

# **BRAC's Regional Education and Talent Report**

**2018 – 2019 School Year  
Part One**

*Produced by BRAC's Economic Competitiveness team, which serves as the organization's policy, research and advocacy arm. The Economic Competitiveness team acts as a change agent for the region's business community, working to identify and improve policies, laws, regulations, and institutions that impact the area's ability to attract and retain a high-quality workforce.*

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## Where to Begin? An Annual Benchmarking Analysis

BRAC's Regional Education and Talent Report is an annual resource used to track the Capital Region's education performance outcomes from the foundations of early childhood education to the region's post-secondary attainment. The Regional Education and Talent Report seeks to provide a singular resource to answer four questions:

- What is regional public education today?
- Are our regional education outcomes getting better or worse?
- How does our region compare to other regions?
- Are we addressing the regional workforce needs?

To answer these questions, BRAC compiles the myriad of measures used to evaluate education attainment across the continuum. Early education center performance, K-12 "A" through "F" District and School Performance Scores, graduation rates, and post-secondary certifications are prime indicators used as a benchmark for proficiency in the Capital Region. In addition to student achievement metrics, BRAC examines attributes of the region's school systems such as finances, enrollment trends, and the East Baton Rouge public school portfolio of options.

BRAC releases the analysis in two parts as data becomes available:

- Part One: Early Childhood Education, Regional District Performance, and Regional Proficiency in English and Math
- Part Two: School Choice Performance and Enrollment, College and Career Readiness, K-12 System Attributes, Higher Ed Outcomes, and Talent Demand

## The Talent Development Continuum: Cradle to Career

Education attainment at any stage of the talent development continuum is a key indicator of a region's economic health. Realizing the importance of a skilled workforce to economic development, BRAC's five-year strategic plan provides the foundation for all of its education and workforce policy initiatives in two of the plan's four pillars:

- Goal 2: Cultivate the Region's Talent
- Goal 3: Transform the Baton Rouge Area's Quality of Life

For the Baton Rouge Area to stay economically competitive, the region must address gaps in its current and future workforce. To properly understand the readiness of the region's talent pipeline, the community should view talent development as a continuum. The Talent Development Continuum is comprised of three phases in the life of a Capital Region resident:

- Early Childhood Education
- K-12 Benchmarks
- Post-Secondary Attainment

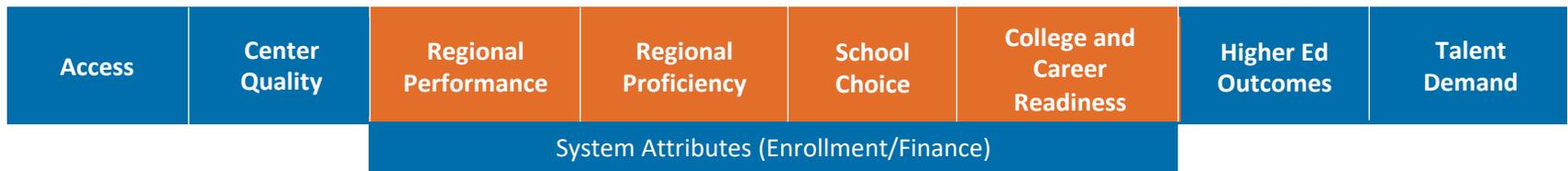
The premise of the continuum is that talent development doesn't start with high school graduation and end with a post-secondary credential. It is a continuous process extending from the birth of a child to the successful entrance into the Capital Region's workforce and beyond. It is equally the duty of regional education institutions and the area business community to seize every opportunity to expose students to high-quality programs and pathways that lead to a successful career. In so doing, we will ensure a skilled workforce pipeline for a sustainable and expanding economy.

### Talent Development Continuum: Cradle to Career

#### Early Childhood Education

#### K-12

#### Post-Secondary and Adult Attainment



# 2018-2019 Executive Summary

## A Year of Changes: Progress in the Capital Region

Annually, BRAC analyzes a consistent set of achievement measures to track year-over-year changes. These indicators not only provide a baseline for judging improvement, but also provides expectations for where the Capital Region is headed in the future. The following are highlights from this year’s school performance scores and the changes from the 2017-2018 Education and Talent Report.

