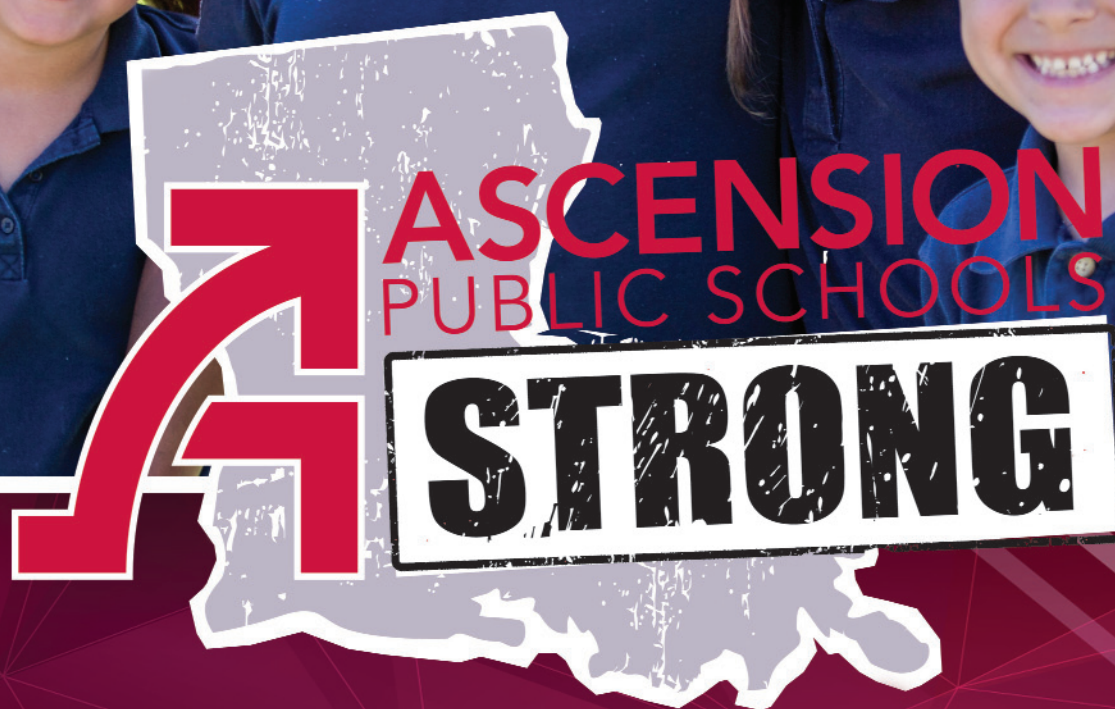


2017



ASCENSION PUBLIC SCHOOLS
REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY



About Ascension Public Schools



IN THIS ISSUE

- 2 About our School District
- 3 District Academic Honors
- 4 State and National Academic Recognition
- 5 Financial Update
- 6 Flood Impact and Recovery
- 10 Construction Updates
- 12 School Directory/Contacts

BOARD MEMBERS



Robyn Penn Delaney
District 1
225-473-6635
lrpdelaney1@bellsouth.net



Taft C. Kleinpeter
District 5-B
Board Vice President
225-673-4040
taftk@eatel.net



Scott Duplechein
District 2
225-644-1333
scott@hughesinsurance.org



Lorraine Wimberly
District 6-A
225-644-6452
lorraine.wimberly@apsb.org



Julie Blouin
District 3
225-624-4020
julie.blouin@apsb.org



Louis Lambert
District 6-B
225-202-9416
lk Lambert@eatel.net



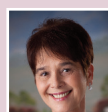
Kerry Diez
District 4-A
225-673-6822
kerryd@meleprinting.com



Troy J. Gautreau, Sr.
District 7-A
225-644-1928
tgautreau@methanex.com



John D. Murphy
District 4-B
225-673-2602
jdmurphy@eatel.net



Patricia Russo
District 7-B
Board President
225-647-6625
patricia.russo@apsb.org



Shawn Sevario
District 5-A
225-313-9200
shawn.sevario@apsb.org

The **Mission** of Ascension Public Schools is to provide each student the high-quality education necessary to succeed in an ever-changing world.



