

Louisiana's Education Priorities

- ✓ **Early childhood** leading to kindergarten readiness
- ✓ **Literacy** instruction aligned to the Science of Reading
- ✓ **Foundational math** instruction advancing to conceptual understanding
- ✓ Opportunities ensuring a **meaningful high school experience**
- ✓ An effective **teacher for every student**
- ✓ Expand **educational choice** for students and families



Louisiana
improves
in national
rankings

The Nation's Report Card

- Overall state ranking **improved four spots from 46th to 42nd** among the states
- Fourth graders **No. 1 in the nation for reading growth**
- Economically disadvantaged fourth graders improved from **42nd to 11th for reading proficiency**

U.S. News & World Report

- Louisiana K-12 education improved five places from 46th to 41st, the state's **highest ranking ever** in this national publication

Statewide Progress Since 2021

- State assessment scores improve two straight years, including **largest year-over-year gains since 2016**
- Statewide school performance score **exceeds pre-pandemic level** following consecutive years of growth
- Record 8,697 Louisiana students earned a 3 or better on their AP exam - 19% **higher than Louisiana's pre-pandemic total**



Opportunities for Growth

- 54% of Louisiana 4th graders scored below proficient in ELA on 2023 state assessments.
- 77% of Louisiana 8th graders scored below proficient in math on 2023 state assessments.
- Only 18% of Louisiana high school students are enrolled in a career diploma pathway.
- 1,100+ Louisiana teacher vacancies remain.
- Additional school choice options are needed to provide every parent with the education environment that best fits their child.
- Scaling existing tutoring efforts to provide additional learning opportunities to all students.

Statewide Tutoring Focus

Tutoring During School Day

Accelerate States Leading Recovery Grant

- Louisiana is **leading the nation** with its innovative approach to learning recovery.
- With support from the national nonprofit Accelerate and Louisiana Kids Matter, Louisiana is one of the first states in the U.S. to enhance high-dosage tutoring statewide to help **close pandemic learning gaps**.
- Louisiana is **one of just five states in the country** selected to receive a \$1M grant from Accelerate to scale its statewide high-dosage tutoring programs.

Tutoring Outside School Day

Steve Carter Literacy Tutoring Program

- Program provides **\$1,000 vouchers** to families of eligible K-5 public school students.
- Vouchers can be used to purchase high-quality literacy tutoring by **educators trained in the Science of Reading**.
- **Over 25,000 tutoring sessions** have been provided to Louisiana students.
- Result of Act 415 of the 2021 Legislative Session and a \$40 million investment by the Louisiana Department of Education.
- Future plans to expand program to include math tutoring.

Key Academic Policy Shifts

- **Statewide literacy screener:** Screener will be administered three times a year to kindergarten through third graders will provide timely and relevant data to educators and families.
- **Third grade retention:** Beginning with the 2024-2025 school year, third graders reading at the lowest level on a universal literacy screener will be retained for an additional year of third grade with expanded academic support.
- **Customized student intervention plans:** Now required for students performing significantly below grade level in literacy and core content. Making time for high-dosage tutoring and strategic intervention targeted to explicit areas of student need is paired with measured outcomes and commonsense adjustments as needed.
- **Universal dyslexia screening:** Given in the second semester of kindergarten will identify students at risk for dyslexia. Additional training for teachers on dyslexia will provide support for students with dyslexia.
- **Summer learning requirement:** Implemented for 3rd and 4th graders reading below level in 2023 and 2024 to address gaps caused from COVID-era instructional lapses.
- **Literacy and numeracy professional development:** Professional development based on the science of reading is now required for all teachers of students in kindergarten through third grades, as well as in teacher preparation programs. Numeracy professional development targeting a “back to the basics” approach to math will be required for 4th-8th grade teachers beginning in 2024-2025.

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