INADEQUATE LEADERSHIP, RESOURCES AND ATTENTION HAVE RESULTED IN THE PARISH'S LOWEST PERFORMING SCHOOL

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It's been a rocky road for J.W. Faulk Elementary School. For more than a decade, its academic scores have been some of the district's worst. When the Louisiana Department of Education released school performance ratings last fall, Faulk received the parish's only F, with a 34.4 score. About 37 percent of its students performed at an unsatisfactory level on standardized tests, and 31 percent were at the next lowest level, approaching basic.

"What that says to me is that can't exist anymore," Superintendent Pat Cooper said of the school's alarmingly low score. "Whatever created that score can't exist anymore."

It's a critical juncture for J.W. Faulk, whose score last year was more than 16 points below the next lowest-performing school, Alice Boucher Elementary. Besides the score, the state has deemed Faulk to be academically unacceptable for two consecutive years, a move that gives parents the option to move their children to another school. Last year, about 100 parents took advantage of that option.

If Faulk receives AUS status for two more years, it would become eligible for a state takeover.

This month, Cooper will present the Lafayette Parish School Board with a comprehensive report on Faulk's status, its challenges and several ideas for how See FAULK, Page 6A

School board pledges more improvements. Page 3A
What can be done to help Faulk? Page 4A
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...but it's going to be differ-

Basic needs are not being met...

Some of their basic needs were not...