The ABCs of SCPPS

A QUARTERLY UPDATE FROM ST. CHARLES PARISH PUBLIC SCHOOLS

ISSUE #3 | 2026

A ACADEMICS, ATHLETICS, & THE ARTS



"These scores speak for themselves. This is a win for our students, and they should feel incredibly proud. The scores reflect the high expectations, strong instruction, and commitment to success our system is known for."

DR. KEN OERTLING
Superintendent

ACADEMICS:

SCPPS Leads Louisiana in Algebra I

St. Charles Parish Public Schools (SCPPS) high school students continue to demonstrate strong academic performance, earning some of the highest rankings statewide on the most recent Louisiana Educational Assessment Program (LEAP) assessments.

SCPPS ranked **No. 1 in Louisiana in high school Algebra I,** while both Geometry and Biology **ranked No. 3 statewide.** Multiple other high school courses also finished among Louisiana's Top 10, including English I, English II, and U.S. History.

"Our teachers know their students, understand what each individual student needs to be successful, and adjust instruction to help them reach their potential," said Dr. Ken Oertling, Superintendent of St. Charles Parish Public Schools. "Congratulations to our students, teachers, administrators, and support staff on this achievement."

For high school students who previously scored below Basic on LEAP tests, the district implemented a co-teaching strategy that placed two certified teachers in designated classes while providing students with additional instructional minutes throughout the school year along with smaller class sizes. High school teachers also continued to strengthen their use of the Professional Learning Communities (PLC) process, working collaboratively to identify essential standards and clarify specific learning targets for those standards in order to pinpoint students' individual strengths and needs.

SCPPS RANKED

#1 IN ALGEBRA I

#3 IN GEOMETRY & BIOLOGY

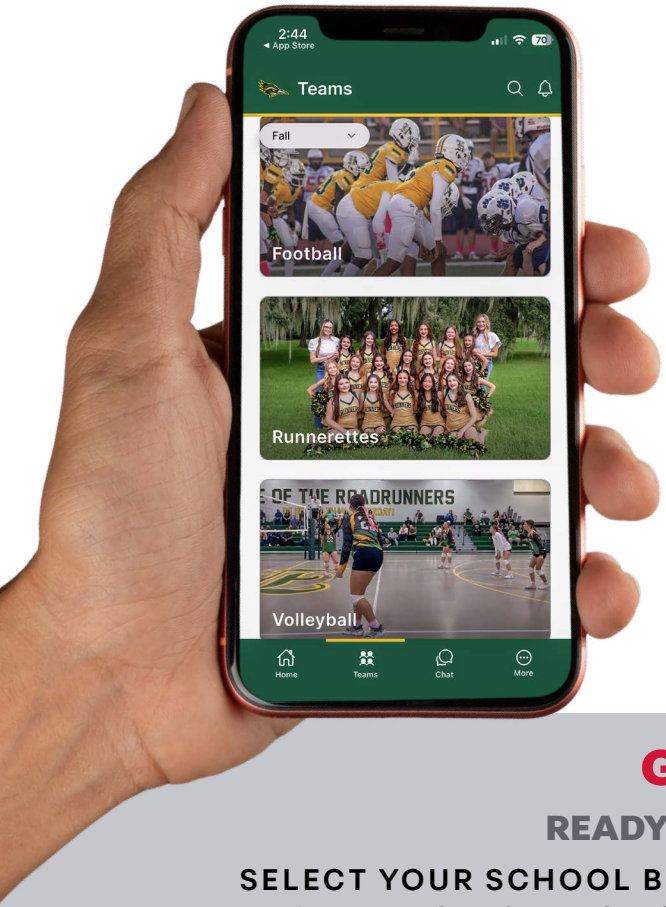
IN LOUISIANA

The latest results build on continued academic momentum at the high school level, with SCPPS seeing notable gains this year in Algebra I, English II, and Geometry. District leaders say the combination of strong classroom instruction, collaboration among educators, targeted student support, and high expectations continues to drive improvement.

ATHLETICS:

New Athletics App Keeps Fans Connected

St. Charles Parish Public Schools (SCPPS) is making it easier for students, families, and community members to stay connected to middle and high school athletics with the launch of a new mobile app at all six district middle and high schools. The mobile app, provided through the Ballfrog platform, brings game schedules, team updates, ticketing information, and other important resources together in one convenient location, putting athletic information directly at the fingertips of students, parents, extended family members, and fans.



