

Public School Performance

PK-12 public schools in Louisiana receive a School Performance Score (SPS) 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 and attendance. The scores range from 0.0 to either 236.4 or 266.7 depending on a school’s grade configuration.

Louisiana’s goal is that all schools have a school performance score of 120 or higher by 2014.

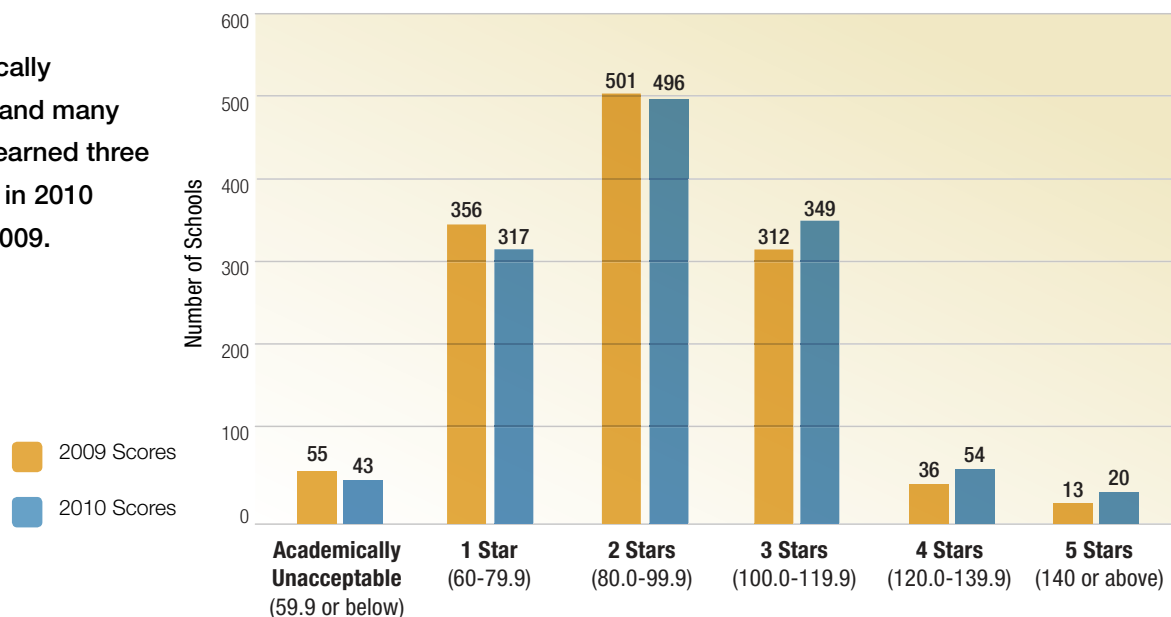
In the 2010 legislative session, the Louisiana Legislature passed Act 718, which provided for BESE to assign letter grades from A to F to schools and school districts to rate their performance. Schools that meet their growth target will receive a “+” in addition to their letter grade, while schools that decline in SPS will receive a “-.” The threshold between “D” and “F” will be increased to 75 for the 2011-2012 school year to conform with the raising of the Academically Unacceptable standard up to 75 for that year.

BESE School Performance Score (SPS) Letter-Grade Scale

- A:** 120 – 200
- B:** 105.0 – 119.9
- C:** 90.0 – 104.9
- D:** 65.0 – 89.9
- F:** 0 – 64.9

2009 and 2010 School Performance Labels for Louisiana

Fewer schools were Academically Unacceptable and many more schools earned three stars or higher in 2010 compared to 2009.



