

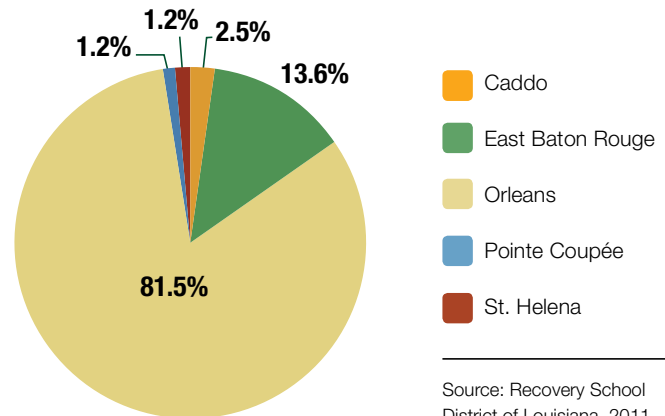
Recovery School District

What is the RSD?

- During the 2003 Regular Legislative Session, the Louisiana Legislature passed Act 9 to create the Recovery School District (RSD). Following Hurricane Katrina, the Louisiana Legislature passed Act 35 to allow the RSD to more easily takeover schools in failing districts.
- The RSD is a school district administered by the Louisiana Department of Education (LDE) and is designed to take over academically failing schools and turn them into successful schools.
- An academically failing school is determined by Louisiana’s statewide program of school accountability adopted by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE). School accountability in Louisiana is based on the Louisiana Educational Assessment Program (LEAP).
- Schools that do not meet the minimum academic standards for at least four consecutive years are eligible for state takeover. The minimum academic standard is a School Performance Score of 75 or below beginning in the 2011-12 school year.
- Schools that are placed in the RSD must remain there for a minimum of five years. This length of time is meant to allow the schools to fully establish the instructional practices and expectations necessary for success prior to returning to the control of the local school board.
- Currently there are 81 schools open under the RSD statewide, 66 of which are in Orleans Parish.

School Districts Represented in the RSD

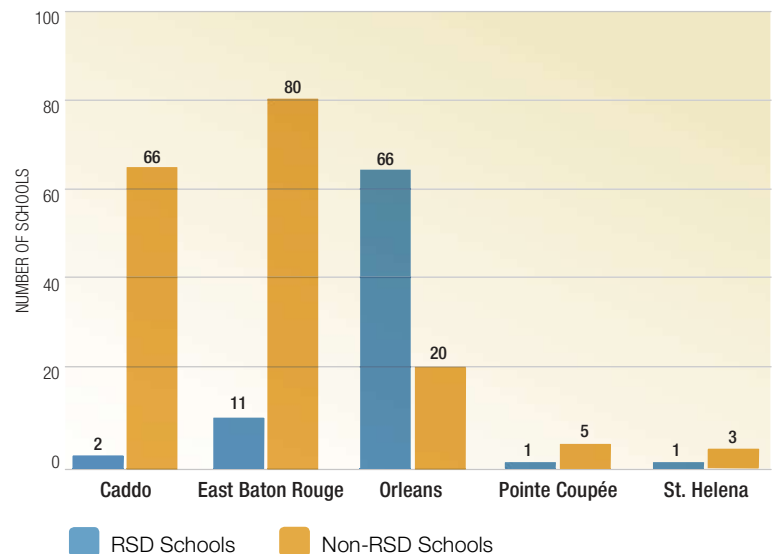
The RSD is comprised of schools from Caddo, East Baton Rouge, Orleans, Point Coupée, and St. Helena Parishes



Source: Recovery School District of Louisiana, 2011

RSD and Local District Schools by Parish

The graph represents the number of schools under the RSD and under the control of the local school board within each parish.



Source: Louisiana Department of Education, 2011

Transferring Schools to the Recovery School District

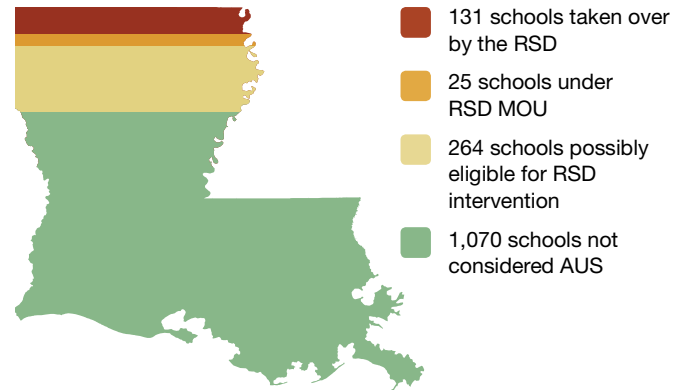
How A School Becomes Eligible for the Recovery School District

A school is considered Academically Unacceptable (AUS or “failing”) if its School Performance Score (SPS) is below 75, beginning in the 2011-12 school year. The SPS is primarily based on a school’s scores on state standardized tests. If a school receives an SPS below 75, it means that more than 50% of its students are not passing state standardized tests.