THROUGH BALLFROG, USERS CAN:

- **View official game schedules**
- **Receive notifications about schedule changes and weather-related delays**
- **Access links to purchase tickets through GoFan**

The platform also supports team communications and provides access to additional school and athletic resources.

One of the app's key features is the ability to personalize the experience. Users can select the specific teams and activities they want to follow and customize their notification settings to receive updates most relevant to them. This allows families and fans to stay informed about the athletic programs they are most interested in throughout the season.

The introduction of Ballfrog reflects SCPPS's continued commitment to improving communication and strengthening connections among schools, families, and the community. By making athletic information more accessible, the district is helping families and fans stay engaged in the programs and activities that bring students and communities together through school athletics.

GET STARTED

READY TO STAY CONNECTED?

SELECT YOUR SCHOOL BELOW TO ACCESS ITS BALLFROG APP AND START FOLLOWING YOUR FAVORITE TEAMS AND ACTIVITIES.

DESTREHAN	HAHNVILLE	ALBERT CAMMON	HARRY HURST	J.B. MARTIN	R.K. SMITH
DOWNLOAD ON THE App Store	DOWNLOAD ON THE App Store	DOWNLOAD ON THE App Store	DOWNLOAD ON THE App Store	DOWNLOAD ON THE App Store	DOWNLOAD ON THE App Store
GET IT ON Google Play	GET IT ON Google Play	GET IT ON Google Play	GET IT ON Google Play	GET IT ON Google Play	GET IT ON Google Play

ARTS:

Student Artwork Connects Generations Through Trailblazers Memorial





> "Students of today helped build a memorial honoring students of yesterday so that students of tomorrow will understand the path that brought them here."
>
> **DR. KEN OERTLING**
> Superintendent

SCPPS talented art students have left their mark on a meaningful piece of the district's history through their contributions to the Trailblazers Memorial, recently dedicated on the grounds of the School Board Office. Their artwork is now a permanent part of the memorial honoring the African American students who helped desegregate St. Charles Parish Public Schools in 1965.

Working alongside renowned artist Derrick Monk, students participated in hands-on workshops that gave them the opportunity to contribute directly to the memorial's design. Students transformed their creative ideas into three-dimensional foam sculptures that were cast in metal and incorporated into the monument. Through this collaboration, students gained firsthand experience with the artistic process while learning about an important chapter in their community's history.

The memorial was dedicated on September 23 during a ceremony attended by the students along with original Trailblazers, their families, School Board members, district officials, and community leaders. During the dedication, Superintendent Dr. Ken Oertling reflected on the significance of involving current students in preserving this history.

The project demonstrates how the arts can connect classroom learning to real-world experiences while providing students with opportunities to contribute to their community. Through their creativity and collaboration, these young artists have helped create something that will educate and inspire future generations.

As work toward completion of the memorial continues, SCPPS is also seeking to identify additional individuals who participated in the desegregation of its schools in 1965. Following the dedication, additional individuals came forward requesting recognition, prompting the district to revisit previously reported participation numbers to develop the most accurate historical record possible.

Individuals who participated in the desegregation of SCPPS in 1965, or anyone with information about someone who did, are encouraged to contact kpollock@wearescpps.org. Submitted names will undergo a verification process before being approved for inclusion in the memorial.

THE BULLETIN BOARD

The St. Charles Parish School Board helps guide the direction of St. Charles Parish Public Schools (SCPPS) by establishing policies, adopting the annual budget, setting salary schedules, and evaluating the Superintendent. The Board also reviews reports on school and program progress, considers facility improvements, and helps ensure the district meets state and federal requirements.



One of the Board's responsibilities is adopting the school calendar for each school year. The process begins with gathering feedback from employees, students, families, and the broader community. A calendar survey conducted September 8–15 received 1,975 responses, including 969 from employees.

Each year, a calendar committee reviews the survey results and develops a recommendation that balances stakeholder preferences with instructional requirements and other scheduling considerations. The committee includes School Board members, a business and industry representative, Central Office administrators, principals, teachers, parents, and students.

