

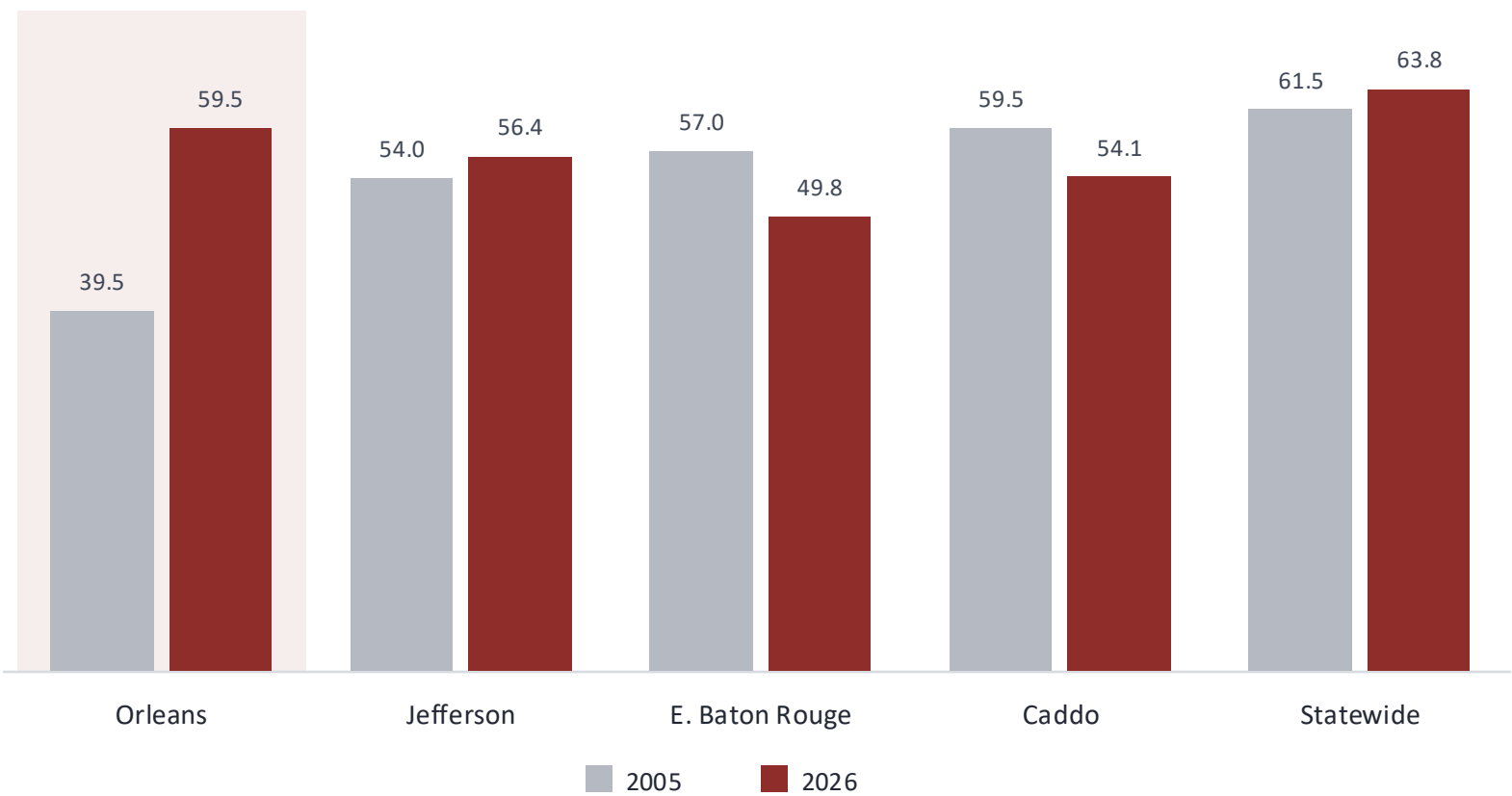
Unprecedented Change in One Generation

New Orleans Public High Schools: 2005 to 2026

Educate Now!

