



# 2017 Annual Report

New Schools for New Orleans



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Delivering on the promise of excellent public schools for every child in New Orleans.

“While we can build off the foundation of what has worked in the past, the challenges we face today will also require new approaches and new solutions.”

Patrick Dobard, CEO of New Schools for New Orleans

This year, as we celebrate the 300th anniversary of New Orleans' founding, our city also embarks on the unification of all public schools under the Orleans Parish School Board (OPSB). Both events mark storied histories of struggle, progress, and rebirth. Public education in this city has come from a history of chronic failure and devastation in the wake of Hurricane Katrina to an academic resurgence unlike that of any city in our country.

And our story is not finished. This year, New Orleans will become the first charter school district governed by a democratically elected school board.

OPSB will begin managing a vastly improved set of schools and an infrastructure centered on academic quality and equity. But they will also inherit a system where academic growth has stalled. Our district performance score has decreased by 14.2 points, and statewide academic performance now outpaces New Orleans.

We must confront these disappointing results and their causes directly. While we can build off the foundation of what has worked in the past, the challenges we face today will also require new approaches and new solutions. This year, we adjusted our strategy to meet the needs of this changing landscape. In the following pages, we'll outline the challenges, strategies, and goals across four priority areas: portfolio, curriculum, talent, and policy.

For generations, New Orleans students have carried the burden of entrenched, systemic inequity. While education alone will not overcome what is so deeply rooted in our history, our imperative must remain ensuring that public education in New Orleans positions every child to reach a high-quality life outcome. We will need schools that are both higher-performing and serve a wider variety of students' needs and interests. We will need a sustainable, well-prepared teaching force that delivers a rich and rigorous curriculum to their students. And we will need a policy environment that puts students first.

Reaching these goals will be challenging, but we will deliver on this vision and unlock the limitless potential of all of our children.

Sincerely,



Patrick Dobard  
Chief Executive Officer



# NSNO by the Numbers

In 2017, NSNO provided nearly \$6,000,000 in grants to support educators, schools, and talent organizations.

**\$2,650,000**  
Schools

Since our founding, NSNO has facilitated the launch or expansion of 35 New Orleans schools—including some of the city's highest performing charter schools. Our investments help ensure quality school operators and promising entrepreneurs have the resources they need to grow—so that every year, families have access to more high-quality schools.

## 2017 INVESTMENTS

Morris Jeff High School  
Rooted School  
Élan Academy Charter School  
Bricolage Academy  
New Orleans Career and Technical Center