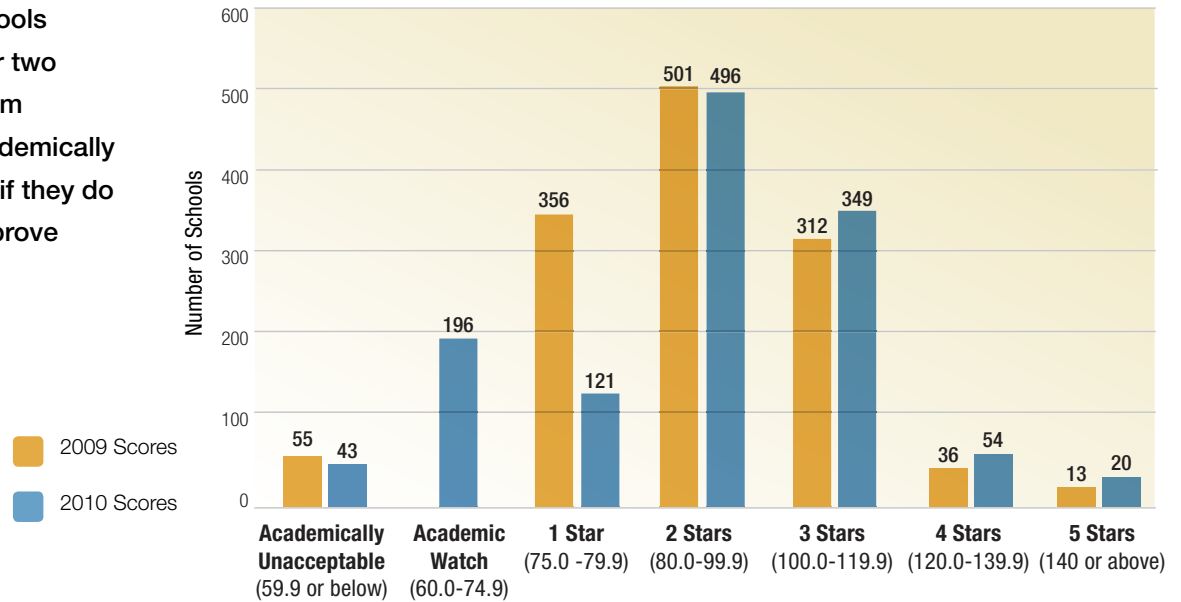
How Louisiana Compares

Academic Watch

Beginning in the 2011-2012 school year, schools with an SPS below 64.9 will be deemed Academically Unacceptable. In the 2012-2013 school year, the bar will go up to 74.9. For the 2009-2010 school year, the state gave schools with an SPS between 60.0 and 74.9 the label Academic Watch.

196 (15%) schools
are only one or two
years away from
becoming Academically
Unacceptable if they do
not rapidly improve

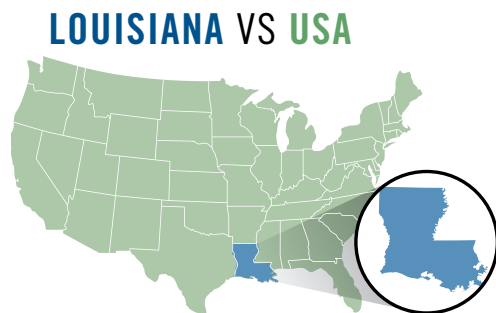
Performance Labels for Schools Across Louisiana



A Low National Ranking

Louisiana continues to rank between 44th and 50th in 4th and 8th grade English and Math on national tests of student achievement.

2009 National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP)



Source: US Department of Education, National Assessment of Educational Progress, 2009.

4TH GRADE READING

Rank	District	Score
1	Massachusetts	234
2	New Jersey	229
3	New Hampshire	229
48	California	210
49	New Mexico	208
50	Louisiana	208
51	District of Columbia	202

4TH GRADE MATH

Rank	District	Score
1	Massachusetts	252
2	New Hampshire	251
3	Minnesota	250
48	Louisiana	229
49	Alabama	228
50	Mississippi	227
51	District of Columbia	219

8TH GRADE READING

Rank	District	Score
1	Massachusetts	274
2	New Jersey	273
3	Vermont	272
48	Louisiana	253
49	California	253
50	Mississippi	251
51	District of Columbia	243