Twenty points up. The state moved two.

39.5% of Orleans students scored Basic or above in ELA & Math in 2005; 59.5% do today. Statewide the share went from 61.5% to 63.8%.



+20

point gain in the share of Orleans students at Basic or above, against 2 points statewide

Louisiana state tests. Percent of tested students scoring Basic or above. The 2005 GEE was a tenth-grade exit exam and today's tests are course-based, so the percentages are directional.

Next to last in 2005. Middle of the pack today.

Orleans climbed 28 places and passed Jefferson, East Baton Rouge, and Caddo.

2005

67th

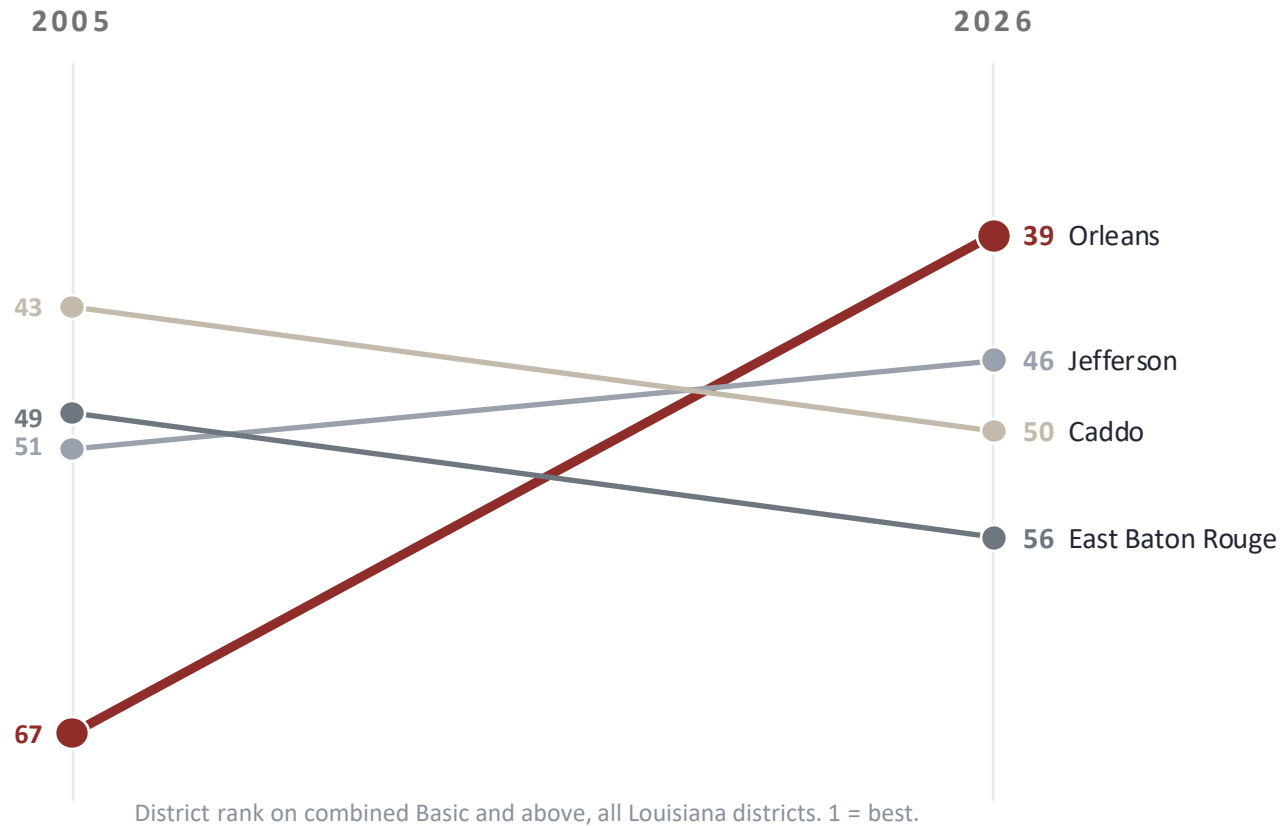
of 68 districts

2026

39th

of 69 districts

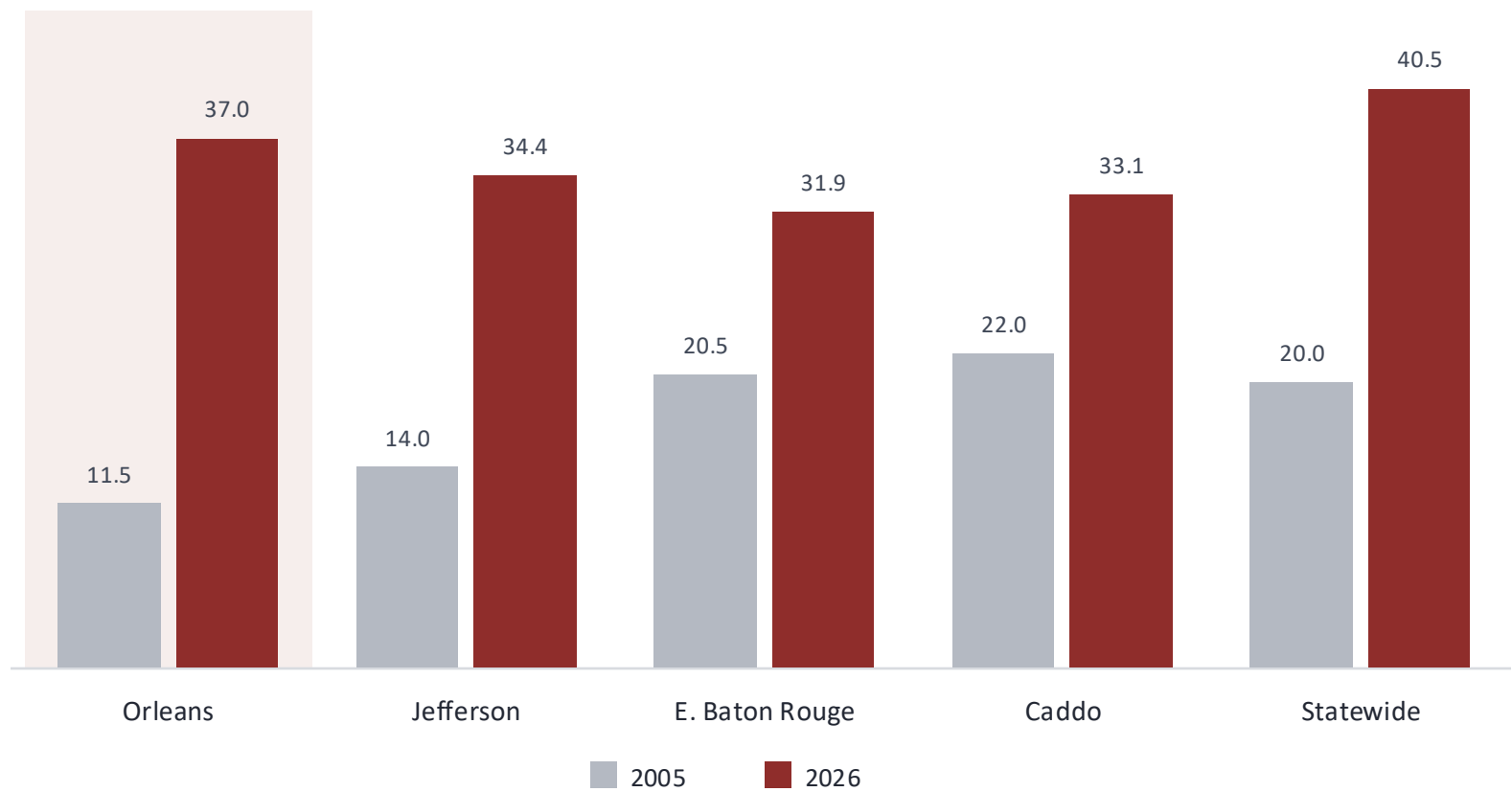
Up 28 places.



