The New Orleans Education Equity Index

EQUITY MATTERS

A Look at Educational Equity in New Orleans Public Schools

Rev. 091317-03

This report was developed and designed by Converge in partnership with the Louisiana Center for Children's Rights (LCCR) and Orleans Public Education Network (OPEN) with input, data collection, and analysis from dozens of partners.

Partners who have provided financial support for the development of the Education Equity Index include Baptist Community Ministries, the Greater New Orleans Foundation, the Ford Foundation, the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, the New Orleans Health Department, and the Schott Foundation for Public Education.

A NOTE ABOUT THE DATA

The data used in this report and throughout the Education Equity Index website come from a variety of sources. Although we strive to gather the most recent data available for each school, some metrics may not reflect current circumstances. This report examines schools that are operating during the 2017 – 2018 school year. Sources of the data are from multiple years between 2014 and 2017. Where the Education Equity Index presents data from the Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE), readers should keep in mind that LDOE often does not release full data sets immediately after data are collected. Many of the data have been self-reported by the schools, and the accuracy of these data are dependent on the rigor and integrity of each school's data collection and reporting processes.

Increasing the amount of data available and releasing it more quickly would allow the public to obtain important information about schools. We believe the appropriate policies, resources, and supports must always be in place to ensure schools report data fairly, accurately, and timely. For more information on key terms and data sources used for this report, visit *http://neworleansequityindex.org/glossary*.

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EQUITY IN NEW ORLEANS

Residents, community organizations, elected officials, business leaders, policy makers, and philanthropic organizations are coming together in cities across America to put policies, plans, and programs in place that foster more equitable, inclusive, healthy, and prosperous communities. These groups recognize that equity is not simply providing one subset of the community with access to more resources than another, but rather creating a society that is more just and fair, where all have access and are able to participate actively in civic life. In the 2017 report *An Equity Profile of New Orleans*, PolicyLink and the USC Program for Environmental and Regional Equity (PERE) define strong, equitable cities as cities that:

- Possess **economic vitality,** providing high-quality jobs to their residents;
- Are **ready for the future**, with a skilled and prepared workforce and a healthy population; and
- Are **places of connection**, where residents can access the essential ingredients to live happy, healthy, and productive lives.[1]

The continuous improvement of our city's public education system is foundational to achieving our vision of a strong and equitable New Orleans. While our schools have seen significant improvements in student achievement as measured by standardized test scores and high school graduation rates, our public schools still operate in a city that is facing growing social inequality. A child's race, wealth, class, gender, sexuality, family background, native language, ability, mobility, immigration status, and neighborhood of residence are all increasingly important factors in determining what opportunities are available to him or her. Opportunity and social mobility remain unevenly distributed throughout the city.

Income disparities between African American and white households in New Orleans rank among the highest in the country. **New Orleans is ranked third** among the 100 largest cities and the region ranks sixth among the 150 largest metros in income inequality.[2] The average African American household in New Orleans now **earns only 41%** of the average white household's income.[3]

MORE THAN ONE-THIRD of New Orleans children live in poverty.[4]
Almost all of them are children of color.[5]

African American males between the ages of 16 – 64 are nearly **THREE TIMES AS LIKELY to experience unemployment** as white males in the same age bracket.[6]

1 Policy Link and USC Program for Environmental and Regional Equity (PERE). "An Equity Profile of New Orleans." 2017. <http://nationalequityatlas.org/sites/default/files/NOLA_profile_final_revised_21Apr2017.pdf>
2 Ibid.
3 Peters, R.C., Lee, S., L.D. Simpson and R. Govan, "Equity in the Economy: The Growing Wealth and Economic Divide," The State of Black New Orleans. Urban League of Greater New Orleans: New Orleans, 2015. 56.
4 The Data Center. The New Orleans Youth Index. 2016.
5 Ibid.
6 Peters, R.C., Lee, S., L.D. Simpson and R. Govan, "Equity in the Economy: The Growing Wealth and Economic Divide," The State of Black New Orleans. Urban League of Greater New Orleans: New Orleans, 2015. 55.

MORE THAN
6,800

New Orleanians ages 16 to 24 are not in school and not working.[7]

The life expectancy of a child growing up in the poorest New Orleans zip code is **25.5 years shorter** than that of a child growing up in the zip code with the least amount of poverty.[8]

New Orleans also leads the world in the percentage of our population that is incarcerated.[9]

As we work together to create more equitable communities and schools, we must ensure this work is grounded in institutionalizing policies, practices, and programs that address the underlying factors driving these social inequities and the imbalances of power and privilege that perpetuate them. If public school systems and cities are committed to having a 21st century-ready workforce, they must foster equity by ensuring students have access to quality educational opportunities and choices. This includes but is not limited to rigorous instruction, resources that meet their learning needs, and effective teachers and leaders, and are equipped with the skills they need to graduate prepared for success after high school. Educational equity in New Orleans can be achieved with intentional, persistent, and ongoing efforts and decisions that include the voices, experiences, and solutions of students, families, teachers, and school staff, especially those who are most marginalized by the inequities. The New Orleans Education Equity Index is an important step to make this happen.

By making equity-related data publicly available for each school, the New Orleans Education Equity Index seeks to ensure that equity is recognized as an integral part of educational excellence and a critical component of a healthy and thriving community. A successful school should be measured not just by the academic achievement of its students, but by its ability to successfully support and prepare all students success beyond the classroom. Reliable equity-related data can help schools, administrators, school boards, policy makers, and other key stakeholders develop effective educational equity strategies that are focused, comprehensive, planned, systematic, results-oriented, and sustainable. Stakeholders can also use this information to make important decisions about where to go to school, where to focus additional resources, and how to improve educational equity.

While this report and its accompanying website (neworleansequityindex.org) represent the culmination of more than two years of work, this is only the beginning. The real work to address these inequities is ahead. The Education Equity Index will not only continue to aggregate and disaggregate, analyze, and compare equity-related data for each public school in New Orleans, but also help connect schools with resources and supports to improve equity. Feedback received from this initial report will be used to inform future reports and to develop an Education Equity Index, in which each school's equity data are combined into a series of equity scores or rankings to support earlier identification of equity gaps and implementation of solutions.

7 Babineau K., Hand D. & V. Rossmeier, "No Longer Visible: Opportunity Youth in New Orleans." The Cowen Institute at Tulane University. October 2016. <http://www.coweninstitute.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/OY-Data-Guide-2016-Revised-FINAL.pdf>

8 The Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies: Healthy Policy Institute. "Place Matters for Health in Orleans Parish: Ensuring Opportunities for Good Health for All, A Report on Health Inequities in Orleans Parish, Louisiana." June 2012. <http://jointcenter.org/docs/New%20Orleans%20CHERReport.pdf>

9 Rainey, R., "Could New Orleans' Prison System Lock Up Fewer People? Study Underway." The Times-Picayune. May 27, 2015.

Why the Education Equity Index?

An effective public education system is about more than just test results. It is about how well schools serve all students, from enrollment practices to course offerings to graduation rates to preparedness and success after high school. **The Education Equity Index is designed to promote educational equity in New Orleans public schools by measuring and reporting on how well schools are providing the access and supports for all students to receive an excellent education that affirms their fundamental dignity and provides them the opportunity to thrive.**

The Education Equity Index was conceived in the spring of 2015 by leaders from the Louisiana Center for Children's Rights (LCCR) and the Orleans Public Education Network (OPEN). Together with consultants from Converge, these groups convened a Steering Committee made up of representatives from 11 organizations with diverse perspectives but a shared commitment to educational equity. Over the past two years, the Steering Committee learned about other national educational equity projects; built consensus around a shared vision, definition, and initial measures of educational equity; and gathered equity-related data.

The Education Equity Index looks at six areas related to educational equity by school:

1. **Student Characteristics:** What is the makeup of the student body?
2. **Teacher Characteristics:** What is the makeup of the staff?
3. **Financial Characteristics:** How does the school spend its money?
4. **Access:** Do all children have an equal opportunity to find, enroll in, and attend a school that allows them to thrive and their families to support their education?
5. **Opportunity to Learn:** Do all children have access to the high-quality learning opportunities and supportive services they need to learn and thrive?
6. **School Climate:** Does every school establish a positive and hospitable school culture that values and supports all children and is accessible to their families?

