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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

St. Mary Parish Continues to Outperform State in Academic Measures

District and school performance scores were released by the Louisiana Department of Education on Thursday. The move to a significantly more rigorous state accountability formula prompted the state to provide districts and schools with two performance scores, one using the prior formula and one using the new more rigorous formula. St. Mary's 2018 District Performance Score (DPS) using the prior formula is 101, which demonstrates 1.3 points of growth from 2017 and a letter grade of "A". According to the new scale, schools and districts must attain a score of 90 to receive an "A" letter grade, which takes into consideration the increased proficiency testing standard and changes in the method used to calculate performance scores. St. Mary Parish's DPS on the new formula is 81.9 equating to a "B" letter grade. Despite the increased performance standards, St. Mary continues to outpace the state whose performance score on the new formula is 76.1, equivalent to a 93 on the prior formula.

Additionally, beginning in 2018, a new component was added to the accountability system. Twenty-five percent of the SPS for elementary and junior high schools is now derived from an index measure called Student Progress. For high schools, this newly added progress index comprises 12.5% of the school performance score. Student progress is a measure used to determine if a student is on track to meet the proficiency level of "Mastery" by 8th grade or by 10th grade assessments in Geometry/English II. Therefore, each school and district received an additional letter grade to reflect performance on the new progress measure. St. Mary Parish earned a Progress Index of 89, one point from "A" status. Additionally, over half of St. Mary schools were recognized by the state as "Top Gains Honorees" indicating that they received a letter grade of "A" for the Student Progress Index. Top Gains Honorees include; J.S. Aucoin Elementary, Bayou Vista Elementary, Berwick Elementary, Berwick Junior High, Berwick High, Franklin Junior High, LaGrange Elementary, Patterson High, Hattie Watts Elementary, Wyandotte Elementary, M.E. Norman Elementary, and B. Edward Boudreaux Middle School.

Six schools also received the label of "Equity Honoree" indicating that they outperformed 90% of all schools across the various student groups and received no intervention labels. The schools include; J.S. Aucoin Elementary, Berwick High, Patterson High, Wyandotte Elementary, M.E. Norman Elementary, and West. St. Mary High.

In recognition of schools showing exceptional letter grade ratings, the St. Mary Parish School Board commends three schools for achieving grade "A" status: Berwick High (102.8), Patterson High (92.1), and Morgan City High (91.3). Also receiving honor roll status are the ten "B" schools: Bayou Vista Elementary (87.7), West St. Mary High (87.2), Wyandotte Elementary (85.4), J.S. Aucoin Elementary (83.8), Berwick Junior High (83.6), Berwick Elementary (82.9), Hattie Watts Elementary (82.6), M.E. Norman Elementary (80.6), Centerville High (78.1), and Franklin High (77.1). Further recognition is extended to six "C" schools: Morgan City Junior High (73.6), B. Edward Boudreaux (70.6), Patterson Junior High (69.6), Franklin Junior High (66.4), Raintree Elementary (65.2), and W.P. Foster Elementary (62.8). The remaining "D" schools, LaGrange Elementary (56.6) and Maitland Elementary (54.9) are working to analyze and adjust instruction given test results released by the state that will promote performance gains this school year.

The department also announced the list of Early Childhood Education (ECE) programs that have earned a spot on the state's "Honor Roll" as a result of high performance in the 2017-2018 school year. The Honor Roll recognizes programs that have achieved a rating of "Excellent," the highest possible rating, on the annual performance evaluation. The evaluation tool that informs the rating is used nationally and internationally, meaning the sites on this list are among the best in the world. Two schools achieved the rating for a second consecutive year and deserve commendation: M.E. Norman Elementary and J.B. Maitland Elementary.

Superintendent Leonard Armato issued a statement of commendation to all schools for their daily commitment to educational excellence. "St. Mary Parish continues to show its ability to sustain exceptional growth and remain a top-performing school district in the state. The efforts of teachers, students, administrators, and instructional staff clearly illustrates a deep commitment to educational success. The release of 2018 performance data offers additional evidence of the devotion seen in our classrooms every day.