

LEAP TEST: 4TH GRADE ‘INITIAL TEST-TAKERS’ MEETING THE PROMOTIONAL STANDARD

DEFINITION: Number and percentage of 4th grade initial test takers meeting Approaching Basic/Basic promotional standard after the spring and summer LEAP tests.

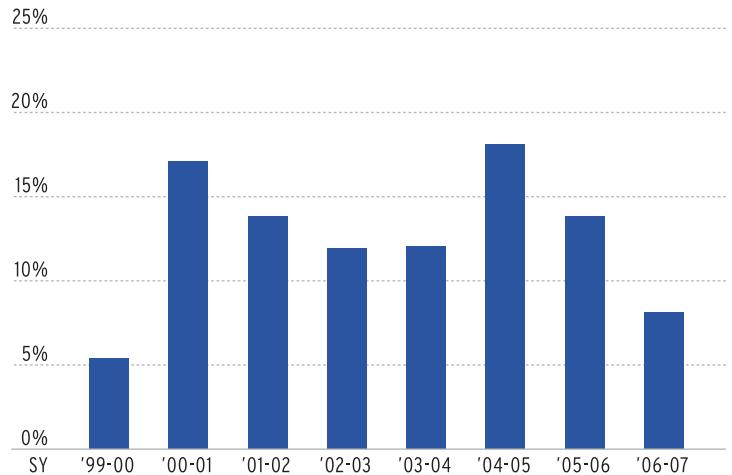
SIGNIFICANCE

The Louisiana Educational Assessment Program (LEAP) is a “high-stakes” test that is administered to fourth and eighth grade students. In addition to being used in determining whether a child will be promoted to the next grade, LEAP scores are used in the calculation of each school’s performance score in the state’s accountability system. In other words, the LEAP test is high-stakes for both the individual student and the school. Students take LEAP tests in English/Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies. Instead of receiving a pass/fail grade, students receive a score of Advanced, Mastery, Basic, Approaching Basic, or Unsatisfactory. In order to be promoted to the next grade, students are required to score Basic or above on either the English Language Arts or the Mathematics test and Approaching Basic or above on the other. The Social Studies and Science portions of the tests are not used for promotional purposes. Students who do not meet the promotional standard must be offered intensive summer remediation, but are not required to attend the remediation. Students who do not meet the promotional standard in the spring may retake the test at the end of the summer.¹

As the chart demonstrates, retention rates tripled for fourth grade students after the LEAP tests were first used for promotional purposes, rising from 5.4% in SY 1999 to 17.1% in SY 2000. The retention rate declined somewhat until SY 2004, when the promotional standard was raised from Approaching Basic in both subject tests to Approaching Basic on one subject and Basic on the other. Due to the disruptions of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, the LEAP test was not used to determine promotions for SY 2006-2007, resulting in the lowest retention rates for the fourth grade since the LEAP test was implemented.

Union Parish and Orleans Parish (which includes the scores of students in Orleans Parish public schools and in New Orleans schools run by the Recovery School District) had the smallest percentage of 4th grade initial test-takers who met the LEAP promotional standards after both spring and summer tests in SY 2008. After the summer testing, fifteen parishes had at least 90% of 4th graders meeting the promotional standards. St. Helena Parish experienced the greatest

FOURTH GRADE STUDENTS RETAINED IN LOUISIANA School years 1999-2006



improvement between the spring and summer tests. Only 64% of initial test-takers there met the promotional standards after the spring test, but 92% met the standards after the summer test.

CHART DATA SOURCE

Louisiana Department of Education, Louisiana State Education Progress Report 2004-2005 and Louisiana State Education Progress Report 2006-2007

DATA SOURCE

Department of Education, Division of Planning, Analysis, and Information Resources

DATA NOTE

Data for City of Baker, Central Community and City of Zachary districts are reflected in East Baton Rouge’s data. Data for the City of Monroe district are reflected in Ouachita’s data. Data for New Orleans Recovery School District schools are reflected in Orleans parish’s data. Data for other Louisiana Recovery School District schools, Lab Schools, Marine Institutes, and all other charter schools are not reflected in any parish’s data but are reflected in the statewide total.

RATE CALCULATION

$100 * (\text{number of 4th grade LEAP initial test-takers meeting the promotional standard after the spring test} \div \text{number of 4th grade LEAP initial test-takers})$

$100 * (\text{number of 4th grade LEAP initial test-takers meeting the promotional standard after the spring and summer tests} \div \text{number of 4th grade LEAP initial test-takers})$

¹ Louisiana Department of Education, 2007-2008 Louisiana State Education Progress Report, (Baton Rouge, LA: Louisiana Department of Education, 2009), 28-29, retrieved from www.doe.state.la.us/ on 8/1/2009.

LEAP TEST: 4TH GRADE 'INITIAL TEST-TAKERS' MEETING THE PROMOTIONAL STANDARD (NUMBER AND PERCENT OF ALL INITIAL TEST-TAKERS)

SY 2008	AFTER SPRING TEST		AFTER SPRING AND SUMMER TESTS	
	No.	%	No.	%
LOUISIANA	38,278	77	41,410	83
Acadia	535	75	564	79
Allen	288	86	310	93
Ascension	1,117	76	1,207	82
Assumption	216	79	234	85
Avoyelles	329	69	352	73
Beauregard	356	85	380	91
Bienville	84	66	93	73
Bossier	1,223	84	1,298	89
Caddo	2,403	76	2,597	82
Calcasieu	1,888	82	1,991	87
Caldwell	82	71	85	73
Cameron	64	72	76	85
Catahoula	118	91	119	92
Claiborne	120	75	134	83
Concordia	219	65	257	77
De Soto	203	57	261	73
East Baton Rouge	2,706	69	2,961	75
East Carroll	71	76	83	89
East Feliciana	120	71	128	76
Evangeline	367	82	383	86
Franklin	161	69	177	76
Grant	210	82	244	95
Iberia	803	81	855	86
Iberville	233	83	251	90
Jackson	129	78	151	92
Jefferson	2,193	70	2,468	79
Jefferson Davis	345	86	362	90
Lafayette	1,774	78	1,902	84
Lafourche	735	74	801	81
La Salle	143	89	152	94
Lincoln	329	82	350	87
Livingston	1,667	87	1,749	92
Madison	114	77	130	88
Morehouse	219	66	247	75
Natchitoches	323	69	360	77
Orleans	1,532	63	1,764	72
Ouachita	1,741	86	1,849	91
Plaquemines	235	94	247	98
Pointe Coupee	137	67	158	78
Rapides	1,446	83	1,538	88
Red River	69	70	80	81
Richland	192	66	213	74
Sabine	219	78	245	87
St. Bernard	237	83	256	90
St. Charles	565	85	591	89
St. Helena	61	64	87	92
St. James	223	82	233	86
St. John the Baptist	335	76	361	82
St. Landry	902	78	966	83
St. Martin	441	75	482	82
St. Mary	504	77	549	84
St. Tammany	2,306	88	2,433	93
Tangipahoa	983	71	1,083	78
Tensas	44	73	49	82
Terrebonne	1,032	75	1,094	80
Union	128	64	144	72
Vermilion	573	81	623	88
Vernon	627	86	663	91
Washington	378	69	409	75
Webster	331	66	366	73
West Baton Rouge	214	78	223	81
West Carroll	137	83	140	84
West Feliciana	144	85	151	89
Winn	173	79	192	88