

Schools Celebrate Latest Score Reports

The St. Bernard Parish Public Schools are celebrating the latest round of score reports from the state. In this, the first year of letter grades for schools, the school district has received a “B” ranking from the state, making it one of only 14 school districts out of 70 state-wide named to the state’s District Honor Roll.

Superintendent of Schools Doris Voitier said that school officials were delighted with the ranking, and she congratulated the staff, students, and parents for their continual hard work. “As we rebuild our school system, we rebuild within classrooms as well to make sure that we are providing quality instruction for students. The year after the storm, we were ranked 31st in the state. Within 5 years, we are now 13th and continuing our efforts to improve. I don’t believe there is another district that has advanced in the rankings that quickly. I could not be more proud of our employees and their efforts. They deserve all the credit,” she said.

There was only one district in the state that ranked an “A,” and that was the Zachary Community Schools, a community that broke off from East Baton Rouge Parish and formed their own school district. Other rankings in the surrounding parishes include:

Parish	Letter Grade
St. Bernard	B
St. Tammany	B
St. Charles	B
Plaquemines	B
Jefferson	D
RSD (New Orleans)	D

Schools also received their new School Performance Scores last week. “Continuing growth at each of our schools is evident by comparing baseline scores over time. We are delighted with the increased student achievement and confident in our ability, then, to assure the public that children are receiving a quality education,” Voitier said.

School	2008 Baseline	2009 Baseline	2010 Baseline	2011 Baseline
Arabi	*	*	*	108.1
Chalmette Elementary	*	*	*	109.8
Davies Elementary	*	101.6	103.2	109.1
Gauthier Elementary	*	102.6	109.9	114.8
Smith Elementary	*	73.60	79.30	85.70
A. Jackson Middle	*	*	*	101.5
St. Bernard Middle	*	*	85.80	98.20
Trist Middle	*	*	95.20	103.0
Chalmette High	*	89.20	102.3	113.1
Rowley Alternative	**	**	**	48.9**

*School not yet opened; scores based on assessments given the previous year.

**This is the first year alternative school scores have been reported.

Voitier took issue with the score given to Rowley Alternative School. “The state was given the charge of devising a separate scoring procedure for alternative schools. This was not done, and the same School Performance criteria, such as the number of students receiving a regular high school diploma, was applied to alternative schools state-wide. That is why you will see lower grades for all alternative schools state-wide. Rowley was, I believe, among the highest scoring alternative schools in the state. To label that school as one that is not accomplishing its mission is truly a slap in the face to those teachers and administrators who do an incredible job with our most at-risk students,” she said.

School Board President Clifford Englande, who was on hand as Voitier distributed scores to principals, added the Board's congratulations to the district's administrators. "You each do a fantastic job, and the School Board appreciates your efforts to make your schools great places for teaching and learning," he said.

The district also received recognition from the state by making the short list of districts with the greatest percentage of growth, for the 3rd year in a row, and by making the list of districts with the highest percentage of schools meeting their growth targets set by the state. "It is a good feeling when the state publishes three lists highlighting the best efforts of school districts state-wide, and St. Bernard is on each of the three lists. Our goal is to continue with such gains through data-driven instruction until we are at the top in all categories," Voitier said.