8TH GRADE MATH

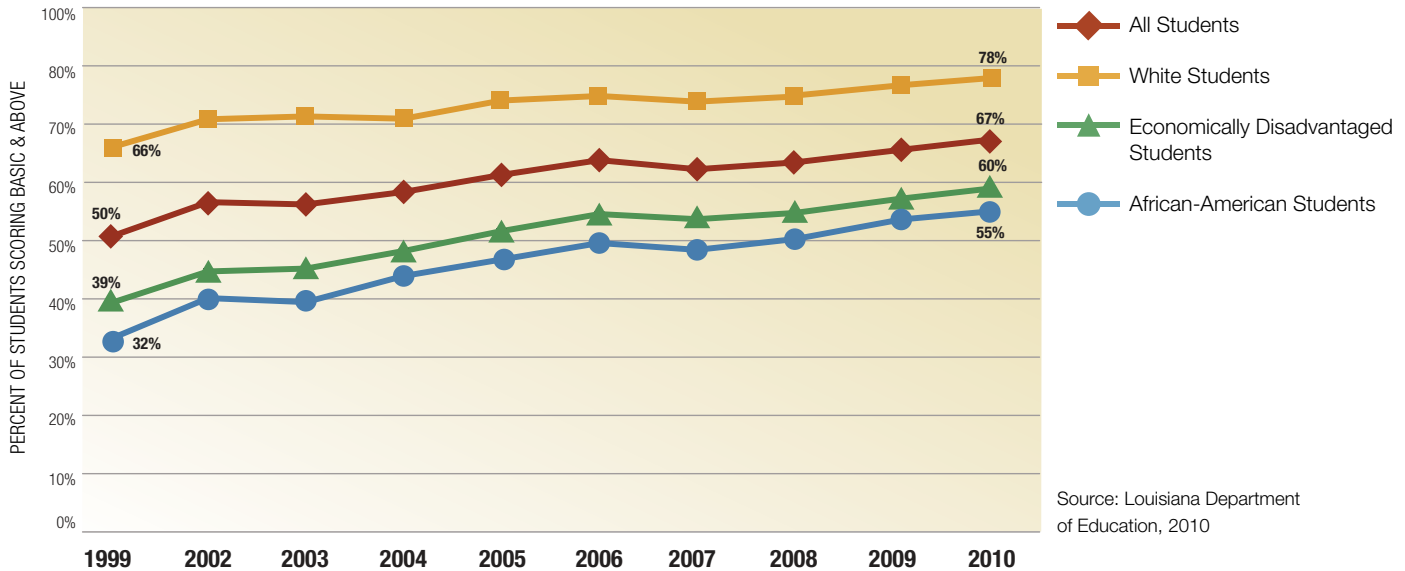
Rank	District	Score
1	Massachusetts	299
2	Minnesota	294
3	Vermont	293
44	Hawaii	274
45	Louisiana	272
46	California	270
47	West Virginia	270

Achievement Gaps in Louisiana

Though the performance gap between White and African-American students has declined over the past decade, a significant achievement gap still exists in Louisiana.

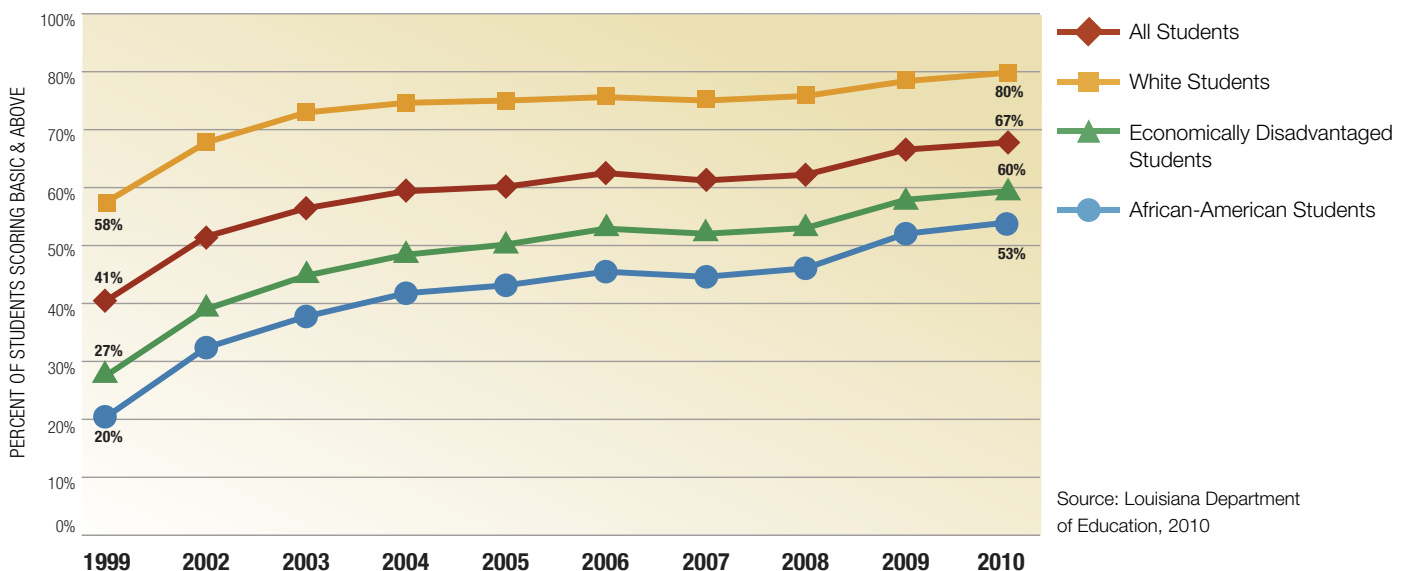
Percentage of Students Scoring Basic or Above in English/Language Arts

The percentage of all students performing at the Basic or above level in all English/Language Arts standardized tests (LEAP and GEE) has increased from 50% to 67% between 1999 and 2010. In the same period, the difference between the percentage of White students and African-American students achieving at the Basic and above level declined from 34 to 23 percentage points.