About the 2017 Community Report

Dear Community Members,

This report is designed to give insight to citizens on the accomplishments and progress of Ascension Public Schools. We are especially proud of our “A” District Performance Score and earning a 4th place ranking in Louisiana. This is a monumental achievement considering the size and diversity of our parish. We are indeed #AscensionStrong.

This year, we have dedicated four pages of the report to the devastation and ongoing recovery from the historic 2016 flood that impacted our parish, our schools and facilities and many of our resources. We are indeed proud of our parents, students, teachers and staff who were directly affected and who made incredible sacrifices to get our schools open and our students back into classrooms within only two weeks of the storm. Together, we have accomplished enormous tasks, overcome obstacles and made tremendous progress.

We thank you for your support and perseverance as we move forward in achieving our mission of every child successful in an ever-changing world.

Sincerely,

David Alexander
Superintendent, Ascension Public Schools



The AdvancED accreditation team recently spent three days in Ascension Parish visiting schools, and as a result, awarded the district an extremely high rating of 343.5. The grade is based on a 400-point scale, and the average rating is 278.34. **“These are some of the highest scores I have ever seen. Your work is setting the mark for many, many other systems and schools in the world,”** said Mary Mickelson, lead evaluator for the AdvancED Accreditation External Review Team.

Academic Recognition

2015-16 DISTRICT SUPPORT WORKERS OF THE YEAR



(from left): **Toni Elder**, Duplessis Primary;
Narva Williams, Gonzales Middle; and
Arlean Dean, St. Amant High.

2016-17 DISTRICT STUDENTS OF THE YEAR



(from left): **Angelle Naquin**, St. Amant High,
12th Grade; **Aubrey Green**,
Dutchtown Middle, 8th Grade; and
Cole Hewitt, Duplessis Primary, 5th Grade.

2015-16 DISTRICT TEACHERS OF THE YEAR



(from left): **Christopher Wilder**, Oak Grove
Primary; **Amy L. Jarreau**, Prairieville Middle;
and **Kristin Maum**, Donaldsonville High.

2015-16 DISTRICT PRINCIPALS OF THE YEAR



(from left) **Carli Francois**, Dutchtown High;
Nicole Grimes, Lowery Middle; and **Britton
Colon**, Spanish Lake Primary
(also State Semifinalist).



Ascension Public Schools has earned the
state's top "A" ranking for academic performance
for 5 consecutive years!

AT A GLANCE

#4
State Academic Ranking

22,000+
Students Parishwide

71%
Graduates entered college

1 to 1
Computer Program

6,877
Dual Enrollment Credits Earned

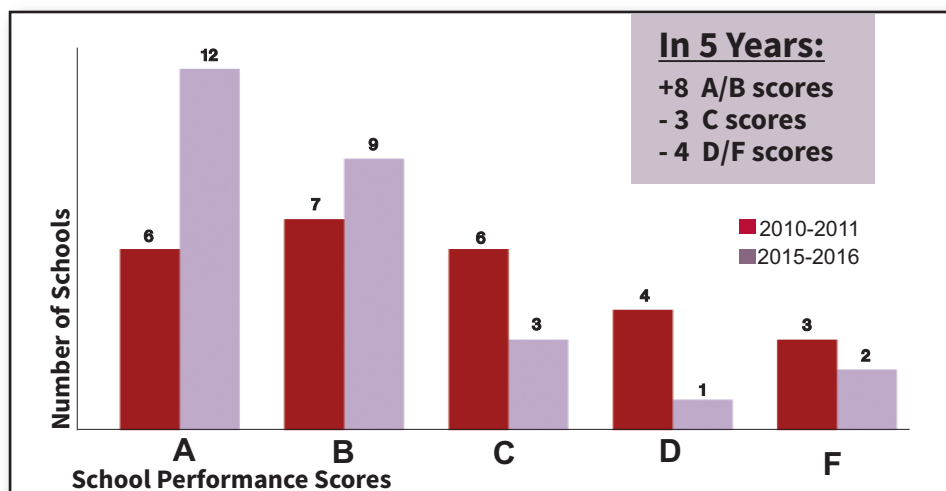


Chart Illustrates Improvement of School Letter Grades

Outstanding Students and Staff



2016 Louisiana Middle School Student of the Year
Hiba Hasan, Dutchtown Middle School



Louisiana Elementary Principal of the Year
Semifinalist
Britton Colon, Spanish Lake Primary School



