

Morgan Carter

From: Morgan Carter [morgan@nsno.org]

Sent: Tuesday, August 25, 2009 4:01 PM

To: Morgan Carter

Subject: New Schools and Exciting New Charter Results--New Schools for New Orleans August Newsletter



**NEW SCHOOLS
FOR NEW ORLEANS**

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

Dear Newsletter Recipients:

In June, a longitudinal report on the effectiveness of charter schools was released by Stanford University. The results of this research show that charters in Louisiana are improving student achievement for kids of varying demographic and educational backgrounds. Specifically, our charter schools are bettering results for students from low-income homes and those who begin the school year behind other students.

This study provides evidence that local charter operators are achieving their goal -- exceptional educational opportunity for all kids. However, the study also shows that charters aren't the silver bullet to success. Nationally, one in three charter schools are not outperforming traditional schools. Charter schools tend to have greater impact on students in states with strong authorizers and tight accountability standards.

Since 2006, Louisiana has led the way in accountability measures in the United States. Maintaining our commitment to a high bar for all schools and continued partnerships between the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education and organizations like NACSA (www.qualitycharters.org) will be essential to Louisiana's continued success.

As the school year begins this August, New Schools for New Orleans is excited to introduce four new charter schools that we expect will follow statewide trends in high performance. And, we are proud to know that Paul Vallas, the RSD, and BESE recognize - and are willing to support - the tremendous potential already demonstrated by well-administered charter schools.

Sincerely,
[New Schools for New Orleans Staff](#)

Four Incubated Schools Open for the 2009-2010 School Year

New Schools for New Orleans is very excited for the opening of four new elementary charter schools, each led by NSNO Founder Fellowship Recipients:

[Arise Academy](#), located on the Dr. Charles Drew Elementary School campus, is opening for PK - 2nd grade. Arise's core values are achievement, respect, innovation, service, and enthusiasm.

The leader of ARISE, Andrew Shahan, is an expert in the field of Special Education, with teaching experience in Atlanta, New York and Guatemala; including two years at KIPP:STAR, one of the highest-performing public schools in New York City.

Arise opened its doors to 1st and 2nd graders on August 6th, and will begin for PK and K students on August 17th.

[Benjamin E. Mays Preparatory School](#), or Mays Prep, is led by

Spotlight

[NSNO Incubated Schools to Open Doors](#)

[CREDO Results prove Positive for LA Charter Schools](#)

[Recent Press](#)

Related Links

[New Schools for New Orleans](#)

[Arise Academy](#)

[Benjamin E. Mays Preparatory School](#)

[Pride College Preparatory Academy](#)

[Success Preparatory Academy](#)

Duke Bradley III and located on the Carver Elementary campus. Mr. Bradley is an educator with over ten years of experience and is a New Leaders for New Schools alum.

Mays Prep will serve students in PK - 2nd grade. The school will maintain a hybrid instructional approach, balancing both traditional and progressive methodologies to help facilitate learning and to accommodate various students needs.

K - 2nd grade will begin on August 12th, and PK begins August 17th.

[Pride College Preparatory Academy](#), operated on the Gregory Elementary campus, is led by Michael Richard. Pride's values are: perseverance, achievement, teamwork, and healthy learning.

Mr. Richard is a Teach For America alum with a BA in Philosophy from Northwestern University and an MA in Teaching from National Louis University.

The school, opening for PK - 2nd grade this year, opens August 13th for 2nd graders, August 14th for 1st graders and August 17th for students in PK & K.

[Success Preparatory Academy](#), run by St. Claire Adriaan and Niloy Gangopadhyay on the Wicker Elementary campus, will serve students in K - 3rd grade this year. Students at Success will "Focus. Learn. Lead."

Mr. Gangopadhyay is a Teach For America alum with an MA in Education Policy from Harvard and teaching experience within the Uncommon Schools network. Mr. Adriaan has received many accolades throughout his teaching career and has worked in such exceptional schools as Noble Street and KIPP. St. Claire and Niloy most recently were co-principals of the Lighthouse Community School in Cleveland.

Success began on August 6th for 3rd grade, August 7th for 2nd, and August 10th for 1st. Success will open for K on August 17th.

To learn more about these schools, please see the [Related Links](#) section above.

CREDO Study Results show Positive Gains for Charter Schools

A national study released in June by Stanford University's Center for Research on Education Outcomes (CREDO) found that 17% of charter schools nationwide are superior to traditional schools. While nationwide results are only somewhat positive--though some charters are outperforming traditional schools, one in three is not--local results are impressive. The study found that, compared with traditional schools, charter schools in Louisiana are achieving significantly better results for students from low-income homes and also for students who begin the school year further behind than their peers.

Why the superior performance in New Orleans? The Stanford study

[Multiple Choice: Charter School Performance in 16 States](#), a CREDO study

Upcoming Events

September 11 - 12: Louisiana Charter School Association hosts the 2nd Annual [Louisiana Charter School Conference](#) in New Orleans. To learn more, click [here](#).

says a key determinant of charter school success is the quality of the authorizing board, its willingness to ride herd on weak charters and its readiness to move in and shake up (or dissolve) those that aren't carrying their weight. In other words, the same tough standards that apply to student and teacher performance within a recovering school system, must also be applied to the administrators of those schools.

To view the full study by CREDO, click [here](#).

New Schools for New Orleans would like to congratulate all charter leaders and the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education in Louisiana for your superior performance! We look forward to your continued success.

Recent Press

Times-Picayune, [Clusters of Schools Gain Clout in N.O.](#)

Brian Thevenot, a staff writer at the Times-Picayune, looks at the advancement of KIPP (Knowledge is Power Program) in middle schools and high schools in New Orleans, as well as the broader take-over of public schools in the area by "charter clusters." This article also touches on the process of having a child in the same charter system from the time they begin their elementary school education until they graduate high school.

Click [here](#) for full article.

The Boston Globe, [Administration Launches School Reform Contest](#)

President Obama announces a national competition, with about 4 billion dollars worth of prize money to help charter school systems in the United States thrive. He proposes to reward states that use innovative new methods to help their students achieve higher standards in what has been labeled the "Race to the Top".

Click [here](#) for full article.

Times-Picayune, [Recovery School District Superintendent Paul Vallas Wants No Return to Old Ways](#)

Brian Thevenot writes about Superintendent Paul Vallas, who recently brought to attention the many reforms occurring since 2005. Vallas also stated that New Orleans has reached a positive "tipping point" in terms of the ratio of non-charter schools to charter schools; there are now more charter schools than traditional schools in Orleans Parish.

Click [here](#) for full article.



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