

# LEAP TEST: 8TH GRADE ‘INITIAL TEST-TAKERS’ MEETING THE PROMOTIONAL STANDARD

**DEFINITION:** Number and percentage of 8th grade initial test takers meeting Approaching Basic/Basic promotional standard after the spring and summer LEAP tests.

## SIGNIFICANCE

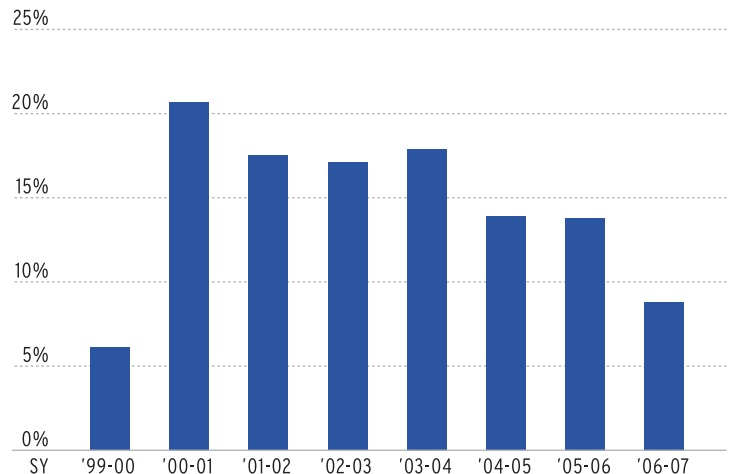
The Louisiana Educational Assessment Program (LEAP) is a “high-stakes” test that is administered to fourth and eighth grade public school students. In addition to determining whether a child will be promoted to the next grade, LEAP scores are also used in the calculation of each school’s performance score in the state’s accountability system. Students take LEAP tests in English/Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies. Instead of receiving a pass/fail grade, they receive a score of Advanced, Mastery, Basic, Approaching Basic, or Unsatisfactory.<sup>1</sup>

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.<sup>2</sup>

As the chart demonstrates, retention rates increased from 6.1% to 20.7% after the LEAP test was first used for promotional purposes. While the rate has declined since that time, the rate remains more than double the pre-LEAP rate, with the exception of the 2006-2007 school year, when the LEAP test was not used to make promotional decisions.

While no parish saw fewer than half of its fourth graders meet the promotional standards after the spring test in SY 2008, two parishes had less than half of their eighth grade “initial test-takers” meeting the promotional standards after the spring test. In St. Helena Parish, two out of every five initial test takers met the promotional standards after the spring test. By contrast, at least four out of every five eighth grade “initial test-takers” in thirteen parishes met the promotional standard after the spring test in SY 2008. After the spring and summer tests, Plaquemines and East Carroll parishes had the

**EIGHTH GRADE STUDENTS RETAINED IN LOUISIANA** School years 1999-2006



largest percentage (94%) of eighth grade initial test-takers meeting the promotional standard.

## 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

$100 * (\text{number of 8th grade LEAP initial test-takers meeting the promotional standard after the spring test} \div \text{number of 8th grade LEAP initial test-takers})$

$100 * (\text{number of 8th grade LEAP initial test-takers meeting the promotional standard after the spring and summer tests} \div \text{number of 8th grade LEAP initial test-takers})$

<sup>1</sup> 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/](http://www.doe.state.la.us/) on 8/1/2009.

<sup>2</sup> *ibid.*

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(NUMBER AND PERCENT OF ALL INITIAL TEST-TAKERS)

SY 2008	AFTER SPRING TEST		AFTER SPRING AND SUMMER TESTS	
	No.	%	No.	%
<b>LOUISIANA</b>	<b>33,237</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>36,830</b>	<b>79</b>
Acadia	459	80	489	85
Allen	250	79	271	86
Ascension	1,167	83	1,224	87
Assumption	225	79	242	85
Avoyelles	234	60	262	68
Beauregard	310	71	343	79
Bienville	105	66	120	76
Bossier	1,058	78	1,181	88
Caddo	1,807	63	2,023	70
Calcasieu	1,696	75	1,868	82
Caldwell	74	71	80	77
Cameron	85	71	101	85
Catahoula	81	75	90	83
Claiborne	91	61	105	70
Concordia	190	73	208	80
De Soto	228	64	263	74
East Baton Rouge	2,477	70	2,748	78
East Carroll	93	82	106	94
East Feliciana	79	60	93	70
Evangeline	286	81	303	86
Franklin	130	73	149	84
Grant	198	70	216	76
Iberia	659	77	707	83
Iberville	184	67	202	74
Jackson	103	73	122	86
Jefferson	1,936	70	2,165	78
Jefferson Davis	303	81	335	89
Lafayette	1,619	77	1,721	82
Lafourche	699	70	779	78
La Salle	127	83	135	88
Lincoln	289	70	323	78
Livingston	1,378	81	1,489	88
Madison	65	45	89	61
Morehouse	202	63	238	74
Natchitoches	271	62	316	73
Orleans	1,267	52	1,527	63
Ouachita	1,385	76	1,502	82
Plaquemines	193	87	209	94
Pointe Coupee	117	66	140	79
Rapides	1,114	67	1,258	76
Red River	58	51	75	66
Richland	173	75	183	80
Sabine	201	80	219	88
St. Bernard	247	74	270	81
St. Charles	536	78	586	85
St. Helena	36	39	46	49
St. James	219	68	236	73
St. John the Baptist	349	78	386	86
St. Landry	640	76	687	81
St. Martin	371	66	407	72
St. Mary	473	73	509	78
St. Tammany	2,111	84	2,312	92
Tangipahoa	924	69	1,050	79
Tensas	25	57	33	75
Terrebonne	835	68	965	78
Union	111	56	127	64
Vermilion	434	76	480	84
Vernon	501	80	551	88
Washington	348	70	405	81
Webster	328	65	371	74
West Baton Rouge	178	74	191	80
West Carroll	122	87	129	91
West Feliciana	137	81	149	88
Winn	130	77	145	86