

# **Louisiana's Turnaround Zone Answers the URGENCY *of* NOW**

## **Pages 2-4**

**The Recovery School District (RSD), Louisiana's School Turnaround Model, has prompted unprecedented academic gains citywide and attracted national and international attention to New Orleans – the city previously ranked as not only last in the state, but as one of the lowest-performing school systems in the country.**

## **Pages 5-6**

**Although the RSD has assumed responsibility for the lowest-performing schools in the state, its gains are far outpacing average state gains.**

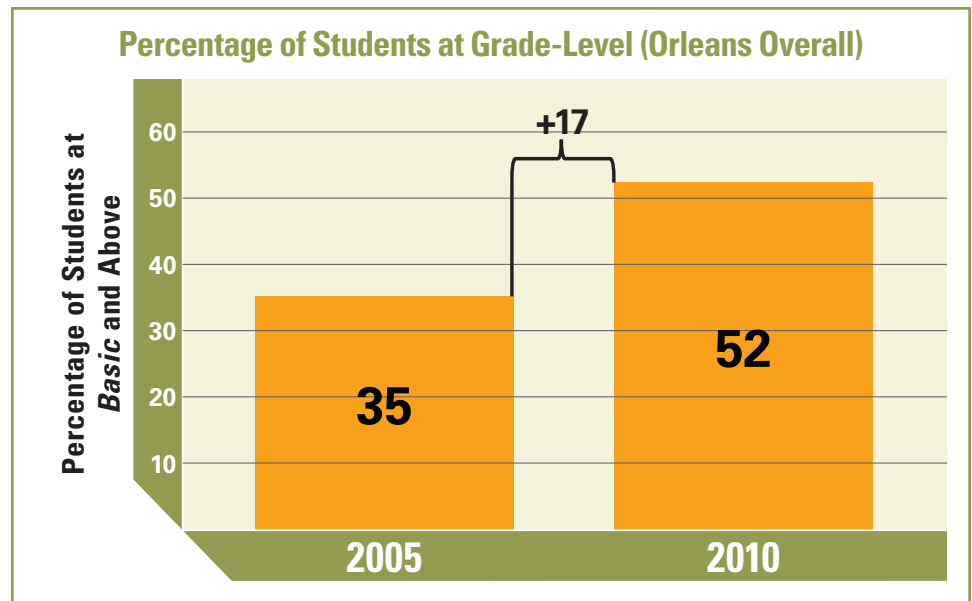
# Orleans Parish Demographic Information

To make a historical comparison, it is necessary to look at combined data for Orleans Parish School Board (OPSB) and Recovery School District (RSD) schools. While enrollment trends have shifted, and there are 40 percent fewer students now than in 2004-2005, enrollment is climbing as families return to New Orleans.

