

## AFTER 5 YEARS OF STATE CONTROL, ONLY 3 RSD SCHOOLS EXCEED TAKEOVER SCORE

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New Orleans schools with performance scores below the 2005 state average score of 87.4 were taken-over by the Recovery School District. Now, five years later, only 3 of the RSD's 71 schools have exceeded that score. The Recovery School District schools, with the exception of 3, are all still below the 2005 state average. The failure of the Recovery School District comes at a great price – not only in terms of the millions expended, but in terms of the lost years for New Orleans children and youth.

### The State Takeover of New Orleans Schools in 2005

There are some who still think that the state take-over only applied to schools with scores below 60, *i.e.*, the academically unacceptable schools. This is not correct. The Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) pushed for Act 35, which passed one month after Hurricane Katrina, and, it increased the takeover score to the state average score, which was 87.4.<sup>1</sup> Thus, New Orleans schools that had scores higher than 60, *i.e.*, labeled 'academically unacceptable,' were taken over, as well. (Table 1)

**Table 1:** Prior to Act 35, only struggling, "academically unacceptable" schools could be taken over. With Act 35, and only in New Orleans, schools with scores between 60.0–87.4, were taken-over as well.

Performance Label (2004-05)	School Performance Score (SPS) Range
Five Stars (*****)	140.0 or above
Four Stars (****)	120.0-139.9
Three Stars (***)	100.0 – 119.9
Two Stars (**)	80.0 – 99.9 (State average: 87.4)
One Star (*)	60.0-79.9
Academically Unacceptable	Below 60.0

The New Orleans schools taken-over in 2005 had School Performance Scores (SPS) scores ranging from 85.6 to 14.6. (Appendix A)

## **The 2009-10 Performance Scores of RSD Schools**

The Recovery School District (RSD) had jurisdiction over 71 schools in 2009-10. As reported in a recent article,<sup>ii</sup> 21 of these schools did not have 2009-10 baseline School Performance Scores. Of the 50 schools with baseline SPS scores, some were charters and others were traditional schools.

More important than the distinction between charter and traditional is the distinction between selective charters and open charters. When the RSD received the schools from the Orleans Parish School Board, all of the schools were open admission schools. The RSD has chosen to allow some schools to open as charters that restrict admission and/or restrict continued admission.<sup>iii</sup> Obviously, the easiest way to improve performance scores is to remove students who are underperforming. Thus, schools with restricted admissions, or restricted continued admissions, are not included in the data presented herein, as they do not retain the conditions under which they were transferred. One cannot take-over a school from the OPSB that was an open enrollment school, then change it to a restricted enrollment school, and maintain that the school has improved. If that were the model, then all schools could simply improve scores by removing low-scoring or misbehaving students. The goal of Louisiana's education experiment was to improve the achievement of the very students that such schools are removing.

Only three RSD open enrollment schools, with no restrictions on continued enrollment, have increased their performance scores above the 2005 takeover score.<sup>iv</sup> (Table 2)

<b>No</b>	<b>Code</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>2009-10 Baseline SPS</b>
1	395001	Martin Behrman Elementary School	99.3
2	391001	Dr.M.L.K. Charter School For Science & Tech	90.1
3	382001	New Orleans Charter Science & Math Academy	89.2

With the exception of the above, all of the RSD schools without enrollment restrictions are still well below the 2005 state takeover score of 87.4. (Appendix B)

## **Incremental Progress Is an Excuse**

The Board of Elementary and Secondary Education contends that the RSD is successful because it has made incremental progress over the past five years. However, consider the Orleans Parish School Board (OPBS) schools that made incremental progress for years before the takeover. Over 50 OPBS schools made incremental progress for years before they were taken-

over by the RSD.<sup>v</sup> (Appendix C) These schools made this incremental progress without the millions of dollars and the increases in per pupil expenditures allotted to the RSD.

The RSD was not charged with making incremental progress. The RSD was billed as the savior for the failing schools in New Orleans, and was granted additional funds and complete autonomy to resurrect the schools. Incremental progress was not the agenda. The agenda was to turnaround the failures of the New Orleans schools. Five years and millions of dollars later, the RSD has become a failed educational experiment.

## **Conclusion**

The Board of Elementary and Secondary Education has enough data to document the failure of the Recovery School District. Prior to the RSD, the Orleans Parish School Board was also no panacea of hope for New Orleans children and youth. To return to what was is just as reckless as to continue with what is. Rather than the power struggles between the RSD and the OPSB, there must be a new vision. Salvaging and continuing with what has worked, and rethinking what has not, is the challenge that we now face.

### *Endnotes:*

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<sup>i</sup> Act 35 of 2005. La.R.S.17:10.7 A.(1) "Each school . . . that has a baseline score school performance score below the state average. . . shall be transferred to the Recovery School District. . ." The trick perpetrated was that Act 35 changed the definition of a failing school from an academically unacceptable school to a school with a baseline score below the state average.

