

# Louisiana Believes

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Letter Grade Reporting Preview  
Fall 2013

# Our Challenge: Why Accountability Matters

## American Education Outcomes are Not Competitive Internationally.

- Literacy, math skills, and problem-solving of people age 16 to 65 in 24 developed countries were compared, and only two countries scored lower than Americans in math and 16 scored higher than Americans in literacy.
- America Achieves review of 2009 PISA shows the U.S. lag in education is not restricted to low-income schools and communities. It extends deeply into America's middle class. U.S. students near the top of socio-economic advantage significantly outperformed by 24 countries in math and behind 10 countries in reading.
- There is a substantial cost to our country and our state associated with lower educational outcomes. Had the U.S. closed the international achievement gap by 1998, the GDP could have been \$1.3 trillion to \$2.3 trillion higher in 2008.

## Louisiana Graduates will Struggle to Compete for Jobs.

- Louisiana continues to rank among the bottom states in math and reading.
- Almost one third of Louisiana college students are enrolled in developmental courses.
- By 2020, the number of jobs in Louisiana is expected to increase by 13.6%, growing to 2.25 million jobs.
  - 23.7% increase in professional, scientific, and technical services jobs
  - 20.9% increase in health care and social assistance jobs
  - 19.6% increase in transportation and warehousing jobs

**These jobs will require education after high school. Only 23 percent of students receive ACT benchmark scores that indicate post secondary success.**

# School Performance Scores

In Spring 2012, BESE adopted changes to the school accountability formula designed to achieve the following:

✓ **Simplify the formula**

- Easy to understand scale (100 = A, <50 = F)
- Award an “A” for each desired outcome (e.g., proficient scores, graduating with a diploma, graduation rate of 80%)

✓ **Align with higher standards to ensure postsecondary success**

- No longer award points for students below grade level
- Ensure students are transitioning successfully to high school
- Value rigorous ACT, Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate results, as indicators of postsecondary readiness

✓ **Focus on students below grade level**

- Reward schools that make progress with persistently low performing students

✓ **Honor the progress made by schools**

- Ensure the letter grade distribution does not change dramatically

# New, Simple Formula

A  
120-200

B  
105-119.9

C  
90-104.9

D  
75-89.9

F  
0-74.9

OLD SCALE



EASIER TO  
UNDERSTAND SCALE  
(100+ = A)  
(<50 = F)

A  
100-150

B  
85-99.9

C  
70-84.9

D  
50-69.9

F  
0-49.9

NEW SCALE

# New, Simple Formula

## OLD CALCULATION



### ELEMENTARY (K-6)

90% Tests + 10% Attendance



### MIDDLE (K-8)

90% Tests + 5% Attendance +  
5% Dropout



### HIGH SCHOOL (9-12)

70% Tests + 30% Graduation Rate



### COMBINATION SCHOOL

Average of: (K-8 SPS x # Students)  
+ (HS SPS x # Students)



## NEW CALCULATION



### ELEMENTARY (K-6)

100% Tests



### MIDDLE (K-8)

95% Tests + 5% High School Credits  
Earned by End of Freshman Year



### HIGH SCHOOL (9-12)

25% ACT Composite + 25% End of Course +  
25% Graduation Rate + 25% Quality of Diploma



### COMBINATION SCHOOL

Average of: (K-8 SPS x # Students)  
+ (HS SPS x # Students)



100%



## HOW DID STUDENTS PERFORM?

Students are assessed on how well they achieved their grade-level expectations.

LEVEL	SCHOOL	STATE
Advanced (150 pts = A)	%	%
Mastery (125 pts = A)	%	%
Basic (100 pts = A)	%	%
Approaching Basic (0 pts)	%	%
Unsatisfactory (0 pts)	%	%

\* This table includes students who take LAA 1 and LAA 2. View how their performance is measured [here](#) and student performance data disaggregated by special education status [here](#). Schools with grades no higher than 2 have accountability data based on a paired school designated by its district.



## DID THIS SCHOOL MAKE PROGRESS WITH STUDENTS WHO CONTINUE TO STRUGGLE ACADEMICALLY?

Schools earn “bonus” points for students who did not score Basic or above, but who made significant progress nonetheless.

