

# Public School Performance in Louisiana

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.

## State Standardized Test Performance Levels

Advanced .....	200
Mastery .....	150
Basic .....	100
Approaching Basic .....	50
Unsatisfactory.....	0

## Louisiana Standardized Tests

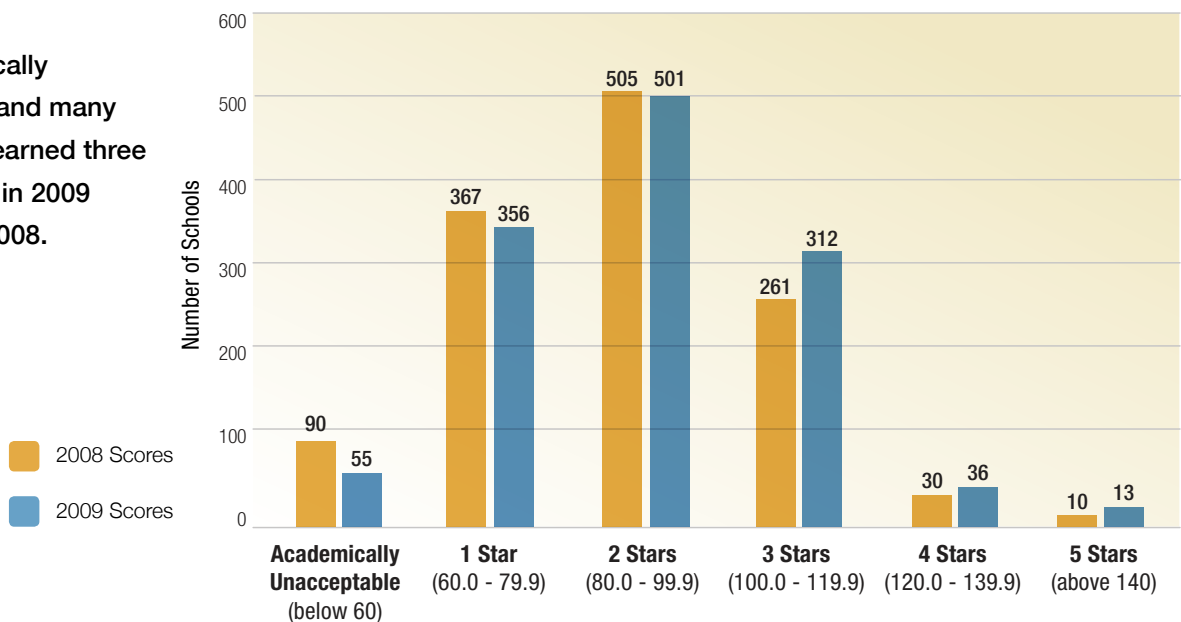
- LEAP** Louisiana Educational Assessment Program – high stakes tests administered in grades 4 and 8
- iLEAP** *Integrated* LEAP – tests administered in grades 3, 5, 6, 7, and 9 that assess student knowledge of Louisiana standards and rank students against the skill levels of students across the country
- GEE** Graduate Exit Exam – high stakes tests administered in grades 10 and 11

For instance, a school with a school performance score of 100 has students performing at the Basic level, on average (with some adjustment for attendance and drop-out rates).

**Louisiana’s goal is that all students, not just school averages, are at the basic level or above by 2014.**

## 2008 and 2009 School Performance Labels

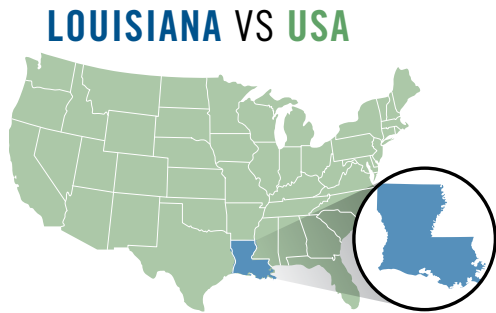
Fewer schools were Academically Unacceptable and many more schools earned three stars or higher in 2009 compared to 2008.



# How Louisiana Compares

## A Low National Ranking...

Louisiana continues to rank between 43rd and 50th in 4th and 8th grade English and Math on national tests of student achievement.



