



NEW SCHOOLS
FOR NEW ORLEANS

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

Dear Newsletter Recipients:

We are thrilled to share with you some exciting news! Today, 8 new charters were passed by BESE, 7 of which will impact public education in New Orleans. New Schools for New Orleans is proud to announce that 4 of these charters were obtained by school leaders we support, who are in the midst of our intensive training program.

As always, thank you for your continuing attention to, and support of, the hard work that is going on in classrooms every day across the city.

Enjoy,
Renita Thukral
Director of Policy & Advocacy
renita@nsno.org

BESE Approves 8 New Charters!

Today, in a final vote, the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education for the state of Louisiana approved 8 new charter schools to open in 2009 and 2010.

The following public charter schools will open their doors in New Orleans:

- ARISE Academy* (to open in 2009)
- Benjamin Mays Preparatory Academy* (to open in 2009)
- KIPP K-8 and KIPP Renaissance High School (to open in 2010)
- Lagniappe Academies of New Orleans (to open in 2010)
- Pride College Preparatory Academy* (to open in 2009)
- Success Preparatory Academy* (to open in 2009)
- Thurgood Marshall Early College (currently open)

*These schools are each led by an NSNO School Founder Fellowship recipient

To learn more about these charter schools, read the executive summaries of their charter applications by clicking [here](#).

Some of the approved schools are "transformation charters." These schools seek to improve under-performing RSD-operated schools by changing the leadership and governance model of the failing schools' lower grades. Each year, the charter school will expand its grade configuration, ultimately operating a full preK or K-8 school.

2008-2009 Student Demographic Data Released

This month, the student demographic data for each school in Louisiana was released to the public. This data reveals the student population in *all* open enrollment schools, both traditional and charter, is 98% minority and shows that approximately 90% of Louisiana public school students qualify for free and reduced lunch.

To see detailed information about all Louisiana schools, click [here](#).

For a snapshot of the student demographics in Orleans Parish

Spotlight

[New Charters Approved](#)
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[Recent Press](#)

Related Links

[New Schools for New Orleans](#)
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[NOLA Charter School Blog](#)
[Educate Now!](#)
[School Leadership Center](#)
[Scott Cowen Institute](#)
[Board of Elementary and Secondary Education](#)
[Recovery School District](#)
[Orleans Parish School Board](#)

Upcoming Events

January 5, 2009: Interested in teaching in a public school in New Orleans?? Apply to teachNOLA before January 5th to join the teaching force in Fall 2009. For more information, click [here](#).

February 17, 2009: Are you an experienced educator interested in leading a public school? Apply to become a resident principal in New Orleans through New Leaders for New Schools by Feb. 17th. For more information, click [here](#).

schools by school types, email Morgan Carter at morgan@nsno.org.

Recent Press

Teachers' Union Proposal Rejected

Times Picayune, Darran Simon, *Teachers' Union Proposal Rejected*: This November, the Orleans Parish School Board (OPSB) rejected a proposal by the local teachers' union, UTNO, to reinstate a collective bargaining agreement in OPSB-operated schools. The proposed contract would have impacted about 200 teachers in 5 schools. The contract proposal likely will be revisited in early 2009, when 5 new members join OPSB.

Click [here](#) for full article.

British Education Guru Investigates Teacher Retention in Louisiana

Times Picayune, Sarah Carr, *British Education Guru Gets LA Gig*: Sir Michael Barber, a top adviser to former British Prime Minister Tony Blair, has joined the Louisiana Department of Education to institute a series of reforms that will attract and keep high-quality teachers and leaders in Louisiana schools.

Click [here](#) for full article.

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