More New Orleans students are graduating from high school and enrolling in college.

Class of 2018 data is most recent available.

In 2005, the percentage of New Orleans students attending F schools was more than double that of other similar large urban parishes across Louisiana. Now, New Orleans has a similar or smaller percentage of students in F schools compared to these parishes.

Based on 2019 School Performance Scores and Oct. 2019 K–12 Total Enrollment Counts for urban parishes with total parish-wide public school enrollment of more than 35,000 students.

More New Orleans high school students have access to and are participating in college-level coursework than ever before.

The percentage of New Orleans open-enrollment high schools* offering AP courses has doubled since 2012, growing to 90%.

The percentage of New Orleans graduates who complete AP courses has more than tripled since 2012–13.

*Only includes high schools that serve/ served 11th and 12th grades.

A 2018 study by the Education Research Alliance found that the new system of schools in New Orleans has both increased student outcomes on average and improved equity.

The study estimated the effects of post-Katrina reforms on a range of student outcomes through 2014.

Student outcomes “increased substantially” after Hurricane Katrina on all metrics studied:

- State Standardized Test Scores
- High School Graduation Rate
- College Entry Rate
- College Persistence Rate
- College Graduation Rate

“We are not aware of any other districts that have made such large improvements in such a short time.”

Doug Harris, Founding Director, Education Research Alliance for New Orleans at Tulane University
The percentage of New Orleans students demonstrating “A”-level academic growth in 2019 was higher than the statewide average across all historically disadvantaged subgroups.

Percentage of grade 4–12 students demonstrating “top growth” on LEAP state assessments in ELA and math combined.

New Orleans student enrollment by school letter grade.

In 2018, economically disadvantaged students in New Orleans graduated at a higher rate than their peers in other similar large urban parishes across Louisiana.

Four-year cohort graduation rates for economically disadvantaged students in urban districts that serve more than 35,000 students; Class of 2018 data is most recent available.

The share of New Orleans students attending A and B schools has more than doubled since 2005, and the share attending F schools has shrunk drastically. However, two out of three students still attend a school rated C or below.

New Orleans student achievement on state tests has declined since 2016.

Percentage of grade 3–8 New Orleans students scoring at the given achievement level on LEAP state assessments in ELA, math, science, and social studies combined; for 2015–2017, only ELA and math are included due to data availability.

Expectations for students and schools have been rising.

For almost a decade, the Louisiana Department of Education has been gradually transitioning to a school accountability system based on higher expectations in order to ensure that students are truly prepared for college and the workplace. This transition has included:

- More rigorous academic standards;
- More rigorous state assessments aligned with the new standards;
- And a raised bar for school performance score and letter grade rating policies, such as increasing the minimum expectation for LEAP achievement from “Basic” to “Mastery.”