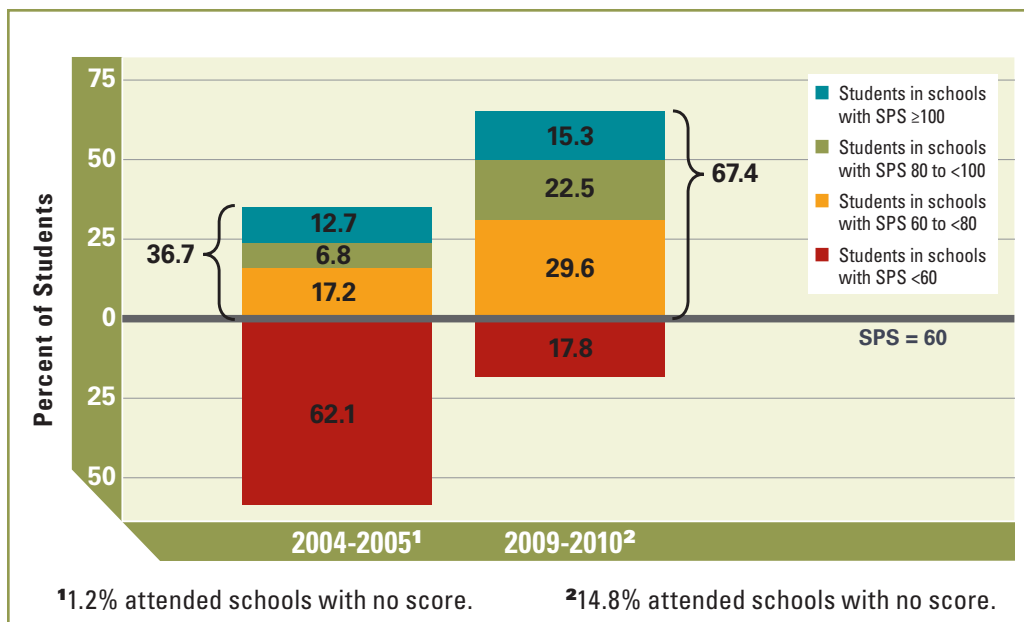
Recovery School District & Orleans Parish Demographics			October 1, 2004	October 2, 2006	October 1, 2010
Total Enrollment (K-12)			62,490	23,998	37,198
% African-American			93.37%	89.23%	89.45%
% Free or Reduced Lunch			76.74%	69.50%	83.96%
% Special Education Disability			10.7%	4.8%	8.7%
Total Number of Non-Alternative Schools			121	51	84
As of October 1, 2010	# Schools	# Charters	Total Enrollment (K-12)	% African-American Students	% Free or Reduced Lunch Students
Orleans Parish School Board	16	12	10,203	74.10%	65.68%
Recovery School District	68	46	26,995	95.25%	90.76%

## More New Orleans Students at Grade-Level

The percentage of students performing at grade-level on state tests has increased significantly since the transfer of OPSB schools to the Recovery School District in 2004 and 2005. In 2005, about two out of three students (65 percent) were not performing at grade-level.

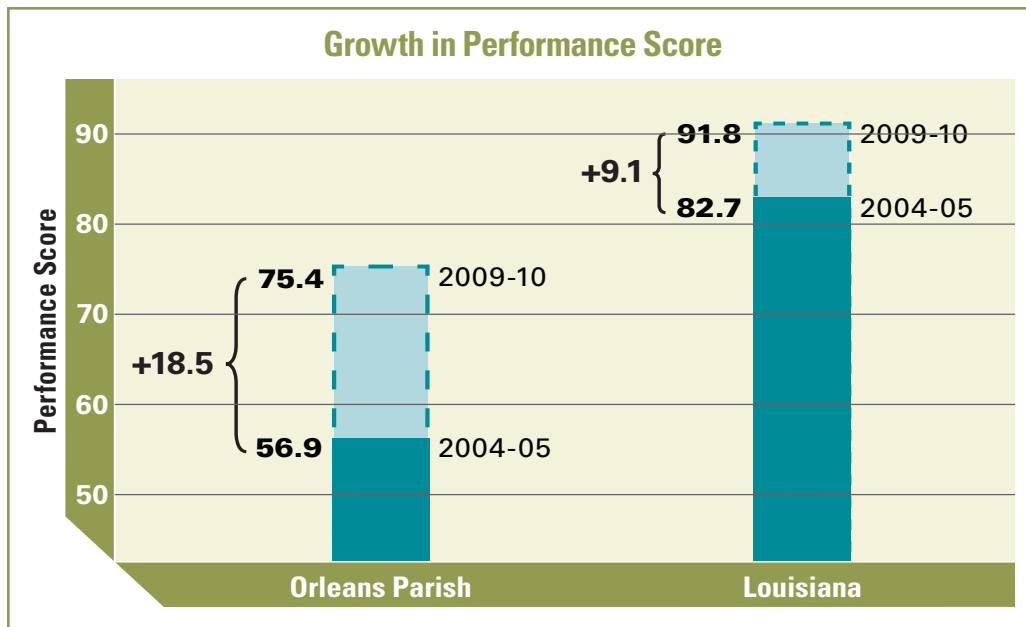


## Progress in Orleans Parish Based on School Performance Scores (SPS)



The percentage of failing schools has dropped, as has the percentage of students attending failing schools. In 2004-2005, more than 62 percent of kindergarten through 12th grade students were attending failing schools. By 2009-2010, that figure had dropped to less than 20 percent.