A school is found eligible for RSD takeover according to BESE Bulletin 111 if any of the following conditions are met:

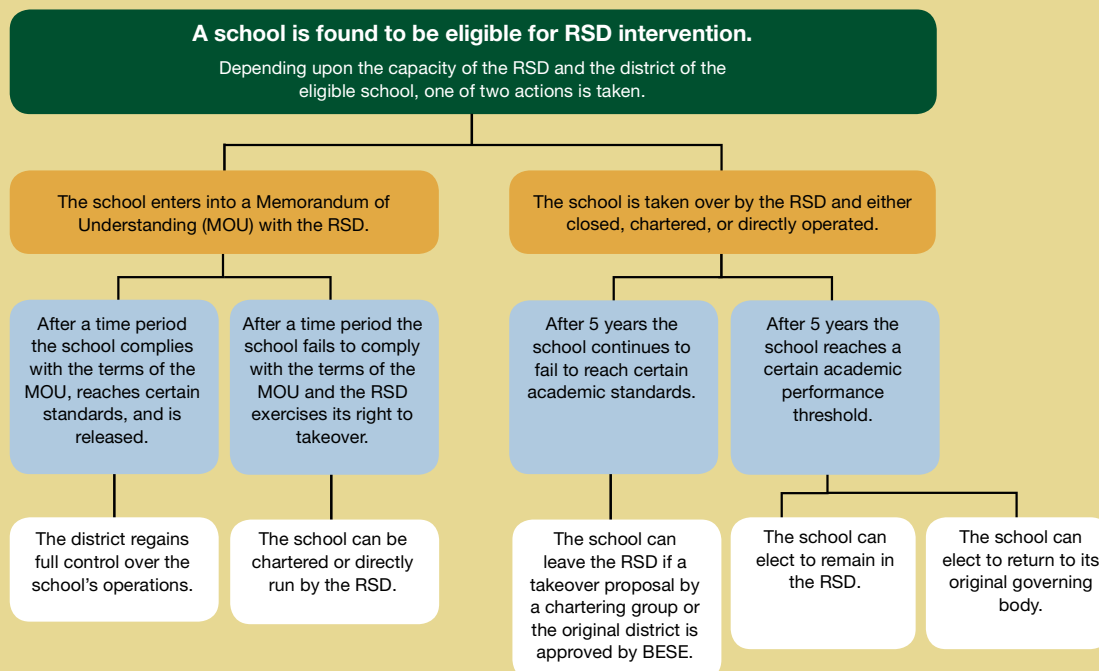
- 1 The local education agency (LEA) fails to submit a reconstitution plan for a school in AUS Year 4 to BESE for approval.
- 2 A school’s reconstitution plan is submitted to BESE but is deemed unacceptable.
- 3 A school and/or LEA fails to comply with the terms of a BESE approved reconstitution plan.
- 4 A school is labeled AUS for four consecutive years.

There are currently more than 200 schools statewide considered to be Academically Unacceptable (AUS). This means that more than one-quarter of Louisiana schools could be under RSD control within four years.



Source: Louisiana Department of Education, 2011

What Happens When a School is Found Eligible for the Recovery School District



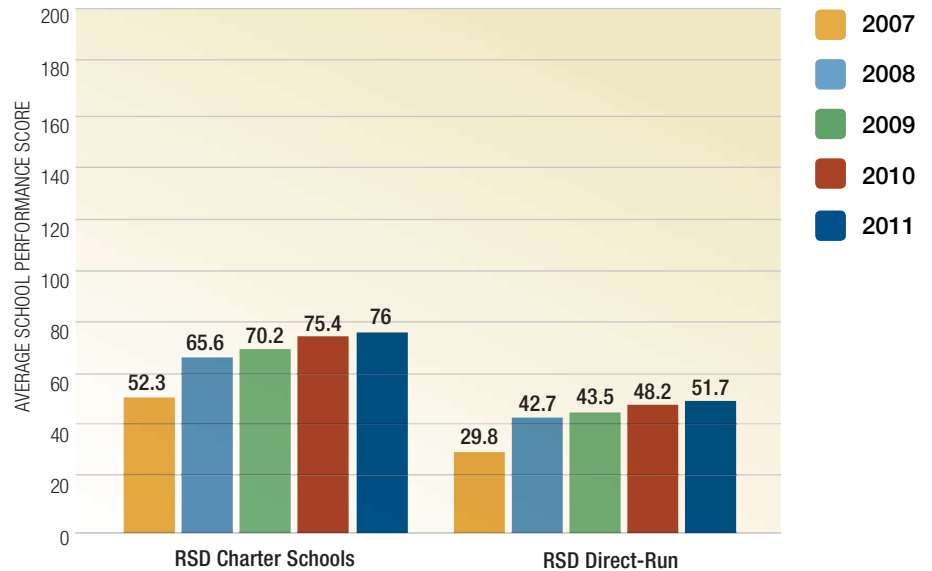
Academic Performance in the Recovery School District

RSD Direct-Run and RSD Charter School Performance Score Growth in New Orleans, 2007 to 2011

- RSD direct-run schools and RSD charter schools have shown consistent improvement in School Performance Scores since 2007.
- In fall 2005, under Act 35 the RSD was allowed to take over schools that fell below the state average SPS (86.2), not only those deemed failing.

