



### NSNO Community Newsletter

We are excited to send you the 3rd Edition of New Schools for New Orleans's Community Newsletter! If you are not able to view this e-mail, please go to [http://www.newschoolorneworleans.org/downloads/nsno\\_CommunityNewsletter\\_May.pdf](http://www.newschoolorneworleans.org/downloads/nsno_CommunityNewsletter_May.pdf) to download a copy from our website. While you are there, check out our past issues at [www.newschoolorneworleans.org/resources](http://www.newschoolorneworleans.org/resources)

Please feel free to respond to me directly with your thoughts and questions at [renita@nsno.org](mailto:renita@nsno.org). If you received this newsletter as a forward and would like to be added to the mailing list please click [here](#).

#### The Scott S. Cowen Institute for Public Education Initiatives Releases Report on the State of Public Schools in New Orleans



In partnership with the Greater New Orleans Education Foundation and the New Orleans City Council's Education Committee, the Scott Cowen Institute announced the publication of the 2<sup>nd</sup> State of Public Education report. The report provides an ongoing chronicle and assessment of the progress of public education in New Orleans, including a comprehensive description of the current system and an assessment of public opinion about how well the schools are performing.

To download the report, click here: <http://education.tulane.edu/sos.html>

#### April State Board of Education Meeting

Three key events occurred during the meeting of BESE (Board of Elementary and Secondary Education) this month:

- MORE MONEY:** State Superintendent Paul Pastorek pledged to distribute the state's Restart funds by June 2008 to those Recovery School District-run and Recovery School District charters that submit their paperwork by mid-May. To read more about these promised Restart funds, click here: <http://www.nola.com/timespic/stories/index.ssf?base/news-4/1209820131213470.xml&coll=1>
- THEMED HIGH SCHOOLS:** Recovery School District Superintendent Paul Vallas presented a progress report in which he announced plans to redesign public high schools into themed schools starting next year. To see his presentation in full, click here: <http://www.louisianaschools.net/ide/uploads/1237.pdf>.
- HIGH EXPECTATIONS:** BESE voted to support important state legislation in favor of high stakes testing in Louisiana.

#### Update on Legislation

May 7<sup>th</sup> is CHARTER DAY at the state capitol. The Louisiana Association of Public Charter Schools will be hosting a *breakfast for the state's legislators* and a *brown bag lunch for the public* on the steps of the capitol with a presentation of a proclamation from Governor Jindal. PLEASE JOIN US! Please see the details to your right. -->

Plus, that same day the House Education Committee will be hearing all of the proposed legislation affecting charter schools across the state, beginning at 9 a.m. Testimony will be presented by various organizations from around the state, including New Schools for New Orleans, and public comment is welcome!

Interested in keeping track of important education legislation in Louisiana? Sign up for weekly updates from the Cowen Institute by clicking here: [http://www.tulane.edu/cowen\\_institute/2008LegislativeSession.html](http://www.tulane.edu/cowen_institute/2008LegislativeSession.html)

#### Update on the Common Application

The Common Application period for admission to public schools in New Orleans is now complete. We are thrilled at the number of schools and community organizations who participated in the process and look forward to improving the process and increasing publicity about the Common Application next year.

Interested in the response to this year's application process? Read about the simplified school sign-up in New Orleans on the Times-Picayune website: <http://www.nola.com/timespic/stories/index.ssf?base/library-146/1208755223316220.xml&coll=1>

Are you a parent of public school students in New Orleans? Have you enrolled your children in public schools for next year? If not, schools are still accepting applications and allowing students entry on a first come, first serve basis. Learn more about your options and apply to a public school soon!

What do you think about the common application in New Orleans? Give us your feedback by clicking here: [http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=Cx9Dod7n1cKKUq83wWIA8w\\_3d\\_3d](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=Cx9Dod7n1cKKUq83wWIA8w_3d_3d).

#### Newsletter Spotlight

- State of New Orleans Public Schools—Report Released
- Takeaways from April's BESE Meetings
- Legislative Update
- Update on Common Application—Take the Survey
- Recent Press
- Invite to CHARTER DAY!

#### RELATED LINKS

- New Schools for New Orleans
- New Orleans Parents Guide to Public Schools
- The Cowen Institute
- Louisiana State Legislature
- Louisiana Board of Elementary and Secondary Education
- NOLA Charter School Blog
- Recovery School District
- Orleans Parish School Board

#### INVITATION

##### PLEASE JOIN US!

May 7<sup>th</sup> is Charter Day at the State Capitol

N. 3rd Street on State Capitol Drive

A brown bag lunch will be provided to the first 100 people to arrive.

9AM—12PM

All Charter Legislation to be considered by the House Ed Committee

12PM—2PM

Lunch

2PM—5PM

The Full House Convenes

#### RECENT PRESS

##### Slate Magazine Author Proposes 7 methods for Fixing Public Education in the United States

Slate Magazine, Jim Ryan, *Fixing Education Policy*:

"The federal government provides less than 10 percent of all education funding, yet ICLB drives education policy in every school district in the country. In short, it's a big deal. It's also in need of repair. No one—conservative or liberal, Democrat or Republican—doubts that. That's the easy part. The hard part is how to fix it. Let's start with what not to do. *Don't scrap it.*"

Click here for the full article: <http://www.slate.com/id/2187680/>

##### New York Times Reports on New Orleans' Public School Progress in a front page article

New York Times, Adam Nossitor, *Against Odds, New Orleans Schools Fight Back*:

Nossitor offers a balanced and hopeful look at the progress of public schools in New Orleans since 2005: "On one level the transformation has already been total. Even without concurrent transformations in the city's minimal economy and fragmentary social structure, the schools are being administered with a vigor that would have been unrecognizable here before the storm."

To read more, click here: [http://www.nytimes.com/2008/04/30/us/nationalspecial/30orleans.html?\\_r=1&ref=education&oref=slogin](http://www.nytimes.com/2008/04/30/us/nationalspecial/30orleans.html?_r=1&ref=education&oref=slogin)

Again, thank you for your continued interest in transforming public education in New Orleans. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or comments.

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The mission of New Schools for New Orleans is to achieve excellent public schools for every child in New Orleans by attracting and preparing talent to teach and lead, launching and supporting open-enrollment public charter schools, and advocating for accountable and sustainable high-quality public schools.

To ensure that you continue to receive emails from us, add [renita@nsno.org](mailto:renita@nsno.org) to your address book today.

To remove your name from our mailing list, please [click here](#).

Questions or comments? E-mail us at [renita@nsno.org](mailto:renita@nsno.org) or call 504-274-3644