New Orleans has a rich history of coming together to address social and educational inequity. The Education Equity Index was created in that spirit. **The project's vision is to create a New Orleans in which every school understands, values, and intentionally promotes equity in policy and practice. This project also seeks to provide the public with information they can use to advocate and align resources to support the creation of a more equitable system of public schools in New Orleans.**

CONTEXT: CREATING AN EQUITABLE EDUCATION SYSTEM

The Education Equity Index was developed to improve equity in the New Orleans public education system. It is designed to help us focus on equity-related education data, understanding the nuances, and building support for a shared vision of what is possible.

The story of public education in New Orleans has been told by many from multiple perspectives via many articles, oral histories, videos, conferences, and interactive websites. In the 1960s, fights over the desegregation of New Orleans public schools made national news. Decades of white flight and disinvestment in public education received less attention, but had dramatic effects on public education in New Orleans long before Hurricane Katrina ushered in a new era of education reform. These latest reforms to public education in New Orleans make the city the first all-charter urban public school district in the United States.

In 2003, the state-run Recovery School District (RSD) was created to take over schools deemed failing from local school districts. In 2004, the RSD took over its first school from the Orleans Parish School Board (OPSB) and converted it to a charter school. Turning the management of schools over to a charter management organization – effectively changing district-run or "direct-run" schools into charter schools – became the RSD's primary strategy for improving failing schools. In 2003, only 1 of the 112 city's public schools was a charter school. By 2017, 82 of the city's 86 public schools were charter schools.

As part of the shift to a system of charter schools, test scores improved, but numerous challenges also emerged. Families often didn't have an easy way of getting the information they needed about their educational options; and at any given time, not every child had a seat in an appropriate school. As the RSD chartered more of its direct-run schools, it took on a greater role as the arbiter or regulator in this new system of school choice. In response to community pressure, the RSD established unified enrollment and expulsion systems to help decrease the number of children not able to secure or keep a seat in a school. Community advocates created numerous tools and entire organizations to help parents, students and educators navigate this complicated system of public schools. The RSD partnered with a growing number of educational intermediaries to address challenges in the new system, from managing transportation costs to supporting special education teachers to ensuring a robust pipeline of quality teachers and school leaders. While progress has been made, numerous equity-related challenges persist.

Of particular note is the impact of the new system of charter schools on school segregation. In a 2017 study of the impact of New Orleans school reforms on segregation, the Education Research Alliance for New Orleans found that New Orleans schools were highly segregated prior to the city's reforms, especially in terms of race and income, and remain segregated now.[10] This same study found that segregation has increased in high schools among low-income students and English language learners (ELL).

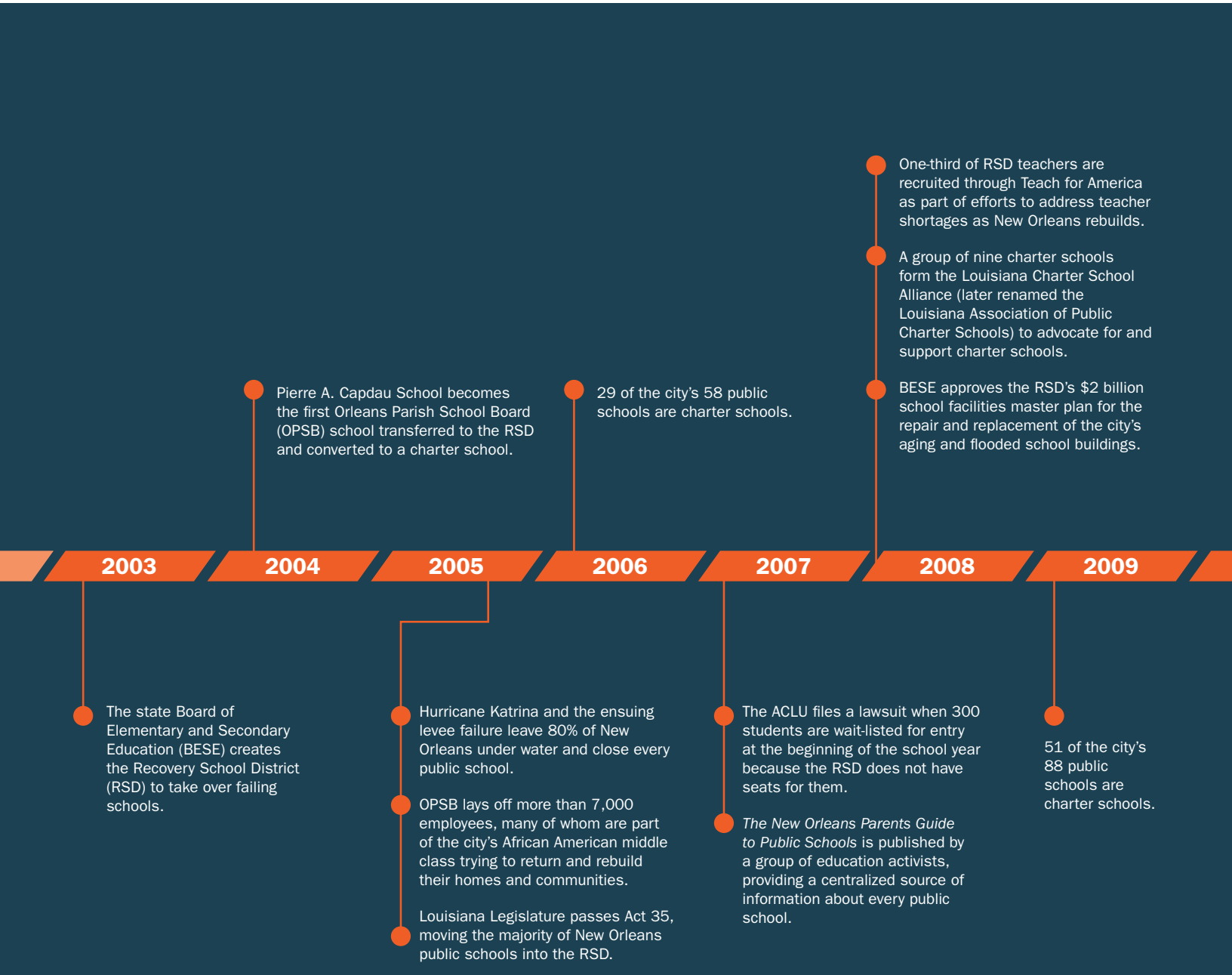
By 2018, all of the city's public schools will operate under the oversight of the locally elected Orleans Parish School Board, following more than a decade of state oversight of the majority of the city's public schools. Under unifications, charter schools will continue to operate as a system of diverse and autonomous schools with their own local boards.

As New Orleans prepares for this reunification, students, educators, families, community members, and advocates continue to seek better opportunities for students and more timely reporting of citywide public education data to inform these efforts. While test-related academic data is routinely collected, numerous indicators of equity that matter to students and families are not collected consistently. Unlike other urban districts, Orleans Parish currently does not conduct a citywide student or parent/guardian survey to assess student and family perspectives on – and experiences with – the city's public schools. Many of the equity-related data that are collected are self-reported by schools whose success is measured based on their ability to recruit students and perform well on the state's accountability system, which relies almost entirely on student academic measures.

10 Weixler, Barrette & Harris, "Did the New Orleans School Reforms Increase Segregation?" Education Research Alliance for New Orleans. New Orleans, 2017.

TIMELINE

Below is a timeline of some of the key events of the past 14 years that can help provide context for understanding the issue of educational equity within and across New Orleans public schools today. A map of the governance structure of New Orleans public schools for the 2017 – 2018 school year can be found at the end of the report.



2010

The Southern Poverty Law Center files a lawsuit against the Louisiana Department of Education claiming public schools in New Orleans are not complying with federal special education laws.

The Urban League of New Orleans hosts the Schools Expo for families to meet representatives from all the city's public schools.

2011

Morris Jeff Community School opens as the city's first "diverse by design" charter school that intentionally fosters racial and economic diversity in its student body.

2012

In response to persistent concerns about families' abilities to access schools of their choice, the RSD launches the OneApp common application system to centralize the application and enrollment processes across schools. All RSD schools and a fraction of OPSB schools participate.

