

Louisiana Believes

2013-2014

Louisiana Believes 2012-2013

- **Early Childhood Network** ends fragmented pre-k system.
- **New standards** for learning give Louisiana kids an equal shot.
- **Letter grade system** honors college and career readiness.
- **Louisiana Scholarship Program** expands choices for families.
- **Course Choice** tailors education to the needs of students.
- **Compass** provides teachers feedback on classroom practice.
- **Act 1** empowers school leaders to honor great teaching.
- **Empowerment initiative** ends top-down rules that tell educators how to educate.

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Educators and parents provided feedback, and the Department made adjustments.

- Adjusted the **Early Childhood Network** to be a pilot program with gradual implementation.
- Adjusted **Compass** to increase clarity and opportunities for teacher feedback.
- Adjusted the **Act 1** timeline for school boards to develop compensation schedules that honor effective teaching.

Louisiana Believes 2012-2013

Educators, families, and students achieved the mission.

- More students are **graduating** than ever before.
- **Fewer students** are dropping out.
- More students are **ready for kindergarten**.
- More students are **on grade level**.
- **Fewer students** attend failing schools.
- **ACT and Advanced Placement** scores are up.
- Louisiana received **national accolades** for improvements to education.

Louisiana Believes 2013-2014

Louisiana has built a strong foundation.

Children and schools have made great progress.

The mission was achieved.

Our next mission puts Louisiana's children on a level playing field with every child in America.

It will be more demanding. But it is the right thing to do.

The Mission Ahead: Unify the Early Childhood Network

Challenge: Currently 54 percent of Louisiana's children enter kindergarten able to recognize 26 letters and count to 20.

Plan: Pilot networks will identify every 3- and 4-year old in their parishes, will educate all 4-year olds, will measure children's progress, and will train all teachers. By 2015, the network system will be in effect statewide, covering all early learners.

Forthcoming Announcement: Pilots will be announced in April.

The Mission Ahead: Empower Teachers to Teach

Challenge: Louisiana results rank 47th to 49th out of 50 states on the National Assessment of Educational Progress. New standards will measure us against other states; assessments will be more difficult.

Plan: End top-down curricula and free teachers to learn the new standards. Provide a toolbox for teachers and support them by training 2,000 Louisiana Teacher Leaders.

Forthcoming Announcement: The Teacher Toolbox and Louisiana Teacher Leader application will be released in February.

The Mission Ahead: Focus on Students with Disabilities

Challenge: Twenty-nine percent of students with special needs graduate in Louisiana, the second lowest rate in the nation.

Plan: Focus Louisiana Believes changes on students with disabilities: data reporting, MFP funding, academic monitoring, teacher support, and school choice.

Forthcoming Announcement: Special education blueprint will be released summer 2013.

The Mission Ahead: Career Education that Leads to Careers

Challenge: While 49 percent of young adults enter four-year colleges, only 19 percent graduate. Another 15 percent earn associate degrees. This leaves two-thirds of Louisianans with no workforce credential.

Plan: Reshape the Career Diploma to form a true technical education, requiring two years of workplace-based or technical college education while in high school.


Forthcoming Announcement: Career Diploma blueprint will be released in April.

The Mission Ahead: Partner with Districts to end F-rated Schools

Challenge: More than 63,000 children in Louisiana attend schools rated F.

Plan: Expand partnerships to turn around F schools and to create alternatives to F schools. This will include the Achievement Zone in East Baton Rouge; charter partnership in Jefferson and Lafayette; Recovery School District in Caddo; and Louisiana Believes fund to match districts willing to overhaul F schools.

Forthcoming Announcement: Louisiana Believes Fund request for applications will be released in March.



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