

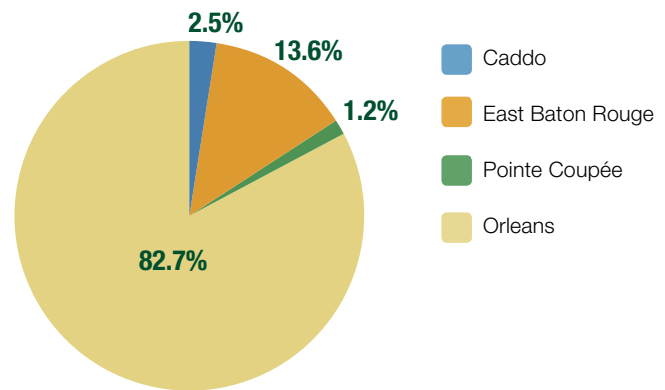
Recovery School District

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 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. A school must have a School Performance Score (SPS) below a 60 to be considered failing.
- Schools that are placed under 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, no school in the RSD has reached the 5-year mark.
- Since the creation of the RSD, over 120 schools have been taken over statewide. Currently, there are 70 schools open under the RSD. The remaining schools have not been re-opened due to the decreased population in Orleans Parish.

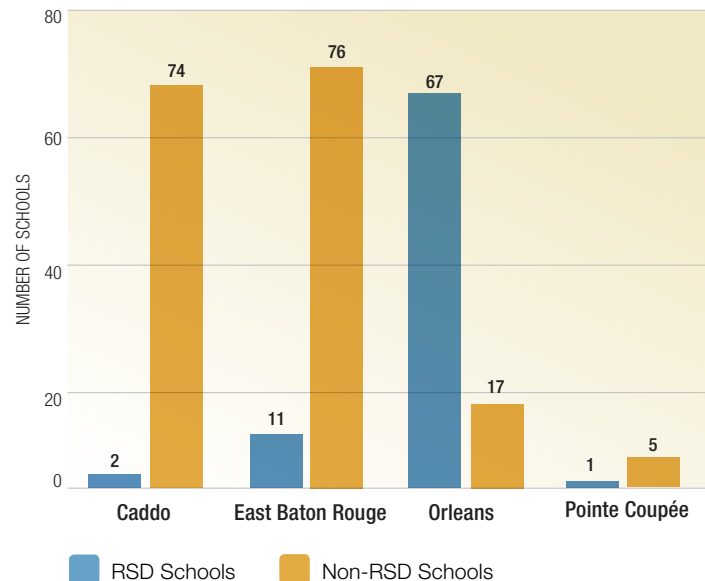
School Districts Represented in the RSD

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

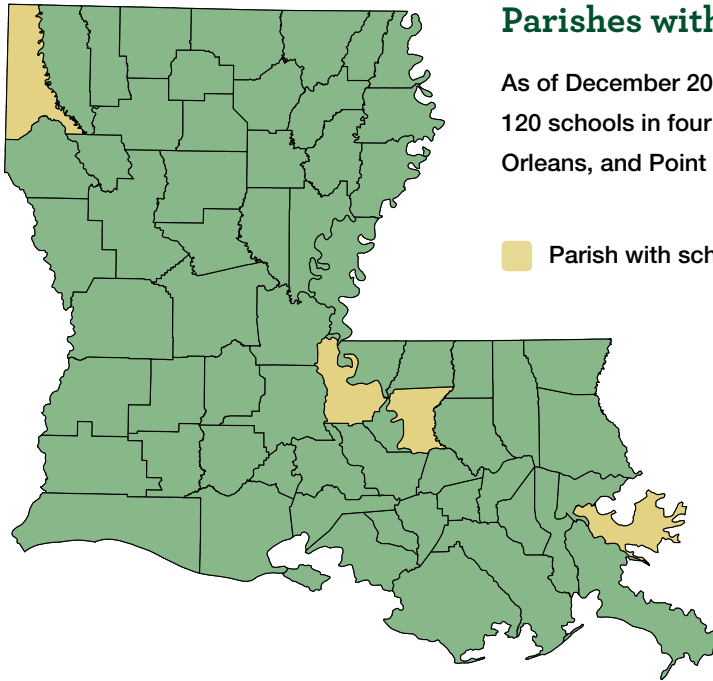


RSD and Local District Schools by Parish

The graph represents the number of schools under the RSD and under the control of the local school board within each parish. These numbers include the ten schools in Caddo and East Baton Rouge that will be under the control of the RSD starting in July 2009.