2013

In response to concerns about inconsistent and unduly harsh school discipline policies, RSD and OPSB create a common set of policies and rules for expulsions, centralized through a Student Hearing Office at the RSD. Suspensions, however, continue to be managed by individual schools and charter management organizations.

2014

The RSD closes its last direct-run school, leaving only six non-charter public schools in the city.

2015

Two additional OPSB schools join the OneApp common application system. OPSB commits to ensuring the seven remaining schools participate when their charters are renewed.

2016

The Louisiana Legislature passes Act 91, calling for all RSD schools to return to the oversight of the Orleans Parish School Board by 2018.

Xavier University partners with New Schools for New Orleans (NSNO) to launch the Norman C. Francis Teacher Residency as the latest effort to recruit and prepare more teachers of color.

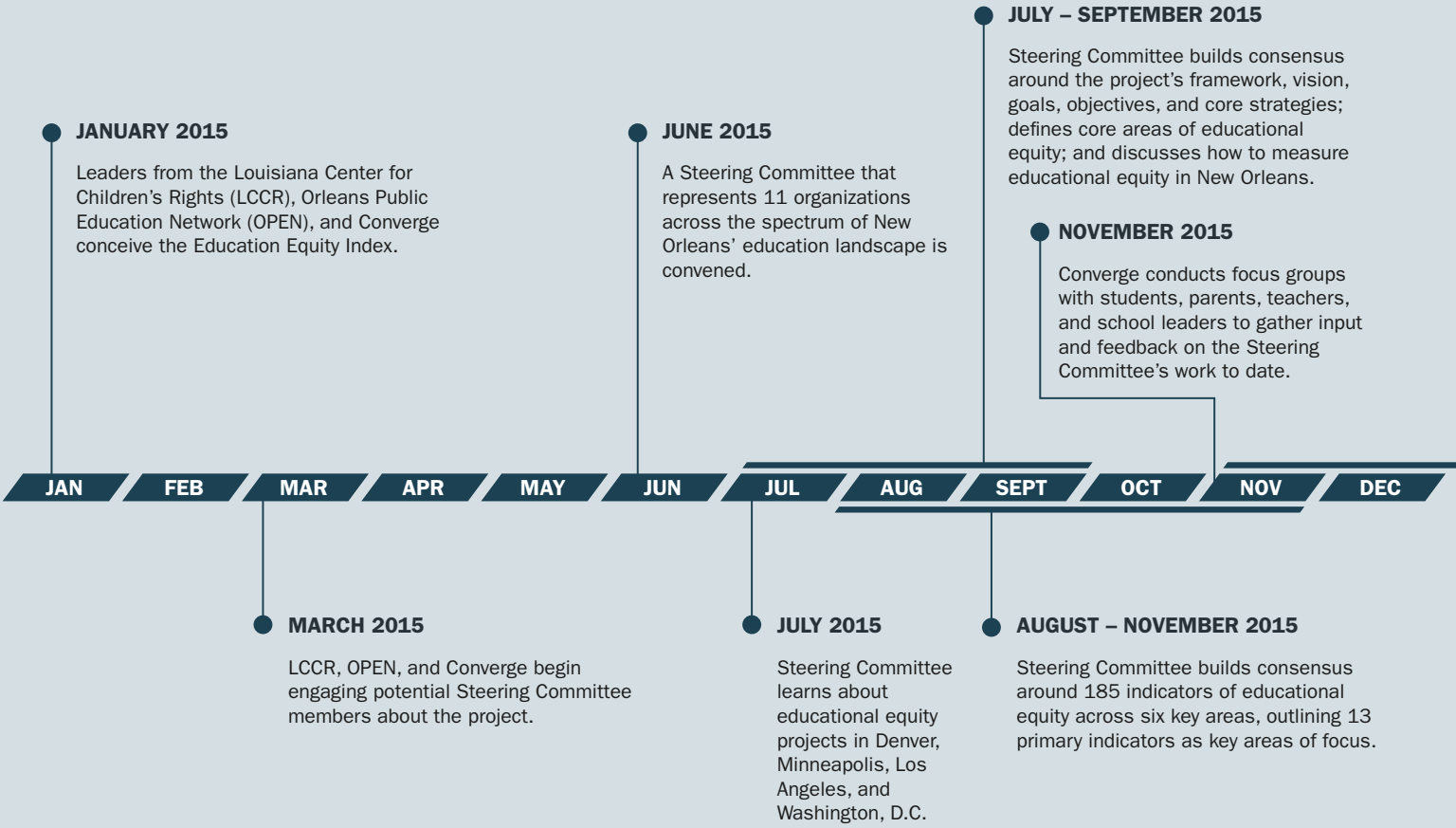
Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Charter School became the first RSD charter to return to OPSB.

2017

Many more schools began the process of return to the oversight of the OPSB.

THE PROCESS:
Developing the Education Equity Index

2015



NEW ORLEANS EDUCATION EQUITY INDEX STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS HAVE INCLUDED:

- Ben Kleban and Kolbi Bolden, *New Orleans College Prep*
- Douglas N. Harris, Jane Lincove, Nathan Barrett, and Sara Slaughter, *Education Research Alliance for New Orleans*
- Mary Garton, Sean Perkins, Colleston Morgan, and Kirsten Hill, *Orleans Parish School Board*
- Karen Marshall, Jamia Brown, and Rukeene Jones, *Kids Rethink New Orleans Schools*
- Kunjan Narechania and Alvin David, *Recovery School District*

2016

NOVEMBER 2015 – APRIL 2016

Education Research Alliance for New Orleans analyzes available data to populate Education Equity Index with data collection support from the New Orleans Parents' Guide, OPSB, RSD, LDOE, and New Orleans Police Department (NOPD).

JULY – DECEMBER 2016

OPEN and LCCR fact-check data and website content and prepare for public dissemination.

JAN FEB MAR APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEPT OCT NOV DEC

FEBRUARY – AUGUST 2016

Line 58 builds out online database into http://neworleansequityindex.org/.

- Aesha Rasheed, *New Orleans Parents' Guide*
- Rev. Torin Sanders, *Sixth Baptist Church*
- Michael Stone and Mandy Folse, *New Schools for New Orleans*
- Rosie Washington and Maria Harmon, *The Micah Project*
- Deirdre Johnson Burel, Nahliah Webber, Zakenya Perry Neely, and Julia Ramsey, *Orleans Public Education Network*
- Joshua Perry, Aaron Clark-Rizzio, and Anna Arkin-Gallagher, *Louisiana Center for Children's Rights*

THE STATE OF EQUITY IN NEW ORLEANS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

This report examines schools that are open during the 2017 – 2018 school year, using data across multiple years between 2014 and 2017. For a complete list of the indicators used in each category along with the year and source of the data, review the Citywide Education Equity Profile that begins on page 17.

STUDENT CHARACTERISTICS

The makeup of a school's student body based on race, gender, economic status, English language proficiency, special education status, homeless status, and neighborhood of residence.

Who and where are our students?

WHY IT MATTERS: Examining student demographics within and across schools helps us understand which students are receiving an excellent education.

Looking at the demographic characteristics of the city's student body helps us understand where students attend school by race, income, special education status, and homeless status. Only recently did Louisiana's school accountability system begin to consider student demographics as a factor in a school's overall performance.

WHAT THE DATA SAY?: Students in New Orleans schools are still largely segregated by race and income. Families who have the means choose schools where the student bodies have more white students and fewer students who are considered "economically disadvantaged."

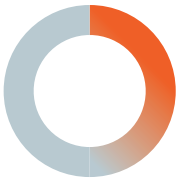
On average, **84% OF STUDENTS ARE CONSIDERED ECONOMICALLY DISADVANTAGED** in New Orleans public schools compared to only **37% IN SCHOOLS WHERE THE STUDENT BODIES HAVE MORE WHITE STUDENTS**. Families with means either opt out of the public school system entirely by enrolling in tuition-based private and parochial schools, or enroll their students in one of the city's handful of elite public schools. Elite public schools in New Orleans tend to have a higher percentage of gifted students, more highly educated teachers, offer more rigorous courses such as Advanced Placement (AP) and International Baccalaureate (IB), and have a broad range of high-quality extracurricular programs when compared to other public schools in the city. While these elite public schools tend to also have the highest academic performance, they also exclude many students through restrictive enrollment requirements. The most frequent of these requirements is that families turn in the application during certain hours, attend a meeting at the school, and/or have their children demonstrate academic or artistic aptitude in order to enroll.