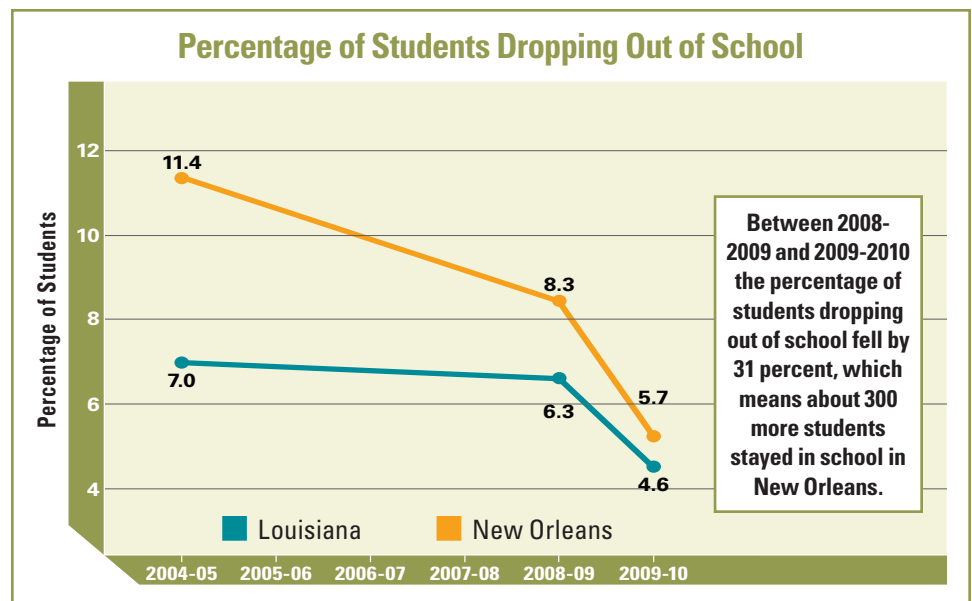
## Overall Gains in All Schools Located in Orleans Parish



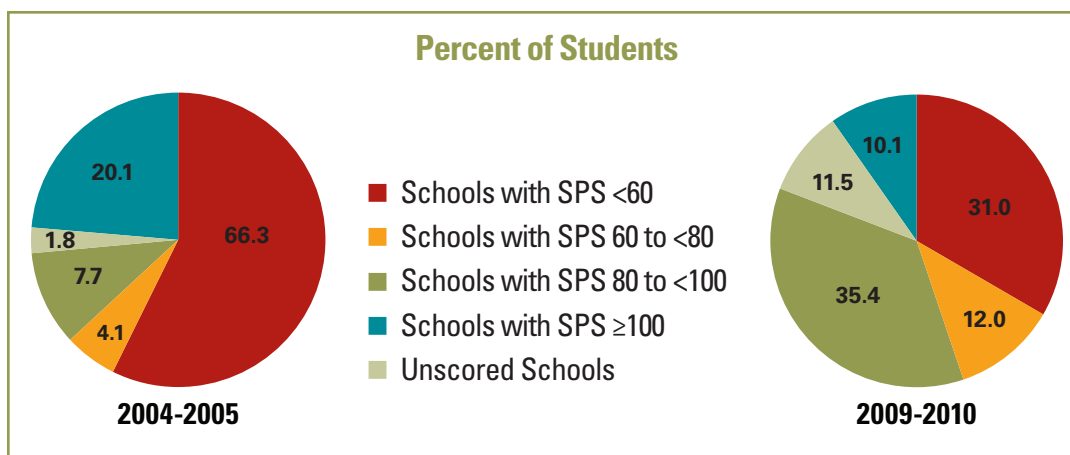
The most accurate measurement of progress in New Orleans public schools is the combined District Performance Score (DPS) for the RSD and the OPSB. This score considers all students, all tests and all performance levels and is calculated as if all public school students in New Orleans attend one school. In 2005, the OPSB earned a DPS of 56.9. In 2010, the combined DPS for RSD and OPSB students is 75.4, representing an 18.5 point increase. That's twice the increase for the state during that same time period.

