

# FIRST IN PRINT : Iberville public schools post gains on spring tests

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The Louisiana Department of Education, releasing 2011 test results last week, listed the Iberville Parish School System in the top eight highest ranking districts based on the percentage of students at grade level or above over the past five years.

The district improved its performance score by more than 15 points from 2007 to 2011, the department said.

"We have a long way to go, but our progress is steady and moving forward," Superintendent P. Edward Cancienne Jr. said.

On the "high stakes" LEAP tests, 78 percent of fourth graders met the standards for promotion to the next grade, as did 65 percent of eighth graders, compared to 80 percent and 74 percent, respectively, statewide.

Iberville students showed considerably more gains than losses on the LEAP and iLEAP tests they took this spring.

Students who score at advanced, mastery or basic levels are considered proficient in their subjects, while approaching basic and unsatisfactory scores are below par. Students were tested in English, math, science and social studies in grades three through eight and on the Graduate Exit Exam (GEE), given to 10th and 11th graders, required for high school graduation.

Overall, local proficiency performance improved on all but eight of 28 tests – third grade science and social studies, seventh grade English, science and social studies, and GEE tests in English and social studies.

Among the highlights:

- The percentage of local third graders demonstrating proficiency in all four core subjects was higher than the state average across the board.

- Parishwide, fourth graders showed a 16-point improvement on their math tests, with 77 percent showing proficiency in the subject, four points higher than the state average. Fourth graders also showed a 16-point improvement on their English tests, again with 77 percent showing proficiency, a point higher than the state average. They were at or above the state average on all four tests.
- Tenth and 11th graders taking the GEE posted an 11-point improvement in proficiency in math. A total of 72 percent scored at proficiency levels, compared to 69 percent in the state. Although they did not best the state average, they also showed a 10-point gain in science.

The worst news was on the seventh grade science test, where 43 percent of local students showed proficiency, compared to 62 percent of students statewide, and on the eighth grade math test, where 49 percent of local students showed proficiency, compared to 63 percent statewide.

Dr. Cancienne said the improvements show that districtwide initiatives are producing results, but that “we are not moving the needle fast enough.”

“We have just been awarded a major grant of \$10 million from the U. S. Department of Education called the Teacher Incentive Fund (TIF), and our schools are implementing the Teacher Advancement Program, known to escalate faster growth. We will see greater gains from these new efforts going into place.”