Recognized at the White House by the
National Institute for Excellence in Teaching (NIET)
Shaneka Burnett
Duplessis Primary School Master Teacher



National Merit Finalist
Christopher Bourgeois, St. Amant High School
(pictured with Asst. Supt. Denise Graves)



Schools Awarded an
“A” Rating



Average ACT Score



District-wide
Graduation Rate



2016 District
Performance Score

DID YOU KNOW



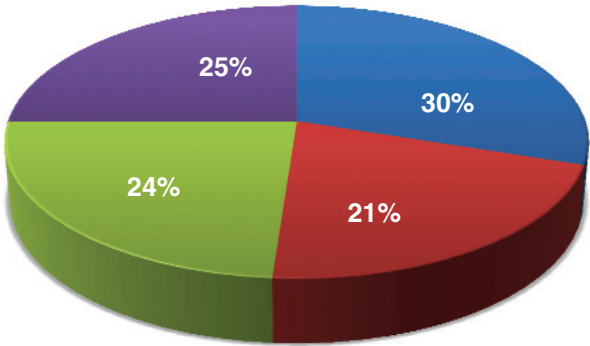
Ascension Public Schools and River Parishes Community College will celebrate their first graduating class in May 2017. **More than 20 students will simultaneously receive a high school diploma and associate degree.** The joint education initiative was developed in 2012 to provide advanced dual enrollment educational opportunities for students. The Early College Program is held on the RPCC Campus.

For more information, visit apsb.org/EarlyCollege

Fiscal Excellence

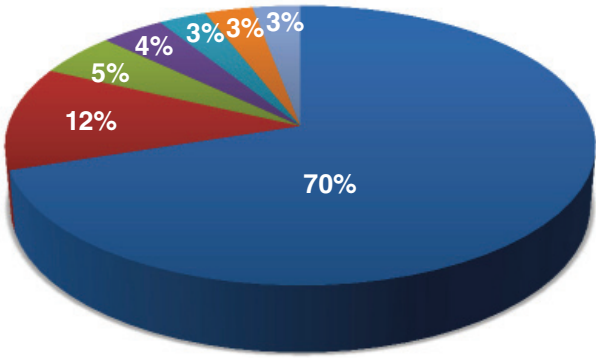
The 2016-2017 Ascension Public Schools Budget is \$314 Million

- State Minimum Foundation Program (MFP) Funds
- Parish Sales and Use Taxes
- Parish Ad Valorem Taxes
- Grants/Insurance Premiums/Capital Project Funds



Total Revenues

- Employee Salaries and Benefits
- Construction
- Operation & Maintenance
- Debt Service
- Substitutes & Other Professional Services
- Technology
- Equipment, Materials, Supplies



Total Expenditures

To review the district's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report and 2016-2017 Annual Operating Plan, visit apsb.org/publications.



Ascension Public Schools
Recognized for Fiscal Excellence



Standard & Poor's Ratings Services has raised its long-term rating for Ascension Public Schools to AA. The upgrade from AA- to AA reflects the district's conservative management that has been setting aside significant funds to address capital needs related to a growing enrollment.