OUT OF THE CITY'S 86 SCHOOLS*:

Despite making up 21% of children under age 20 in New Orleans, **White students make up only 9% of the population of the city's open enrollment public schools.**

White students make up more than 1/3 of the student population in 12 of the city's 86 schools. Here is what the data say about those 12 schools:

They have the largest proportion of middle-class students of the city's public schools. In **EIGHT of these schools, LESS THAN HALF of students are eligible for free and reduced-price lunch** as compared to more than three-quarters of students citywide.



They have the greatest number of gifted students. One-third of them have **22% OR MORE of their student body classified as gifted.**

They have the most highly educated teachers. At one-fourth of these schools, at **least half of their teachers have a graduate degree.**

EIGHT of them are among the city's nine schools that have restrictive enrollment requirements.

Seven of the twelve schools have a School Performance Grade of A (one school did not have tested grades and subjects and another school was not opened at the time of data reporting and thus no School Performance Grade for the time period; and two other schools are RSD charter schools with no selective admissions requirements; and one other school with selective admissions requirements has a school performance grade of B).

Meanwhile, the poorest and most vulnerable students are concentrated in the remaining New Orleans public schools:

67 of these schools have **MORE THAN 3/4** of their students eligible for free and reduced-price lunch. Of these 67 schools, **ONLY 5** have a School Performance Grade of A (only one of these schools has selective admissions requirements).

In 18 schools, 10% or more of the student population is homeless or at risk of homelessness in prior years. **MORE THAN 1/3** of these schools have a School Performance Grade of a D or F.

18 schools have 15% or more of their student population eligible for special education services. Only one of these schools has a School Performance Grade of an A.

*Five schools are new in 2017 – 2018 with no prior-year data and are thus excluded from the analysis.

BRIGHT SPOTS: Of the schools that serve the poorest and most vulnerable students, 16 have a School Letter Grade of A or B, of which only two have selective enrollment requirements. Four schools have racial diversity in their student bodies that is comparable to the city averages without using restrictive enrollment requirements.

TEACHER CHARACTERISTICS

The makeup of a school's instructional and instructional-support staff based on race, gender, type of degree, years of experience, evaluation and professional practice ratings.

Who and where are our teachers?

WHY IT MATTERS: A better understanding of who the instructional and instructional-support staff are across our school system can help us better understand the culture, values, and instructional quality of our schools. Factors like whether the race, gender and backgrounds of teachers reflect the student body can often determine how students are perceived, how students view themselves, and the culture of a school. Factors like teacher education and effectiveness ratings, while not perfect, can be among the indicators that help us understand the quality of instruction students are receiving.

WHAT THE DATA SAY: At nearly one-third of the schools, the majority of teachers have been teaching for three or fewer years. Experienced teachers, those with four or more years of experience, are concentrated in 10 schools.

OUT OF CITY'S 86 SCHOOLS:

At six schools, the majority of the teachers have been teaching for 15 years or more.

At 32 schools, more than half of the teachers have been teaching for **THREE OR FEWER YEARS.**

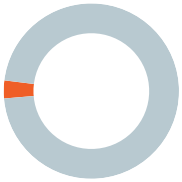
In most schools, teacher demographics do not match student demographics. Male teachers and teachers of color are dramatically underrepresented.

In 39 schools, less than 25% of teachers are male. The student body in each of these schools is at least 47% male.

In 14 schools, **LESS THAN ONE-FOURTH of teachers are African American**, despite the fact that **African American students make up on average more than half of the student population** in these schools.

Of the 21 schools where Hispanic or Latinx students make up 10% or more of the student population, **ONLY 4 have 10% or more of their teachers who are Hispanic or Latinx**. Inh the only school in the city where more than half of the student body is Hispanic or Latinx, only 10% of its teachers are Hispanic or Latinx.

In the six schools where Asian students make up more than 10% of the student body, Asian teachers make up **LESS THAN 2%** of the teaching staff.



BRIGHT SPOTS: There are several schools with high student test performance and a student population that is majority African American and considered economically disadvantaged where teachers are experienced and have similar racial and gender identities as the students they are teaching. **Nine of these schools earned a school performance grade of an A or B, serve a student population that is at least 86% African American and 78% economically disadvantaged, and have a majority of African American teachers with four years or more of experience.**

The citywide average for per-pupil expenditures in 2016 was $13,346. For the same year, the per-pupil expenditures by school ranged from $8,934 to over $32,558 per student. Expenditures are not in proportion to student need. Many schools with the lowest percentages of low-income students spend as much per pupil as those schools with the highest.

Each school spends an average of **more than $500,000**, or **$922 per student**, on transportation annually.

Per-pupil transportation expenditures vary significantly by school, from $178 to $2,405 per student annually. For the most part, schools that spend less on transportation have either more neighborhood students or a greater proportion of middle-class students whose families are less likely to rely on the school for transportation to and from school..

Despite major philanthropic investment in public education, New Orleans public schools largely remain dependent on public dollars.

Only seven schools reported that they received private donations equal to 5% or more of their annual expenditures.

Many schools have resources available for strategic investments in educational equity.

Twelve schools had a fund balance at the end of the year that totaled **MORE THAN ONE-QUARTER** of their annual budgets.

BRIGHT SPOTS: In 2016, OPSB and the RSD agreed on a new formula for the per-pupil allocation of special education funding that provides increased funding for schools based on the number of special education students and according to students' level of need.

FINANCIAL CHARACTERISTICS

The makeup of a school's finances based on total expenditures, transportation costs, special education expenditures, staffing costs, and per-pupil expenditures.

Are financial resources being distributed equitably among schools as well as within school buildings and classrooms to meet the needs of students?

WHY IT MATTERS: The equitable allocation of financial resources within and across public schools is an important factor in achieving educational equity. Schools that serve wealthier families or access major grants can often raise more private funding to supplement the state's public funding formula, allowing them greater resources and flexibility. How a school uses its funds can also say a lot about its priorities and how it is working to create educational equity, from investments in transportation to special education services to the retention of quality teachers.

WHAT THE DATA SAY: Some financial data for Orleans Parish School Board schools were not available because data for district-run schools are reported in aggregate to the state, leaving a hole in the data related to school finances. Nevertheless, the data that are available represents spending for 75% of schools citywide and indicate that administrative spending has increased in recent years, transportation remains a significant portion of school spending, and school spending and saving is varied and may not be in direct proportion to student need.

ACCESS

All children have an equal opportunity to find, enroll in, and attend a school that allows them to thrive, and once students are enrolled, schools continue to be accessible to all families and students.

Can all families access an excellent education?

WHY IT MATTERS: The education reforms in New Orleans over the past decade are built on a belief in the power of school choice to improve student outcomes. The logic of school choice concludes that if students and families can have their choice of any school in the city, they are more likely to be able to access an excellent education, regardless of the neighborhoods where they live or other factors that may present challenges to their success. This model, however, depends on the ability of all families to access the full range of high-quality educational options available to them. Despite recent progress that includes the EnrollNOLA unified enrollment system; rebuilding of new school facilities that are ADA accessible; and efforts to improve transportation, ELL services, and services for students with special needs, several challenges remain.

WHAT THE DATA SAY: Many of the 86 public schools in New Orleans have significant barriers that can prevent families from enrolling their students in a school of their choice. Barriers include physical accessibility, language access, admissions requirements and procedures, cost, lack of transportation, and distance from the student's home. When combined, these barriers prevent many students from accessing the more desirable, higher-performing schools across the city.

OUT OF CITY'S 83 SCHOOLS:

27 schools are not ADA accessible, based on data from the EnrollNOLA School Guide. This means students and family members with certain physical disabilities cannot easily access the school building.

31 schools do not readily have available translated documents related to basic enrollment, registration, and performance into other languages. This means families for whom English is a second language may not be able to communicate with these schools about the most basic aspects of their students' education.