You and I... We are



On September 24, the committee reviewed the survey results and discussed recommendations for the 2027–2028 school year.

THE BULLETIN BOARD

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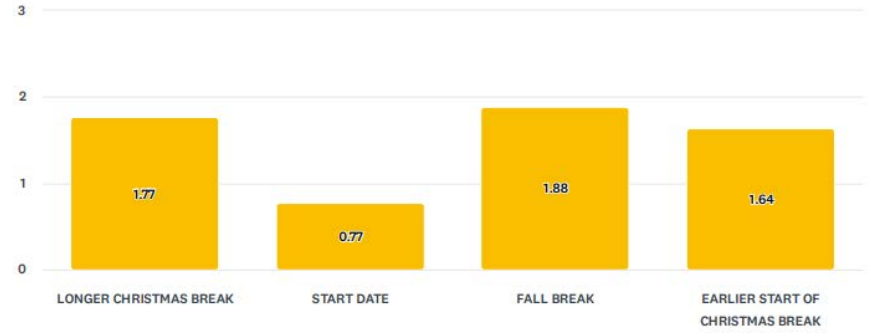
Fall Break was the leading priority among survey respondents, followed closely by a longer Christmas Break. After considering the feedback, the committee recommended October 11–12 and November 1 as fall holidays, a two-week Christmas Break beginning December 23, and an end to the school year before Memorial Day.

The proposed calendar also schedules Easter Break for the week leading up to Easter, with a day off following the holiday. This differs from the district's typical schedule and reflects the committee's consideration of state testing dates, with the goal of providing more uninterrupted instructional time in April.

The proposed calendar must meet state requirements while balancing the needs of students, employees, and families. The School Board approved a first reading of the proposed calendar in October and will consider it for a second reading and adoption at its November meeting.

Before the second reading, the district will finalize details for professional learning days and the staggered student start. Input is helping the district identify professional learning needs and explore possible alternatives to the current staggered-start format. Staggering the start allows schools to welcome students in smaller groups initially, giving staff time to address operational needs, particularly transportation and child nutrition, before all students are present. The finalized details will be added to the calendar before it returns to the Board for consideration.

When considering the 2027-2028 calendar, please rank your priorities regarding the fall semester. Please be aware that it is impossible to incorporate all of the following into the 2027-2028 school year calendar.



ST. CHARLES PARISH PUBLIC SCHOOLS

2027-2028 SCHOOL CALENDAR

AUGUST

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

SEPTEMBER

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OCTOBER

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31						

NOVEMBER

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14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

DECEMBER

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19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

JANUARY

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16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

FEBRUARY

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13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29				

MARCH

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19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

APRIL

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23	24	25	26	27	28	29
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MAY

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

Early Dismissal (All Schools)

Early Dismissal (Elementary & Middle Schools)

First/Last Days for Students (Staggered Start)
First/Last Days for Pre-Kindergarten Students (Staggered Start)
Student & Teacher Holiday (Schools Closed)
Student Holiday (Professional Learning/Teacher Prep)

Fall Semester

Aug. 2	First Day for Teachers
Aug. 2-6	Professional Learning/Teacher Prep Days
Aug. 9-10	First Days for Students (Grades K-12)
	_____ *attend Aug 9.*
	_____ *attend Aug 10.*
Aug. 16-17	First Days for Pre-Kindergarten Students
	_____ *attend Aug 16.*
	_____ *attend Aug 17.*
Sept. 6	**Labor Day Holiday**
Sept. 8	End of Quarter (High Schools Only)
TBD	**Student Holiday (Professional Learning)**
TBD	**Student Holiday (Professional Learning)**
Oct. 8	End of Quarter
Oct. 11-12	**Weather Make-Up Days/Fall Break Holiday**
Oct. 21	Early Dismissal (Conferences)
Oct. 22	Elementary/Middle School Early Dismissal (Conferences)
Nov. 1	**Weather Make-Up Day/Fall Break Holiday**
Nov. 12	End of Quarter (High Schools Only)
Nov. 22-26	**Thanksgiving Holiday**
Dec. 22	Early Dismissal (Professional Learning)
	End of Quarter
Dec. 23-Jan. 5	**Christmas/New Year Holidays**