## Fewer Students are Dropping Out of School

There has been a sharp decline in the number of students dropping out of New Orleans schools, even compared to state figures, which show a marked decrease. From 2004-2005 to 2009-2010, Louisiana's annual dropout rate fell by 34 percent. Over that same time period, the annual dropout rate in New Orleans decreased by 50 percent.



## Fewer High School Students are Attending Failing Schools



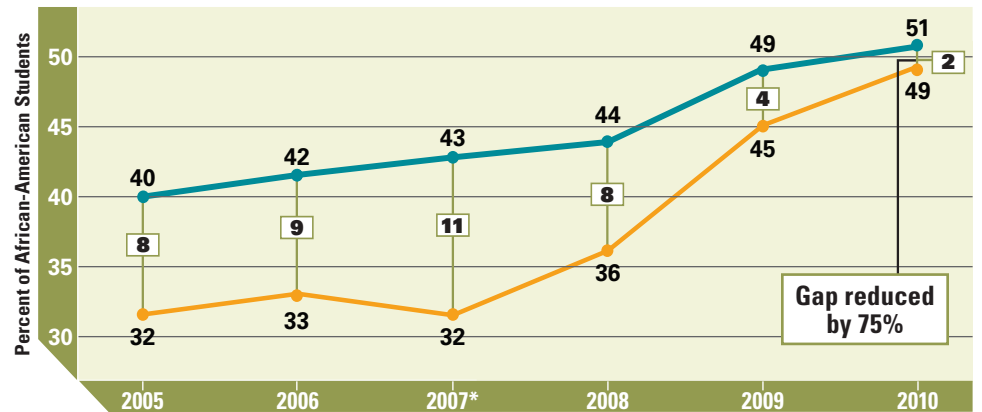
The number of high schools with a School Performance Score (SPS) below 60 has also consistently declined. Two-thirds of students attending Orleans Parish high schools in 2004-2005 were attending failing schools. In 2009-2010, that number was cut by more than half to under one-third.

# New Orleans Narrowing the Performance Margin for At-Risk Students

Louisiana has made notable progress in narrowing the achievement gap between races and socio-economic groups. In fact, Louisiana is the only state in the country in which the gap between black and white students has narrowed significantly in both 4th grade reading and 8th grade math. Likewise, the performance margin between at-risk student populations in New Orleans and their peers across Louisiana has diminished considerably.

In 2004-2005, Orleans Parish was ranked 64th out of Louisiana's 68 districts for the percentage of African-American students performing at grade-level. In 2005, the percentage of African-American students in New Orleans who scored at *Basic* and Above on state tests was 8 percentage points lower than the percentage of African-American students statewide who scored at least *Basic*. By 2010, that margin had narrowed to 2 percentage points. In addition, Orleans Parish improved its state ranking to 42nd among 70 school districts for the percentage of African-American students performing at *Basic* and Above.

## African-American Students

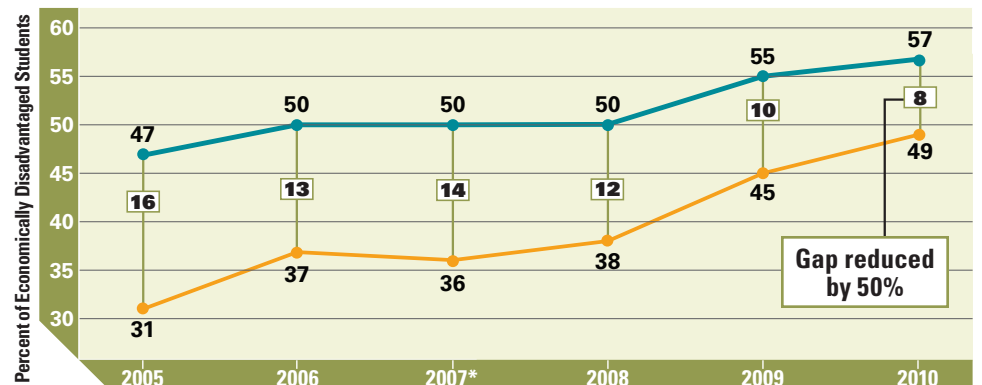


\*Influx of students returning after Hurricane Katrina may have contributed to one-year decline.

