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***AFRICAN-AMERICAN STUDENTS IN NEW ORLEANS CONTINUE TO OUT-PERFORM  
AFRICAN-AMERICAN STUDENTS STATEWIDE ON LEAP ASSESSMENT***

***Schools in New Orleans show 13 percent increase in students scoring mastery and  
above since 2012***

**NEW ORLEANS, LA** (August 4, 2016) – According to data released today by the Recovery School District (RSD) and Orleans Parish School Board (OPSB), African-American students in New Orleans out-performed their peers across the state on LEAP assessments in English Language Arts and math. 28 percent of African-American students in New Orleans scored at mastery and above compared to 24 percent across the state.

Students learning English in New Orleans also out-performed their peers across the state. 20 percent of students learning English scored mastery and above compared to 17 percent across the state.

Overall, citywide mastery and above scores on the LEAP exams in English Language Arts and math for students in grades 3-8 increased by 3 percentage points compared to 2015. Last year, 28 percent of students in Orleans Parish scored mastery and above; this year, 31 percent of students met that achievement level. Scoring mastery or above indicates that students have met or exceeded the expectations for that grade level and subject. The 2016 LEAP tests are part of a four-year baseline evaluation of student skills in Louisiana as the state transitions to higher expectations.

These latest figures show a continued pattern of growth in New Orleans since 2012, when 18 percent of students scored at mastery and above. The latest data shows 13 percentage points of growth since 2012.

“I commend our schools and educators for all of their hard work. This data is yet another example of the progress that our schools are making over time, and a reminder of the work ahead to ensure all students are prepared for academic success,” said OPSB Superintendent Dr. Henderson Lewis, Jr.

“As we continue to collect this baseline information during the state’s transition to higher expectations, we are heartened to see positive gains. Our schools are showing progress. At the same time, we know that much work remains to be done for all of our city’s students to achieve mastery and be fully prepared for the next level of education,” said RSD Superintendent Patrick Dobard.

*Figure 1: 2016 sub-groups % mastery and above (ELA and math)*

	African-American students	Economically disadvantaged students	Students with disabilities	Students learning English
State	24	30	12	17
RSD+OPSB	28	27	11	20

*Figure 2: ELA and math % basic and above; % mastery and above*

	% basic and above	% mastery and above
State	67	38
RSD+OPSB	61	31