<sup>ii</sup> Ferguson, Barbara, "RSD's 2009-10 Performance Report Omits 30% of Schools," November, 2010. See [www.researchonreforms.org](http://www.researchonreforms.org).

<sup>iii</sup> For example, KIPP schools, have restrictions on continued enrollment. "Students who participate in a fight by running to an altercation or by encouraging others to participate are also subject to punishment ranging from "AP" to mandatory transfer." KIPP Parent/Student Handbook 2009-10. The KIPP handbook also advises that students may be removed for "consistent rude and disrespectful behavior, ...destruction of, or threats, to damage school property, ...any behavior that disrupts the instructional process."

<sup>iv</sup> 2009-10 Baseline School Performance Scores, LA Department of Education.

<sup>v</sup> District Composite Reports for OPSB, LA Department of Education.

## Appendix A

### **2004-05 OPSB Takeover Schools Ranked by SPS Scores**

No	Code	Name	2004-05 Baseline SPS
1	036049	Jean Gordon School	85.6
2	036019	Parkview Fundamental Magnet School	83.7
3	036164	Dr. M.L.K. Elem. School for Science & Tech.	81.8
4	036014	Stuart R. Bradley Elementary School	78.5
5	036007	Thurgood Marshall School	77.6
6	036021	Mary D. Coghill Elementary School	76.6
7	036040	William J. Fischer Elementary School	73.8
8	036097	Harriet Tubman Elementary School	73.3
9	036114	H.C. Schaumburg Elementary School	72.1
10	036167	New Orleans Charter Middle School	70.5
11	036038	Dwight D. Eisenhower Elementary School	67.6
12	036073	Ronald G. McNair Elementary School	66.4
13	036052	William J. Guste Elementary School	66.2
14	036082	McDonogh #15 Creative Arts Magnet School	66.2
15	036032	John Dibert Elementary School	65.8
16	036003	Henry W. Allen Elementary School	65.6
17	036048	Gentilly Terrance Elementary School	65.5
18	036094	McDonogh #07 Elementary School	64.6
19	036117	Sherwood Forest Elementary School	64.5
20	036053	Paul B. Habans Elementary School	64.2
21	036135	New Orleans Free School	63.6
22	036176	Lake Area Middle School	63.0
23	036104	Mildred Osborne School	62.6
24	036178	New Orleans New Technology High School*	61.7
25	036068	Thomy Lafon School	61.5
26	036110	Rabouin Career Magnet High School	61.1
27	036027	A.D. Crossman Elementary School	59.6
28	036084	Benjamin Banneker Elementary School	58.9
29	036092	Barbara Jordan Elementary School	58.0
30	036091	Avery Alexander School	57.8
31	036030	Ernest N. "Dutch" Morial School	57.5
32	036012	Bienville Elementary School	57.0
33	036075	Little Woods Elementary School	57.0
34	036112	Julius Rosenwald Accelerated School	56.4
35	036061	Andrew Jackson Elementary School	56.0
36	036006	Agnes L. Bauduit Elementary School	56.1
37	036001	Ray Abrams Elementary School	55.2
38	036013	Village de l'Est Elementary School	54.9
39	036126	Langston Hughes Elementary School	54.8
40	036026	Lawrence D. Crocker Elementary School	54.6
41	036025	Joseph A. Craig School	52.9
42	036128	Sylvanie F. Williams School	51.5
43	036130	Carter G. Woodson Middle School	50.4
44	036008	Martin Behrman Elementary School	49.9
45	036033	Paul L. Dunbar Elementary School	49.5
46	036085	McDonogh #28 Middle School	49.5
47	036129	Andrew H. Wilson Elementary School	49.5