Nine schools have restrictive enrollment requirements, which require families to meet additional criteria to enroll their students. These enrollment requirements are a barrier for many low-income families whose job schedules are inflexible, who have limited transportation, or who cannot afford the testing or tutoring often needed to meet selective admissions criteria.

Five schools report that it costs a family at least $100 to enroll each student due to the cost of uniforms and/or activity, supply, and registration fees.

23 schools do not offer yellow school bus service for all students. While some of these schools provide RTA bus tokens, this can make it difficult for families simply to get their children to school, particularly if they do not have reliable transportation, their children are younger, or they do not live near an accessible and efficient RTA bus route.

At 20 schools, students travel an average of more than five miles to get to school every day. Citywide, students live an average of 4.3 miles away from the schools they attend, based on calculations of the zip code of enrolled students and the location of the school. The greater distance between a child's home and school can make it difficult for family members to visit the school and require students to spend an hour or more in each direction traveling to and from school.

BRIGHT SPOTS:

- 24 of 86 New Orleans public schools are open-admission schools that do not have any of the access barriers such as transportation, language, and restrictive enrollment requirements and costs.
- 76 schools reported that they either translate key documents into Spanish and Vietnamese or have a staff member available who speaks one of those languages.

While some schools improved citywide, the performance of special education and economically disadvantaged students still lagged behind the state average in academic growth on LEAP and iLEAP math and English Language Arts (ELA) exams.

ONLY 29% OF NEW ORLEANS STUDENTS performed at or above the Mastery proficiency level lagging 8 percentage points behind the state.

On average, students with special education status showed academic growth that was **2 percentage points below the state average** on LEAP and iLEAP math and ELA exams.

Economically disadvantaged students showed academic growth that was **4 percentage points below the state average** on LEAP and iLEAP math and ELA exams.

26% OF AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDENTS from public schools in Orleans Parish performed at the Mastery or above proficiency level outperforming similar African American students statewide by 3 percentage points.

10% OF STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL EDUCATION scored at the Mastery or above level, compared to **12% OF STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES STATEWIDE.**

18% OF LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENT (LEP) STUDENTS scored Mastery or above, compared to **16% OF LEP STUDENTS STATEWIDE.**

25% OF STUDENTS ELIGIBLE FOR FREE AND REDUCED-PRICE LUNCH scored at the Mastery or above proficiency level, compared to **29% OF STUDENTS ELIGIBLE FOR FREE AND REDUCED LUNCH STATEWIDE.**

OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN

All children have access to the high-quality learning opportunities and supportive services they need to learn and thrive.

Are all children receiving high-quality instruction and the supports they need to learn?

WHY IT MATTERS: The availability and impact of a range of high-quality learning opportunities is fundamental to a school's purpose of educating students. Examining student learning outcomes by subgroup as well as course offerings can tell us a lot about how well schools are educating all students, particularly those who have been left behind, historically, because of their race, income, native language, and/or ability.

WHAT THE DATA SAY: New Orleans has made significant progress in increasing overall achievement and closing the achievement gap between students based on race and income, as measured by test scores and high school graduation rates. Nevertheless, significant achievement gaps by race, wealth, native language, and special education status remain.

BRIGHT SPOTS:

- English language learners and African American students outperformed the state average by 2 and 3 percentage points scoring Mastery or above.
- Eight schools outperformed the Louisiana average in both the percentage of students scoring Basic, Mastery, or above. Of these schools, two do not have restrictive enrollment requirements and on average 61% of students are African American and qualify for free or reduced-price lunch.
- Twelve schools offer at least one AP course. Nine of these schools are open enrollment and offer 3 or more AP classes.
- More than 3/4 of schools reported offering extracurricular programming to students.

SCHOOL CLIMATE

All schools have a positive and hospitable school culture that values all children and is accessible to their families.

Do all students feel valued, safe, and supported in school?

WHY IT MATTERS: A positive, safe, and supportive school climate can be the difference between a student's success and failure in school. In the absence of widespread data on students' perceptions of their schools' climates, discipline, attendance, and re-enrollment data are often used to help determine whether students find a school climate positive, welcoming, and supportive.

WHAT THE DATA SAY: In half of New Orleans public schools, a significant portion of the student body misses valuable learning time due to absences, suspension, expulsion referral, and/or arrest. These numbers are significantly higher at the high school level.

OUT OF CITY'S 86 SCHOOLS:

ABSENCE:

Four schools have **ONE THIRD OR MORE** of their students on any given day.

8% of all students are absent daily.

20% of the city's high school students are absent daily.

SCHOOL DISCIPLINE:

21 schools suspended at **LEAST ONE FIFTH OF THEIR STUDENTS.**

37 schools issued an out-of-school suspensions to at **LEAST 10% OF THEIR STUDENTS.**

18% OF THE STUDENTS in the city's high schools are suspended annually, on average.

7 SCHOOLS expelled at **least 5 students**.

5 schools **CALLED NOPD AT LEAST FIVE TIMES** during the school year.

29 SEPARATE NOPD CALLS were registered in one school.

STUDENT STABILITY:

79.6% OF STUDENTS RE-ENROLL in the same school the following school year, on average.

83.5% OF STUDENTS IN THE CITY'S HIGH SCHOOLS return the following year, on average.

BRIGHT SPOTS:

There are 19 schools that serve some of the most vulnerable students but maintain high attendance rates. In these schools, 8% or less of the students are absent on any given day, despite having a student body with more students who are homeless and/or living in poverty than the citywide averages.

NEW ORLEANS PUBLIC SCHOOLS:
Citywide Education Equity Profile

Orleans Parish School Board
3520 General DeGaulle Drive, Suite 5055
New Orleans, LA 70114
(504) 304-3520
http://opsb.us/

Recovery School District
1615 Poydras St., Suite 400,
New Orleans, LA 70112
(504) 373-6200
http://www.rsdla.net/

Featured Data

School Performance Grade

The grade issued to schools as part of the state's school accountability system. Learn More >

Data from 2015 – 2016.
Source: Louisiana Department of Education School Performance Score

C

Additional Enrollment Requirements?

Whether or not schools have additional enrollment requirements that students or families must meet in order to enroll in the school.
Learn More >

Data from 2016 – 2017. Source: EnrollNOLA School Guide

13.0%
of New Orleans public schools have additional enrollment requirements.

Cost of Enrollment

Average student cost for registration, supplies, extracurricular activities, uniform, and/or any other enrollment fees. Learn More >

Data from 2016 – 2017. Source: EnrollNOLA School Guide

$57

Transportation Provided?

Data from 2016 – 2017. Source: EnrollNOLA School Guide

87.0%
of New Orleans public schools provide transportation.

Special Education Population

Percent of students with a special education IEP.
Learn More >

Data from 2016 – 2017. Source: EnrollNOLA School Guide

11.8%

Students Qualifying for Free or Reduced-Price Lunch

Percentage of the students that qualifies for a free or reduced-price lunch.
Learn More >

Data from 2016 – 2017. Source: Louisiana Department of Education - Enrollment Counts

84.1%

Teacher Experience

Number of years of teaching experience for full-time equivalent teachers.
Learn More >

Data from 2015 – 2016. Source: EnrollNOLA School Guide

0 - 3 Years Experience:	42.6%
4 - 10 Years Experience:	32.3%
11 - 14 Years Experience:	6.0%
15+ Years Experience:	19.1%

Suspensions

Learn More >

Data from 2015 – 2016. Source: Louisiana Department of Education - Safe & Healthy Schools Data Reports - Discipline Rates (State-LEA-Site-Public)

All Suspensions:	14.0%
Out-of-School Suspensions:	10.5%
In-School Suspensions:	3.5%

Student Stability

Percent of students who re-enroll in the same school the following year, if the next grade is offered. Learn More >

Data from 2016 – 2017. Source: EnrollNOLA School Guide

79.9%

Student Characteristics

Learn More >

Total Students

Number of students enrolled as of October 1st MFP Date. Learn More >

Data from 2016 – 2017. Source: Louisiana Department of Education - Enrollment Counts

570

Student-to-Teacher Ratio

The number of students at a school divided by the number of full-time equivalent teachers citywide. Learn More >