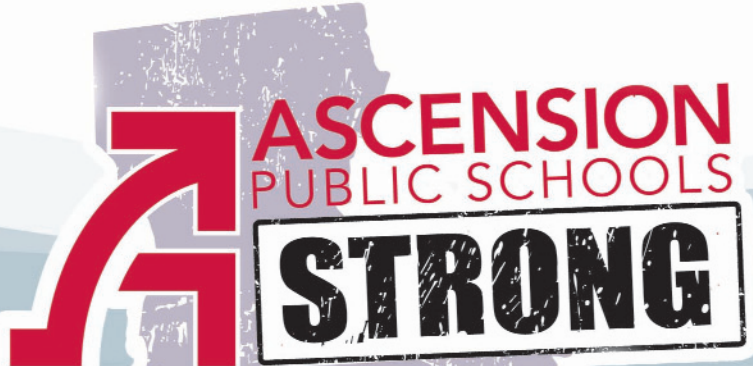
The improved rating has been assigned to the 2016 general obligation school refunding bonds, **allowing the district to save tens of thousands of dollars** over the life of the bonds, according to Business Services Director Diane B. Allison, CPA.



ASSOCIATION OF
SCHOOL BUSINESS OFFICIALS
INTERNATIONAL

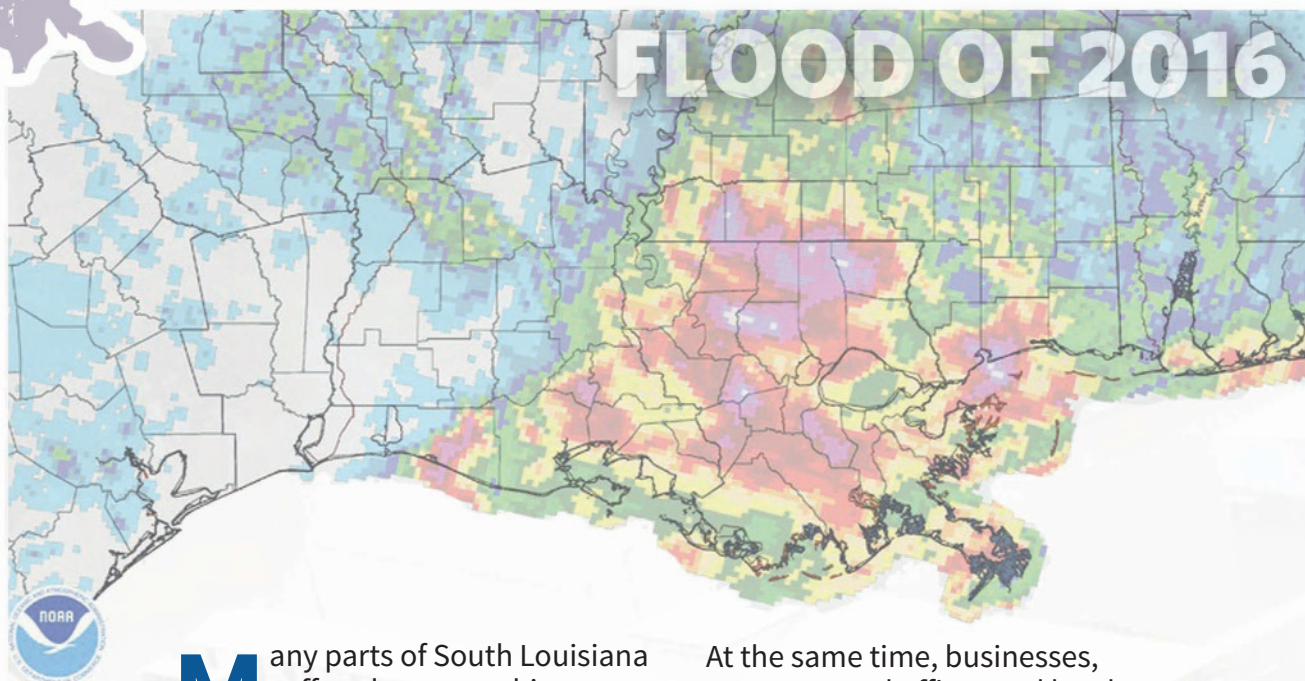
Ascension Public Schools recently won three awards for sound financial reporting:

- Distinguished Budget Presentation Award from the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (4 consecutive years)
- Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (2 consecutive years)
- Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Association of School Business Officials International (1 year)



Ascension Public Schools:

FLOOD OF 2016



Many parts of South Louisiana suffered catastrophic flooding in August 2016 that submerged thousands of homes and businesses.