### Early Childhood Education (ECE)

#### Regional Access

- Capital Region ECE systems that serve birth-2 have increased from 82 percent in 2018 to 91 percent in 2019.
- Point Coupee increased its cohort of at-risk birth to three-year-olds enrolled in ECE to 30-49 percent in 2019, making it the system serving the most at-risk birth to three-year-olds in the region.
- Both East Feliciana and Zachary decreased in the percent of at-risk birth to three-year-old enrolled in their systems.

#### Regional Proficiency

- Early childhood centers have improved across the region, 78 percent of centers are proficient or better as compared to 75 percent in 2018.
- Six Capital Region ECE systems have improved their overall score on classroom quality.
- Four systems (East Feliciana, West Feliciana, Livingston, and St. Helena) fell in overall classroom quality in 2019.

## Regional Academic Performance

### District Performance

- Capital Region districts have increased the number of schools performing above a “C” letter grade to 53 percent from 44 percent in 2018.
- Four Capital Region districts increased their ‘A through F’ letter grade.
  - Central Community Schools and West Feliciana moved up from (B) districts to (A).
  - West Baton Rouge and Iberville progressed from (C) districts to (B).
- Zachary School District remains the top performing school district in the state, receiving 95.9 of 150 possible points (A), followed by Ascension Parish scoring 92.3 (A).
- East Baton Rouge’s “Innovation Network” schools saw impressive gains in School Performance Scores. Progress Elementary grew the most, adding over 8 points from 53.4 (D) to 62 (C), followed by Park Forest Elementary which grew over 6 points from 55.5 (D) to 61.9 (C).

### Regional Academic Proficiency

#### English Language Arts (ELA)

- Capital Region fourth grade students have increased their scores on LEAP 2025 exams, increasing the number of students scoring mastery or above to 50 percent.
- In 2018 50 percent of eighth grade students in the Capital Region were proficient in ELA, in 2019 53 percent of students are achieving proficiency.

#### Mathematics

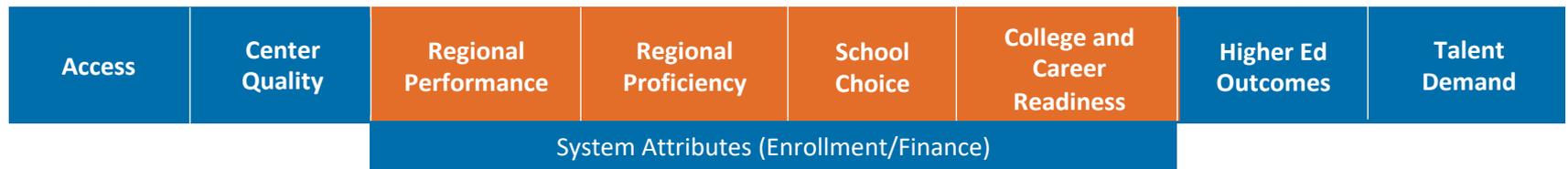
- The Capital Region has seen an increase in students performing at mastery or above on state assessments in both fourth and eighth grade math, increasing to 44 and 33 percent respectively.

## Talent Development Continuum: Cradle to Career

### Early Childhood Education

### K-12

### Post-Secondary and Adult Attainment



# Early Childhood Education

## Regional Access

**100%** of systems provide Pre-K (3)  
**91%** of systems provide Birth-2

## Regional Proficiency

**Classroom Quality**  
**78%**  
of Capital Region childcare centers are proficient or better

System	At-risk cohort of 0-3 enrolled	System	At-risk cohort of 0-3 enrolled
Ascension	0-10%	Pointe Coupee	30-49%
EBR/Baker	11-29%	St. Helena	11-29%
Central	0-10%	WBR	11-29%
East Feliciana	0-10%	West Feliciana	11-29%
Iberville	11-29%	Zachary	0-10%
Livingston	0-10%		

