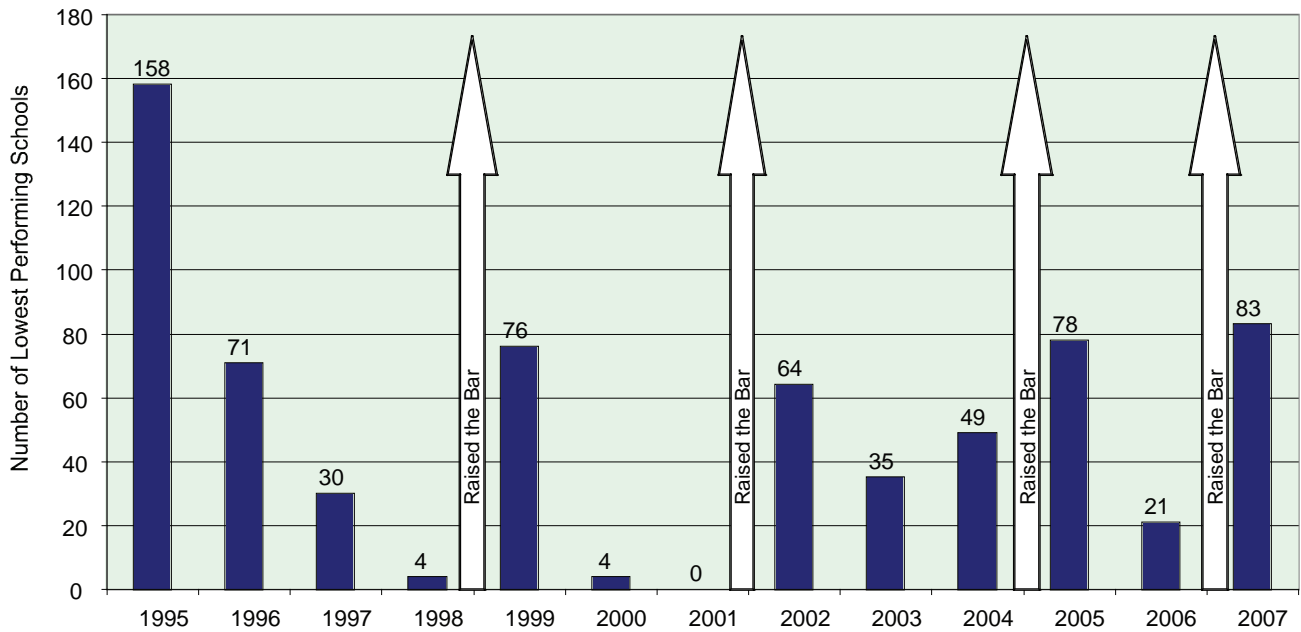


Raising Standards and Higher Accountability Lead to Improved Student Performance



As expectations for school performance increase, Florida schools are rising to the occasion. The number of low performing schools has decreased to 83 (after standards were raised) in 2007, from 158 in 1995, increased from 71 in 1996, 30 in 1997, 4 in 1998, (then the standards were raised) 76 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 again) 78 in 2005, and 21 in 2006. In 2007, the bar was raised again when science, learning gains of the lowest 25% in mathematics, and bonus points for Grade 11 and 12 FCAT retakes were included in the school grade calculation.

Source: Florida Department of Education