

# High School Performance

## SCHOOL PERFORMANCE SCORES<sup>1</sup> AND LETTER GRADES

The percentage of students enrolled in failing schools in grades 9–12 in New Orleans<sup>2</sup> dropped from 66 percent prior to Hurricane Katrina, to 10 percent in the fall of 2014 (see figure A).

## ON-TIME GRADUATION RATES

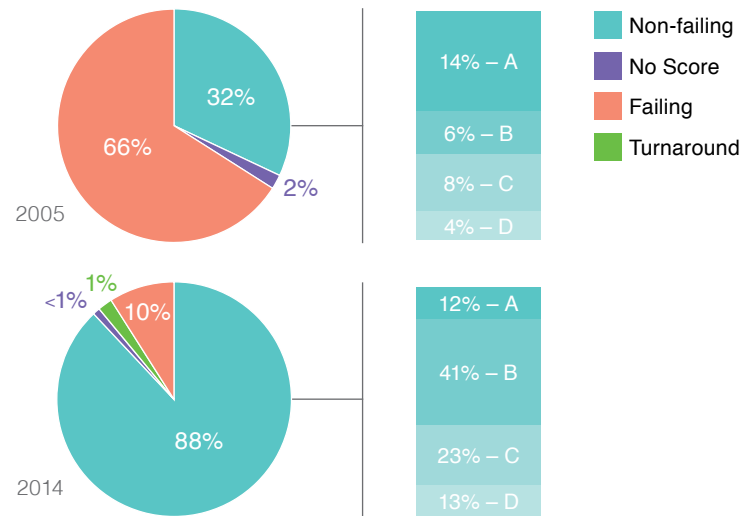
Between 2003–04<sup>3</sup> and 2013–14, New Orleans' four-year cohort graduation rate increased by 18.3 percentage points, from 54 percent to 73 percent. New Orleans reduced the gap from 15 percentage points below the state average in 2003–04, to 2 points below the state average in 2013–14. (see figure B).

## GRADUATION RATES BY SUBGROUP

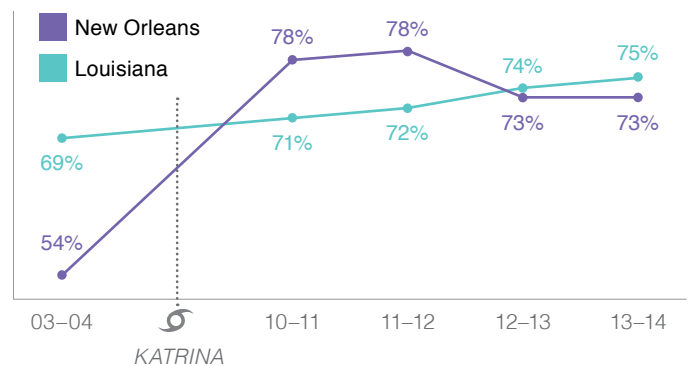
In 2014, New Orleans outperformed state graduation rates for typically underserved student groups, including African-American students, African-American male students, economically disadvantaged students, and students with disabilities.

In 2014, African-American males in New Orleans graduated at five percentage points higher than the state average and at one of the highest urban rates in the country.<sup>4</sup> Students with disabilities graduated at a rate 17 percentage points higher than the state (see figure C).

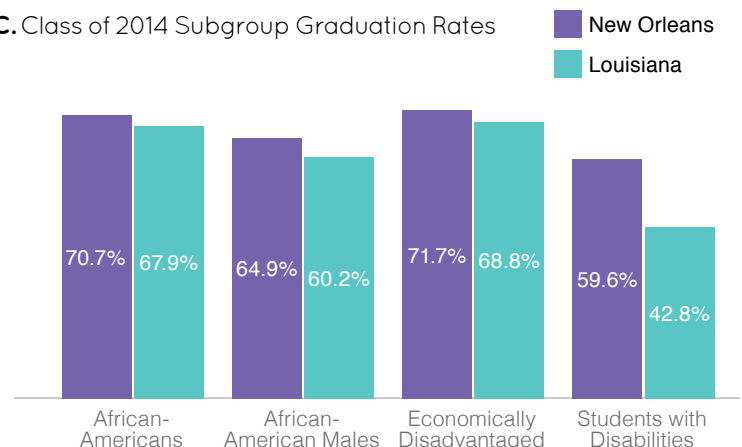
A. School Performance Scores and Letter Grades



B. Percentage of High School Students Proficient on State Tests (all grades, all tests)



C. Class of 2014 Subgroup Graduation Rates



## TEST SCORES

In 2004–05, high school students in Louisiana were required to take the state’s Graduate Exit Exam (GEE). By 2013–14, Louisiana had transitioned to End-of-Course tests and had also added the ACT to its high school assessments.

