


Morgan Carter

From: Morgan Carter [morgan@nsno.org]
Sent: Wednesday, June 17, 2009 2:50 PM
To: Morgan Carter
Subject: LEAP/GEE Scores Show Great Gains--NSNO June Newsletter



Dear Newsletter Recipients:

Recently, the Louisiana Department of Education released LEAP and GEE scores for students in Louisiana. We are delighted that our students have improved their performance on the tests for the third year in a row and—this year—outperformed the state average scores by as much as 10 percent! This month's newsletter focuses primarily on the most important news we can share-academic results in New Orleans. For more information about the scores and the performance of students in New Orleans, see the article [below](#).

We recognize that these scores reflect unparalleled dedication on behalf of our school leaders, teachers, parents and students. A heartfelt congratulations to all of you who work tirelessly every day not only to prepare for milestones like the LEAP but also to improve the quality of education for students in our community. While there is still a lot of work to be done, this year's scores deserve acknowledgment and prove that innovative approaches to education matched with commitment produce results.

Sincerely,
[New Schools for New Orleans Staff](#)
(Email us by clicking [here](#)).

Scores Reflect Improvement in NOLA Schools
For the third year in a row, public schools in New Orleans improved their LEAP exam scores. And, students at RSD-run charter schools saw gains higher than students statewide and parishwide, sometimes by significant margins.

From 2008 to 2009, the number of students who scored at or above the basic achievement level changed by the following percentages:

- In 4th Grade English, RSD charter schools scores improved by 8.3%; 6.1% higher than Louisiana as a whole, which improved 2.2%.
- In 4th Grade Math, RSD charter schools scores improved by 8.0%; 5.7% higher than Louisiana as a whole.
- In 8th Grade English, RSD charter schools scores improved by 7.4%; 2.2% higher than Louisiana as a whole, which improved 5.2%.
- In 8th Grade Math, RSD charter schools scores improved by 12.9%; 11.4% higher than Louisiana as a whole, which improved 1.5%.

A graphic image of these gains is provided below. To view a larger image, click [here](#).

Spotlight

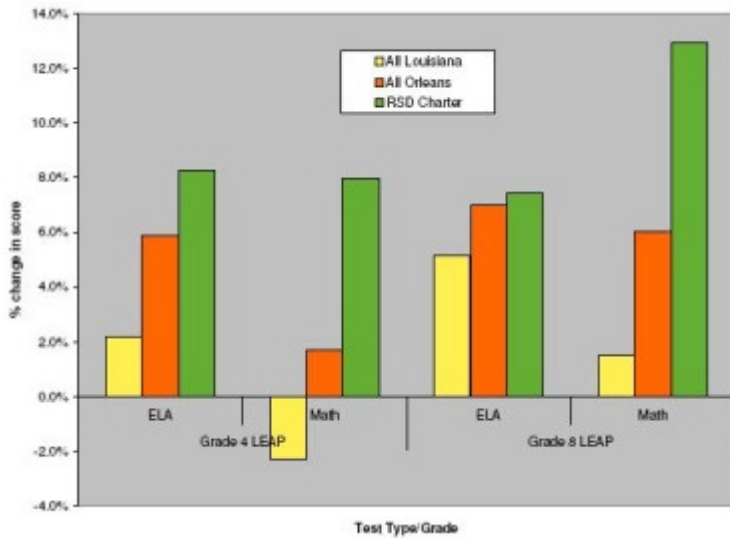
[LEAP/GEE Results Released](#)

[Dr. John King Speaks on Lessons from Uncommon Schools](#)

[Recent Press](#)

[TNTP Releases Latest Study: The Widget Effect](#)