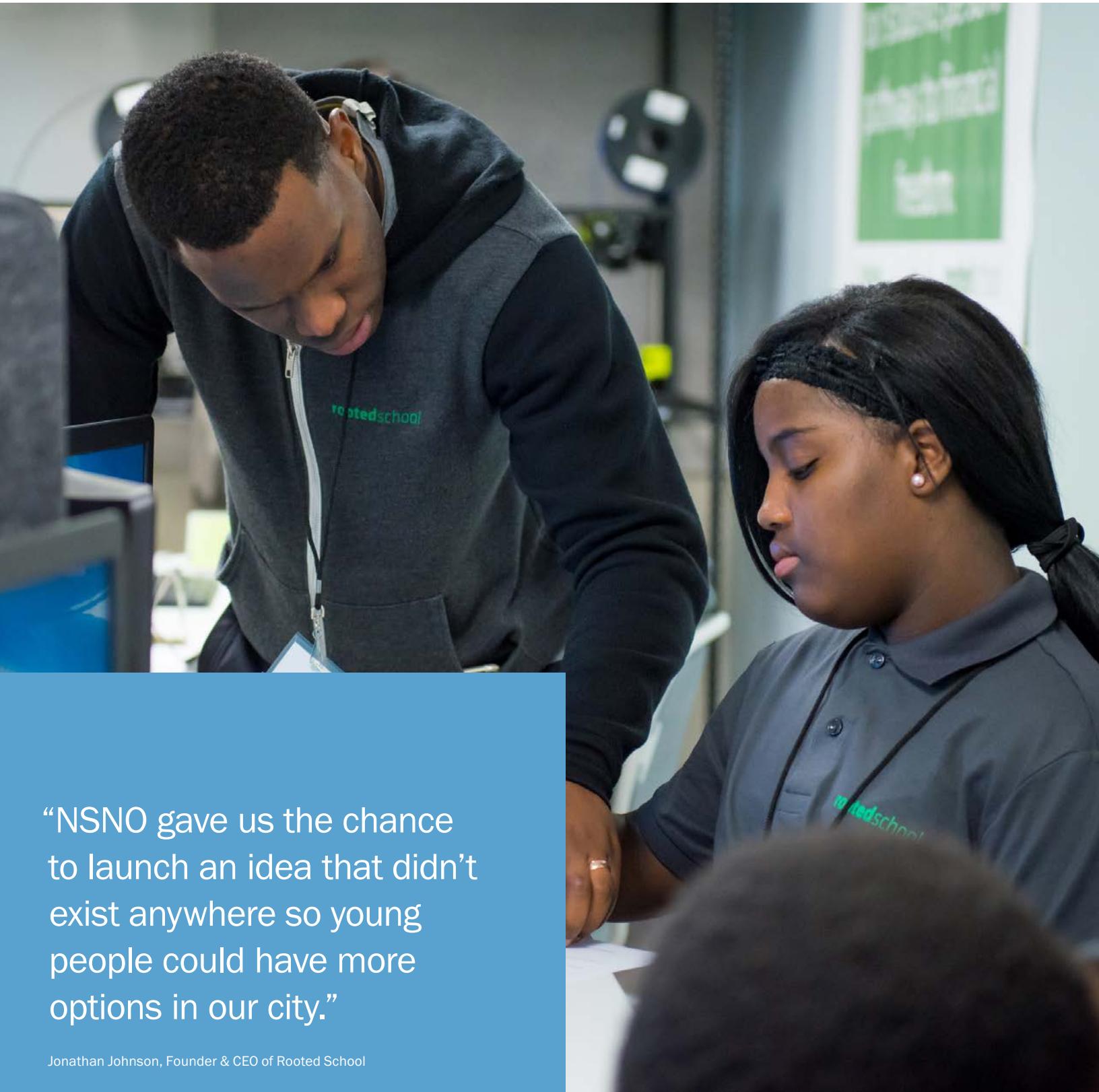
**\$1,250,000**  
Special Education

NSNO has made key investments in programs that build New Orleans' capacity to better serve students with disabilities. We work to ensure these students have access to the programs, services, and educators they need and deserve.

**These organizations recruited and trained 80 special educators and 19 special education coordinators this year.**

## 2017 INVESTMENTS

Special Education Leader Fellowship  
New Orleans Therapeutic Day Center  
Achievement Partners  
National Center for Special Education in Charter Schools  
Teach For America  
teachNOLA/TNTP  
Relay Graduate School of Education



“NSNO gave us the chance to launch an idea that didn’t exist anywhere so young people could have more options in our city.”

Jonathan Johnson, Founder & CEO of Rooted School



"Thank you NSNO for celebrating so many great New Orleans teachers. I'm honored to have received this award and grateful for the opportunity I get each day to work with my students."

Christy Swauncy, Winner of 2017 New Orleans Excellence in Teaching

## \$1,500,000 Talent

NSNO grants to university and non-profit teacher preparation programs have helped strengthen and expand the pipeline of effective teachers entering New Orleans classrooms.

### 2017 INVESTMENTS

Relay Graduate School of Education  
teachNOLA/TNTP  
Xavier University of Louisiana  
Teach For America

## \$550,000 Personalized Learning

NSNO partnered with Educate Now! and the Next Generation Learning Challenges to support schools in their adoption of personalized learning—accelerating student learning by tailoring the instructional environment to address individual needs, skills, and interest of each student. As part of this initiative, we began the personalized learning fellowship program to bring teachers together from different schools so they could share ideas, learnings, and challenges related to integrating personalized learning strategies in their classrooms.