### Graduate Exit Exam (GEE) End-of-Course Tests (EOC)

Between 2004–05 and 2010–11, the last year the GEE was given in all subjects,<sup>5</sup> New Orleans’ percentage of students proficient on the test steadily increased from 39 percent to 57 percent, closing the gap between New Orleans and the state average, from 21 percentage points to 7 percentage points (see figure D).

Louisiana transitioned to EOCs over several years, beginning with the 2010–11 freshman class. Since then, New Orleans has increased the percentage of students proficient on EOCs from 39 percent to 59 percent, and reduced the gap with the state average from 10 percentage points, to 3 percentage points.

## ACT SCORES<sup>6</sup>

From 2004–05 to 2013–14, New Orleans’ composite ACT score increased 1.4 points, from 17 to 18.4. Growth in average ACT scores has continued despite the requirement that all high school students, not just college-bound students, take the ACT beginning in 2012–13. Louisiana’s average composite ACT score went from 19.8 in 2004–05, to 19.3 in 2013–14 (see figure E).

### ACT Scores Compared to Other States with Required Participation

In 2013-14, Louisiana was one of 12 states with required participation on the ACT. See figure F for a comparison of urban school districts in some of the states that required participation.<sup>7</sup>

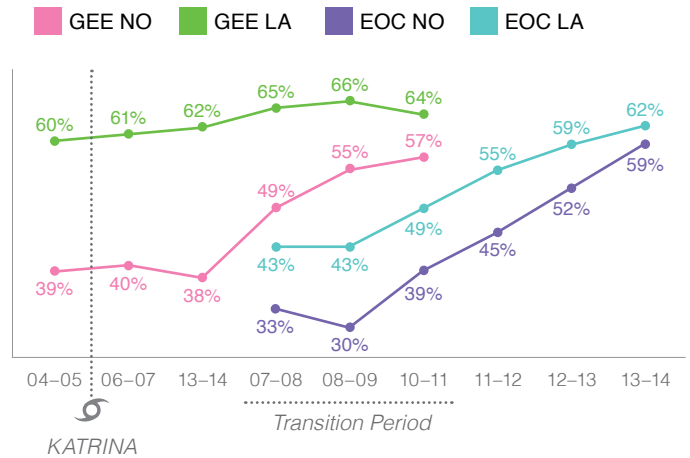
## COLLEGE ENROLLMENT

Since Hurricane Katrina, New Orleans has increased the percentage of students enrolling in college in the first fall following high school graduation by nearly two-thirds. In 2014, graduates entered college at 22 percentage points higher than in 2004, outpacing state growth by 14 percentage points.

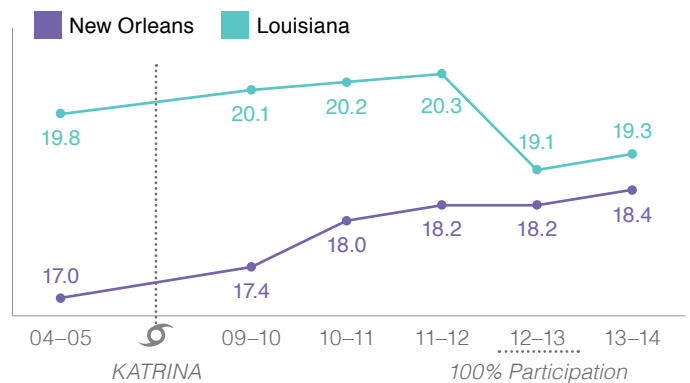
### Comparing Enrollment in Two-Year and Four-Year Colleges

For the class of 2014, the percentage of New Orleans’ first time freshmen enrolling in four-year colleges was 63 percent, just below the state. The percentage enrolling in two-year colleges was 37 percent.

D. Percentage of Students Proficient on GEE and EOCs



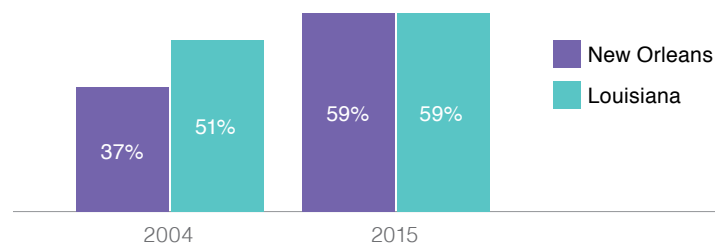
E. Composite ACT Scores for New Orleans and the State



F. ACT Scores Compared to States with Required Participation

CITY	SCORE
Charlotte-Mecklenburg, NC	18.6
<b>New Orleans, LA</b>	<b>18.4</b>
Denver, CO	18.4
Nashville, TN	18.4
Chicago, IL	18.0
Miami-Dade County, FL	17.9
Shelby County (Memphis, TN)	17.7
Detroit, MI	16.4
Birmingham, AL	16

G. Percentage of High School Graduates Enrolled First Fall After Graduation<sup>8</sup>



## TOPS COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS

Louisiana offers qualifying students a scholarship to a four-year or two-year in-state college based on a combination of GPA, required coursework, and ACT scores.

