

Louisiana Believes

Communicating 2017-2018
School Performance Scores to Families

Why is it important to communicate SPS to families?

- **The Department encourages all schools to hold parent nights in order to have open and honest conversations with families about school performance and improvements.**
- In conversations with families over the past two years about the development of the new report cards and Louisiana School Finder, many parents told us that they want to hear from their principal about how the school is doing.
- They accept that their school may not be an A or B as long as school leaders has a clear plan for improvement, and that the school has been improving overall for the past few years.
- **The release of the 2017-2018 school report cards is an opportunity for schools to be proactive in addressing their school's strengths and areas of opportunity with families, and to build partnerships that will result in increased student achievement.**

The background is a vibrant blue watercolor wash. In the center, there is a large, irregular white shape that resembles a map of the United States or a similar landmass. The watercolor texture is visible, with various shades of blue and some darker, more saturated areas towards the edges.

School Performance Score Communications Toolkit

Support for Principals and Families in Understanding SPS

The Department is committed to supporting school system and school leaders in communicating the 2018 school performance scores, and new student progress measure to families and communities.

In order to support these conversations, the Department has produced a toolkit of resources that includes:

- **Training presentation for principals** to help them prepare for the fall release
- **Customizable presentations** for communicating this year's [school system and school performance scores](#), including Comprehensive and Targeted Intervention designations, and [early childhood performance profiles](#)
- **Social media and website graphics** celebrating school growth and Top Gains schools
- **Louisiana Accountability System and Louisiana School Finder flyers** for families
- **Animated videos** explaining school performance scores, including the new “Student Progress” Index

Explaining School Performance Scores

The Department has produced a series of short, **animated videos** that help explain school performance scores and early childhood performance profiles to families.

These videos are located on the [Department's YouTube Channel](#) under the "School Performance Score" playlist and translated versions are available.



Overview of Louisiana's Accountability System

The [Louisiana Accountability System Overview](#) can be shared with families prior to, or during, the school performance score parent night.

Louisiana's K-12 ACCOUNTABILITY SYSTEM

WHAT IS LOUISIANA'S K-12 ACCOUNTABILITY SYSTEM?

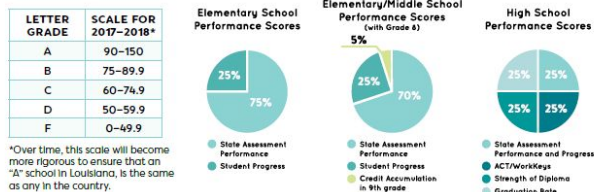
The Louisiana school and school system accountability system was developed to

- inform and focus educators through clear expectations for student outcomes; and
- provide objective information about school quality to parents and other community stakeholders.

Annually, public schools in Louisiana receive a **School Performance Score (SPS)** and corresponding letter grade that measures how well they are preparing all of their students for the next grade-level or postsecondary education.

[Watch a quick video on how school performance scores are calculated.*](#)

SPS is reported on a scale from zero to 150, and is measured by how well schools perform on the following indices.



WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO EARN AN "A" IN LOUISIANA?

Student Performance on State Assessments:	Students are achieving "Mastery" or higher on state assessments.		ACT:	Students average a score of 21 or higher on the ACT.	
Student Progress:	Regardless of where a student starts at the beginning of the year, they progress throughout the school year and are on track to achieve "Mastery" .		Strength of Diploma:	Students graduate on time in four years and schools earn additional points for students in college-level classes or earning Jump Start credentials.	
Dropout Credit Accumulation Index:	Students earn six or more credits by 9th grade signaling a successful transition from middle school.		Cohort Graduation Rate:	Nine out of 10 students in each high school cohort graduate in four years .	

Accessing School Finder

The [Louisiana School Finder flyer](#) walks families through the simple step of how to find your report card in the Louisiana School Finder.

School are encouraged to send these flyers home with a letter from the principal inviting them to the school performance parent night to learn more.



The Louisiana Department of Education is committed to helping families find the right school or early childhood center for their children, and providing them with helpful information about Louisiana's schools.

The Louisiana School Finder is an interactive, online tool that provides families with:

- ① **school performance scores and early childhood performance ratings** to show how well schools and centers are preparing students for the next grade-level;
- ② **basic information about schools and centers** such as their address, website, hours of operation, and principal or director's name; and
- ③ **listings of course offerings, clubs, enrichment and extracurricular activities.**

To find out information about schools and early childhood centers in your area, visit WWW.LOUISIANASCHOOLS.COM, and type in a school or center's name, or your zip code.



Next Steps

1. Schedule principal meeting(s) to share toolkit and help them talk through messaging about this year's release.
2. Encourage schools to schedule parent nights following the release of school performance scores and before the Christmas holiday.
3. Schedule meetings with your local Chambers of Commerce, workforce commission, education advocate groups, etc. to share your school system's results and discuss what academic plans you will be putting in place for 2019-2020.