### 2017 INVESTMENTS

FirstLine Schools  
Einstein Charter Schools  
New Orleans College Prep  
Crescent City Schools  
Collegiate Academies  
Bricolage Academy

**22 teachers representing  
20 New Orleans schools  
were selected for the 2nd  
cohort of Personalized  
Learning Fellows.**

# NSNO Through the Years

## We helped schools build the capacity to serve all students with disabilities.

Since 2013, we've invested over \$3 million in local schools to start or expand programs that served students with moderate to intensive disabilities.

Funding from NSNO helped launch Collegiate Opportunities Academy – a college-like learning experience for 18–22 year olds with mild to significant disabilities.



NSNO has implemented a \$2.4 million federal grant to recruit, train, and develop educators serving students with disabilities.

The Special Education Leader Fellowship launched with support from NSNO. The two-year fellowship provides current and aspiring special education coordinators from schools throughout the city with high-quality professional development.



## We invested in efforts to strengthen teacher compensation and development.

Since 2010, NSNO has leveraged two federal Teacher Incentive Fund grants totaling over \$32 million to help build an infrastructure for performance-based compensation. This funding has provided additional pay and professional development opportunities to teachers and leaders at over 30 schools in New Orleans at eight charter organizations over the last seven years.

Choice Foundation

New Orleans College Prep

Collegiate Academies

ReNEW Schools

FirstLine Schools

Sophie B. Wright Charter School

KIPP New Orleans

Success Preparatory Academy

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**We celebrated our students and teachers.**

We hosted the inaugural NOLA Senior Shout Out in 2014 to celebrate graduating seniors' admissions to college, technical schools, and the military. The event has grown from a small celebration with 50 seniors on the steps of Gallier Hall to a citywide event with over 600 students representing every school in the city. Capital One sponsored the 2017 event which proved to be the largest gathering yet.



Launched in 2015, the New Orleans Excellence in Teaching Award is a citywide award to recognize outstanding public school teachers. By honoring these exceptional educators, we celebrate the nearly 3,500 teachers across New Orleans and the amazing work they do to better the lives of our city's students.

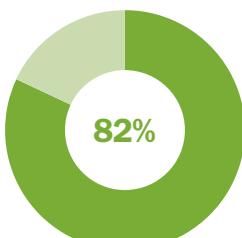


# New Orleans by the Numbers

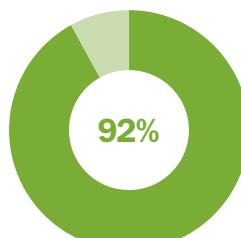
## System at a Glance

**Approximately 49,000  
students attend  
public schools in  
New Orleans.**

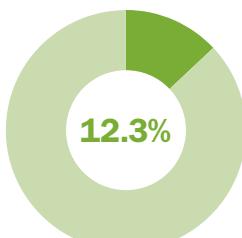
█ New Orleans  
█ Louisiana



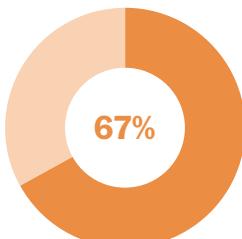
Economically Disadvantaged



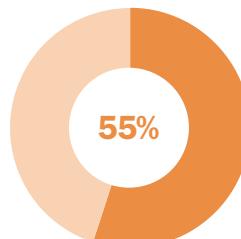
Students of Color



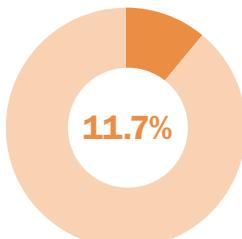
Students with Disabilities



Economically Disadvantaged



Students of Color



Students with Disabilities

**The majority of schools are now under OPSB for the first time since 2004. By the fall of 2018, all RSD schools will be back under our locally elected school board.**

