



St. Martin Parish School Board

P. O. Box 1000 Breaux Bridge Louisiana 70517

Telephone 337-332-2105
Fax 337-332-3050

ALLEN BLANCHARD, JR.
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VICE PRESIDENT

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November 14, 2019

Dear Parents,

The recent release of District and School Performance Scores reflects a decrease in student performance for students in St. Martin Parish on the LEAP 2025 assessments. In order to move our students to mastery and above, the district has developed an action plan to improve teaching and learning.

St. Martin Parish School System has implemented common assessments in ELA and math as a part of the district's action plan to increase student performance on the LEAP 2025 assessments. The common assessments are created by a group of highly effective and effective proficient teachers across the district who meet biweekly with district supervisors to design assessments that are aligned to the LEAP 2025 assessments. The LEAP 2025 assessment design is demanding and requires students to do higher level thinking and problem-solving; therefore teachers are required to make adjustments in their approach to teaching which will help students develop the skills required for this level of thinking and problem-solving.

The results of the common assessments allow teachers to better understand exactly how to guide their students during instruction. As these assessments are more difficult than past school-level assessments, some students are experiencing a decrease in grades. Over a period of time, students will get better at critical thinking and problem-solving, resulting in better grades. Please give teachers and students time to adjust to this new structure. Teachers are being provided with coaching from consultants, district supervisors, and master teachers to improve instruction. Any student who is struggling in ELA or math can and will receive interventions to improve their critical thinking and problem-solving skills.

The goal of this process is to produce students who can read, comprehend, and express their understanding of grade level texts as well as solve multi-step complex problems in math. Our students and teachers are capable of scoring as well as or better than students across our great state. Thank you for your patience and understanding through this process as your child/children will benefit greatly.

Sincerely,

Allen Blanchard Jr., Superintendent