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Schools in New Orleans are demonstrating big strides in narrowing the margin between the performance of economically disadvantaged students in New Orleans and their peers statewide. Since 2005, the margin has been decreased by half – from 16 to 8 percentage points.

## Economically Disadvantaged Students



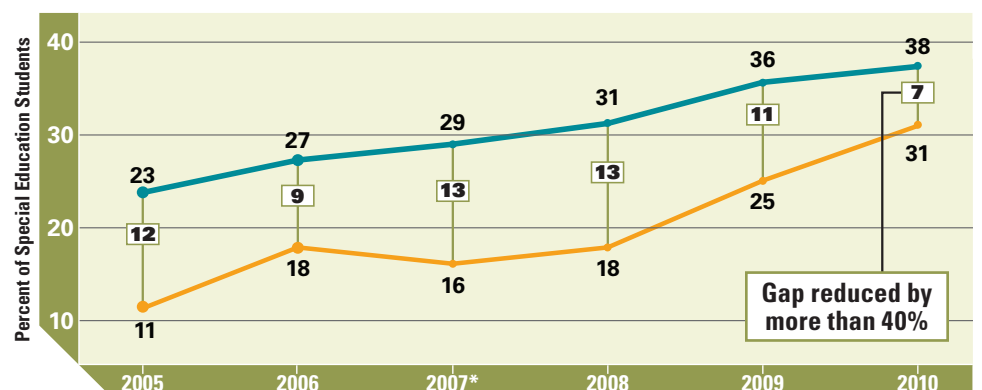
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In 2004-2005, only 11 percent of Special Education students in New Orleans were grade-level proficient. By 2009-2010, that percentage had nearly tripled to 31 percent.

The margin between Special Education students in New Orleans and Special Education students statewide has narrowed from 12 points in 2005 to 7 points in 2010.

