



A Close Look at the 2010 LEAP Scores and Their Gains and Declines Over Time

June 2010

In late May 2010, the Louisiana Department of Education released the results of the English and Math LEAP and GEE tests, the high stakes tests that Louisiana students take in 4th, 8th, and 10th grades. The results place students in one of five performance levels: Unsatisfactory, Approaching Basic, Basic, Mastery, and Advanced. Students scoring at least Basic are considered to be meeting grade-level expectations. Though lower scores, in combination with a Basic score, can still allow students to be promoted on certain tests, in this document we refer to passing as scoring at the Basic level or above on a particular test.

In the tables below, we present the percentage of students who scored at the Basic level or above in each test in 2009 and 2010 for the entire state, all public schools in New Orleans, as well as each type of public school in New Orleans (i.e. OPSB charter or direct-run, RSD charter or direct-run, and BESE-authorized Type 2 charters.) Also included is the amount of growth or decline seen in each category between the two years. (Declines are highlighted in yellow.)





New Orleans Compared to the State: 2009 and 2010

- In all but one grade and subject, New Orleans schools as a group made gains in pass rates and in each instance these gains were greater than gains made by the state as a whole.
- Declines in 4th grade English Language Arts in New Orleans, at -2.4 percentage points, were smaller than the state, at -2.9 percentage points.

	4th Grade ELA Basic & Above	4th Grade Math Basic & Above	8th Grade ELA Basic & Above	8th Grade Math Basic & Above	GEE ELA Basic & Above	GEE Math Basic & Above
2009 LA State Wide	73.9%	67.2%	65.0%	61.9%	62.1%	72.7%
2010 LA State Wide	71.0%	71.1%	63.2%	60.7%	64.5%	72.6%
2009 to 2010 Change	-2.9	3.9	-1.8	-1.2	2.4	-0.1
2009 All NOLA Schools	61.0%	52.9%	46.6%	44.4%	48.6%	57.8%
2010 All NOLA Schools	58.6%	61.7%	50.7%	50.9%	52.0%	60.7%
2009 to 2010 Change	-2.4	8.8	4.1	6.5	3.4	2.9

Source: Louisiana Department of Education



LEAP Performance by School Type: 2009 and 2010

- OPSB charter schools saw moderate gains in most subjects and grades, with slight declines in 4th grade ELA and GEE math.
- Performance at OPSB-run schools generally declined, with small gains in GEE and 4th grade math. There were fairly large declines in 8th grade math (-8.3 percentage points) and 4th grade ELA (-7.7 percentage points).
- RSD charters generally performed well, with declines only in the math portion of the GEE. 4th grade ELA remained stagnant, though this was the only type of school in New Orleans that did not decline in this category. There were significant gains in 4th and 8th grade math (8.4 and 8.2 percentage points, respectively).
- RSD-run schools, like the city as a whole, saw gains in every grade and subject except for 4th grade ELA. These gains were generally larger than other school types in New Orleans. Passage rates rose 15.2 percentage points in 4th grade math, 7.8 percentage points in 8th grade math, and 7.7 percentage points in GEE math.
- BESE (Type 2) charter schools suffered mostly declines, with the exception of a 3.9 percentage point gain in 8th grade ELA. However, significantly fewer 8th graders passed the math portion of the LEAP (-11.8 percentage points).



	4th Grade ELA Basic & Above	4th Grade Math Basic & Above	8th Grade ELA Basic & Above	8th Grade Math Basic & Above	GEE ELA Basic & Above	GEE Math Basic & Above
2009 OPSB Charters	88.9%	82.1%	84.1%	86.3%	70.6%	77.2%
2010 OPSB Charters	86.5%	85.8%	90.3%	88.7%	72.4%	75.8%
2009 to 2010 Change	-2.4	3.7	6.2	2.4	1.8	-1.4
2009 OPSB-run	94.3%	89.5%	71.5%	66.2%	61.1%	65.4%
2010 OPSB-run	86.6%	92.0%	67.0%	57.9%	59.5%	66.9%
2009 to 2010 Change	-7.7	2.5	-4.5	-8.3	-1.6	1.5
2009 RSD Charters	59.7%	55.1%	49.4%	48.9%	45.8%	67.9%
2010 RSD Charters	59.7%	63.5%	53.4%	57.1%	47.7%	61.6%
2009 to 2010 Change	0.0	8.4	4.0	8.2	1.9	-6.3
2009 RSD-run	43.7%	30.3%	24.3%	19.8%	18.4%	26.9%
2010 RSD-run	41.1%	45.5%	27.3%	27.6%	23.5%	34.6%
2009 to 2010 Change	-2.6	15.2	3.0	7.8	5.1	7.7
2009 BESE Charters	76.1%	70.1%	76.5%	70.6%	NA	NA
2010 BESE Charters	69.9%	67.7%	80.4%	58.8%	NA	NA
2009 to 2010 Change	-6.2	-2.4	3.9	-11.8	NA	NA