Spring Semester

Jan. 6	**Student Holiday (Professional Learning)**
Jan. 7	Classes Resume
Jan. 17	**Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday**
Feb. 7	End of Quarter (High Schools Only)
Feb. 17	Early Dismissal (Conferences)
Feb. 18	Elementary/Middle School Early Dismissal (Conferences)
TBD	**Student Holiday (Professional Learning)**
Feb. 28-Mar. 3	**Mardi Gras Holiday**
Mar. 15	End of Quarter
April 10-17	**Easter Holiday (Spring Break)**
April 24	End of Quarter (High Schools Only)
May 19	Last Day for Pre-Kindergarten Students
May 24	Early Dismissal (Professional Learning)
	End of Quarter
	Last Day for Students (Gr. K-11)
May 25	**Last Day for Teachers/Teacher Prep**

NOTE: *The calendar is subject to change. Student make-up days for emergencies will be taken from existing holidays.*

Proposed 10-19-26

CONFERENCE WITH THE SUPERINTENDENT





DR. KEN OERTLING
Superintendent

We are proud of what has been built in St. Charles Parish, but we are never satisfied with where we are. Excellence is not a destination; it is an ongoing commitment to getting better for the students and community we serve.

You and I... We are

Learning from Others, Leading by Example

Continuous improvement requires us to look beyond ourselves, learn from others, evaluate our practices, and share what works. Recently, St. Charles Parish Public Schools had a unique opportunity to do all three as we hosted nearly 70 education leaders from across the country through the Eastern States Consortium.

The Consortium brings together high-performing school systems committed to learning from one another through in-depth site visits. During their two days in St. Charles Parish, our visitors did more than hear presentations about our work. They entered our schools and classrooms, interacted with students and employees, and experienced firsthand the programs, systems, and opportunities that set SCPPS apart.

Their visit highlighted the breadth of what our community has built together—from our nationally recognized early learning and literacy efforts to career and technical education, workforce development, student support, attendance initiatives, the arts, and innovative learning experiences. Visitors also saw our expanded Satellite Center and learned how partnerships with business, industry, higher education, and community organizations help us prepare students for college, careers, and the workforce.

What made me most proud, however, was not a particular program or facility. It was our people. Throughout the visit, our students, teachers, support employees, administrators, and community partners demonstrated the culture of excellence and belonging that exists throughout our school system.

Hosting the Consortium also provided an important opportunity for reflection. When educational leaders from across the country come here to study our practices, it validates the investment our community continues to make in public education. At the same time, their questions and perspectives challenge us to keep learning and improving.





D DEVELOPMENTS & DIRECTION

Understanding Louisiana's New School Accountability System

When the Louisiana Department of Education releases school and district performance scores in the upcoming weeks, the results will have been calculated using a new accountability system. Known as *Grow. Achieve. Thrive.*, the new system has changed how the state measures school performance and determines letter grades, making it important for families and community members to understand what has changed and what the scores represent.

Each year, the state evaluates public schools and school systems using a variety of measures of student achievement and progress. These results are used to calculate school and district performance scores, which are then translated into letter grades ranging from A to F. The grades provide families and communities with one way to understand how their schools are performing academically.

