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## Higher Rates vs. Higher Equity: Who Wins?

The answer isn't obvious

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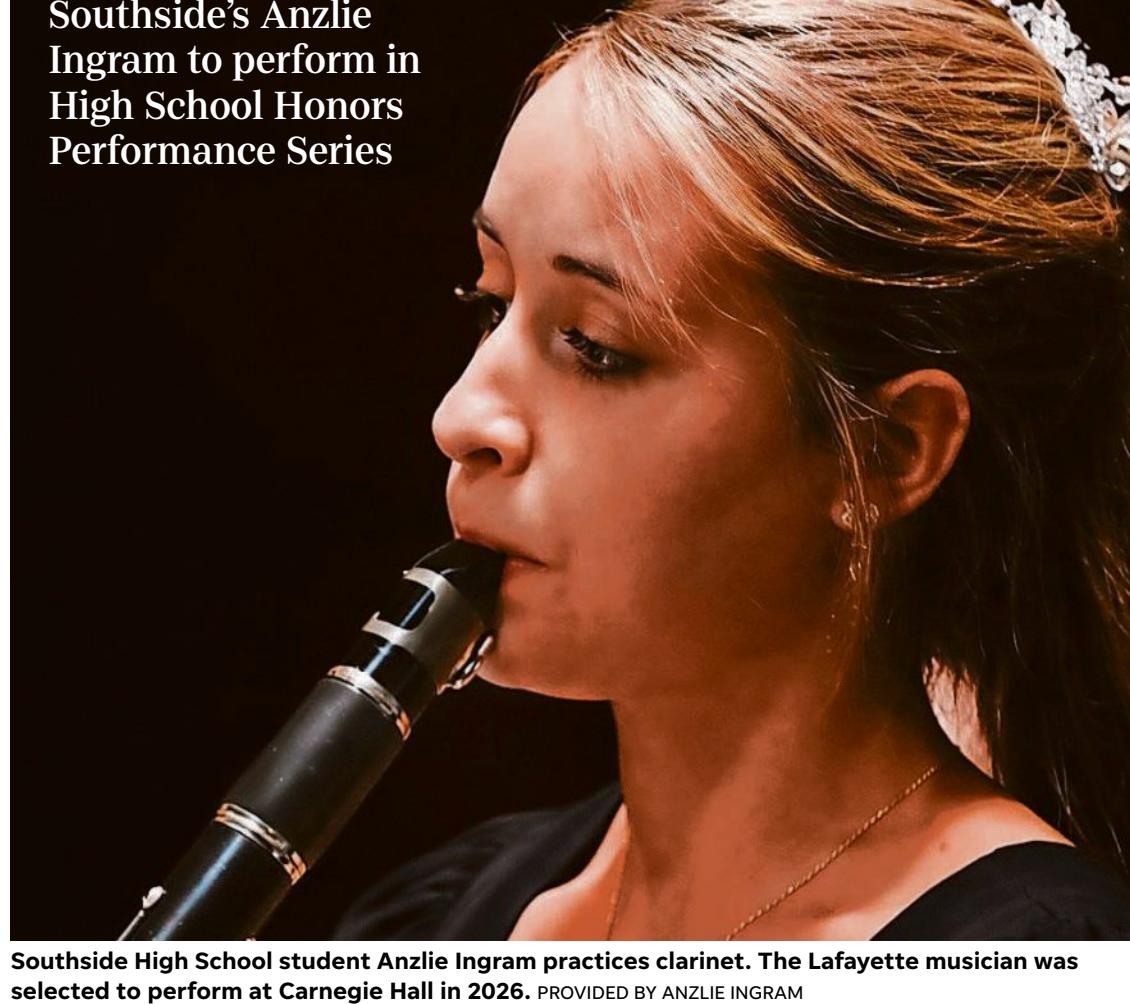
# THE COURIER

SATURDAY-SUNDAY, JANUARY 17 - 18, 2026 | HOUTODAY.COM

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

## From Lafayette to Carnegie Hall

Southside's Anzlie Ingram to perform in High School Honors Performance Series



Southside High School student Anzlie Ingram practices clarinet. The Lafayette musician was selected to perform at Carnegie Hall in 2026. PROVIDED BY ANZLIE INGRAM

Aaron Gonsoulin Lafayette Daily Advertiser | USA TODAY NETWORK

For Anzlie Ingram, music has never been just an extracurricular activity. • It has been an eight-year journey of discipline, growth and discovery — one that soon will take her to one of the world's most iconic stages. • The Southside High School student has been selected to perform in the High School Honors Performance Series at Carnegie Hall, a distinction reserved for top high school musicians from around the globe. Ingram will perform clarinet with the Honors Band during a public concert scheduled Feb. 8, 2026, in New York City. **See INGRAM, Page 3A**

## LA among worst school systems in US

Presley Bo Tyler  
Shreveport Times  
USA TODAY NETWORK

When it comes to a child's academic success, it's important to choose the right schools.

However, where you live can matter greatly, as some states have better school systems than others.

In order to determine the top-per-

forming school systems in the U.S., WalletHub compared states across factors like performance, funding, safety, class size and instructor credentials.

**Louisiana among states with the worst school systems according to WalletHub**

The state of Louisiana is among the ten states with the worst school sys-

tems for 2026, ranking number 44, according to WalletHub.

Additionally, within WalletHub's study, Louisiana has a quality rank of 42 and a safety rank of 48.

Louisiana also ranked among the six states with the lowest median ACT score, tying at number 44 with Mississippi and North Carolina.

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## Landry: LA DOGE program saves \$1B

Greg Hilburn  
Shreveport Times  
USA TODAY NETWORK

Louisiana Gov. Jeff Landry reported annual savings of \$1 billion achieved through his state version of DOGE, the Department of Government Efficiency similar to President Trump's agency with the same name.

Landry created his Louisiana Fiscal Responsibility Program immediately after he took office in 2024, describing the results as "amazing" during a Jan. 15 press conference.

He also announced that Angele Davis, a former commissioner of administration under Gov. Bobby Jindal, will take over as Louisiana inspector general with an active roll in continuing the work of DOGE.

"Our state government should be required to live within its means," Landry said. "We have a duty to protect (the taxpayers') money."

Landry said the savings were achieved with no reduction in state services and will help pay for improved services like new technology in the Office of Motor Vehicles to replace its 50-year-old system that often creates bottlenecks and delays.

The report showed the biggest savings (\$408 million) came from reducing waste and creating efficiencies through consolidation, reorganization and eliminating duplications.

Among other reductions: \$285.5 million in Medicaid savings and \$14.9 million in food stamp savings by removing people who were determined to be ineligible for the benefits.

He described them as "greedy people taking from needy people. Every dollar saved makes those programs stronger," Landry said.

The report also described \$206.4 million in savings from canceling or

**See DOGE, Page 3A**

### Note to readers

Due to the upcoming Martin Luther King Jr. Day holiday, there will be no mail delivery on Monday, Jan. 19. Instead of receiving your Jan. 19 paper on Monday, you'll receive it in the mail on Tuesday, Jan. 20.



The sweet sound of The Bayou has arrived with our latest Carnival Confectionary Treat. Our famous Gooey Butter swirled into a sweet Melody of our creole white chocolate - THE GOOUIE hits all the right notes!

Let's celebrate Louisiana's Musical Ambassador to the World!

A portion of the proceeds of each THE GOOUIE king cake is being donated to SECOND HARVEST FOOD BANK FEEDING SOUTH LOUISIANA

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