Louisiana state tests, combined English and math. English combines English I and II; Math combines Algebra I and Geometry, pooled by test-taker count; combined score is the equal-weight average of the two subjects in both years. Ranks among 68 districts in 2005 and 69 in 2026. Source: Louisiana Dept. of Education.

The share of students reaching Mastery more than tripled

11.5% of Orleans students reached Mastery in 2005; 37% do today. Orleans now ranks ahead of Jefferson, East Baton Rouge, and Caddo.



3.2x

growth in the share of Orleans students at Mastery or above

Rank: 56th of 68 in 2005, 34th of 69 in 2026.

2,000 fewer freshmen. 210 more graduates.

New Orleans' freshman class is close to 40% smaller than in 2005. It still produces more graduates.



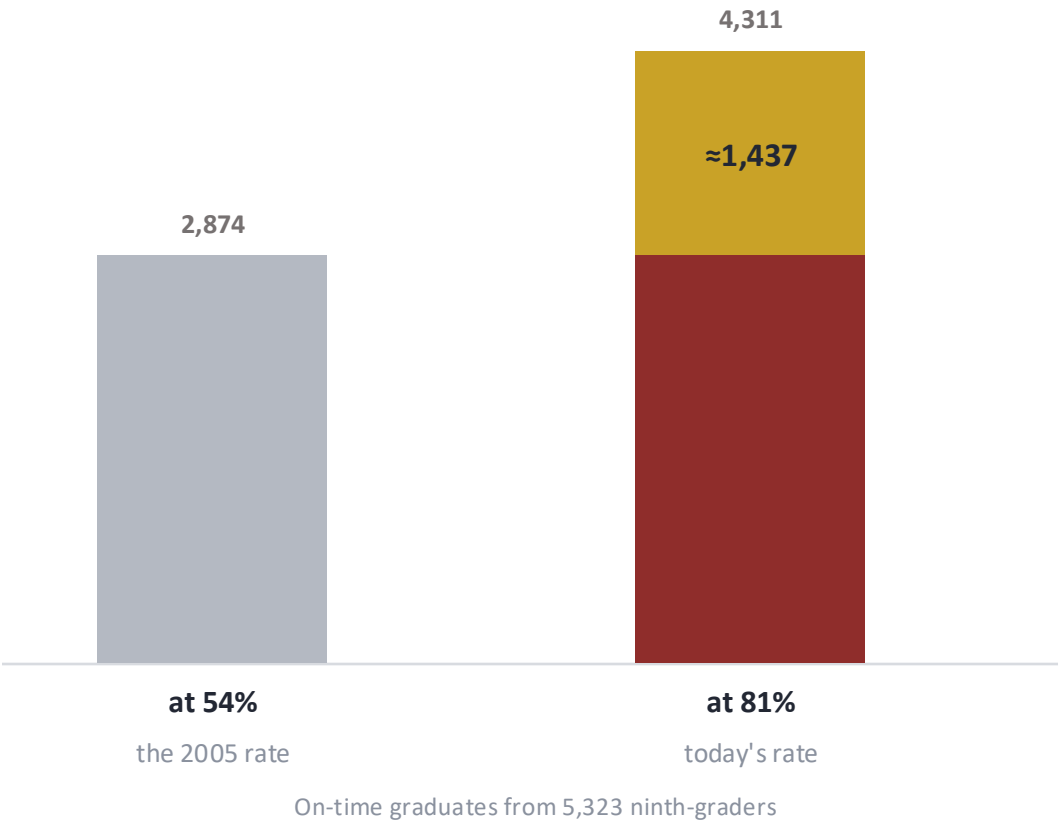
All Orleans public schools; Type 2 charters excluded. Total graduates includes 5th and 6th-year graduates and students enrolling after Oct 1 of junior year; both years required passing the exams for a diploma. Class of 2026 data not yet available. Source: Louisiana Student Transcript System.