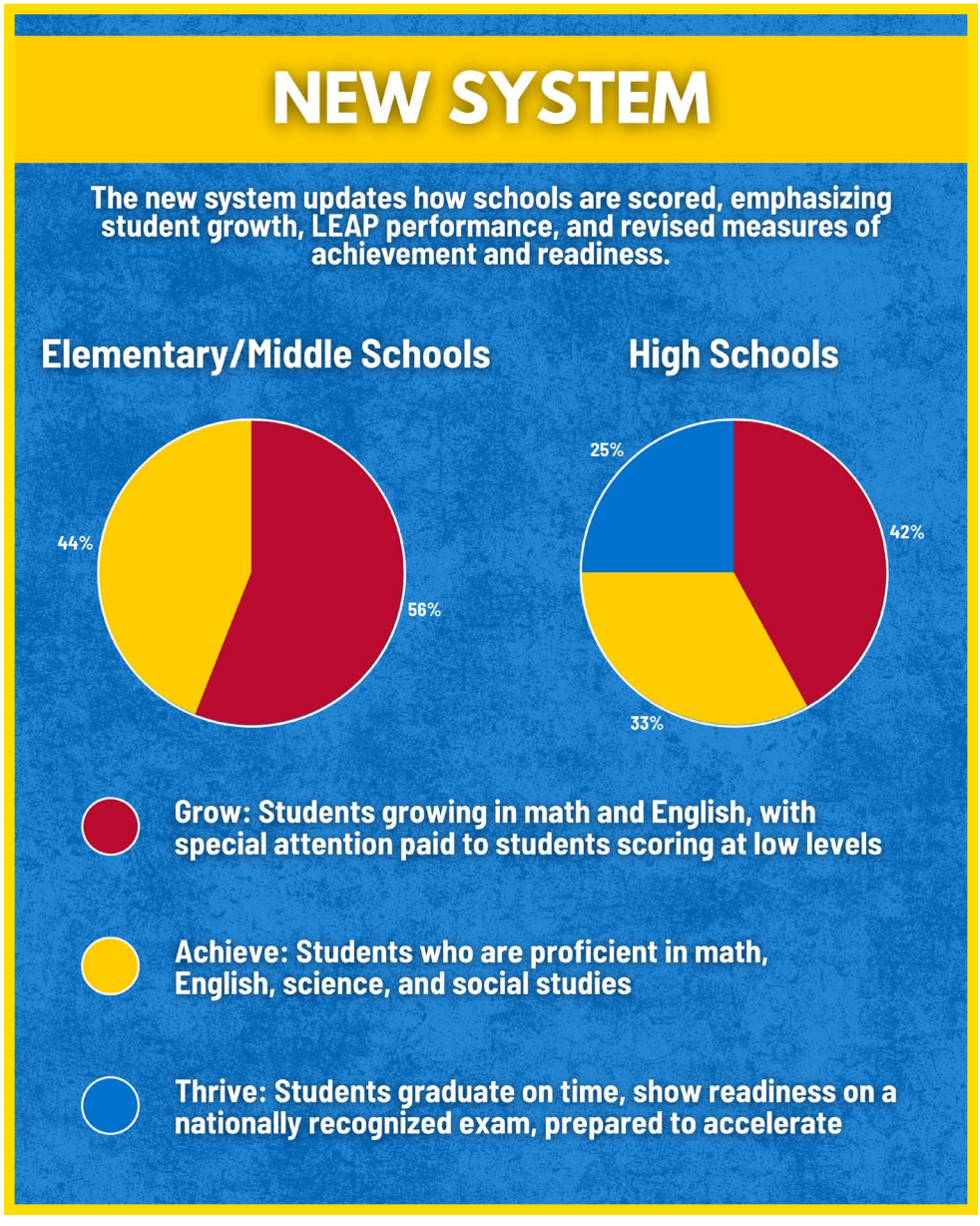
Approved by the Louisiana State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, the new accountability system changes how performance scores are calculated, placing greater emphasis on student achievement and academic growth.

THE MODEL FOCUSES ON THREE AREAS:

- **Grow:** Measures how much students improve in English and math, with particular attention to students performing at the lowest levels.
- **Achieve:** Measures student proficiency in English, math, science, and social studies.
- **Thrive:** Measures how well students are prepared for success beyond high school, including graduating on time, demonstrating readiness on a nationally recognized assessment, and completing opportunities that prepare them for college or careers.

Grow. Achieve. Thrive.

LOUISIANA'S NEW ACCOUNTABILITY SYSTEM



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Understanding Louisiana's New School Accountability System

