

## **Beauregard Achieves Graduation Rate Above 90 Percent for Sixth Consecutive Year**

The Louisiana Department of Education (DOE) has released the 2018 cohort data for graduation rates which shows Beauregard Parish is among the top twenty districts in the state and has maintained a rate above 90 percent for six consecutive years, according to Timothy J. Cooley, Superintendent of Beauregard Parish schools.

The 2018 graduating class in Beauregard Parish had a 93.5 percent graduation rate. This ranking places Beauregard Parish as one of 24 districts among the 70 reported districts in the state to have a graduation rate above 90 percent.

The state changed the rating system this year to include all districts with a graduation rate above 95 percent in one category without further differentiation. There were ten districts that scored in this category, tying for the top rank in the state. Of those districts scoring below 95 percent, Beauregard Parish falls seventh in rank order by highest percentage, said Cooley.

“This is the thirteenth year that the state has issued graduation rate data,” he continued, “and Beauregard Parish has been among the top twenty school districts in the state each of the thirteen years and among the top ten highest scores each of the thirteen years. In addition, we have maintained a graduation rate above 90 percent for six consecutive years.”

The Department of Education has set a goal of all districts achieving a 90 percent graduation rate or higher by 2025. Louisiana uses a Cohort Completion Rate analysis which tracks students entering the ninth grade through graduation. For the current standings, information was compiled over a four year period beginning with the 2014-2015 school year and ending in the spring of 2018.

Students who entered high school as first-time freshmen in the fall of 2014 were tracked through the time of graduation. A graduate is defined as a student who received a high school diploma in four years.

Graduation rates are used in the Department of Education’s evaluation of high schools, counting for 25 percent of the School Performance Score. The overall graduation rate for the state was 81.4 percent.

The goal of the Beauregard Parish school system is to provide excellence in education with a mission to graduate students who are prepared to meet the challenges of post-secondary education or careers, Cooley continued.

“Graduation is the ultimate goal of our school system and the result of persistence on the part of students, teachers, parents, and administrators,” Cooley concluded. “We will continue to provide every opportunity to help Beauregard Parish students attain their high school diploma and prepare them for a successful future.”