If the class of 2005 had graduated at today's 81% cohort graduation rate instead of its actual 54%, **1,437** more students would have graduated.

27 point

growth in the share of Orleans students graduating

5,323 ninth-graders (2005 × the 27-point rate gap)



Source: Louisiana Dept. of Education.

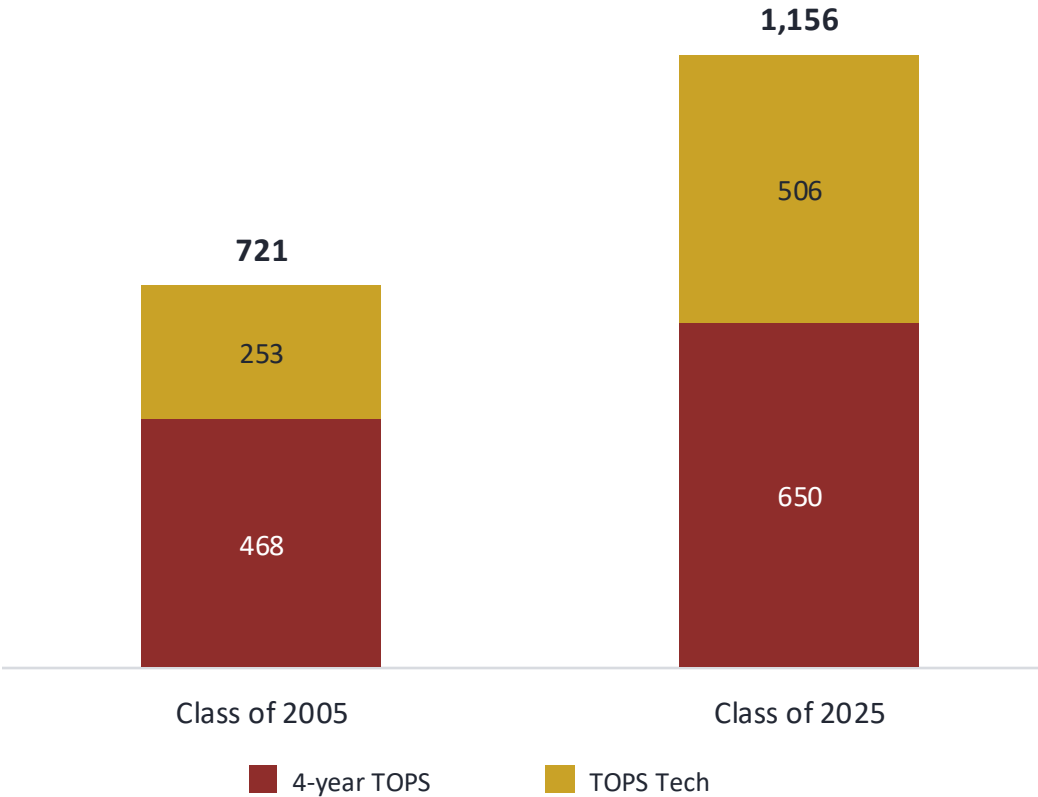
One in three freshmen now earns a TOPS scholarship

Total TOPS awards rose from 721 to 1,156 even as the freshman class shrank by 37%.