The “no-name storm” caused billions of dollars of damage and tens of thousands of people to evacuate their homes. Gov. John Bel Edwards declared a State of Emergency as a result.

Ascension Parish was among one of the worst affected areas – nearly one-third of all homes in the parish flooded.

At the same time, businesses, governmental offices and local schools were damaged.

The courage and determination of our local community to overcome this disaster and to resume a “new normal” has been an inspiration.

Ascension Public Schools is grateful to the many employees, board members, parents and community members who continue to make education a priority for our children.

**Together we are
#AscensionStrong!**



Photos compiled from The Advocate, Facebook and Ascension Public Schools

A Community Working Together to Recover

Flood Damage Assessment to Ascension Public Schools

RELOCATION PLAN FOR CLOSED SCHOOLS IMPLEMENTED AUG. 29, EFFECTIVE UNTIL TEMPORARY CAMPUSES OPEN:

Galvez Primary

- Kindergarten, 1st & 2nd Grades attending at Lakeside Primary
- 3rd, 4th & 5th Grades attending at the former RPCC Hwy. 22 Campus

Galvez Middle

- 6th, 7th & 8th Grades attending at Central Middle School

Lake Elementary

- Kindergarten, 1st & 2nd Grades attending at Duplessis Primary
- 3rd, 4th & 5th Grades attending at the former RPCC Hwy. 22 Campus
- 6th, 7th & 8th Grades attending at Prairieville Middle

St. Amant Primary

- Kindergarten, 1st & 2nd Grades attending at G.W. Carver Primary
- 3rd, 4th & 5th Grades attending at the former RPCC Hwy. 22 Campus

St. Amant High

- 9th, 10th, 11th & 12th Grades attending at Dutchtown High in a platoon format

CLOSED FACILITIES

- Distribution Center
- Maintenance, Child Nutrition & Warehouse Facility
- Transportation Office & Bus Stop
- Residency Verification & Truancy Office (RVTO)

TECHNOLOGY & TRANSPORTATION FLEET DAMAGE AND LOSSES

- More than 2,000 computer devices, as well as many printers, document cameras, head phones and networking gear
- More than \$400,000 in computer network upgrades
- 14 vehicles totaled and another 20 vehicles damaged, including buses, special education vans and maintenance trucks

SCHOOLS & FACILITIES WITH LIMITED DAMAGE

- East Ascension High School – football stadium and concessions, baseball/softball complex and locker room torn down
- Lowery Elementary & Lowery Middle received flash flooding in some areas
- St. Amant Middle School – exterior brick, auxiliary gym and band room
- Old G.W. Carver Campus – RVTO/FINS closed
- APPL facility - limited damage to some rooms



Flood Impact and Recovery



#TangerCares

Tanger Outlets recently presented **Donaldsonville Primary Special Education Teacher Jackie Cullia** (pictured above) with a \$1,500 shopping spree as part of the #TangerCares initiative. Cullia's home was severely damaged by the devastating flooding in August 2016 – making it the third time she lost a home to a natural disaster. She also lost her home to Hurricane Katrina in 2005, and a second home to Hurricane Rita that same year. Despite her personal losses, Cullia continues to be a shining positive example for her family, friends, co-workers and students. Also recognized were **Lakeside Primary teachers Jennifer LeBlanc and Susan Chmurka**. The teachers were nominated for the shopping spree through a social media campaign to recognize flood-impacted employees in Ascension Public Schools who embody the **#AscensionStrong** spirit.



HOW TO HELP OUR SCHOOLS:

Ascension Public Schools is continuing to receive donations to help with the flood recovery. To date, the district has received a large number of donated school supplies and school uniforms, as well as monetary donations. To manage the donations, the district has partnered with two non-profit organizations: The Ascension Fund and Volunteer Ascension.

Monetary donations can be given through The Ascension Fund's online portal at <https://mkt.com/the-ascension-fund>, or by scanning this QR code:



Donations for individual schools in the district can be made online at www.apsb.org/page/flood-recovery-donations and clicking through to the donation pages, or by sending a check to Ascension Parish School Board with the school name in the notation, and mailing it to 1100 Webster Street, Donaldsonville, LA 70346.

