

# Report gives teachers an 'A'

BATON ROUGE (AP) — Ninety-eight percent of beginning public school teachers passed their state evaluations last year and were found competent to teach in Louisiana classrooms, according to a new report.

"We think it was outstandingly successful .. We're getting excellent reports," Superintendent of Education Raymond Arveson said

Only 21 of the 972 new teachers assessed under the revamped statewide teacher evaluation program came up short and must be checked again during the coming school year

Those who still do not pass will not be certified as experienced teachers and could be fired.

The report did not give a district-by-district breakdown or indicate which parishes the failed teachers were working in

The 951 starting teachers who passed the evaluation program were recommended for certification by the state

State evaluators judged public school teachers last school year for the first time since the Legislature suspended former Gov. Buddy Roemer's statewide evaluation program in 1991.

Roemer wanted the state to test every teacher. The revised program calls for the state to evaluate new teachers and for local districts to evaluate experienced teachers using new state guidelines

The Legislature decided that the state would judge only beginning teachers after the state's largest teacher organizations complained Roemer's program was unfair and unworkable

The state Department of Education has yet to put together results for last school year on the success and failure rates of experienced teachers when they were judged by their local school districts

The state's larger teacher organizations, the Louisiana Association of Educators and the Louisiana Federation of Teachers, made no complaints when the report was presented to the state Board of Elementary and Secondary Education