The Recovery School District Timeline



Parishes with Schools in the RSD

As of December 2008 the RSD has taken over more than 120 schools in four parishes – Caddo, East Baton Rouge, Orleans, and Pointe Coupée.

Parish with schools in RSD

Timeline Highlights

2004

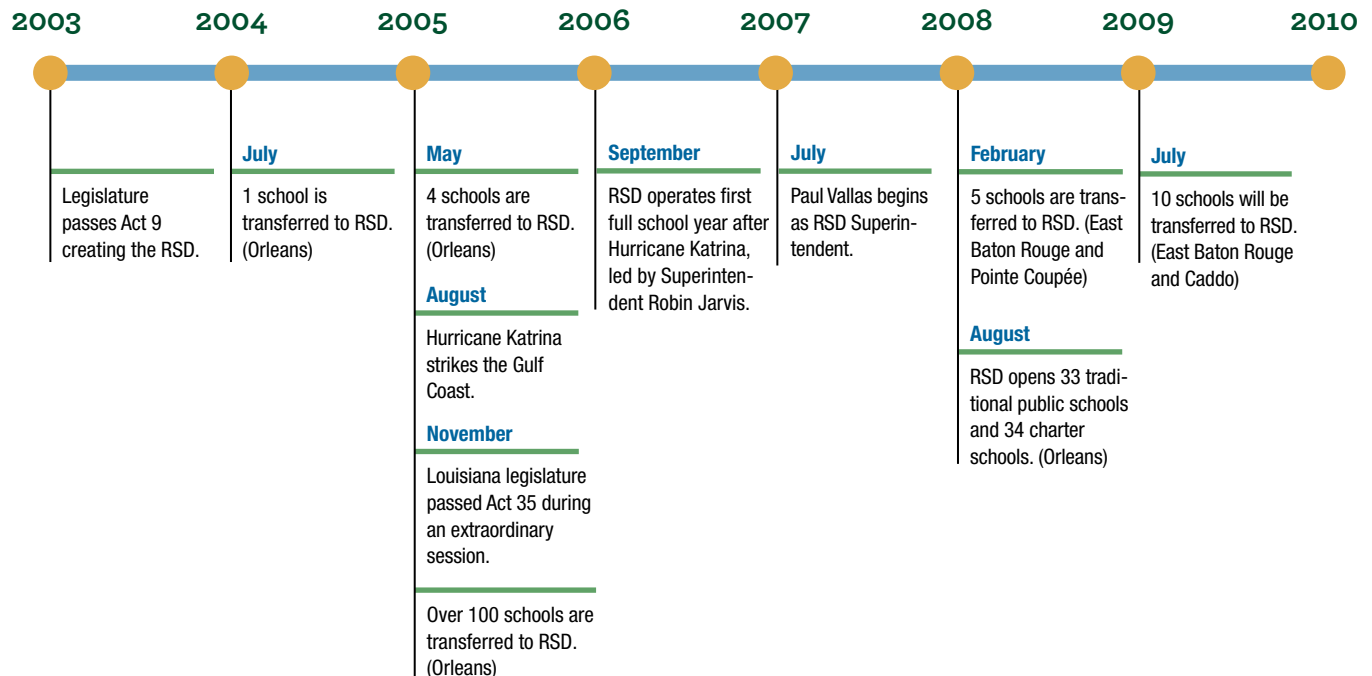
The RSD takes over its first school (Orleans Parish).

2005

Act 35 raised the minimum SPS necessary for the RSD to take over failing schools. Subsequently, over 100 schools in Orleans Parish were taken over in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

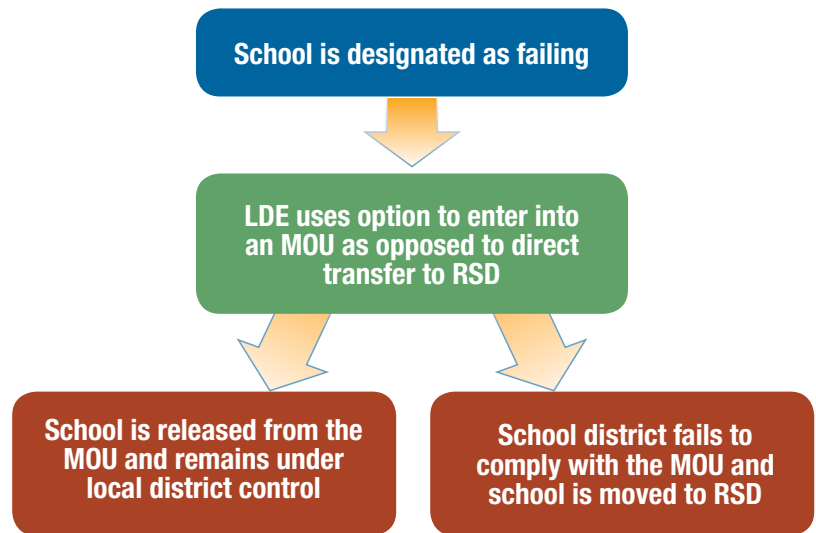
2005 through Present

The RSD has reopened a portion of these schools, some of which are charters and some of which are directly run. The RSD continues to take over failing schools around the state.