Source: US Department of Education, National Assessment of Educational Progress, 2007.

### 2007 National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP)

#### 4TH GRADE READING

Rank	District	Score
1	Massachusetts	236
2	New Jersey	231
3	New Hampshire	229
48	California	209
49	Mississippi	208
<b>50</b>	<b>Louisiana</b>	<b>207</b>
51	District of Columbia	197

#### 4TH GRADE MATH

Rank	District	Score
1	Massachusetts	252
2	New Jersey	249
3	New Hampshire	249
45	Nevada	232
<b>46</b>	<b>Louisiana</b>	<b>230</b>
47	California	230
48	Alabama	229

#### 8TH GRADE READING

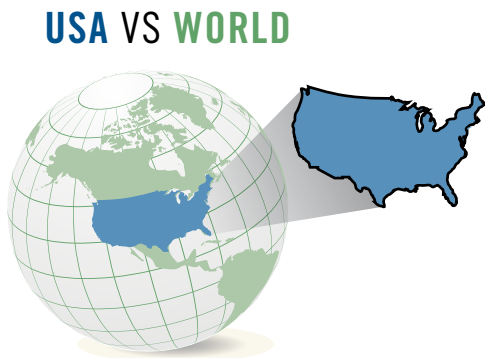
Rank	District	Score
1	Massachusetts	273
2	Vermont	273
3	Montana	271
43	Arizona	255
<b>44</b>	<b>Louisiana</b>	<b>253</b>
45	Nevada	252
45	Alabama	252

#### 8TH GRADE MATH

Rank	District	Score
1	Massachusetts	298
2	Minnesota	292
3	North Dakota	292
42	Arkansas	274
<b>43</b>	<b>Louisiana</b>	<b>272</b>
44	Nevada	271
45	California	270

## In an Under-performing Country

At the same time, the US as a whole does not rank near the top of industrialized nations in student achievement, indicating that Louisiana is far from internationally competitive.



Source: OECD, Program for International Student Assessment, 2000 & 2006.

### Program for International Student Assessment (PISA)

#### 15 YEAR-OLDS: READING (2000)

Rank	District	Score
1	Finland	546
2	Canada	534
3	New Zealand	529
14	France	505
<b>15</b>	<b>United States</b>	<b>504</b>
16	Denmark	497

#### 15 YEAR-OLDS: MATH (2006)

Rank	District	Score
1	Taiwan	549
2	Finland	548
3	Hong Kong (China)	547
34	Russian Federation	476
<b>35</b>	<b>United States</b>	<b>474</b>
36	Croatia	467