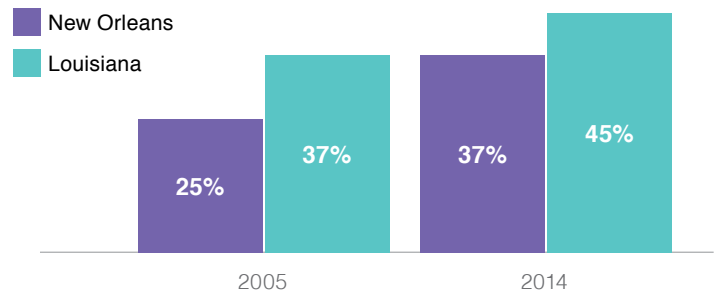
For the class of 2005, the percentage of New Orleans graduates eligible for TOPS college scholarships was 25 percent, 12 percentage points below the Louisiana average of 37 percent. For the class of 2014, the percentage of TOPS eligible graduates increased to 37 percent, 8 percentage points below the statewide average of 45 percent (see figure H).

### Comparing Scholarships for Two-Year and Four-Year Colleges

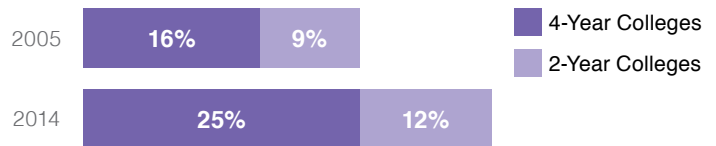
Between 2005 and 2014, the percentage of New Orleans graduates eligible for 4-year scholarships increased 9 percentage points and the percentage eligible for 2-year scholarships increased by 3 percentage points (see figure I).

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H. Percentage of High School Graduates Qualifying for TOPS Scholarships



I. Breakdown TOPS Scholarship Awards (from figure H) for Qualifying New Orleans Graduates



- Schools in Louisiana receive an annual School Performance Score (SPS) based on student achievement, academic indicators, and measures of career and college readiness. Based on the SPS, the Louisiana Department of Education assigns a letter grade to each school. In 2005, schools were given stars (1 to 5) not letter grades; for the purpose of comparison, 4 and 5 stars = A, 3 = B, 2 = C, 1 = D, and "Academically Unacceptable" = F. In 2014, T schools are schools in the first or second year of Turnaround. Read more about Louisiana's [School Performance Scores](#) and [letter grades](#).
- Data labeled "New Orleans" include all RSD and OPSB schools, both direct-run and charter. This distinction applies throughout the document.
- In 2005, the Department of Education did not calculate a cohort graduation rate for any schools or districts. The 2003–04 cohort graduation rate for New Orleans was calculated after the fact. As such, data was not certified at the district level at the end of the 2003–04 school year.
- Source: [Black Lives Matter: The Schott 50 State Report on Public Education and Black Males](#)
- 2010–11 was the last year students took the GEE in all 4 subjects—English, math, science and social studies. In 2011–12, students took tests in only two subjects—science and social studies.
- 2012–13 and 2013–14 ACT data were calculated using the Best Score methodology from statewide testing. Prior years were calculated using ACT's Most Recent Score methodology, when statewide testing data were not yet available.
- The list of states with 100 percent participation came from the [ACT website](#). The composite ACT scores for the school districts included in the table came from individual district websites.
- For this analysis, data for the graduating class of 2004 was used instead of the class of 2005 because 2005 college enrollment rates were impacted by Hurricane Katrina. 2004 first-time-freshmen (FTF) data for public college campuses were extracted by the Board of Regents (BOR) from its own databases, re-formatted, and then uploaded into the Louisiana Department of Education's (LDE) FTF Data Collection System, but data from the nonpublic institutions came directly from each nonpublic campus. 2004 data includes in-state colleges only, but based on recent data from the National Student Clearinghouse, fewer than 5 percent of New Orleans graduates and 20% of Louisiana graduates attend out-of-state colleges. Class of 2014 data was provided by the [National Student Clearinghouse](#).