48	036148	Frances Gaudet Elementary	49.4
49	036177	New Orleans High School Signature Centers	49.4
50	036036	Thomas Alva Edison Elementary School	49.3
51	036105	Lorraine Hansberry Elementary School	49.0
52	036037	Helen S. Edwards Elementary School	47.8
53	036047	Oretha Castle Haley Elementary School	47.3
54	036044	William Frantz Elementary School	47.0
55	036041	Fisk-Howard Elementary School	46.4
56	036055	Harney Elementary School*	46.3
57	036029	Mary Church Terrell Elementary School	46.0
58	036051	F.W. Gregory Junior High School	44.6
59	036070	Laurel Elementary School	44.5
60	036067	Lafayette Elementary School	44.4
61	036116	John A. Shaw Elementary School	44.4
62	036093	McDonogh #42 Elementary School	43.8
63	036138	Fannie C. Williams Middle School	43.5
64	036152	Sarah Towles Reed Senior High School	42.7
65	036169	James M. Singleton Charter Middle School	42.4
66	036062	James Weldon Johnson School	41.9
67	036174	Martin L. King Middle School	41.3
68	036173	O.P. Walker Senior High School	41.1
69	036086	Morris F.X. Jeff Elementary School	40.8
70	036127	Albert Wicker Elementary School	40.8
71	036063	Valena C. Jones Elementary School	40.3
72	036087	McDonogh #32 Elementary School	40.1
73	036108	Vorice Jackson Waters Elementary School	40.0
74	036083	Louis Armstrong Elementary School	38.9
75	036058	Murray Henderson Middle School	38.7
76	036123	Dr. Charles Richard Drew Elementary School	37.7
77	036069	L.B. Landry High School	36.2
78	036018	Florence J. Chester Elementary School	35.9
79	036024	A.P. Tureaud Elementary School	35.5
80	036125	Phillis Wheatley Elementary School	33.8
81	036002	Marion Abramson Senior High School	31.2
82	036072	Lawless High School	30.0
83	036077	Livingston Middle School	29.2
84	036023	Charles J. Colton Middle School	26.5
85	036172	G.W. Carver High School	26.5
86	036016	Carver Middle School	26.4
87	036065	John F. Kennedy Senior High School	26.1
88	036095	John McDonogh Senior High School	25.1
89	036022	Walter L. Cohen High School	21.4
90	036106	Israel Meyer Augustine Middle School	21.3
91	036042	Alcee Fortier High School	17.0
92	036132	Youth Study Center	15.9
93	036102	Fredrick A. Douglass High School	15.0
94	036020	Joseph S. Clark Senior High School	14.6

\* New School 2004-05

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## Appendix B

### RSD Schools: Ranked by 2009-10 Baseline SPS scores

No	Code	Name	2009-10 Baseline SPS
1	395001	Martin Behrman Elementary School	99.3
2	391001	Dr.M.L.K. Charter School For Science & Tech	90.1
3	382001	New Orleans Charter Science & Math Academy	89.2
4	399002	Arthur Ashe Charter School	83.8
5	397001	Sophie B. Wright Inst. Of Academic Excellence	83.0
6	395002	Dwight D. Eisenhower Elementary School	80.0
7	389001	Abramson Science & Technology Charter School	78.0
8	393001	Lafayette Academy of New Orleans	77.3
9	396019	A.P. Tureaud Elementary School	76.3
10	387001	Langston Hughes Academy Charter School	74.0
11	399001	Samuel J. Green Charter School	73.6
12	385001	NOLA College Prep Charter School	73.4
13	300001	P.A. Capdau School	71.2
14	396034	H.C. Schaumburg Elementary School	70.6
15	392001	McDonogh #28 City Park Academy	70.5
16	390001	James M. Singleton Charter School	70.1
17	384001	Miller-McCoy Academy	69.5
18	395005	O.P. Walker Senior High School	68.4
19	379001	Crocker Arts and Technology School	67.2
20	380001	The Intercultural Charter School	66.7
21	396037	Mary D. Coghill Elementary School	65.5
22	394003	McDonogh #42 Elementary Charter School	65.3
23	300002	Nelson Elementary School	65.2
24	396010	Murray Henderson Elementary School	63.4
25	395003	William J. Fischer Elementary School	62.9
26	396009	Paul B. Habans Elementary School	62.4
27	396028	Fannie C. Williams Elementary School	62.1
28	396003	Benjamin Banneker Elementary School	60.9
29	395004	McDonogh #32 Elementary School	60.0
30	388001	Andrew H. Wilson Charter School	59.0
31	396012	James Weldon Johnson School	58.6
32	395006	Harriet Tubman Elementary School	55.4
33	395007	Algiers Technology Academy	55.0
34	383001	Sojourner Truth Academy	53.5
35	396021	Sarah Towles Reed Elementary School	50.7
36	396043	*Greater Gentilly High School	47.3
37	396008	Dr. Charles Richard Drew Elementary School	46.5
38	396001	Joseph A. Craig School	45.2
39	396029	F.W. Gregory Elementary School	43.8
40	396025	Carver Elementary School	41.1

41	396017	Sarah Towles Reed Senior High School	34.9
42	396011	John McDonogh Senior High School	32.2
43	396026	G. W. Carver High School	31.9
44	396004	Walter L. Cohen High School	28.2
45	396002	Joseph S. Clark Senior High School	22.8
46	396016	Rabouin Career Magnet High School	19.8
Schools below with Restricted Admissions, or Restricted Continued Admission Requirements are not included because all takeover schools were open both with regard to admission, and continued admission.			
1	398001	KIPP Believe College Prep (Phillips)	106.5
2	398002	KIPP McDonogh 15 School for the Creative Arts	87.7
3	398003	KIPP Central City Academy	85.2
4	398004	KIPP Central City Primary	120.6

