



Accomplishments for the Children of Louisiana: 2011-2015

Early Childhood

- Louisiana has unified child-care programs, Head Start centers, and pre-kindergartens into a one system of high quality early childhood education.
- While the state has not added funds to support this effort, BESE and the Department of Education won \$32 million in new federal funds through a competitive grant (and in spite of gubernatorial resistance) to create greater access. BESE and the Department have further increased the per-child child care stipend from \$1700 to \$4100 annually.

Elementary and Middle School

- Louisiana is the top state in the nation in gains made between 2013 and 2015 in both 4th grade math and 4th grade reading on the National Assessment of Education Progress (NAEP).
- In 2009 Louisiana was 50th in the nation in 4th grade reading on the NAEP. Today Louisiana ranks 43rd.
- As recently as 2013, low-income 4th grade students in Louisiana trailed low-income students nationally in reading, with 5 percent fewer reading at proficient levels on the NAEP. As of 2015, there is no gap.
- Similarly, Louisiana's African-American students performed 6 percent below African Americans nationwide in 2013. The gap is now 1 percent.

High School and College

- Since 2011, the four-year high school graduation rate in Louisiana has increased by 4 percent. It is now at an all-time high of 74.5 percent.
- Of 13 states that give all students free access to the ACT, Louisiana made the greatest improvement in the nation in 2015, doubling the rate of improvement in the second highest state. Of 6 southern states that provide access to all students, Louisiana's average ACT score now ranks third.
- In 2015, 6,000 more Louisiana students than in 2012 graduated from high school with an ACT score allowing them to go to college without the need for remediation. The number of African-American students achieving a college-going ACT score has increased by 40 percent over that time.

- Louisiana is the fastest improving state in the nation on Advanced Placement tests, having increased the number of Advanced Placement credits earned annually by 87 percent since 2012. The number of African-American students earning credits has increased by 160 percent in the same period.
- Between 2011 and 2014, the number of students in Louisiana entering college upon graduating from high school increased by 16 percent.