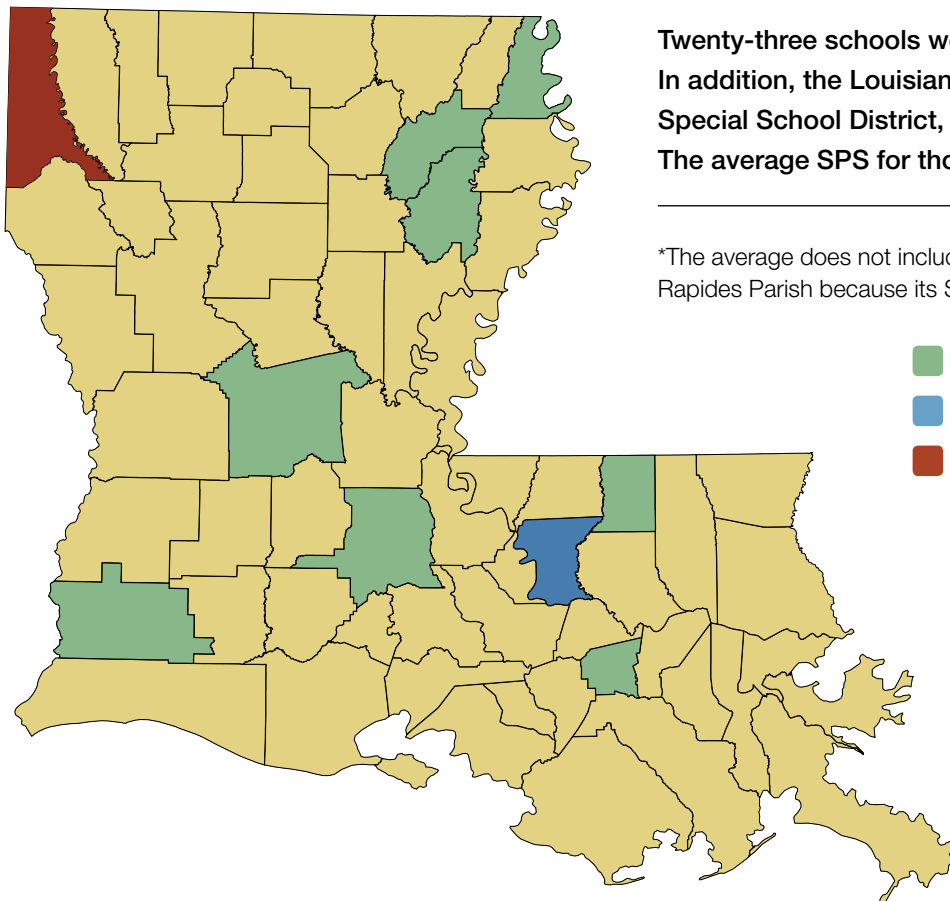


RSD Memorandum of Understanding

The Louisiana Department of Education (LDE) uses the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) as an intermediary placement for a failing school instead of automatically placing it under the RSD. An MOU is a binding agreement between a local school district and the LDE that outlines necessary actions that must be implemented at a failing school in order for it to avoid placement in the RSD. Conditions set in the MOU vary from district to district. The district must comply with the recovery plan set forth in the MOU within the first year or the Department may exercise the option of placing the school in the RSD.



