steady across the various school types in New Orleans, with all but the BESE Charters improving more than the state average.

However, despite this steady improvement across school types, the performance disparity among certain school types was preserved or even deepened. In fact, this year the OPSB became the third-highest-performing district in the state while the Recovery School District maintained its status as the second-lowest-performing. Additionally, with the definition of Academically Unacceptable moving from an SPS below 60 to an SPS below 75 over the next two years, many schools who finally shrugged the Academically Unacceptable label in 2010 will need to show incredible growth in order prevent taking on the “failing” label again.

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The Cowen Institute is an action-oriented think tank that informs and advances solutions - through policies, programs, and partnerships - to eliminate the challenges impeding the success of K-12 education in New Orleans and beyond. It also serves as a clearinghouse for K-12 public schools in New Orleans to directly access the myriad of experts and resources available at Tulane University. The Cowen Institute’s Applied Research staff serves as an objective voice to education leaders, policymakers, the media, and the public about what is taking place in public education in New Orleans - particularly in the areas of system-level accountability, finance, facilities, and governance - by disseminating the relevant data and research. The Institute drafts briefings and conducts forums, meetings, and seminars that inform educators, administrators, media, and the general community on issues impacting public education in New Orleans. Additional information, including this report and other research projects published by the Cowen Institute, can be found at <http://education.tulane.edu>.



The Scott S. Cowen Institute for Public Education Initiatives at Tulane University is an action-oriented think tank that creates and advances solutions to the issues impeding student achievement in New Orleans and beyond. Areas of concentration include Applied Research, Public Policy, University-Based Initiatives, and College Readiness Programs. Additional information can be found online at <http://education.tulane.edu>.

Appendix, School Performance Scores for New Orleans Public Schools

School	2008-2009 Baseline SPS	2009-2010 Baseline SPS	Growth	Performance Label
BESE Charters				
Milestone SABIS Academy of New Orleans	74.2	76.3	2.1	1 Star
International School of Louisiana	102.6	103.0	0.4	3 Stars
OPSB Charters				
Priestley School of Architecture/Construction	51.1	56.6	5.5	AUS
New Orleans Charter Science and Mathematics HS	76.7	81.0	4.3	2 Stars
Edna Karr Secondary School	83.0	87.6	4.6	2 Stars
Einstein Charter School	85.3	89.1	3.8	2 Stars
Warren Easton Senior High School	84.1	92.6	8.5	2 Stars
Alice Harte Elementary Charter School	88.9	94.1	5.2	2 Stars
Edward Hynes Charter School	107.1	112.1	5.0	3 Stars
Audubon Charter School	109.8	114.1	4.3	3 Stars
Robert Russa Moton Charter School	97.6	114.2	16.6	3 Stars
Lake Forest Elementary Charter School	129.0	140.4	11.4	5 Stars
Lusher Charter School	139.4	146.2	6.8	5 Stars
Benjamin Franklin High School	167.5	169.8	2.3	5 Stars
OPSB Run				
McDonogh #35 Senior High School	82.5	83.9	1.4	2 Stars
Eleanor McMain Secondary School	84.8	88.9	4.1	2 Stars
Benjamin Franklin Elem. Math-Science Magnet	109.2	114.4	5.2	3 Stars
Mary Bethune Elementary Literature/Technology	117.6	123.7	6.1	4 Stars
RSD Charters				
Sojourner Truth Academy	~	53.5	~	AUS
Algiers Technology Academy	49.9	55.0	5.1	AUS
Harriet Tubman Elementary School	53.7	55.4	1.7	AUS
Andrew H. Wilson Charter School	62.3	59.0	-3.3	AUS
McDonogh #32 Elementary School	55.4	60.0	4.6	AW
William J. Fischer Elementary School	60.4	62.9	2.5	AW
Nelson Elementary School	63.7	65.2	1.5	AW
McDonogh #42 Elementary Charter School	61.9	65.3	3.4	AW
The Intercultural Charter School	65.8	66.7	0.9	AW
Crocker Arts and Technology School	~	67.2	~	AW
O.P. Walker Senior High School	55.9	68.4	12.5	AW
Miller-McCoy Academy	67.7	69.5	1.8	AW
James M. Singleton Charter School	58.9	70.1	11.2	AW



McDonogh #28 City Park Academy	56.6	70.5	13.9	AW
P. A. Capdau School	66.4	71.2	4.8	AW
NOLA College Prep	67.0	73.4	6.4	AW
Samuel J. Green Charter School	66.5	73.6	7.1	AW
Langston Hughes Academy Charter	64.7	74.0	9.3	AW
Lafayette Academy of New Orleans	63.8	77.3	13.5	1 Star
Abramson Science and Technology Charter School	66.2	78.0	11.8	1 Star
Dwight D. Eisenhower Elementary School	69.5	80.0	10.5	2 Stars
Sophie B. Wright Inst.of Academic Excellence	79.5	83.0	3.5	2 Stars
Arthur Ashe Charter School	67.2	83.8	16.6	2 Stars
KIPP Central City Academy	75.9	85.2	9.3	2 Stars
KIPP McDonogh 15 School for the Creative Arts	88.8	87.7	-1.1	2 Stars
New Orleans Charter Science and Math Academy	81.6	89.2	7.6	2 Stars
Dr. M.L.K. Charter School for Science & Tech.	91.4	90.1	-1.3	2 Stars
Martin Behrman Elementary School	94.8	99.3	4.5	2 Stars
KIPP Believe College Prep (Phillips)	97.2	106.5	9.3	3 Stars
KIPP Central City Primary	114.6	120.6	6.0	4 Stars
RSD Run				
Rabouin Career Magnet High School	22.6	19.8	-2.8	AUS
Joseph S. Clark Senior High School	22.1	22.8	0.7	AUS
Walter L. Cohen High School	20.0	28.2	8.2	AUS
G. W. Carver High School	29.5	31.9	2.4	AUS
John McDonogh Senior High School	23.2	32.2	9.0	AUS
Sarah Towles Reed Senior High School	33.6	34.9	1.3	AUS
Carver Elementary School	36.1	41.1	5.0	AUS
F. W. Gregory Elementary School	37.6	43.8	6.2	AUS
Joseph A. Craig School	48.8	45.2	-3.6	AUS
Dr. Charles Richard Drew Elementary School	40.8	46.5	5.7	AUS
Greater Gentilly High School	~	47.3	~	AUS
Sarah Towles Reed Elementary School	47.2	50.7	3.5	AUS
James Weldon Johnson School	52.5	58.6	6.1	AUS
Benjamin Banneker Elementary School	57.5	60.9	3.4	AW
Fannie C Williams Elementary School	60.6	62.1	1.5	AW
Paul B. Habans Elementary School	56.1	62.4	6.3	AW
Murray Henderson Elementary School	59.2	63.4	4.2	AW
Mary Coghill Elementary School	53.4	65.5	12.1	AW
H. C. Schaumberg Elementary School	61.8	70.6	8.8	AW
A.P. Tureaud Elementary School	72.6	76.3	3.7	1 Star