Source: Louisiana Department of Education



LEAP Performance in the Post-Katrina Years

While the data on changes in performance from 2009 to 2010 is interesting, the growth that schools have made from the first full school year after Katrina (2006-2007) to the present one (2009-2010) may be more valuable, as it shows longer term trends and is not vulnerable to minor year-to-year disruptions that are inevitable in a school system that is continuously evolving.

As the table below shows, both the state and New Orleans schools as a whole experienced growth in every subject and grade over the intervening four years. However, in every case, New Orleans schools made gains at a much greater rate than the state, often double or triple the number of percentage points. In one extreme example, the state saw only a 1.0 percentage point increase in students passing the 4th grade ELA test over three years, while New Orleans saw a 9.7 percentage point jump.

	4th Grade ELA Basic & Above	4th Grade Math Basic & Above	8th Grade ELA Basic & Above	8th Grade Math Basic & Above	GEE ELA Basic & Above	GEE Math Basic & Above
2007 LA State Wide	70.0%	65.0%	59.0%	56.0%	56.0%	64.0%
2010 LA State Wide	71.0%	71.1%	63.2%	60.7%	64.5%	72.6%
2007 to 2010 Change	1.0	6.1	4.2	4.7	8.5	8.6
2007 All NOLA Schools	48.9%	43.4%	38.6%	36.6%	37.3%	43.4%
2010 All NOLA Schools	58.6%	61.7%	50.7%	50.9%	52.0%	60.7%
2007 to 2010 Change	9.7	18.3	12.1	14.3	14.7	17.3

Source: Louisiana Department of Education

In the four years after Katrina, each school type has demonstrated growth in each subject, though some types of schools have made greater progress than others. Overall, RSD charter and direct-run schools have seen the largest gains in the percentage of their students passing these high-stakes standardized tests. This could be attributed to their quality of instruction, though it is also possible that schools that started with lower pass rates have had an easier time seeing initial gains than those who began with already very high rates of test passage.

There have been some particularly large gains, including 31.5 percentage points in 4th grade math at RSD-run schools. Gains over the four years after Katrina ranged from a low of 3.5 points among OPSB charter schools in GEE math to 32.1 percentage points in 8th grade ELA at BESE (Type 2) charter schools.



	4th Grade ELA Basic & Above	4th Grade Math Basic & Above	8th Grade ELA Basic & Above	8th Grade Math Basic & Above	GEE ELA Basic & Above	GEE Math Basic & Above
2007 OPSB Charters	79.9%	74.0%	74.0%	74.0%	68.0%	72.3%
2010 OPSB Charters	86.5%	85.8%	90.3%	88.7%	72.4%	75.8%
2007 to 2010 Change	6.6	11.8	16.3	14.7	4.4	3.5
2007 OPSB- run	80.2%	76.0%	58.0%	44.0%	47.3%	52.7%
2010 OPSB- run	86.6%	92.0%	67.0%	57.9%	59.5%	66.9%
2007 to 2010 Change	6.4	16.0	9.0	13.9	12.2	14.2
2007 RSD Charters	48.6%	41.8%	34.0%	34.0%	25.5%	45.6%
2010 RSD Charters	59.7%	63.5%	53.4	57.1	47.7%	61.6%
2007 to 2010 Change	11.1	21.7	19.4	23.1	22.2	16.0
2007 RSD-run	18.6%	14.0%	14.0%	17.0%	8.9%	13.6%
2010 RSD-run	41.1%	45.5%	27.3%	27.6%	23.5%	34.6%
2007 to 2010 Change	22.5	31.5	13.3	10.6	14.6	21.0
2007 BESE Charters	64.8%	63.4%	48.3%	37.9%	NA	NA
2010 BESE Charters	69.9%	67.7%	80.4%	58.8%	NA	NA
2007 to 2010 Change	5.1	4.3	32.1	20.9	NA	NA