Parishes with schools placed under an MOU for 2009



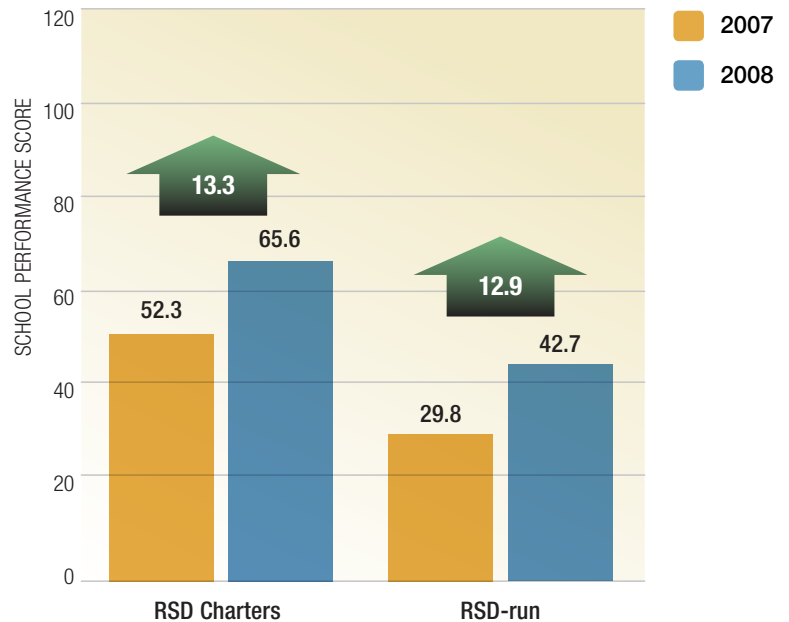
Twenty-three schools were placed under MOU this year. In addition, the Louisiana School for the Deaf, part of a Special School District, was placed under an MOU. The average SPS for those schools is 51.7*.

*The average does not include Reed Avenue Elementary School in Rapides Parish because its SPS was unavailable for 2008.

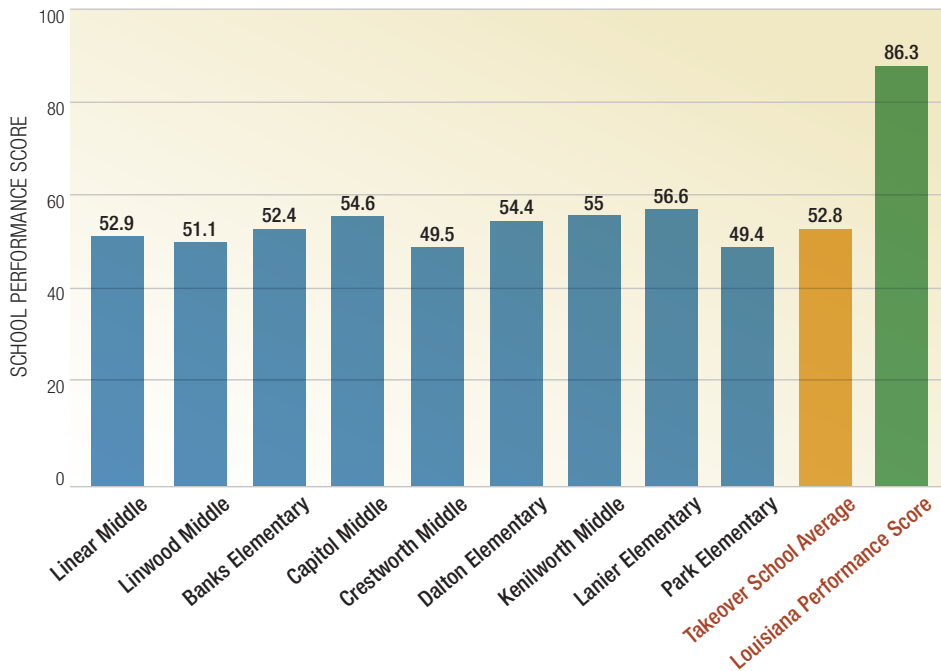
School Performance Scores* of Schools under RSD Intervention

RSD Performance in New Orleans

- Between 2007 and 2008, RSD-run schools and RSD charter schools in New Orleans experienced significant school performance growth.
- Under Act 35, the RSD was allowed to take over schools that fell below the state average (86.2) and not just below 60. Thus, some RSD schools had a pre-takeover SPS above 60.
- The values represented in the graph are average scores for the RSD charters and RSD-run schools.



SPS for schools facing 2009 RSD Takeover



- The RSD will take control of 10 schools for the 2009-2010 school year, 2 in Caddo Parish and 8 in East Baton Rouge Parish.
- Average SPS of schools being taken over by the RSD in 2009-2010: 52.8*
- Average SPS of Caddo schools: 52.0
- Average SPS of EBR schools: 53.13*

*These averages do not include Capitol Elementary School in East Baton Rouge, whose SPS was unavailable for 2008.

*School Performance Scores are based predominantly on a school's test scores on the LEAP, iLEAP, and GEE as well as dropout rates and attendance. Potential scores range from 0.0 to either 236.4 or 266.7 depending on a school's grade configuration.