Tangible supplies and items are being collected at the district's warehouse where Volunteer Ascension helpers and district employees sort and disperse the items. Call 225-644-7666 or send an email to WeAreVolunteerAscension@gmail.com for more information.

AUGUST 8, 2016

SCHOOL STARTS

First Day for Students

AUGUST 12, 2016

SCHOOL CLOSED

District Closed
Due to Flooding

AUGUST 24, 2016

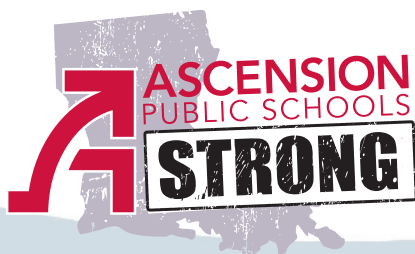
DONALDSONVILLE REOPENS

Partial Reopening of Schools

AUGUST 29, 2016

DISTRICT REOPENS

Reopening for all schools
500 Employees flooded
95% Student Attendance



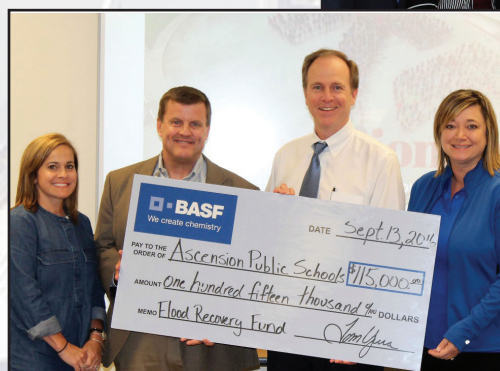
Flood Impact and Recovery

MAJOR DONORS

(contributed \$5,000 or more)

Ascension Public Schools and the citizens of Ascension Parish gratefully acknowledge the generosity of donors to our school recovery efforts. We appreciate all the gifts for our schools and staff. A complete list of donors can be found on our website at apsb.org/FloodRecovery.

- Tzu Chi Foundation
- Shutterfly (through the Ellen Show)
- BASF Corporation
- The United Way of New Orleans
- Baton Rouge Area Foundation
- Taylor Swift
- Methanex
- Havaianas and Oh Pair Children's Shoe Boutique
- Shell Oil Company
- Motiva
- Marathon Petroleum
- Coalition to Assist the Special Needs Population in Louisiana
- Lions Club International
- The Dreambuilders Foundation
- Dollarmur Sport Surfaces
- Alabama Gas Corporation
- Greater New Orleans Foundation
- Wallace V. Pontiff Jr. Foundation
- Benton High School
- East Ascension High School
- YouCaring.com Fundraiser
- Duplessis GMC/Buick
- Mr Engineering and Surveying, LLC
- Pippen Farms
- Ben Sheets
- Dutchtown High School
- Biloxi Public School System



FEBRUARY-MARCH, 2017

TEMPORARY CAMPUSES OPEN

School students and staff reunited on single campus sites

TBA

CAMPUSES RESTORED

Efforts underway for the repair and reopening of flooded buildings

DAILY RECOVERY EFFORTS

Flood remediation, document recovery, damage assessments, construction of temporary facilities

Construction Update



Ascension Public Schools has substantially completed the \$100 million capital improvement plan approved by the voters in 2009, and has begun the planning stages of the \$120 million plan approved in 2016 to further grow and improve our school facilities.

All the projects are funded through a dedicated property tax that has remained at the same level over the years.

Major projects completed include:

- ✓ Major “makeover” and renovations to Prairieville Middle School, Gonzales Primary School and Donaldsonville High School
- ✓ New architecturally-designed school building for G. W. Carver Primary School at a new campus site
- ✓ Construction of Freshman Academies at Dutchtown, East Ascension and St. Amant high schools
- ✓ Major electrical infrastructure upgrades to support technology and enhance new safety features
- ✓ Upgrade of the district's computer and data network for wireless technology, leading the way for the innovative rollout of a computer for every student
- ✓ Security cameras for ALL campuses for optimal safety oversight, two-way radio system for schools, and safety locks on all classroom doors

Donaldsonville High School Library



St. Amant Freshman Academy



East Ascension Freshman Academy



Dutchtown Freshman Academy



Construction Update

On April 9, 2016, Ascension Parish voters overwhelmingly approved extending an existing 15.08 mills to fund much-needed construction projects and improvements across the district.