Percent of Students Scoring Basic or Above in Math

The percentage of all students performing at the Basic or above level in Math on all standardized tests (LEAP and GEE) has increased from 41% to 68% between 1999 and 2010. In the same period, the difference between the percentage of White students and African-American students achieving at the Basic and above level declined from 38 to 27 percentage points.

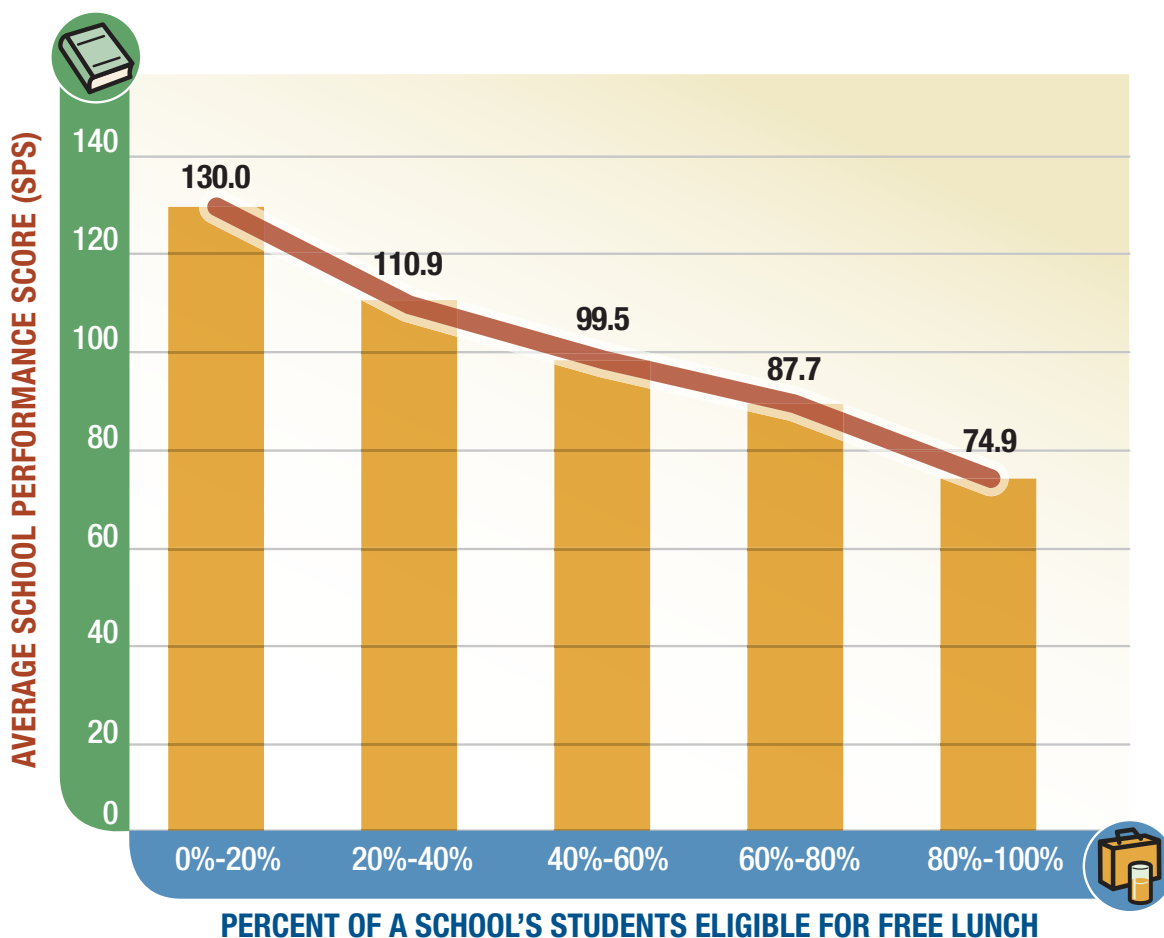


Poverty and Student Achievement in Louisiana

Student poverty remains an important factor in student achievement. While it is not insurmountable, students from low income households may require additional effort and resources to achieve at the level of peers who are not low income.

2009-2010 Poverty Levels and School Performance in Louisiana

The relationship between free lunch eligibility and school performance scores in Louisiana K-8 schools



Source: Louisiana Department of Education, 2010