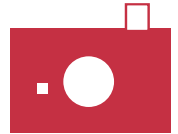


2002-2003

Louisiana State

Education Progress Report



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Louisiana Department of Education
Cecil J. Picard
State Superintendent of Education
April 2004

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The Louisiana Department of Education dedicates the *2002-2003 Louisiana State Education Progress Report* to Mr. Paul Pastorek, who served the children of Louisiana well as a member and past president of the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education. Mr. Pastorek recognized the value of this publication as a planning and decision-making tool for those with an interest in improving public education in Louisiana. He made invaluable suggestions which improved the quality and analysis of the data presented. His vision and guidance will be missed as he leaves the board to pursue other endeavors.

Appreciation is extended to students and staff of schools at which the pictures for this publication were taken. The cooperation of photographers whose work is featured in this publication and of the newspapers that provided reprints is also commended. Special gratitude is bestowed to the staff of the Louisiana Department of Education and Mark Mossavat of MMCS Consulting, LLC, for their efforts in the publication of this report.