**PELICAN PARISH PUBLIC SCHOOLS MAKE GAINS ON ANNUAL STATE REPORT CARD**

*School System Earns ‘A’ Letter Grade for Helping Students Grow*

PELICAN, La. -- Pelican Parish Public Schools received its annual report card today from the Louisiana Department of Education, which showed marked academic gains in the 2017-2018 school year. The school system maintained a “C” letter grade for overall school performance, even as the state raised the bar for what it takes to earn that grade, and it achieved an “A” letter grade for helping students grow year-over-year.

“This is a great day for Pelican Parish Public Schools,” said Superintendent Peter Pelican. “Our achievements can be attributed to collaborative efforts at every level, from students and teachers to school leaders and families. Credit must also be given to our School Board representatives, who allowed us to do some innovative things in the classroom to ensure student success.”

Every year, schools and school systems in Louisiana receive report cards with school performance scores and corresponding A-F letter grades. The report cards, which can be viewed on the online [Louisiana School Finder](http://louisianaschools.com), communicate how well schools are preparing students for the next grade level by examining student performance measures, like how students score on state assessments, how many students are graduating each year or how many students are earning early college credit. Over time, the state has raised the bar for each of these measurements, and for the first time this year, the report card also details how well schools are helping students, regardless of where they start at the beginning of the year, progress toward mastering key concepts and skills.

Among the highlights from this year’s report card:

* **The school system achieved an “A” for student growth.** Pelican Parish was named an “Outstanding School System” for helping students progress toward mastery in English language arts and Math. It also landed in the Top 10 statewide for growing economically disadvantaged students and students with disabilities. Nearly all schools in the school system outpaced the state average for academic growth.
* **The school system improved in a number of performance areas.** Though the school system earned the same overall letter grade, it improved student performance on the ACT and increased the number of students who graduated from high school in four years.
* **Two schools increased performance to earn “A” grades.** Pelican Elementary School and Pelican High School both improved their performance enough to earn “A” grades for the first time. The addition brings the total number of A-rated schools in Pelican Parish up to 13. Schools with the letter grade of “B” also increased for a total of 20.
* **Five schools are among the Top 10 in the state for overall performance.** The schools include Pelican Elementary School, Egret Elementary School, Spoonbill Preparatory Academy, Pelican Middle School, Pelican High School,and Spoonbill STEM Magnet High School.

“Despite the gains, there is more work to do,” Pelican said, noting four schools declined and received an ‘F’ letter grade last year. “We will continue to work closely with principals and teachers to identify weaknesses and make improvements so that all of our students are successful.”