Source: Louisiana Department of Education

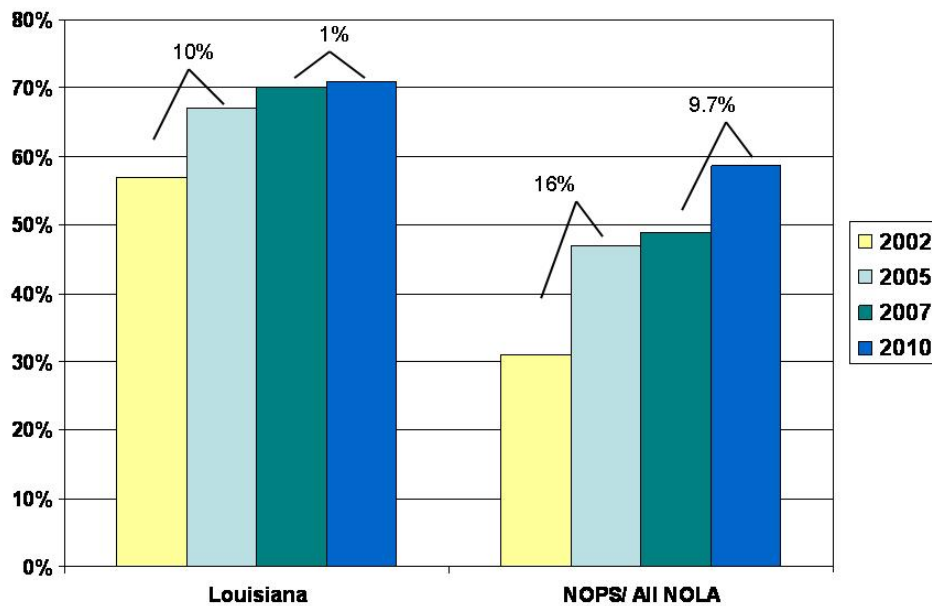


Performance in New Orleans in the Four Years Before and After Hurricane Katrina

Some have noted that despite the extensive growth in performance seen since the storm, LEAP and GEE passage rates were growing before Hurricane Katrina. A comparative analysis of the data from the four years prior to Katrina (for school years 2001-2002, 2002-2003, 2003-2004, and 2004-2005) to the four full school years after reveals that in four of the six given tests, schools in New Orleans made gains at a greater rate after the storm than before the storm. The two tests in which its rate of growth was smaller after the storm were 4th grade ELA and 8th grade math. Additionally, before Katrina, pass rates in New Orleans were growing at rates faster than the state in all but one test, the English portion of the GEE. As the previous section showed, pass rates on every test have outpaced the state since Katrina.

The graphs below indicate state and citywide growth in percentage points in the years before and after Hurricane Katrina for each test.

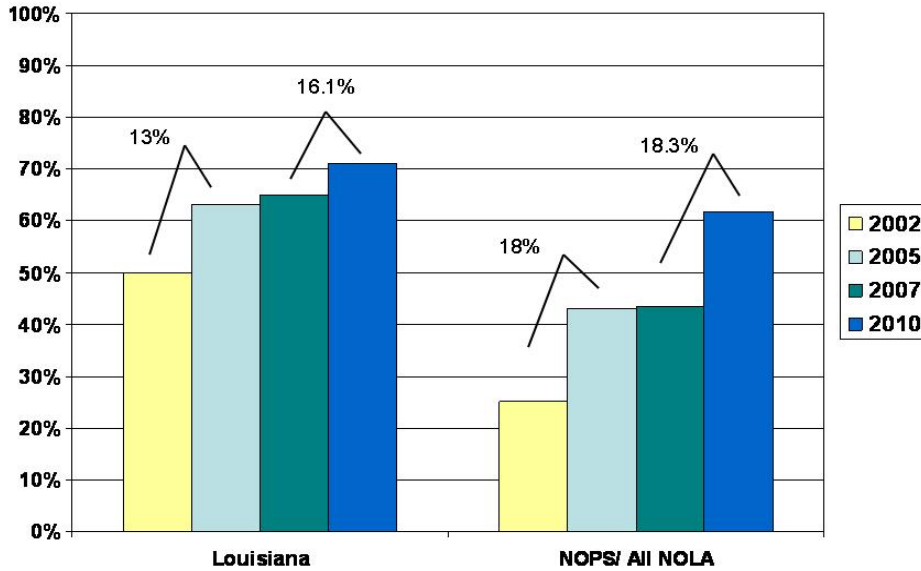
4th Grade ELA LEAP: Percent of Students Achieving Basic & Above