35%

of the freshman class earned a TOPS scholarship,
class of 2025

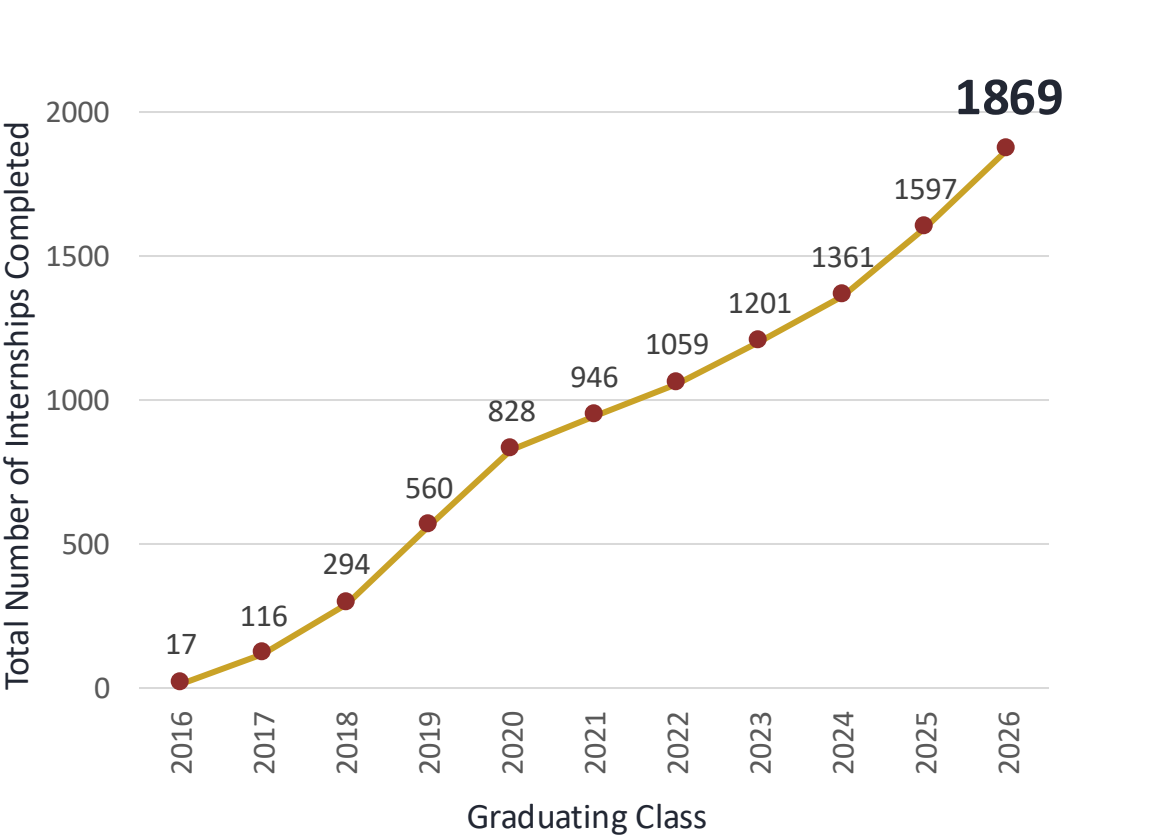
Up from 14% in 2005.