#### 15 YEAR-OLDS: SCIENCE (2006)

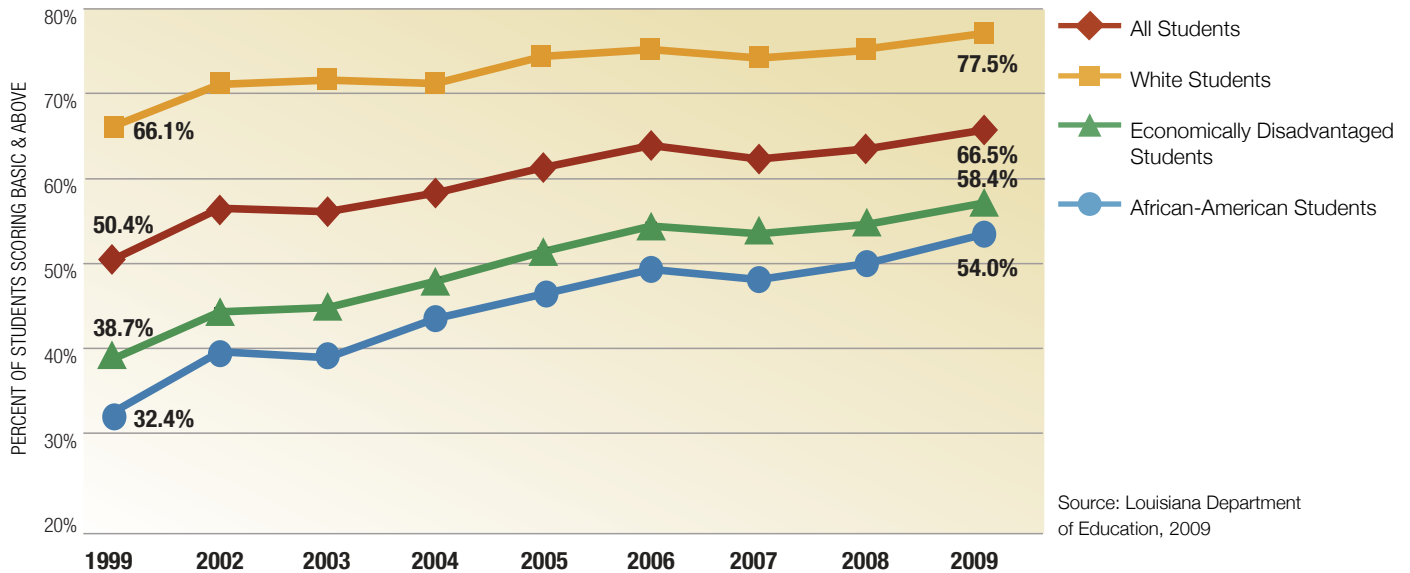
Rank	District	Score
1	Finland	563
2	Hong Kong (China)	542
3	Canada	534
28	Latvia	490
<b>29</b>	<b>United States</b>	<b>489</b>
30	Slovak Republic	488

# 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.

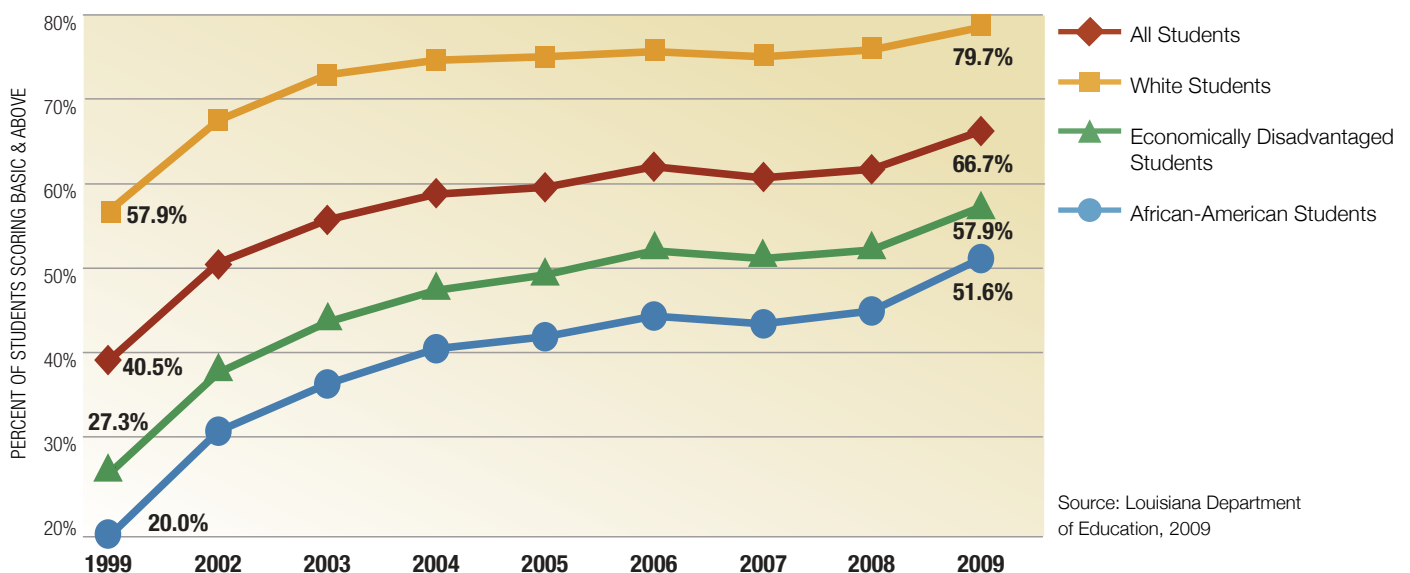
## Percent of Students Scoring Basic or Above in English/Language Arts

The percentage of all students performing at the Basic or above level in English/Language Arts has increased from 50.4% to 66.5% between 1999 and 2009. 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 33.7 to 23.5 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 has increased from 40.5% to 66.7% between 1999 and 2009. 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 37.9 to 28.1 percentage points.