The millage extension will allow the district to borrow \$120 million at NO increased yearly cost to taxpayers.

THE 2016 BOND CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS INCLUDE:

New Primary School – Bullion Crossing	\$16,100,000
New Primary School – Hwy 73	\$16,600,000
New Primary School – Germany Road	\$17,800,000
New Middle School – Bluff Road	\$29,300,000
Complete Freshman Academy Concept at High Schools	\$12,900,000
Future High School-Site Planning and Permitting	\$2,000,000
Addition/Renovations to Ascension Head Start in Donaldsonville	\$3,000,000
Addition/Renovations to Dutchtown Primary	\$7,400,000
Continue Security Plan Implementation at ALL campuses	\$3,000,000
Addition/Renovations to Lowery Middle School	\$3,900,000
Addition of Gym to Prairieville Middle School	\$3,000,000
Renovation of old Donaldsonville High Library into classroom/office space	\$500,000
APPlE Digital Academy	\$2,900,000
Exterior Covered Play Areas at ALL Primary Schools	\$1,600,000

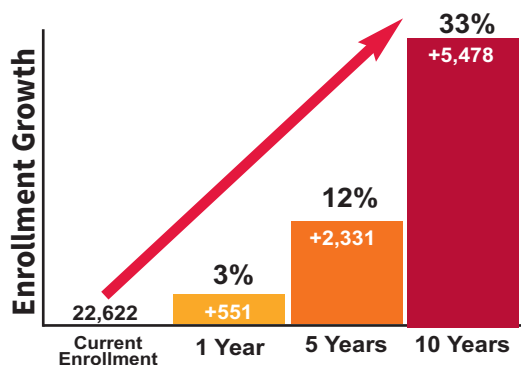
Total Investment \$120 million
at NO Increased Cost to Taxpayers

ENROLLMENT GROWTH

Based on historical growth, enrollment is expected to increase by 33% over the next 10 years.

Currently, nearly half the district’s schools are near maximum capacity or already exceeding it.

That’s why Ascension Public Schools is investing \$120 million into new schools, expansion and improvements.



CONSTRUCTION PROGRESS

Updates on 2016 Bond Projects

The Flood Recovery Projects and the 2016 Bond Projects are proceeding concurrently as both are needed to ensure the success of our school system.

In recent months, various projects have moved forward with the selection of firms for planning and preliminary program work.

Evans-Graves Engineers, Inc. is working on the wetlands delineation and permitting on all of the land for new school facilities. The Ascension Parish School Board selected architects for the 2016 bond projects, including:

- **NEW PRIMARY SCHOOL**, Highway La. 73, *Domain Architecture, APAC*
- **NEW PRIMARY SCHOOL**, Germany Road, *Gossen-Holloway-Cortez Architectural Corp.*
- **NEW PRIMARY SCHOOL**, Bullion Crossing, *Remson Haley Herpin, Architects, APAC*
- **NEW MIDDLE SCHOOL**, Bluff Road, *GraceHebert Architects*
- **LOWERY MIDDLE SCHOOL** classroom addition, *Domain Architecture, APAC*
- **FUTURE HIGH SCHOOL** Site planning and permitting, *Remson Haley Herpin/ Domain Architecture, APAC*
- **COVERED PLAY PAVILIONS**, *Crump Wilson Architects, LLC*
- **HEAD START BUILDING** renovations, *Chenevert Architects*
- **APPlE DIGITAL ACADEMY**, *Holly & Smith Architects*

For more information on all selections and projects, go to apsb.org/construction.

