

# Grow. Achieve. Thrive.

## *Louisiana's Revised Accountability System*

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### Frequently Asked Questions

This document was last updated 6/28/24. It includes answers to frequently asked questions about Louisiana's revised accountability system. This resource is maintained by the Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) to help the general public understand the new system. The LDOE also maintains an [FAQ resource to help answer educator questions](#).

### What is Grow.Achieve.Thrive.?

Grow.Achieve.Thrive. is Louisiana's revised K-12 accountability system. The plan's name comes from its three core student expectations. Louisiana expects all students to grow academically year-over year, achieve proficiency on key content, and thrive beyond high school.

**Grow:** Schools will be measured by the percentage of students growing in math and English, with special attention paid to growing the lowest achieving students and supporting English learners as they learn the English language.

**Achieve:** Schools will be measured by the percentage of students who are proficient in math, English, science, and social studies.

**Thrive:** High schools will be measured on the number of students graduating on time, showing readiness on a nationally recognized exam, and prepared to accelerate by earning college credit or high value career credentials with work experience.

### What is a K-12 accountability system?

A K-12 accountability system is used by states to measure the performance and progress of public schools and school systems. The primary goal of these systems is to ensure that all students receive a high-quality education and are making academic progress. A K-12 accountability system also provides the public with a transparent way to understand school performance. Louisiana utilizes its K-12 accountability system to assign letter grades and performance scores to public schools and systems.

### How will the revised system grade schools?

Grow. Achieve. Thrive. asks simple questions and gives straightforward answers. What percentage of students grew in English and math? What percentage of students have mastered core subjects like science and social studies? What percentage of students graduated on time? What percentage of students are career and college ready? These are clear measures of what we know matters most to academic success. Each of these measures are evenly averaged and give schools a letter grade based on a 100-point scale. You can view these measures on [Louisiana's Accountability Scorecard](#).

### Why did the current system need to be revised?

Louisiana wants to raise the bar for academic success, enhance the value of career education, and make it easier for the public to understand how schools are performing. Louisiana's current accountability system has been criticized for being too complex for parents, educators and the public to understand; setting low expectations for improvement and postsecondary success; and outdated in how it fails to value career and college readiness.

## How does the revised system address those problems?

Grow.Achieve.Thrive. is based on three fundamental drivers. It's simple and transparent, sets high expectations, and places increased value on career and college readiness. The system uses a 100-point scale that evenly measures schools on foundational elements of student success. Students are expected to grow, achieve proficiency, and thrive after graduation. The system also emphasizes giving students a head start on a career or college while they are still in high school.

## When does the revised system begin?

Louisiana's revised accountability system will start with the 2025-2026 school year.

## How does the revised system enhance the value of career education?

Career and technical education will no longer be devalued — the trades are critically important to the future economic success of our state. Louisiana's revised accountability system signifies a fundamental shift in the value of career and technical education and underscores its critical role in education. Career and technical education is a foundational pillar of Louisiana's revised accountability system. The current evaluation system only includes career education as bonus points. Career education is a key indicator of Grow. Achieve. Thrive. Louisiana's new accountability system also encourages students to earn high-wage, high-demand career credentials and removes low-quality credentials. Our revised system gives greater weight to high quality credentials than the current system and also no longer rewards low quality credentials.

## What does career and college readiness mean?

BESE and the Board of Regents recently defined career and college readiness. We kept that definition close at hand as we planned, engaged, and designed this revised formula, because true readiness for life after high school has long been neglected by our current accountability formula. Below are the two definitions for readiness based on the career and college (university) pathways.

**Career Pathway:** Graduate prepared for employment with the foundational skills required for entry into career pathways

**University Pathway:** Graduate prepared for university, community college, or technical college programming without need for remediation or corequisite support

## How long has Louisiana been working to revise the current accountability system?

The Louisiana Department of Education has spent years engaged in conversation about the need to optimize our school accountability system to ensure it meets the needs of students. Planning for a revised accountability system has been ongoing since 2020. Those plans centered on developing a plan for students in grades K-2, updating the state's growth measure, enhancing the value of career and college readiness, and raising student expectations. In 2022, [Louisiana adopted](#) the state's first accountability plan to measure success in kindergarten through second grade.

## What student expectations are set by this revised accountability system?

Louisiana expects every student to grow academically from year to year, achieve proficiency on core subjects, and graduate with the skills to thrive in a career, college, or service. Grow. Achieve. Thrive. Rewards schools for ensuring students grow in math and English every year, with special emphasis placed on students who are in the bottom 25% of those subjects at their school. Schools are also rewarded for getting students to proficiency in math, English, science, and social studies. Along with being rewarded for growing students academically and moving them to proficiency, high schools are rewarded for graduating students on time, making sure they score well on nationally recognized exams, and providing students with valuable career and college experiences before graduation.

### **How will the new accountability system impact schools?**

Some schools are already working diligently to ensure that every student reaches proficiency with core content each year. This might look like an individualized plan to help students improve literacy or math skills, additional opportunities for tutoring during the week, or teachers structuring classroom time to provide one-on-one help to students who need it. These activities typically result in students learning and growing, and the new system will both recognize those efforts and encourage other schools to similarly engage.

### **Is it realistic to expect every student to reach proficiency?**

When we think about what it means to reach proficiency, we believe that the answer is “yes.” This means that every student should be able to read and write, at least to a 10th-grade level. Every student should be able to do basic math, at least to the level of high school geometry. Every student should be able to think and communicate about basic science and civics topics that they may encounter in everyday life, understanding that they will need to be confident in thinking through new and challenging topics in whatever their lives after high school might entail.

### **How might this impact my child’s school day?**

The new accountability formula highly prioritizes individual student proficiency and growth. If your child typically struggles in a subject, he or she may receive more individualized instruction during the school day. You might receive information from your school regarding tutoring during the school day, activities you can do at home, or additional tutoring options that are available, such as the [Steve Carter Education Program](#).

### **Will schools still offer enrichment and extracurricular activities?**

While the most important priority for schools must be student mastery of academic content, providing opportunities for enrichment and extracurricular activities is still important for students. In fact, classes like art, music, and foreign language are actually required for many grade levels. [LouisianaSchools.com](#) has information about programs currently available in schools, and LDOE is planning updates to increase transparency in this area.