Note: The values represented in this graph are average scores for the RSD charters and RSD direct-run schools.

Source: Louisiana Department of Education, 2011

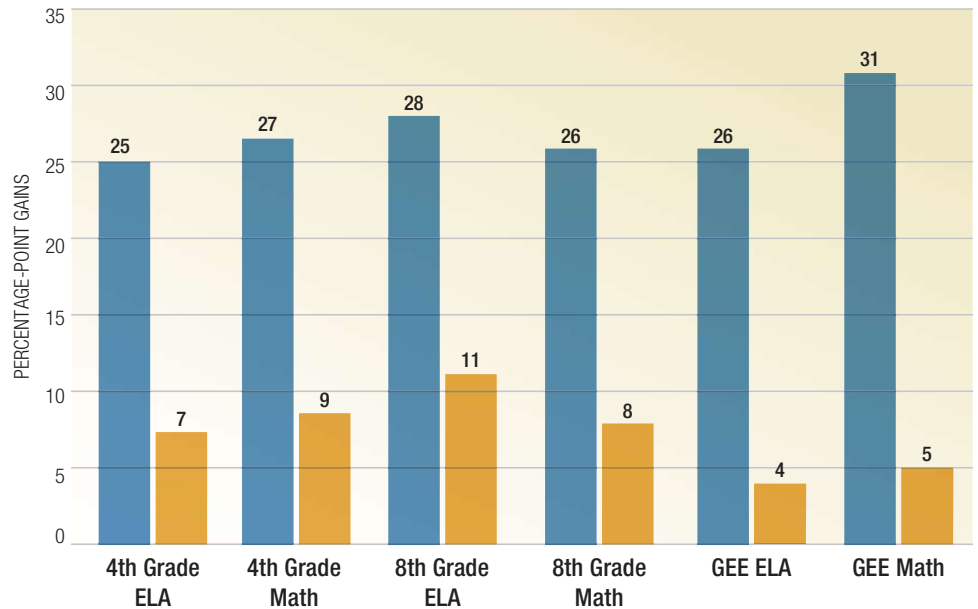


Growth in Student Performance in RSD Direct-Run and Charter Schools in New Orleans, 2007 to 2010

This graph shows the increase in the percentage of students performing Basic or above on high-stakes tests (LEAP and GEE) from 2007 to 2010 for the Recovery School District in New Orleans compared to all students in Louisiana.

Source: Louisiana Department of Education, 2011

- RSD Schools in New Orleans
- Louisiana



Returning Schools from the RSD to their Local School Districts

How Schools in the RSD Can Return to Their Local School Districts

A school transferred into the RSD must remain there for an initial period of five years, at the end of which BESE must decide whether the school will remain in the RSD, be returned to the transferring district, or be closed. In December 2010, BESE adopted a return policy to govern the possible return of schools to local control.

- Under the return policy, RSD schools (both direct-run and charter) that have an SPS of at least 5 points above the AUS level (80 for 2011-12) for two consecutive years are eligible to choose whether to stay in the RSD or return to their local district. Schools that do not meet this benchmark remain in the RSD.
- This policy enables a gradual return of schools to their local districts. Each year certain schools will be eligible to choose whether to return to their local district or stay in the RSD and certain schools will not be eligible to choose.
- For the low-performing schools that remain in the RSD, failing charter schools may be subject to non-renewal, and failing direct-run schools may be retained with a new turnaround plan, phased out, or transferred to a new operator (charter or local district), who must apply to and be approved by BESE.
- Eight RSD schools in New Orleans were eligible to return to local control in 2011, but none elected to do so.

The Recovery School District's Commitments to New Orleans

The RSD outlined twelve commitments to its schools and the community in New Orleans in September 2011. The goal of the commitments is to get every student in the RSD on track to graduate from college or attain a professional career. The commitments have a theme of excellence, equity, and community. The following are a few highlights:

Excellence

- Direct-run RSD schools will improve significantly in 2011–12, achieving greater progress in students achieving Basic on LEAP, iLEAP, and GEE tests than the rest of the state.
- The RSD will implement a new monitoring process for New Orleans charter schools while not distracting educators from educating.

Equity

- The RSD will develop a citywide enrollment system for direct-run and charter schools starting in 2012.
- RSD charter and direct-run schools will increase the percentage of students retained from one school year to the next.

Community

- The RSD will make it easier for parents and community members to get information, get questions answered, and get issues resolved.
- The Facilities Master Plan will serve all New Orleans public school children in a new, renovated, or refurbished facility.