\*New School for 2009-10

**Data Authority and Calculation:**

**Column 1: Baseline SPS**

Go to Louisiana Department of Education website Home Page

1. Click on "Accountability"
2. Click on "District Composite Report"
3. Click on "Data and Reports"
4. Click on "District and State Accountability Results"
5. Click on "Latest School Accountability Results"
6. Click on appropriate year
  - a. For the 2007-08 year, then click on "Detailed School Level Tables"
  - b. For the 2008-09 and 2009-10 years, click on "SPS sorted by District and SPS score"

**Column 2: Enrollment**

Go to Louisiana Department of Education website Home Page

1. Click on "Accountability"
2. Click on "District Composite Reports"
3. Look to left, and click on "Data and Reports"
4. Click on "Public School Enrollment" for appropriate year.
5. Click on "Zipped Excel, October 1<sup>st</sup>, sorted by site, elementary/secondary"

## Appendix C

### OPBS 2004-05 Takeover Schools with Incremental Improvements in Years Prior to State Takeover

No	Name	2002-03 Baseline SPS	2003-04 Baseline SPS	2004-05 Baseline SPS (State Takeover Year)
1	Ray Abrams Elementary School	45.0	49.7	55.2
2	Marion Abramson Senior High School	22.4	29.4	31.2
3	Agnes L. Bauduit Elementary School	47.3	48.2	56.1
4	Thurgood Marshall School	75.4	76.0	77.6
5	Stuart R. Bradley Elementary School	66.7	73.4	78.5
6	Florence J. Chester Elementary School	31.3	33.9	35.9
7	Mary D. Coghill elementary School	65.8	72.1	76.6
8	Walter L. Cohen High School	12.8	16.9	21.4
9	Joseph A. Craig School	39.4	42.8	52.9
10	Lawrence D. Crocker Elementary School	47.1	53.4	54.6
11	A.D. Crossman Elementary School	52.2	54.4	59.6
12	Mary Church Terrell Elementary School	39.7	42.8	46.0
13	Paul L. Dunbar Elementary School	45.4	45.7	49.5
14	Helen S. Edwards Elementary School	43.2	44.9	47.8
15	William J. Fischer Elementary School	49.3	65.3	73.8
16	Alcee Fortier High School	13.0	16.3	17.0
17	F.W. Gregory Junior High School	39.5	41.8	44.6
18	Paul B. Habans Elementary School	55.2	59.6	64.2
19	Murray Henderson Middle School	27.6	32.5	38.7
20	Andrew Jackson Elementary School	44.2	44.2	56.0
21	James Weldon Johnson School	37.6	37.7	41.9
22	John F. Kennedy Senior High School	25.1	25.3	26.1
23	Lafayette Elementary School	41.4	42.7	44.4
24	Thomy Lafon School	42.3	51.6	61.5
25	L.B. Landry High School	21.8	27.9	36.2
26	Lawless High School	25.7	28.8	30.0
27	Ronald G. McNair Elementary School	56.4	62.9	66.4
28	Little Woods Elementary School	47.2	51.6	57.0
29	McDonogh #15 Creative Arts Magnet School	55.4	61.6	66.2
30	Benjamin Banneker Elementary School	48.7	55.9	58.9
31	McDonogh #28 Middle School	34.5	33.9	49.5
32	Morris F.X. Jeff Elementary School	34.0	36.3	40.8
33	McDonogh #42 Elementary School	36.2	38.6	43.8
34	McDonogh #07 Elementary School	42.6	45.0	64.6
35	Harriet Tubman Elementary School	56.6	63.4	73.3
36	Lorraine Hansberry Elementary School	45.0	47.3	49.0
37	Rabouin Career Magnet High School	51.7	56.8	61.1



38	Sherwood Forest Elementary School	54.8	56.9	64.5
39	Langston Hughes Elementary School	45.6	48.1	54.8
40	Albert Wicker Elementary School	35.9	37.6	40.8
41	Sylvanie F. Williams School	46.4	48.8	51.5
42	Carter G. Woodson Middle School	24.8	36.8	50.4
43	Youth Study Center	3.6	14.9	15.9
44	New Orleans Free School	56.6	59.7	63.6
45	Frances Gaudet Elementary	48.3	49.4	49.4
46	Sarah Towles Reed Senior High School	36.2	39.1	42.7
47	Dr. M.L.K. Elem. School for Science & Tech.	69.6	75.4	81.8
48	James M. Singleton Charter Middle School	33.5	34.6	42.4
49	G.W. Carver High School	20.6	23.3	26.5
50	O.P. Walker Senior High School	27.0	34.4	41.1
51	Martin L. King Middle School	32.9	35.6	41.3