Ascension Public Schools K-12

Central Middle (6-8)	14101 Roddy Road Gonzales, LA 70737	225-391-6400 225-621-2682-F
Central Primary (K-5)	41469 Hwy 621 Gonzales, LA 70737	225-391-7700 225-391-7701-F
Donaldsonville High (9-12)	100 Tiger Drive Donaldsonville, LA 70346	225-257-2900 225-473-4496-F
Donaldsonville Primary (EC-2)	38210 Hwy 3089 Donaldsonville, LA 70346	225-257-2600 225-473-6920-F
Duplessis Primary (K-5)	38101 Hwy 621 Gonzales, LA 70737	225-391-6650 225-677-5984-F
Dutchtown High (9-12)	13165 Hwy 73 Geismar, LA 70734	225-391-6200 225-677-8191-F
Dutchtown Middle (6-8)	13078 Hwy 73 Geismar, LA 70734	225-391-7800 225-621-2351-F
Dutchtown Primary (K-5)	13046 Hwy 73 Geismar, LA 70734	225-391-7850 225-621-2383-F
East Ascension High (9-12)	612 East Worthy Road Gonzales, LA 70737	225-391-6100 225-621-2397-F
Galvez Middle (6-8)	42018 Hwy 933 Prairieville, LA 70769	225-391-6350 225-621-2434-F
Galvez Primary (K-5)	16093 Henderson Bayou Rd. Prairieville, LA 70769	225-391-6600 225-621-2447-F
Gonzales Middle (6-8)	1502 W. Orice Roth St. Gonzales, LA 70737	225-391-6450 225-621-2509-F
Gonzales Primary (K-5)	521 N. Burnside Gonzales, LA 70737	225-391-6700 225-621-2663-F
G.W. Carver Primary (K-5)	11310 Legacy Oaks Gonzales, LA 70737	225-391-6800 225-621-2556-F
Lake Elementary (K-8)	14185 Hwy 431 St. Amant, LA 70774	225-391-6550 225-621-2476-F
Lakeside Primary (K-5)	16500 Hwy 431 Prairieville, LA 70769	225-391-7750 225-391-7751-F
Lowery Elementary (3-5)	2389 B Hwy 1 S. Donaldsonville, LA 70346	225-257-2500 225-473-2539-F

Lowery Middle (6-8)	2389 A Hwy 1 S. Donaldsonville, LA 70346	225-257-2550 225-473-2514-F
Oak Grove Primary (K-5)	17550 Old Jefferson Hwy Prairieville, LA 70769	225-391-6750 225-621-2370-F
Pecan Grove Primary (K-5)	1712 S. Pecan Grove Ave. Gonzales, LA 70737	225-391-7450 225-644-6985-F
Prairieville Middle (6-8)	16200 Hwy 930 Prairieville, LA 70769	225-391-6300 225-673-4883-F
Prairieville Primary (K-5)	40228 Parker Road Prairieville, LA 70769	225-391-7400 225-391-7401-F
St. Amant High (9-12)	12035 Hwy 431 St. Amant, LA 70774	225-391-6000 225-621-2573-F
St. Amant Middle (6-8)	44317 Hwy 429 St. Amant, LA 70774	225-391-6500 225-621-2593-F
St. Amant Primary (K-5)	44365 Hwy 429 St. Amant, LA 70774	225-391-7950 225-621-2613-F
Spanish Lake Primary (K-5)	13323 Bluff Road Geismar, LA 70734	225-391-7650 225-391-7651-F
Sorrento Primary (K-5)	42211 N. City Parc Dr. Sorrento, LA 70778	225-391-6900 225-391-6901-F

Other Schools/Facilities

LeBlanc Special Services & Federal Programs	611 North Burnside Gonzales, LA 70737	225-391-7211 225-391-7381 225-621-2534-F
Ascension Head Start	603 Lee Avenue Donaldsonville, LA 70346	225-391-7351 225-474-2752-F
APPLe Digital Academy	38608 Hwy 22 Darrow, LA 70725	225-391-6850 225-474-2774-F
Early College Option River Parishes Community College	925 W. Edenborne Pkwy. Gonzales, LA 70737	225-743-8747