## Special Education Students

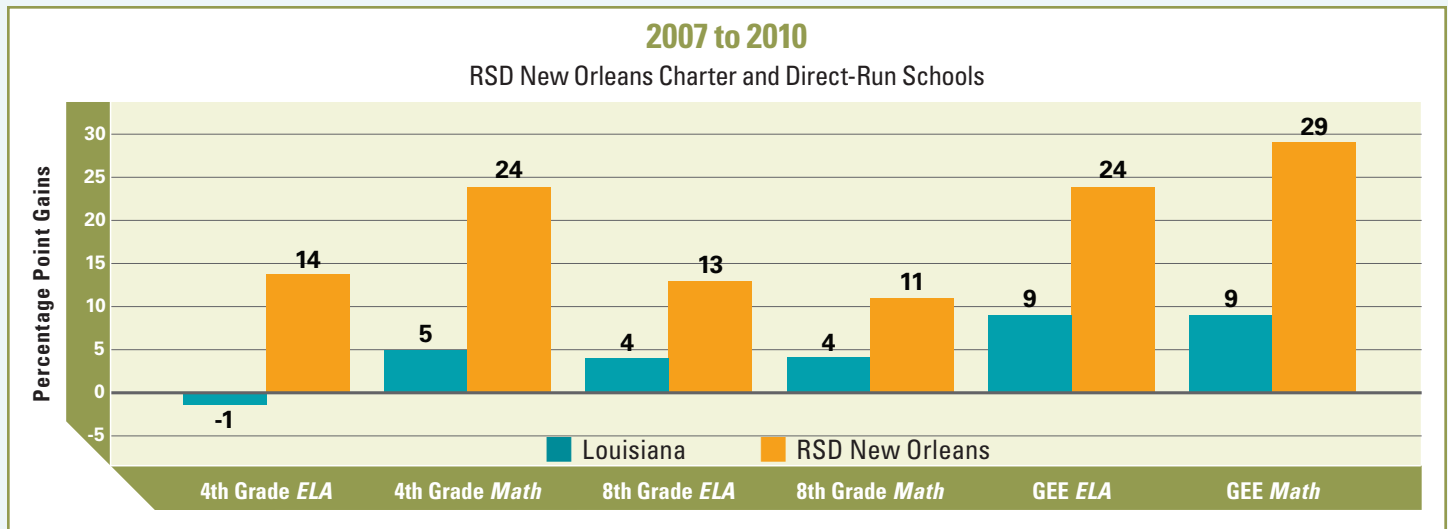


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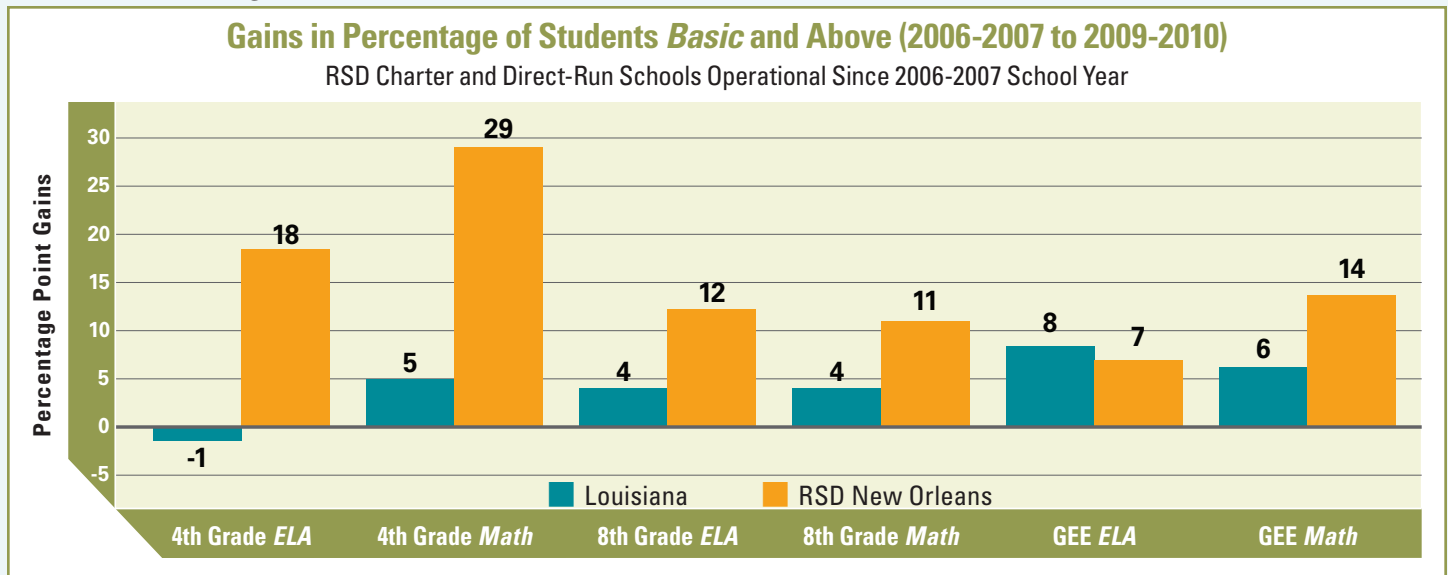
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# RSD Making Dramatic Gains in Students Performing At or Above Grade-Level