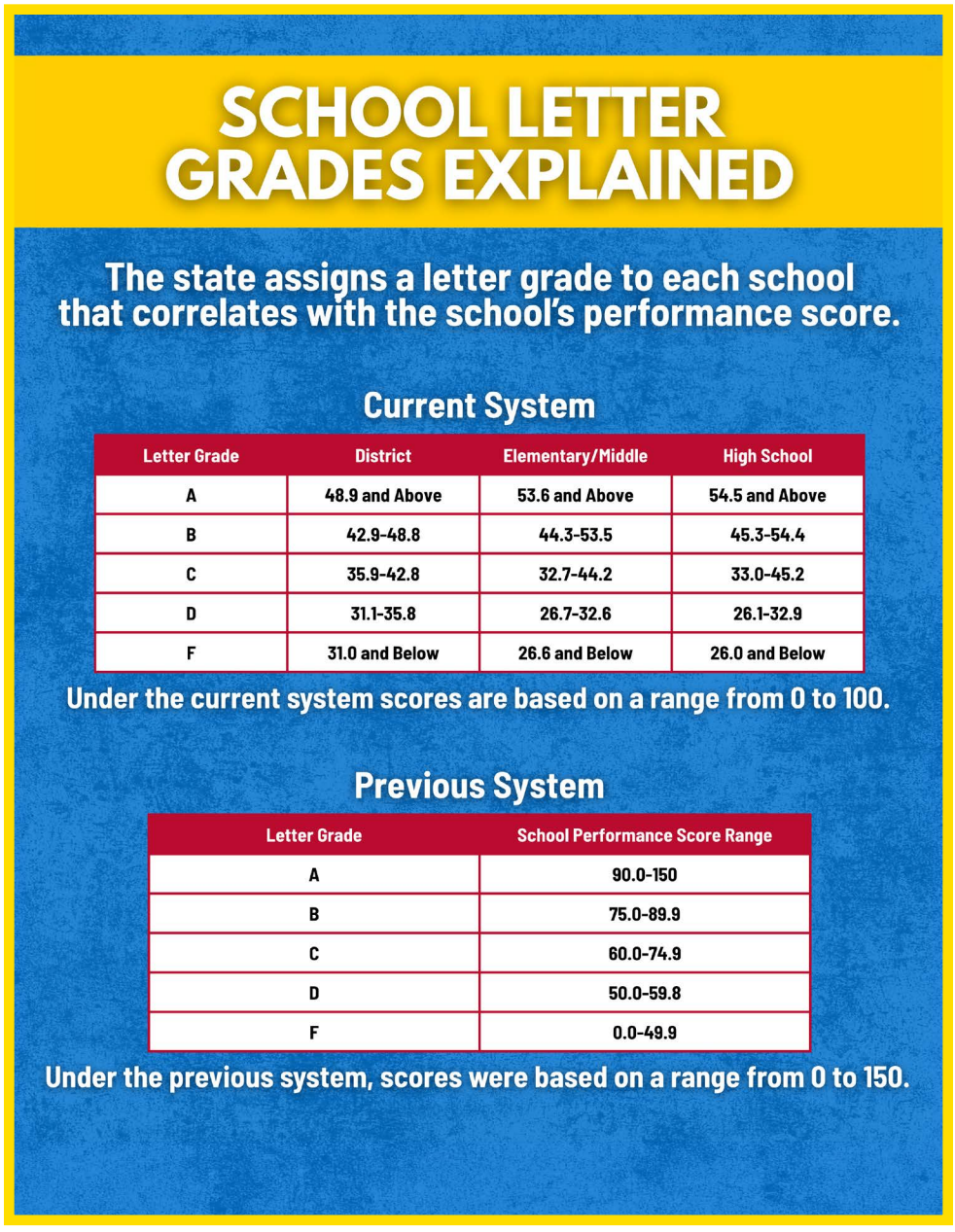
For elementary and middle schools, the new system places greater emphasis on how much students improve academically from one year to the next. At the high school level, end-of-course LEAP assessments now account for two-thirds of performance scores, while measures of college and career readiness, such as ACT results, graduation rates, college credits, and industry-based certifications, carry less weight than under the previous system.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR SCHOOL AND DISTRICT LETTER GRADES?

Because the new accountability system uses different measures and calculations, performance scores and letter grades may change. However, a change in a letter grade does not necessarily indicate a corresponding change in student achievement. Understanding the new scoring criteria will be important when interpreting this year's results and comparing them with previous years.

SCPPS earned an A district rating under the previous accountability system in 2025, marking its fourth consecutive year of growth in its district performance score. Throughout the state's transition to *Grow. Achieve. Thrive.*, SCPPS has remained focused on student learning, academic growth, and preparing students for success in college, careers, and beyond.

School and district performance scores are one important measure of educational progress, but they do not tell the complete story of a school system. Understanding what the new scores measure will help families and community members better interpret the results when they are released by the state.



Grow. Achieve. Thrive.

LOUISIANA'S NEW ACCOUNTABILITY SYSTEM