Note: Data is for initial test takers
Source: Louisiana Department of Education District Performance Score Reports



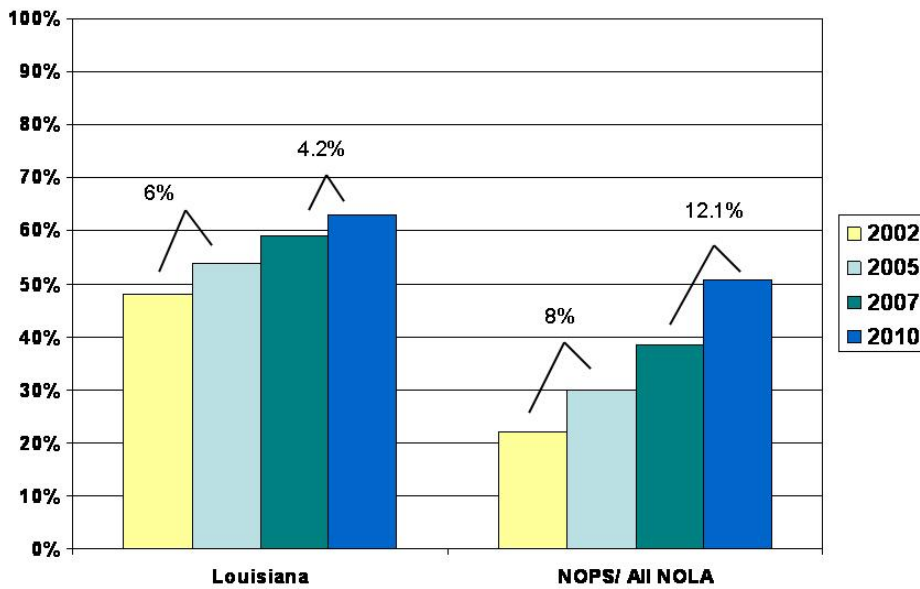
4th Grade Math LEAP: Percent of Students Achieving Basic & Above



Note: Data is for initial test takers
Source: Louisiana Department of Education District Performance Score Reports

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8th Grade ELA LEAP: Percent of Students Achieving Basic & Above

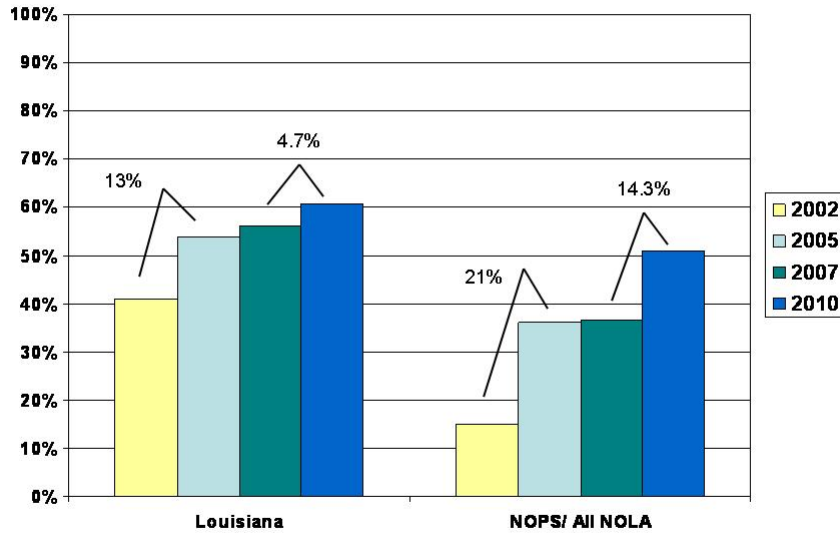


Note: Data is for initial test takers
Source: Louisiana Department of Education District Performance Score Reports