<b>BONUS POINTS EARNED</b>	<b>#/10</b>
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2012-2013 (Old Scale)	2012-2013 (New Scale)	Starting with the 2012-2013 school year, the Louisiana Department of Education <b>improved and simplified</b> the way schools are graded by aligning with <b>higher standards, rewarding the gains</b> schools have already made, and <b>focusing on students below grade level</b> through a new bonus system. <b>Schools earn 100 points or an “A”</b> every time a student achieves a desired outcome like scoring Basic, graduating with a diploma, etc. Though some outcomes generate more points and some less, if every student scored the minimum desired outcome, the school would earn a score of 100, an A grade.
<b>C</b>	<b>B</b>	

**95% HOW DID STUDENTS PERFORM?**



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Advanced (150 pts = A)	%	%
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**5% HOW MANY CREDITS DID STUDENTS EARN BY FRESHMAN YEAR?**



Schools with 8th grade are assessed by the number of dropouts and high school credits earned by students by the end of ninth grade.

CREDITS	SCHOOL	STATE
6+ (150 pts = A)	%	%
5.5 (125 pts = A)	%	%
5 (100 pts = A)	%	%
4.5 (75 pts)	%	%
4 (50 pts)	%	%
3.5 (25 pts)	%	%
3- (0 pts)	%	%
3yr 8 <sup>th</sup> grader (0 pts)	%	%
Dropout (0 pts)	%	%

+

+



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<b>C</b>	<b>B</b>	

How is my school's grade calculated, and how is it different from last year? ([link to infographic](#))

What are my school and course choice options? ([link to webpage](#))

Where can I find information on how different groups of students performed?([link to Data Center](#))

# HIGH SCHOOL

## 2012-2013 · Parish · Grades 9-12

### Enrolled • 00% Special Education • 00% Free & Reduced Lunch • 00% African American

# B



SPS = ###

### 25% HOW DID STUDENTS PERFORM?

Students are assessed on how well they achieved in Algebra I, Geometry, English II, English III, and Biology on end-of-course exams.

LEVEL	SCHOOL	STATE
Excellent (150 pts = A)	%	%
Good (100 pts = A)	%	%
Fair (0 pts)	%	%
Needs Improvement (0 pts)	%	%

\* This table includes students who take LAA 1. View how their performance is measured [here](#) and student performance data disaggregated by special education status [here](#).

### 25% WHAT KIND OF DIPLOMAS & CREDITS DID STUDENTS EARN?

The graduation index measures the different diplomas and credits that a high school graduate can earn.

DIPLOMA + CREDITS	SCHOOL	STATE
High School Diploma + passing score on AP or IB (AP score at least 3 and IB at least 4) (150 pts = A)	%	%
High School Diploma + Endorsement (135 points = A) or High School Diploma + TOPS Opportunity (120 pts = A)	%	%
High School Diploma + passing course in IBC, dual enrollment, AP, or IB (AP score 1-2 or IB 1-3)(110 pts = A)	%	%
High School Diploma (100 pts = A)	%	%
Nongraduates (0 pts)	%	%

\* This is not the exhaustive list of diploma options.

### 25% ARE STUDENTS PREPARED FOR POSTSECONDARY SUCCESS?

A score of 18 or above on the ACT indicates students have minimum proficiency for postsecondary success.

	SCHOOL	STATE
ACT Score of 18+ (100 pts = A)	%	%

### 25% WHAT % OF STUDENTS GRADUATE?

The cohort graduation rate is the percent of students who enter the ninth grade and successfully graduate four years later.

	SCHOOL	STATE
4 year degree (> 80% = 100 pts = A)	%	%



### DID THIS SCHOOL MAKE PROGRESS WITH STUDENTS WHO STRUGGLE ACADEMICALLY?

Schools earn bonus points for students who score non-proficient on state tests, but who demonstrate significant growth.

**BONUS POINTS EARNED**

**#/10**

**=**

2012-2013 (Old Scale)

2012-2013 (New Scale)

C

B

Starting with the 2012-2013 school year, the Louisiana Department of Education **improved and simplified** the way schools are graded by aligning with **higher standards, rewarding the gains** schools have already made, and **focusing on students below grade level** through a new bonus system. **Schools earn 100 points or an "A"** every time a student achieves a desired outcome like scoring Basic, graduating with a diploma, etc. Though some outcomes generate more points and some less, if every student scored the minimum desired outcome, the school would earn a score of 100, an A grade.

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K-8



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3yr 8 <sup>th</sup> grader (0 pts)	%	%
Dropout (0 pts)	%	%



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