Who Failed Faulk?

The Louisiana Department of Education releases school performance scores. The formula has been adjusted periodically since the system was started in the late 1990s, but in general, an elementary school's grade is based on student scores on annual tests in English language arts, math, science and social studies. Lafayette Parish maintained an A grade in the latest school performance report. The grading scale assigns an A to schools with scores between 95 and 100. A grade of 84.9 to 94.9 is an A-. An A- is assigned to any school scoring below 95. There are 9 A schools, 7 A- schools, 10 B schools and 10 D schools in the parish. Below is a look at J.W. Faulk's overall annual scores.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1999-2000</td>
<td>B</td>
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<td>2000-2001</td>
<td>B</td>
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<td>2001-2002</td>
<td>B</td>
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<td>2002-2003</td>
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<td>2003-2004</td>
<td>B</td>
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<td>2004-2005</td>
<td>B</td>
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<td>2005-2006</td>
<td>B</td>
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<td>2006-2007</td>
<td>B</td>
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<tr>
<td>2007-2008</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008-2009</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
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<td>2009-2010</td>
<td>A</td>
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</tbody>
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Hicks is concerned with that growth and is instead focused on finding the year on a positive note. After the winter DIBELs tests showed that more than half of Faulk's first- and third-grade students need intensive reading help, Hicks began working to help teachers adjust their instruction by using more research-based methods, individualization and for taking suggestions from other elementary schools with higher scores. Faulk also has a 30-minute Response to Intervention periods each day - one to focus on English Language Arts and the other for math.

Hicks is a strong proponent of Faulk's development kindergartens, ten class, designed for children three to five years old and are academically below average, placed in academic assistance; minimal academic growth) (one star on state rating system; placed in academic assistance; no growth) (one star on state rating system; placed in academic assistance; no growth)

Kathryn Post, an intern teaching a developmental kindergarten class, works with a student May 2 at J.W. Faulk Elementary in Lafayette.

"You've got to get the community involved, and it's kind of hard for them to find the time, or in some cases, even get them motivated to do it. It's not easy, but it's critical."

Mike Hefner
Lafayette Parish School Board Member

The students - I don't even think they are bad kids, it's just the atmosphere they come from," Chrestia said. "It's a stress. They are just acting out because of the stress. They go to school, and they're not even ready. They don't know how to function, and they look back to and the possibility that they can slide backwards in the afternoon," Hefner said. "You've got to get the community involved and it's kind of hard for them to find the time, or even get them motivated to do it. It's not easy, but it's critical."

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