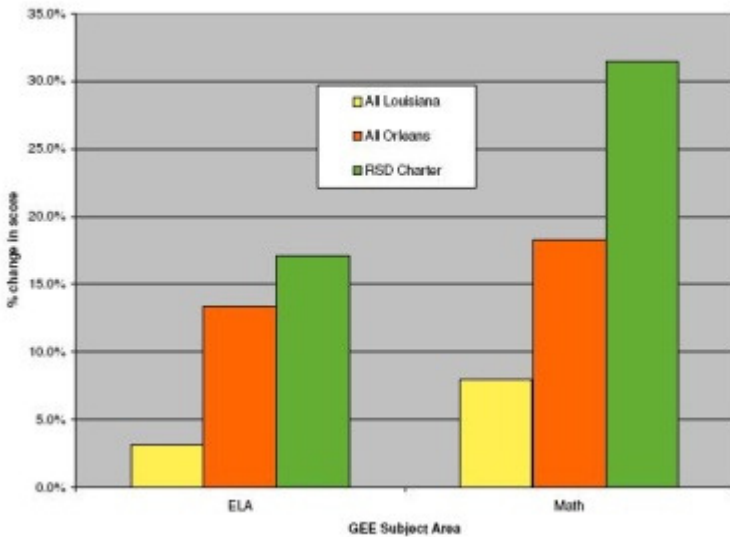
2008 to 2009: LEAP Score Gains in Public Schools in Louisiana



High School Graduate Exit Exam (GEE) scores also improved among RSD charter schools in Orleans Parish with English scores increasing 17.1% versus the statewide of 3.2%; and Math scores making a 31.5% gain, 23.5% more than the state gain of 8%.

A graphic image of these gains is provided below. To view a larger image, click [here](#).

2008 to 2009: GEE Gains in Louisiana High Schools



Dr. John King Discusses the Importance of Board Engagement in Charter Schools

On Friday, May 8th, New Schools for New Orleans was fortunate to co-host Dr. John King, Managing Director of Uncommon Schools, at an event for school leaders and their board members. Dr. King discussed with the attendees how effective board member/school

Related Links

- [New Schools for New Orleans](#)
- [2009 Test Results for all Louisiana Schools](#)
- [Uncommon Schools](#)
- [Widget Effect](#)

Upcoming Events

- June 11, 2009, 6pm:** School Performance Scores 101, presented by Leslie Jacobs at Lafayette Charter School. To learn more, email [Nancy Burvant](#).
- July 31, 2009:** Grant Applications for board retreat funding due! For more information, click [here](#).

leader relationships can work to effectively close the achievement gap.

"I am incredibly excited about the work NSNO is doing and loved the opportunity to meet so many great people working to close the achievement gap," Dr. King said of the event.



Dr. King co-founded Roxbury Prep, a nationally recognized urban college preparatory public school that helped to close the racial achievement gap in Massachusetts and was recognized by the U.S. Department of Education as one of top eight charter schools in the country.

Recent Press

Times-Picayune, [New Orleans' public schools aren't perfect, but way better](#)

Columnist Jarvis DeBerry discusses the history of public schools in New Orleans and their current state. "Nobody should be arguing that charters are perfect," he says, "but it should be evident that they are closer to perfection than what they replaced."

Click [here](#) for full article.

Times-Picayune, [Higher LEAP scores add fuel to the debate over charter schools](#)

Test scores of students in New Orleans during the past decade -- under various waves of reform and political upheaval -- show strong growth overall. The article discusses the future of public school governance in New Orleans, analyzing growth trends in Orleans Parish and the various reform efforts, including the decentralization of the school system, and a large number of chartered public schools, that may be contributing to the Parish's growth in scores.

Click [here](#) for full article.

NSNO partner The New Teacher Project releases new study on teacher performance, [The Widget Effect: Our National Failure to Acknowledge and Act on Differences in Teacher Effectiveness](#)

If teachers are so important, why do we treat them like widgets? Effective teachers are the key to student success. Yet our school systems treat all teachers as interchangeable parts, not professionals. Excellence goes unrecognized and poor performance goes unaddressed. The Widget Effect is a study released by TNTP examines how teacher performance is measured and how performance factors in to hiring and firing decisions in districts across the country.

Click [here](#) to learn more.

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