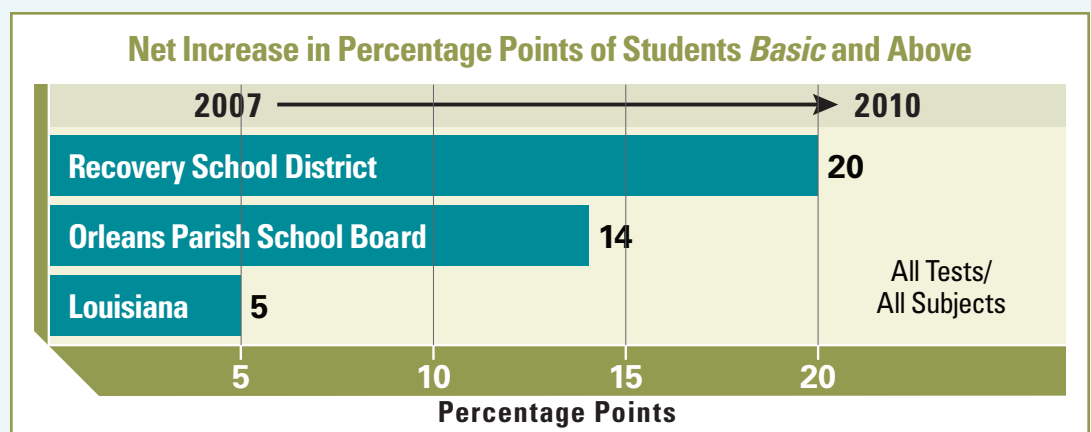
Based on the percentage of students scoring *Basic* and Above on state assessments, the RSD-New Orleans has achieved unprecedented gains – in many cases tripling the point increases seen at the state level. Additionally, the combined number of 4th and 8th grade students being promoted to the next grade level has risen from 41 percent in Spring 2005 to 58 percent in Spring 2010.



Even more impressive, an analysis of 31 RSD schools operating since 2006-2007 reveals average gains in the percentage of students scoring *Basic* and Above on 4th and 8th Grade LEAP and GEE tests are two, three, four and five times state gains -- and, in some cases, even higher.

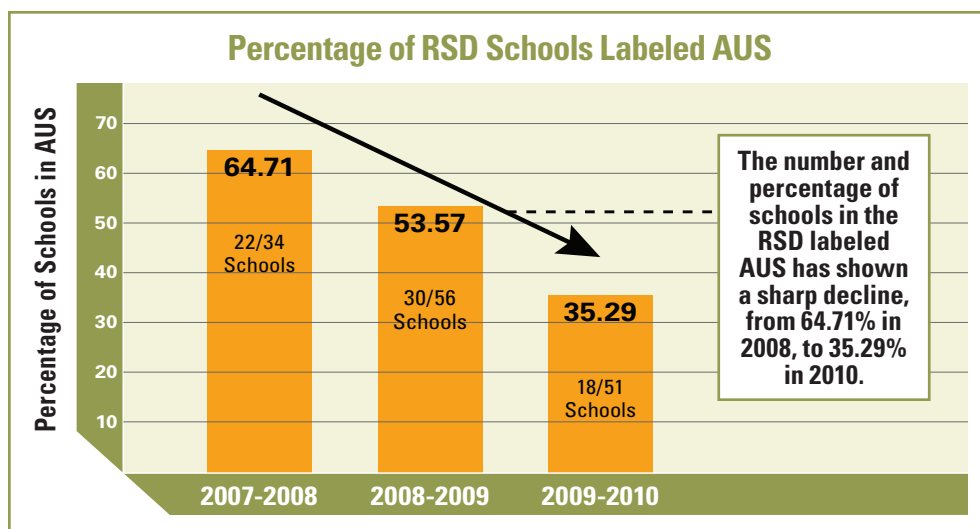


The RSD leads the state in growth from 2007-2010, posting a 20-point gain in the percentage of students scoring at *Basic* and Above on state assessments.



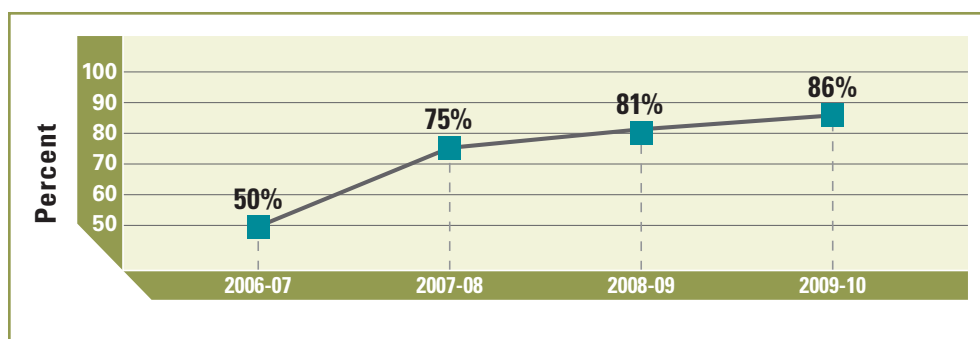
## Fewer RSD Labeled Academically Unacceptable