Data from 2015 – 2016. Source: Louisiana Department of Education Finance Report

15.8 *to* **1**

Student-to-Instructional Staff Ratio

The number of students divided by the number of full-time equivalent teachers and instructional-support staff citywide. Learn More >

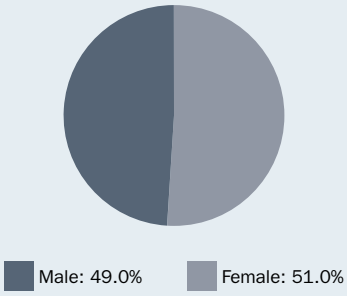
Data from 2015 – 2016. Source: Louisiana Department of Education Finance Report

12.1 *to* **1**

Student Gender

Percent of male to female students. Learn More >

Data from 2016 – 2017. Source: Louisiana Department of Education - Enrollment Counts



Student Ethnicity

The racial makeup of the schools citywide. Learn More >

Data from 2016 – 2017. Source: Louisiana Department of Education - Enrollment Counts

Black:	81.3%
White:	8.7%
Hispanic:	6.7%
American Indian:	0.2%
Asian:	1.8%
Multi-Racial:	1.3%

Students Qualifying for Free or Reduced-Price Lunch

Percentage of the students that qualify for a free or reduced-price lunch.
Learn More >

Data from 2016 – 2017. Source: Louisiana Department of Education - Enrollment Counts

84.1%

Limited-English Proficiency Students

Percentage of limited-English proficiency students citywide.
Learn More >

Data from 2016 – 2017. Source: Louisiana Department of Education - Enrollment Counts

6.0%

504 Plan Students

Percentage of students with a 504 Plan. Learn More >

Data from 2013 – 2014. Source: Louisiana Department of Education Student Information System

12.6%

Special Education Population

Percent of students with a special education IEP.
Learn More >

Data from 2016 – 2017. Source: EnrollNOLA School Guide

11.8%

Students Retained

Percent of students who were retained at the end of the academic year.
Learn More >

Data from 2015 – 2016. Source: Louisiana Department of Education Discipline Rates

2.9%

Average Student's Neighborhood Poverty

Percent of a student's neighborhood that is at or below the poverty level.

30.3%

Average High School Completion in Students' Home Zip Code

The percent of the adult population in enrolled students' neighborhoods without a high school diploma.

Data from 2013 – 2014. Source: Louisiana Department of Education Annual Financial Report

Data Disclaimer: A data sharing request, agreement and/or public records request is required to access this data. Those processes were executed but data was not received at time of publication. Data will be updated immediately upon receipt.

17.3%

Teacher Characteristics

Learn More >

Full-Time Staff

Data from 2015 – 2016. Source: Louisiana Department of Education Finance Report

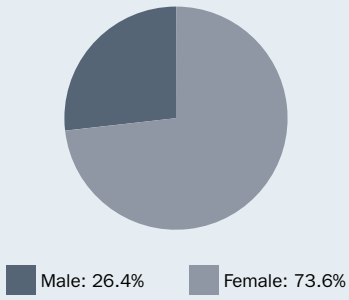
Teachers:	39.9
Instructional Support Staff:	13.6
Student Support Staff:	8.9

Teacher Gender

The gender makeup of teachers. Learn More >

Data from 2013 – 2014. Source: Louisiana Department of Education Profile of Education Personnel System

Data Disclaimer: A data sharing request, agreement and/or public records request is required to access this data. Those processes were executed but data was not received at time of publication. Data will be updated immediately upon receipt.



Teacher Ethnicity

The racial makeup of teachers. Learn More >

Data from 2016 – 2017. Source: EnrollNOLA School Guide

Black:	52.7%
White:	42.2%
Hispanic:	3.3%
Asian:	1.8%

Average Years Since Receiving BA

Average years since receiving first Bachelor's degree for full-time teachers with a BA. Learn More >

Data from 2013 – 2014. Source: Louisiana Department of Education Profile of Education Personnel System

Data Disclaimer: A data sharing request, agreement and/or public records request is required to access this data. Those processes were executed but data was not received at time of publication. Data will be updated immediately upon receipt.

13.9
years

Average Teacher Salary

Average teacher salary of full-time teachers. Learn More >

Data from 2015 – 2016. Source: Louisiana Department of Education Finance Report

City Avg.
More than
$50,000

Teacher Experience

Number of years of teaching experience for full-time equivalent teachers. Learn More >

Data from 2015 – 2016. Source: Louisiana Department of Education Profile of Education Personnel System

0 – 3 Years Experience:	42.6%
4 – 10 Years Experience:	32.3%
11 – 14 Years Experience:	6.0%
15+ Years Experience:	19.1%

Teacher Highest Degree

The highest educational degree obtained by full-time equivalent teachers. Learn More >

Data from 2013-2014. Source: Louisiana Department of Education Profile of Education Personnel System

BA:	53.25%
Masters:	25.37%
Specialist:	0.82%
Doctorate:	2.47%

Teacher Effectiveness

Percent of teachers rated as highly effective. Learn More >

Data from 2013 – 2014. Source: Louisiana Department of Education COMPASS

Overall:	23.0%
Professional Practice:	24.0%
Student Outcomes:	62.0%

Student-to-Pupil/Instructional-Support-Staff Ratio

Number of students divided by FTE pupil/instructional-support staff. Learn More >

Data from 2013 – 2014. Source: Louisiana Department of Education Finance Report

86.6%

Financial Characteristics

Learn More >

Ratio of Unrestricted-Fund Balance to Total Expenditures

Unrestricted-fund balance-to-total expenditures based on financial reporting to LDOE. Learn More >

Data from 2013 – 2014. Source: Louisiana Department of Education Annual Financial Report

Data Disclaimer: A data sharing request, agreement and/or public records request is required to access this data. Those processes were executed but data was not received at time of publication. Data will be updated immediately upon receipt.

0.2 *to* **1**

Total Expenditures

Total expenditures as reported to LDOE. Learn More >

Data from 2015 – 2016. Source: Louisiana Department of Education Annual Financial Report

City Avg.

$6,201,041

Most in City

$14,500,000

Expenditures Per-pupil

Estimated current expenditures per-pupil as calculated by LDOE for financial reporting. Learn More >

Data from 2015 – 2016. Source: Louisiana Department of Education Annual Financial Report

Data Disclaimer: A data sharing request, agreement and/or public records request is required to access this data. Those processes were executed but data was not received at time of publication. Data will be updated immediately upon receipt.

City Avg.

$13,346

Most in City

$32,558

Per-Pupil Special Education Expenditures

Citywide average amount schools spend per special education student enrolled. Learn More >

Data from 2013 – 2014. Source: Louisiana Department of Education Annual Financial Report

City Avg.

$7,757

Most in City

$15,784

Transportation Expenditures

Total transportation expenditures. Learn More >

Data from 2015 – 2016. Source: Louisiana Department of Education Annual Financial Report

City Avg.

$441,037

Most in City

$1,017,126

Total Revenue from Donations

The total amount of money raised from non-public sources. Learn More >

Data from 2013 – 2014. Source: Louisiana Department of Education Annual Financial Report

Data Disclaimer: A data sharing request, agreement and/or public records request is required to access this data. Those processes were executed but data was not received at time of publication. Data will be updated immediately upon receipt.

City Avg.

$102,783

Most in City

$994,379

Access

Learn More >

ADA Accessible

Whether or not the schools are accessible for those with disabilities.
Learn More >

Data from 2016. Source: New Orleans Parents Guide

70.0%

of New Orleans public schools are ADA accessible.

Document Translation to Other Languages

Translation of important documents into Spanish or Vietnamese.
Learn More >

Data from 2016 – 2017. Source: EnrollNOLA School Guide

51.0%

of New Orleans public schools have document translation to other languages.

Multilingual Staff at Schools

Whether or not the schools have multilingual staff members.
Learn More >

Data from 2016 – 2017. Source: EnrollNOLA School Guide

90.0%

of New Orleans public schools have multilingual staff.

OneApp

Data from 2016 – 2017. Source: EnrollNOLA

Participation

93.0%

of New Orleans public schools are OneApp participants.