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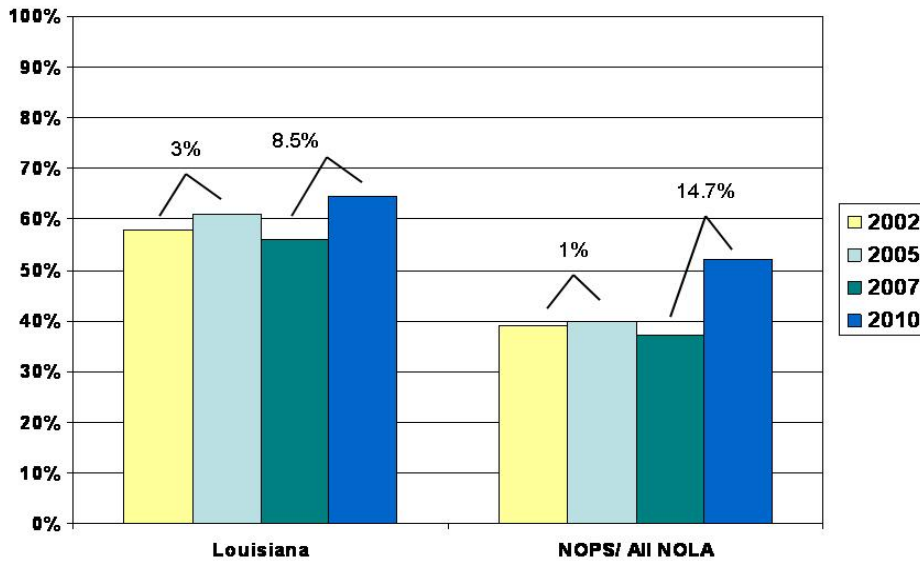
8th Grade Math LEAP: Percent of Students Achieving Basic & Above



Note: Data is for initial test takers
Source: Louisiana Department of Education District Performance Score Reports

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English GEE: Percent of Students Achieving Basic & Above

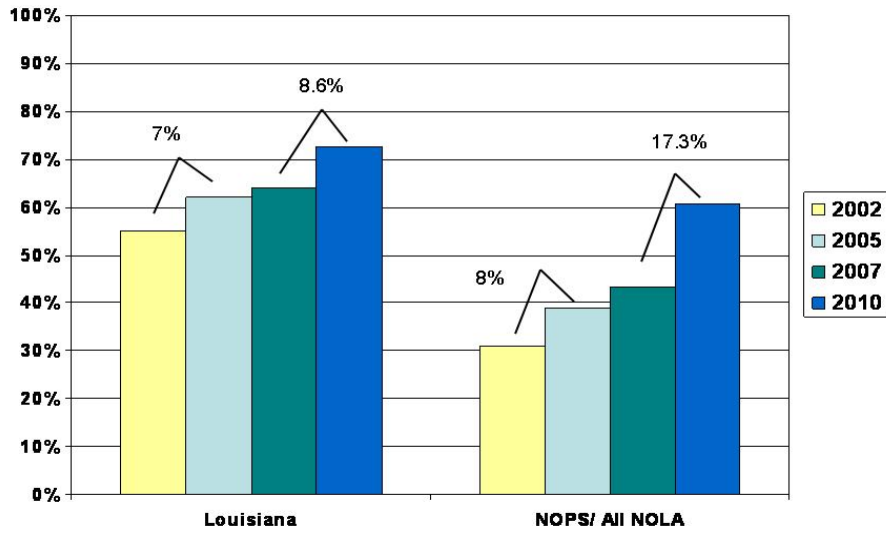


Note: Data is for initial test takers
Source: Louisiana Department of Education District Performance Score Reports

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Math GEE: Percent of Students Achieving Basic & Above



Note: Data is for initial test takers
Source: Louisiana Department of Education District Performance Score Reports