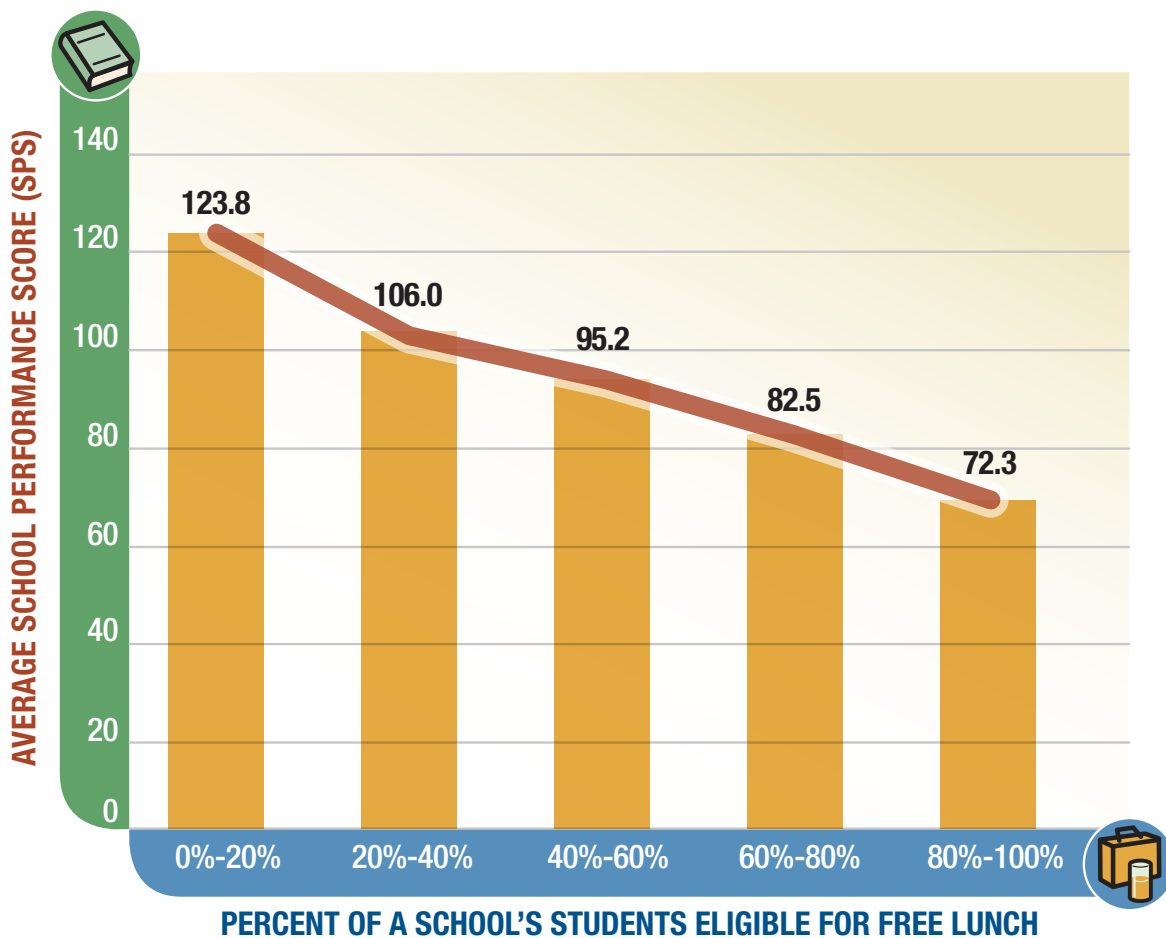


# Poverty and Student Achievement in Louisiana

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.

## 2008-2009 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