Requests

794

Seats

207

Enrolled-to-Admitted Ratio

Number of enrolling students on October 1st divided by the number of students who were admitted.

Data from 2013 – 2014. Source: EnrollNOLA

0.9 *to* **1**

Additional Enrollment Requirements?

Whether or not schools have additional enrollment requirements that students or families must meet in order to enroll in the school.
Learn More >

Data from 2016 – 2017. Source: EnrollNOLA School Guide

13.0%
of New Orleans public schools have additional enrollment requirements.

Admissions Requirements

Whether or not schools have admissions requirements that students or families must meet in order to enroll in the school.
Learn More >

Data from 2016 – 2017. Source: EnrollNOLA School Guide

Selective Admissions?

10.0%
of New Orleans public schools have selective admissions.

Requests

6.0%
of New Orleans public schools require applications to be delivered at special times.

Seats

5.0%
of New Orleans public schools require an admissions meeting.

IDEA Pre-K Children

Number of IDEA-eligible children enrolled in pre-K program.
Learn More >

Data from 2016 – 2017. Source: Agenda for Children

7

Subsidized Pre-K Children

Number of children enrolled in the pre-K program who receive a tuition subsidy. Learn More >

Data from 2016 – 2017. Source: Agenda for Children

43

Cost of Enrollment

Average student cost for registration, supplies, extracurricular activities, uniform, and/or any other enrollment fees. Learn More >

Data from 2016 – 2017. Source: EnrollNOLA School Guide

$57

Transportation Provided?

Data from 2016 – 2017. Source: EnrollNOLA School Guide

87.0%
of New Orleans public schools provide transportation.

Transportation Types

Data from 2016 – 2017. Source: EnrollNOLA School Guide

RTA Tokens Provided?

9.0%
of New Orleans public schools provide RTA tokens.

Limited RTA Tokens Provided?

8.0%
of New Orleans public schools provide limited RTA tokens.

Yellow School Bus Provided

67.0%
of New Orleans public schools provide school buses.

Afterschool Program Transportation Provided?

1.0%
of New Orleans public schools provide afterschool transportation.

Other Transportation Provided?

1.0%
of New Orleans public schools provide other forms of transportation.

Average Distance Student Travels to School

Data from 2016 – 2017.

8.6
miles

Average Travel Time to School

Data from 2016 – 2017.

20.8
minutes

Opportunity to Learn

Learn More >

Offerings

Data from 2016 – 2017. Source: EnrollNOLA School Guide

College Visits?

12.0%

of New Orleans public schools offer college visits for students.

Extracurricular Activities?

93.0%

of New Orleans public schools offer extracurricular activities.

Number of AP/IB Courses Offered

7

District Performance Score

A score, between 0 and 150, issued to schools as part of the state's accountability system. Learn More >

Data from 2015 – 2016. Source: Louisiana Department of Education School Performance Score

84.9

District Performance Score

The grade issued to schools as part of the state's school accountability system. Learn More >

Data from 2015 – 2016. Source: Louisiana Department of Education School Performance Score

C

High School Graduates Enrolling in College

Percent of graduates enrolled in college the semester following their graduation from high school. Learn More >

Data from 2014-2015. Source: Louisiana Department of Education-College Enrollment Reports

84.9%

ELA Scores

English Language Arts end-of-grade assessment scores.
Learn More >

Data from 2016 – 2017. Source: Louisiana Department of Education - PK-8 Performance

Mastery: 34.0%

Math Scores

Math end-of-grade assessment scores. Learn More >

Data from 2016 – 2017. Source: Louisiana Department of Education - PK-8 Performance

Mastery:	25.0%

School Climate Indicators

Learn More >

Average Daily Attendance

Average percent of enrolled students attending school.

Data from 2016 – 2017. Source: Louisiana Department of Education - Student Attendance Rates

92.0%

Suspensions

Learn More >

Data from 2016 – 2017. Source: Louisiana Department of Education - Discipline Rates

All Suspensions:	14.0%
Out-of-School Suspensions:	10.5%
In-School Suspensions:	3.5%

Expulsion

Number of students referred for expulsion. Learn More >

Data from 2016 – 2017. Source: Louisiana Department of Education - Discipline Rates

6.1

Incidents Reported to Police

Number of incidents reported to the New Orleans Police Department by the schools. Learn More >

Data from 2014-2015. Source: New Orleans Police Department Incidents

2.5

Student Stability

Percent of students who re-enroll in the same school the following year, if the next grade is offered. Learn More >

Data from 2016 – 2017. Source: EnrollNOLA School Guide
Data from 2013 – 2014. Source: Louisiana Department of Education Student Information System

8.0%

Students with Guaranteed Seats Who Do Not Request Transfer

Percent of students that are guaranteed a seat that attempt to transfer in the upcoming school year. Learn More >

Data from 2016 – 2017. Source: EnrollNOLA

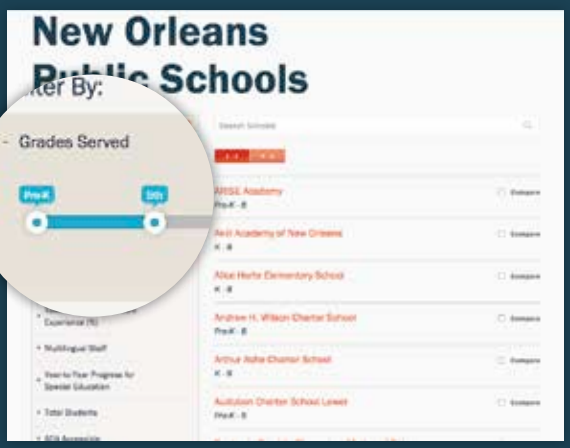
88.0%

NAVIGATING THE EDUCATION EQUITY INDEX

Search and Sort by School

On the Schools page, you will find our listing of public schools in New Orleans. You can use the search bar to find an individual school or sort the list alphabetically in ascending or descending order. To see a school's equity report, simply click on its name.

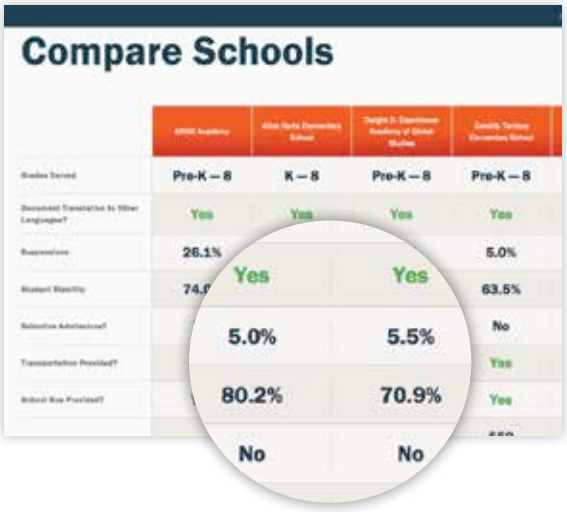
GO TO SCHOOLS PAGE >



Filter Schools by Field

To narrow the listings on the Schools page, use the filters bar on the left. You can apply multiple filters (including Performance Grade, Charter Management Organization, and a number of access indicators) to create a customized list.