System	Overall score on classroom quality out of 7	System	Overall score on classroom quality out of 7
Ascension	4.77	Pointe Coupee	5.01
EBR/Baker	4.96	St. Helena	5.37
Central	5.27	WBR	5.16
East Feliciana	4.99	West Feliciana	5.27
Iberville	5.16	Zachary	5.37
Livingston	5.33		



## Getting a Head Start on Early Education

In the 2018-2019 school year, the East Baton Rouge Parish Early Childhood Community Network increased the number of students served in high quality sites at each age level in the birth to age three range, but are seeking to increase the service number even more with the state “Ready Start” designation. Ready Start EBR will increase quality and access for children aged birth to three through a number of strategies. The 2018-2019 data from the Louisiana Department of Education shows that there is an at-risk cohort of 3,298 at each age level. For the three-year-old age group, EBR is only serving 1,252 (38 percent) of that at-risk cohort. Further, only 1,065 of those three year-olds seated in a program are actually in a “high quality” site. The network is addressing the quality and access gap at the three-year-old-age range first.

## BRAC 5-year Strategic Goal

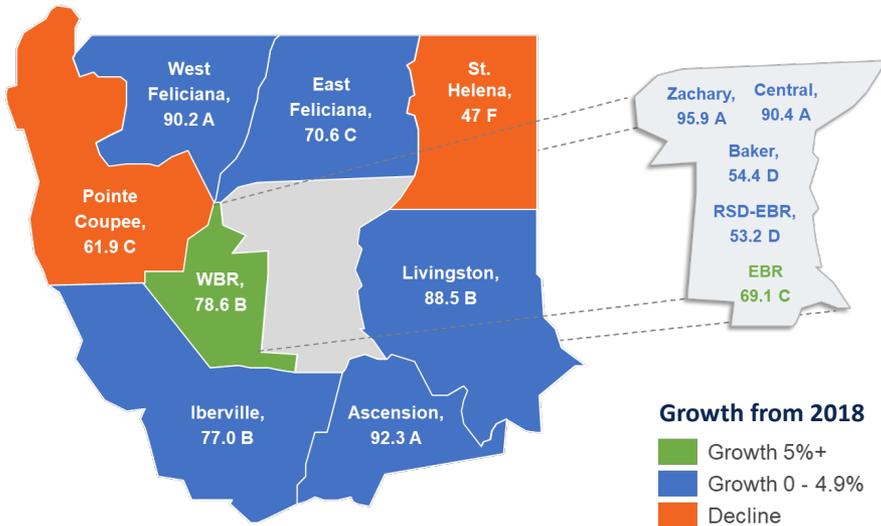
### Transform the Baton Rouge Area’s Quality of Life

*“Support efforts to increase access to Early Childhood Education for children aged birth to 5”*