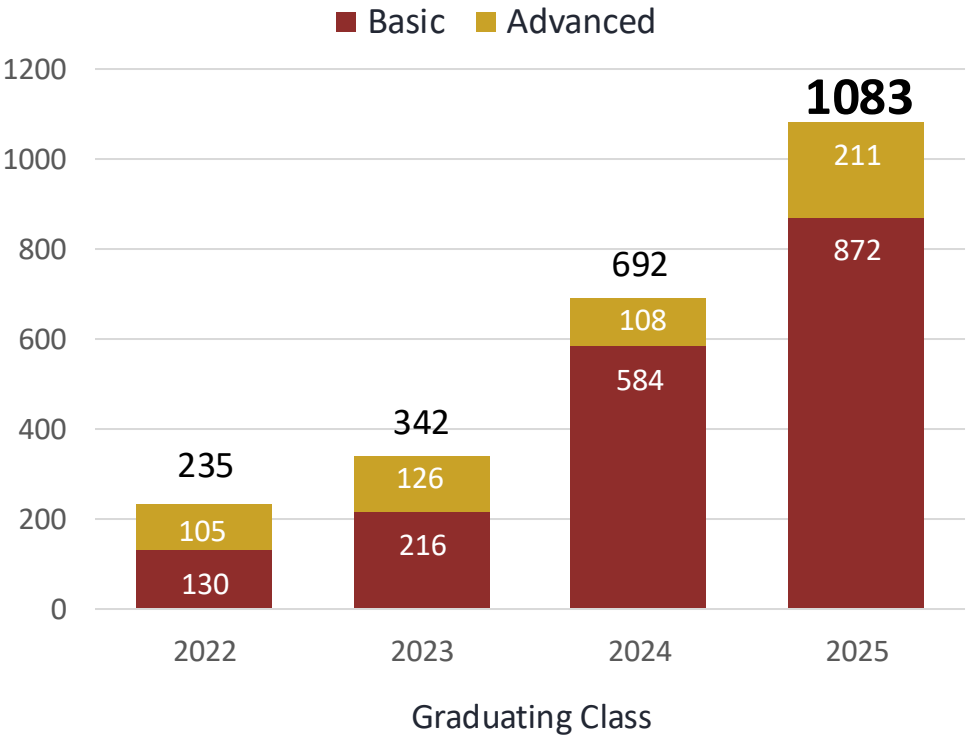
Source: [Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance](#)

More graduates are workforce ready

Internships Completed- Cumulative



Credentials Earned:
High-Wage High-Demand Pathways



Source: YouthForce NOLA.

What this means for New Orleans: A stronger workforce, more economic opportunity for our young people and less crime.

Better prepared workforce

More high school graduates

37% Mastery English & Math

35% industry credentials

More grads with work experience

More economic opportunities for graduates

35% TOPS eligible

High school graduates earn \$191 more per week (\$9000 more per year)

High quality internships & IBCs: alumni make \$3.10 per hour (\$6500 per year) more than their peers

Reduction in crime

Dropouts are 8x as likely to be incarcerated; 3.5x more likely to be arrested in their lifetime

Better school engagement improves impulse control, social bonds & future orientation

Basic and above: percent of tested students and district rank

District	2005 %	2005 rank	2026 %	2026 rank	Change
Orleans	39.5	67 / 68	59.5	39 / 69	+28
Jefferson	54.0	51 / 68	56.4	46 / 69	+5
East Baton Rouge	57.0	49 / 68	49.8	56 / 69	-7
Caddo	59.5	43 / 68	54.1	50 / 69	-7
Statewide	61.5	--	63.8	--	--

Mastery and above: percent of tested students and district rank

District	2005 %	2005 rank	2026 %	2026 rank	Change
Orleans	11.5	56 / 68	37.0	34 / 69	+22
Jefferson	14.0	50 / 68	34.4	42 / 69	+8
East Baton Rouge	20.5	28 / 68	31.9	49 / 69	-21
Caddo	22.0	21 / 68	33.1	47 / 69	-26
Statewide	20.0	--	40.5	--	--

Source: Louisiana Dept. of Education.

Similar student demographic profile: Oct 1, 2004 vs Oct 1, 2025

Measure	Oct 1, 2004	Oct 1, 2025	Change
Students enrolled	65,610	43,664	-21,946
Minority students	96.5%	92%	-4.5 pts
Economically disadvantaged	77%	82%	+5 pts
<i>2004 measure is free or reduced lunch; 2025 measure is economically disadvantaged</i>			

Oct 1 enrollment counts, all Orleans public schools. The 2025 count includes preK. The 2004 poverty measure is the share of students qualifying for free or reduced lunch; today’s measure is economically disadvantaged. Definitions differ, so the shares are directional. Minority = all students other than white, non-Hispanic. Source: Louisiana Dept. of Education.