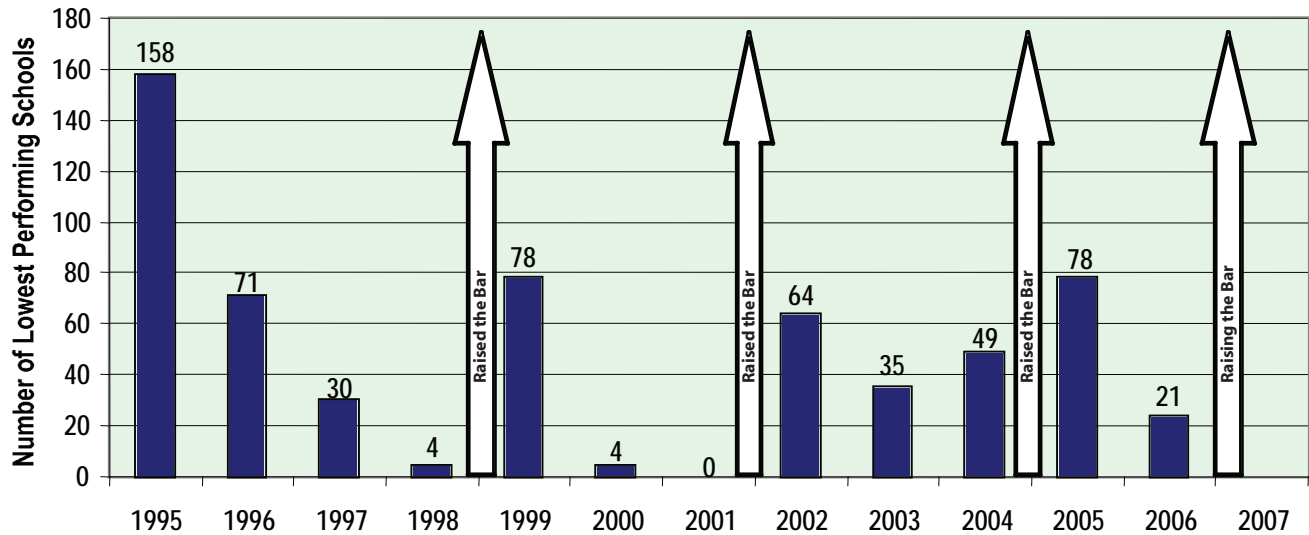


Raising Standards and Higher Accountability Lead to Improved Student Performance



In 2007, the bar will be raised again. Science, the lowest 25 percent in Mathematics, and Grade 11 and 12 FCAT retakes will be included in the school grade calculation.

Due to provisions in A++ legislation (House Bill 7087, sections 46 and 47), alternative schools have the option to not be included in school grade calculations. As a result, 22 schools that would have earned an "F" earned a points-only grade in 2006.

As expectations for school performance increase, Florida schools are rising to the occasion. The number of low performing schools has decreased to 21 in 2006, from 158 in 1995, 71 in 1996, 30 in 1997, 4 in 1998, (then the standards were raised) 78 in 1999, 4 in 2000, 0 in 2001 (then the standards were raised again), 64 in 2002, 35 in 2003, 49 in 2004, (then the standards were raised) and 78 in 2005. Standards will be raised again for the 2007 school year when Science, the lowest 25 percent in Mathematics, and Grade 11 and 12 FCAT retakes are included in the school grade calculation.

Source: Florida Department of Education