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**NEW ORLEANS CHARTER SCHOOLS ONCE AGAIN DEMONSTRATE  
SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT CITYWIDE**

*Twenty-five charter schools meet i3 Effect Size criteria and those who have submitted charter applications for 2012 are eligible to apply for fall round of i3 funds.*

NEW ORLEANS, La. – The application for the Investing in Innovation (i3) 2012 School Opening Fall Round awards and the most recent i3 Effect Size assessment launched today, signaling the start of the third selection process to be run in New Orleans. Nineteen open-enrollment and six criteria admissions/exit requirement schools for a total of 25 New Orleans charter schools demonstrated significantly better results in math and/or reading than their traditional Louisiana public school counterparts. Two of those charter schools, Dr. Martin Luther King Charter School and International School of Louisiana have submitted charter applications to the state for the 2012 school year and are eligible to apply for i3 awards in this third round. For the 2012-2013 school year, award winners will be matched with persistently low-performing schools through a comprehensive community engagement process unveiled earlier this week by the Recovery School District (RSD).

Eligibility to apply for the awards is determined by an assessment prepared by the Center for Research on Education Outcomes (CREDO). The assessment, which includes 2010-2011 test data, analyzes a charter school's ability to impact student learning over a three-year period by calculating its "effect size." New Schools for New Orleans (NSNO) and the RSD will use the i3 Effect Size scores, in conjunction with other stringent criteria to grant i3 awards at the end of the year. To date, six awards have been granted to charter operators to turn around seven academically unacceptable New Orleans schools in the 2011 and 2012 school years. (See "The New Orleans i3 Project: 2012 Award Eligibility and Selection Criteria" for details.)

"The New Orleans i3 Project has enabled the city to provide substantially better opportunity for at least 1,000 students and their families citywide. That number will increase to more than 1,800 students as of the 2012 school year," said Neerav Kingsland, Chief Strategy Officer, NSNO. "The measurement of individual student growth each year provides us data to understand which charter schools, using a variety of models, are demonstrating an ability to have a significant impact on student learning over time. This next selection process will enable us to identify an additional group of schools that are both qualified and ready to expand, continuing the hard work of turning around the remaining academically unacceptable schools in the city."

This week in its "What Will It Take?" report, the RSD unveiled a commitment to utilize public processes and to consider public input, operator experience and other factors when making critical decisions regarding school transformations, school locations, building usage, and school closure. The new process involves seven months of discussions with families and community members whose schools are moving, transforming through new management or closing.

"The RSD is about achieving excellence for children, and the recent i3 effect size assessment demonstrates more positive growth for charter schools citywide, said RSD Superintendent John White. "It is critical as we move forward to make public decisions in public. The RSD will share rationale for decisions and be open to

hearing both support and criticism from the community.

“It is our responsibility as a district to ensure that the remaining challenges in New Orleans are met,” he added. “By following through on this and the other commitments listed in the “What Will It Take?” report, we will make critical strides toward achieving our goal of ensuring that all New Orleans children graduate from college or attain a professional career.”

The current i3 Effect Size criteria is based on the following:

- Only charter school operators that achieve a statistically significant effect size of .1 or higher in reading or math (with neither reading nor math being statistically significant and negative) are eligible to apply for an i3 award.
- For charter school organizations operating more than one school, ALL schools operated must achieve a statistically significant effect size of .1 or higher in reading or math (with neither reading nor math being statistically significant and negative) for the operator to be eligible to apply for an i3 award.

All applicants must have submitted a charter application, in addition to meeting the i3 Effect Size criteria, to apply for an i3 award in this round.

The Investing in Innovation (i3) 2012 School Opening Fall Round application is available on the NSNO website ([www.newschoolsforneworleans.org](http://www.newschoolsforneworleans.org)).

### **Investing in Innovation (i3) Award**

In October 2010, New Schools for New Orleans and the Recovery School District were awarded a \$28 million validation grant by the U.S. Department of Education through the Investing in Innovation competition, and secured the required \$5.6 million in matching funds. The award will fund a five-year project called “Scaling the New Orleans Charter Restart Model.” The goal is to expand New Orleans’ innovative charter model citywide, and then apply the model to other struggling urban school districts. The heart of the New Orleans i3 Project involves creating a permanent infrastructure to turn around the bottom five percent of academically unacceptable schools in New Orleans using high-performing charter management organizations. The project will begin in the 2011-12 school year and then replicate the New Orleans model in Memphis and Nashville, TN.

### **New Schools for New Orleans**

New Schools for New Orleans (NSNO) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting and developing the people, resources and environment necessary to achieve excellent public schools for every child in New Orleans. Founded in April 2006, NSNO is committed to making strategic investments of time, expertise and funding to support the growth of New Orleans’ high-performing system of charter schools. NSNO’s work to support continued student achievement gains citywide is focused on three objectives: serving the city as a strategic leader to maintain focus on academic excellence in a reform-friendly environment; supporting the expansion of high-performing charter schools to serve additional students in collaboration with the community; and, partnering with sustainable support organizations to ensure that the academic needs of schools are met as they continue to advance student learning.

### **Recovery School District**

The Recovery School District is a special school district administered by the Louisiana Department of Education. Created by legislation passed in 2003, the RSD’s mission is to provide the supports and interventions necessary to put academically struggling schools on a path toward success. Currently, the RSD includes 16 traditional public schools and 50 public charter schools in New Orleans.

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