- » In the 2009-2010 school year, 18 out of 51 non-alternative RSD schools, or 35.29%, earned School Performance Scores (SPS) below 60. Only nine of those 18 schools have been operating for four years.
- » 15 of the 18 RSD schools earning a 2010 SPS below 60 were assigned 2009 SPS. An analysis of their annual growth reveals an average point gain of 5.17 – representing an average increase of 18.44 percent – compared to the state's growth of 3.1 points and 3.47 percent.



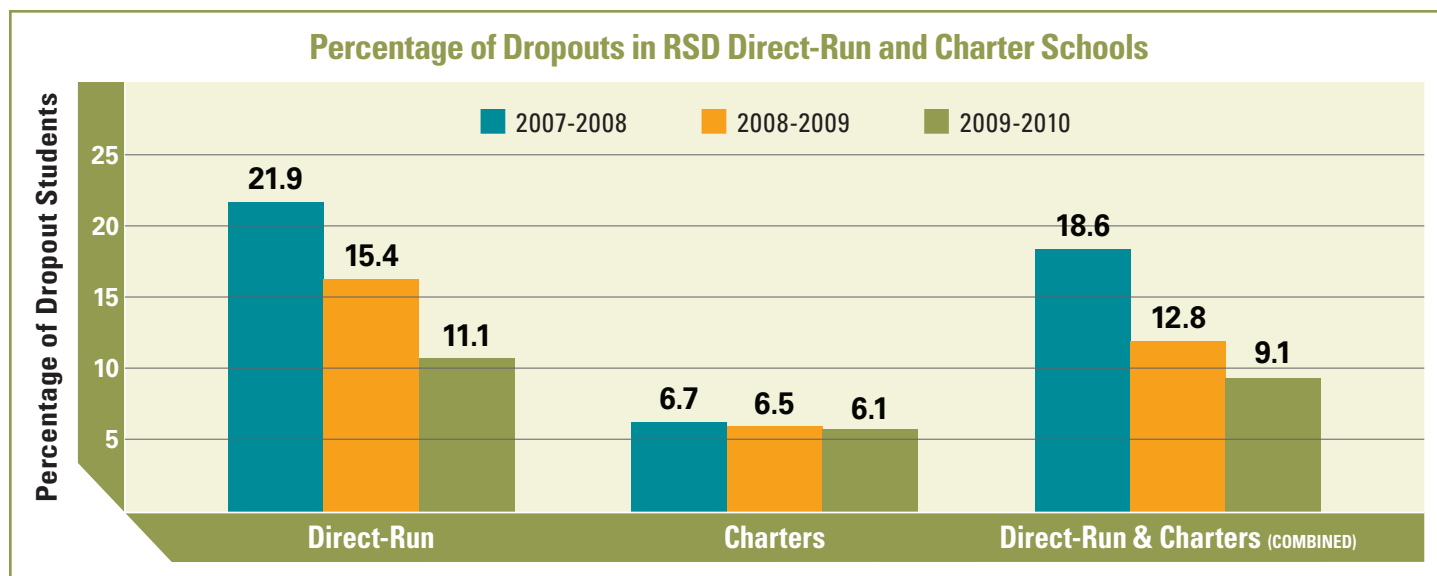
## Signs of Momentum

- » Senior Graduation rates in charter and direct-run high schools in the RSD are on the rise. In the 2006-2007 school year, 544 of 1,081 eligible seniors graduated (50.3%). By the 2009-2010 school year, 1,139 of 1,319 eligible seniors (86.4%) received diplomas.



## More Students in the RSD Are Staying in School

Between 2007-2008 and 2009-2010, the percentage of RSD students who dropped out of school has been reduced by half. In 2007-2008, about 1200 students (18.6%) dropped out of schools in the RSD. By 2009-2010, that figure had been reduced to about 600 students (9.1%).



For more information, please visit [www.louisianaschools.net](http://www.louisianaschools.net).

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