GO TO SCHOOLS PAGE >

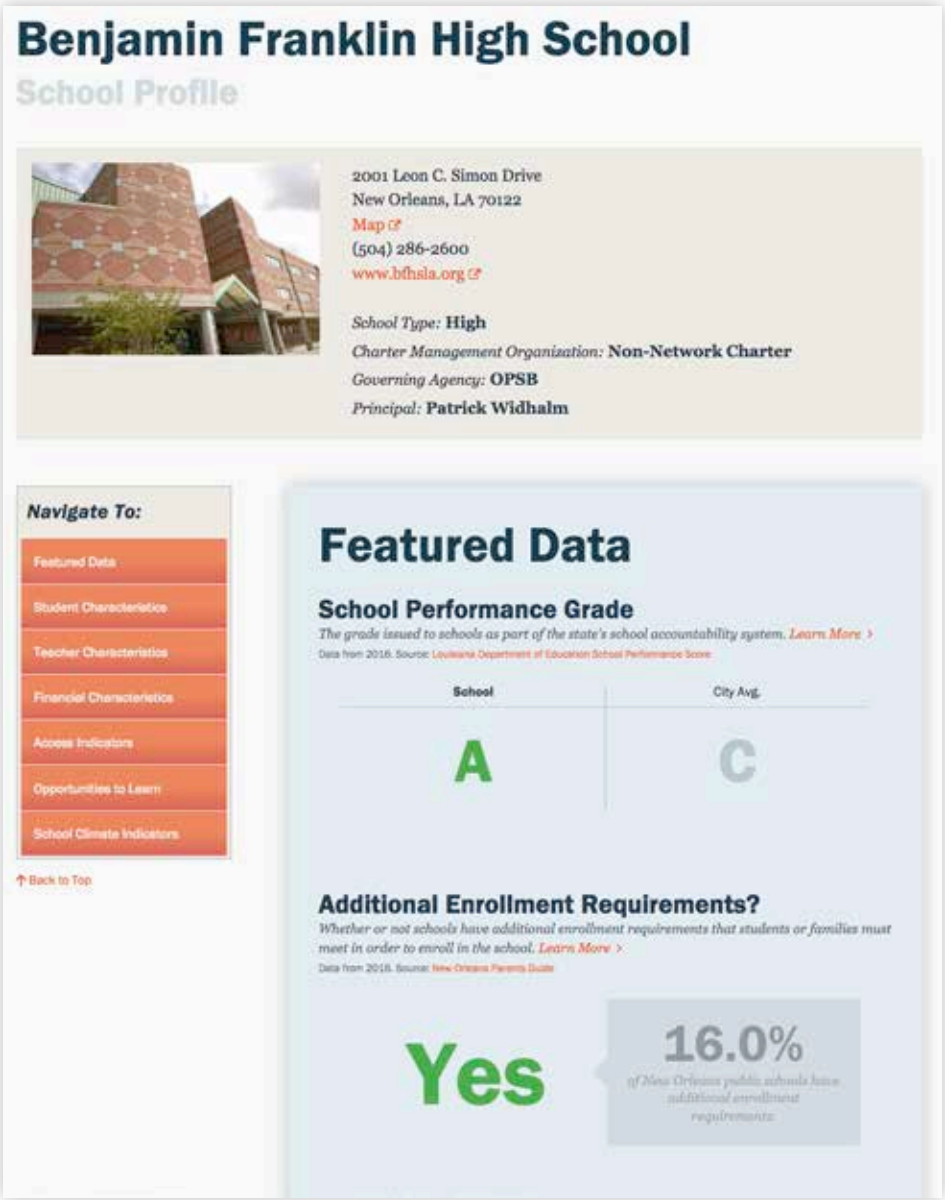


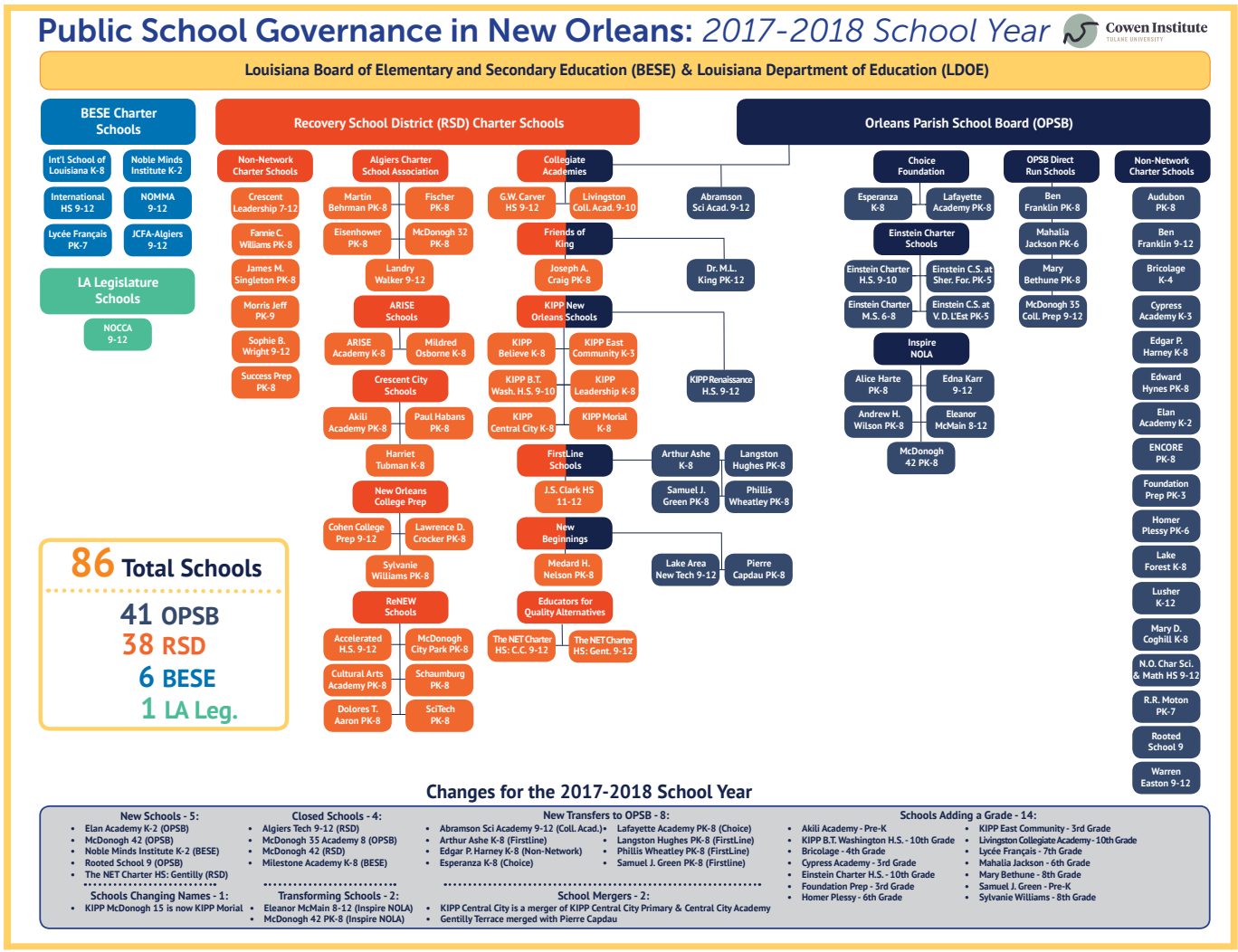
Compare Schools Side-By-Side

You can use the Index's Compare function to see schools side by side. Simply select the schools you wish to compare using the checkbox and click compare to see a number of key indicators side-by-side.

GO TO SCHOOLS PAGE >

Explore In-Depth Equity Profiles





Reproduced courtesy of the Cowen Institute works.

CONVERGE

Converge is a values-based local consulting firm whose mission is to accelerate the creation of a radically just new world where communities of color thrive. We partner with government agencies, philanthropic, and nonprofit organizations to build power, create equity, and promote justice. We do this through issue campaign development, initiative management, organizational development and capacity building, leadership development, and training.

Office:
4411 Canal St.
New Orleans, LA 70119
Telephone: 504-941-7828
http://www.convergeforchange.com

Louisiana Center for Children's Rights

Louisiana Center for Children's Rights (LCCR) defends the rights of Louisiana's most vulnerable children to fairness, dignity, and opportunity. LCCR is the juvenile public defender for Orleans Parish and works for juvenile justice reform statewide. LCCR works with schools, stakeholders, and policy makers to remove barriers and expand opportunity for system-involved youth.

Office:
1100-B Milton St.
New Orleans, LA 70122
Telephone: 504-658-6860
Fax: 504-658-6869
http://www.laccr.org

ORLEANS PUBLIC EDUCATION NETWORK

Orleans Public Education Network (OPEN) equips citizens to create excellence and equity for young people through leadership development, civic capacity building, and data-backed advocacy. OPEN's work includes producing accessible self-advocacy and civic education programs, gathering and unpacking high-quality data, and working with school systems to adopt policy that reflects community priorities. The work's ultimate goal is an education system that brings people, data, and lived experience into policy and practice.

Office:
3321 Tulane Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70119
Telephone: 504-821-4004
http://www.opennola.org