# Regional Academic Performance

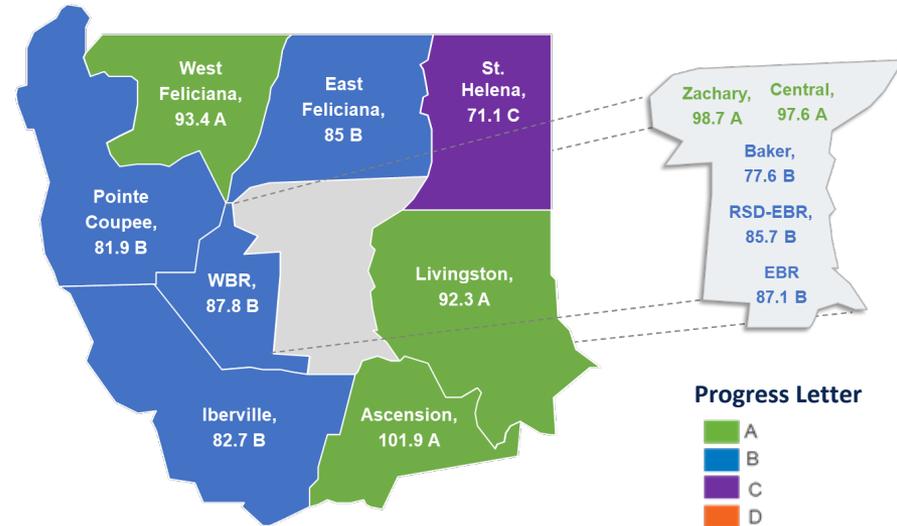
## District Performance

**53%** of Capital Region schools are performing above a "C" letter grade



## Progress Index

**#1** For the second year in a row, **Ascension Parish** students showed top growth statewide



## Growing Towards Mastery: The Progress Index

The Capital Region has improved an average of 1.9 percent overall. This signifies a stabilization after the immediate drop in 2017-2018 due to changes in school performance metrics as the state continues to move towards higher accountability standards. **The Student Progress Index** measures how well students, regardless of where they start at the beginning of the year, are progressing toward "Mastery" throughout the year. Now accounting for 25 percent of elementary and middle schools' overall performance score, parents have more insight than ever into a school's ability to meet students where they are and help them improve.

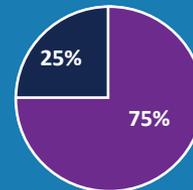
Source: Louisiana Dept. of Education

\* Strength of diploma = Achievement data based on college credit exams and industry based credentials

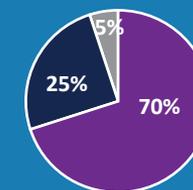
\* Credit Accumulation in 9<sup>th</sup> grade = Credits earned through the 9<sup>th</sup> grade

## 2019 Performance Metrics

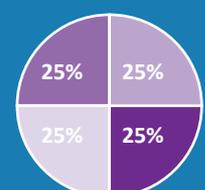
### Elementary School



### Elementary/Middle School



### High School



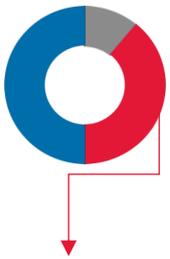
● State Assessment Performance   
 ● Student Progress   
 ● Credit Accumulation in 9<sup>th</sup> grade   
 ● Graduation Rate   
 ● ACT/WorkKeys   
 ● Strength of Diploma

# Regional Academic Proficiency

## English Language Arts

### Literacy Benchmark

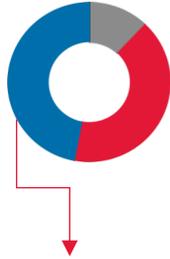
#### 4th Grade Proficiency



**50%**

of 4<sup>th</sup> grade students in the Capital Region are **achieving proficiency.**

#### 8th Grade Proficiency



**47%**

of 8<sup>th</sup> grade students in the Capital Region are **below proficiency.**

■ Below Mastery    
 ■ Mastery    
 ■ Advanced

## Math

### STEM Benchmark

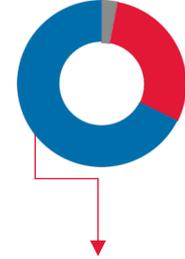
#### 4th Grade Proficiency



**44%**

of 4<sup>th</sup> grade students in the Capital Region are **achieving proficiency.**

#### 8th Grade Proficiency



**67%**

of 8<sup>th</sup> grade students in the Capital Region are **below proficiency.**

■ Below Mastery    
 ■ Mastery    
 ■ Advanced



### Preparing the Future Workforce through STEM Education

Creating chemistry in Louisiana for more than 60 years, BASF is a key partner in education and workforce development. Through development and support of science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) programs, BASF inspires local talent to pursue careers in industry, and partners with school and community leaders to enhance career and technical education awareness. Since 2015, more than 150 students have participated in BASF's TECH Academy at River Parishes Community College, a week-long summer program that provides rising high school juniors and seniors opportunities to learn about technical and craft careers. Through BRAC's Pathways to Prosperity Fellowship, local educators learn about jobs in industry first-hand by spending a week at BASF's site in Geismar.

### BRAC 5-year Strategic Goal

#### Cultivate the Region's Talent

*"Expand STEM learning and partnerships in PK-12 public education"*

***Louisiana has the highest improvement in Mathematics for 8<sup>th</sup> grade students.***

– 2019 NAEP Scores