**Current (2017–18):  
86 schools**



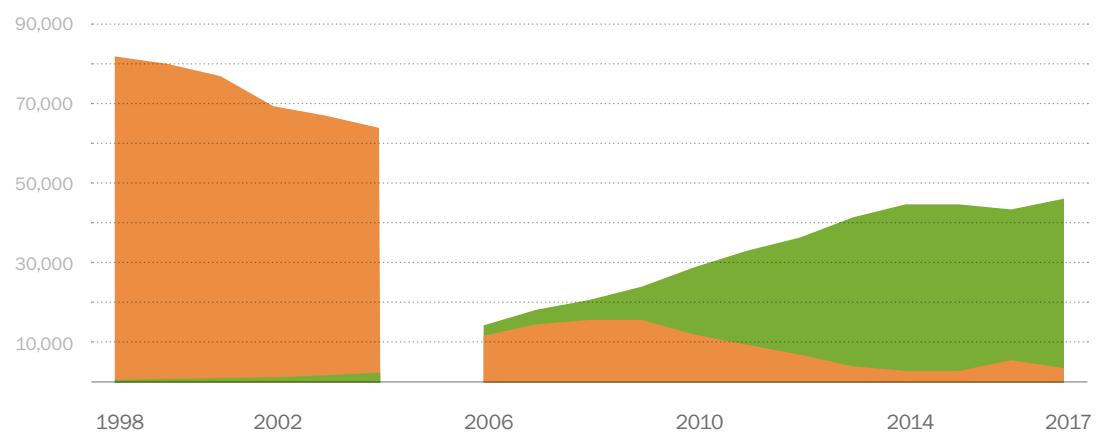
**Projected (2018–19):  
85 schools**



**93% of New Orleans  
public school  
students attend  
charter schools.**

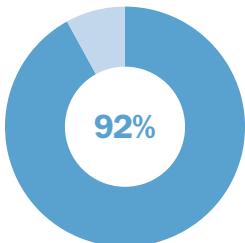
No data available for 2005–06

District Run Schools  
Public Charter Schools

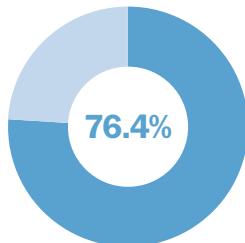


**OneApp made the  
New Orleans system  
more fair for families  
in 2017.**

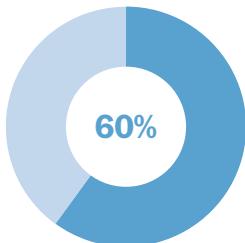
In 2017, the Urban League of Louisiana report *Advancing Educational Equity* stated that OneApp “is democratizing access to open enrollment in New Orleans public schools.”



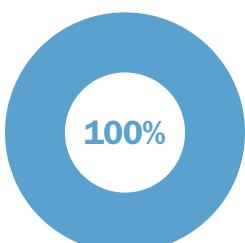
of students returned to their school  
and didn't need to apply via OneApp



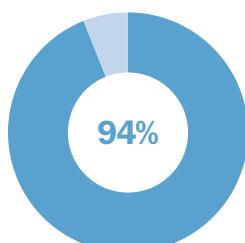
of applicants got one  
of their top 3 choices



of families chose schools  
outside their geographic zone



of kindergarteners were assigned  
to the same school as their sibling  
through the Sibling Priority and  
Family Link initiatives



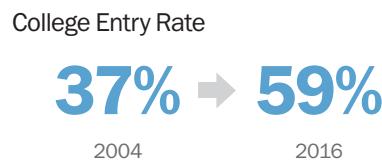
of applicants were assigned  
to their siblings' school

# New Orleans by the Numbers

# Numbers to Celebrate

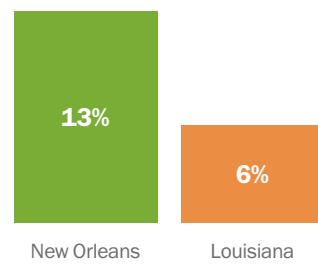
New Orleans has achieved what few thought possible—the transformation of a school system that was mired in chronic failure. Tulane's Education Research Alliance said in 2015, that they were not “aware of any other districts that have made such large improvements in such a short time.”

**More students are  
graduating high  
school, receiving state  
scholarships, and  
heading to college.**



## **Academic performance of New Orleans' students with disabilities improved at over two times the state rate.**

*Growth in percent of students with disabilities achieving proficiency or basic or above on state tests (all grades, all subjects) from 2005 to 2017*



**New Orleans is outpacing and outperforming similar districts nationally on the ACT.**

### *ACT Composite scores, 2010 vs. 2017*



\* Data is from 2015-16 school year.

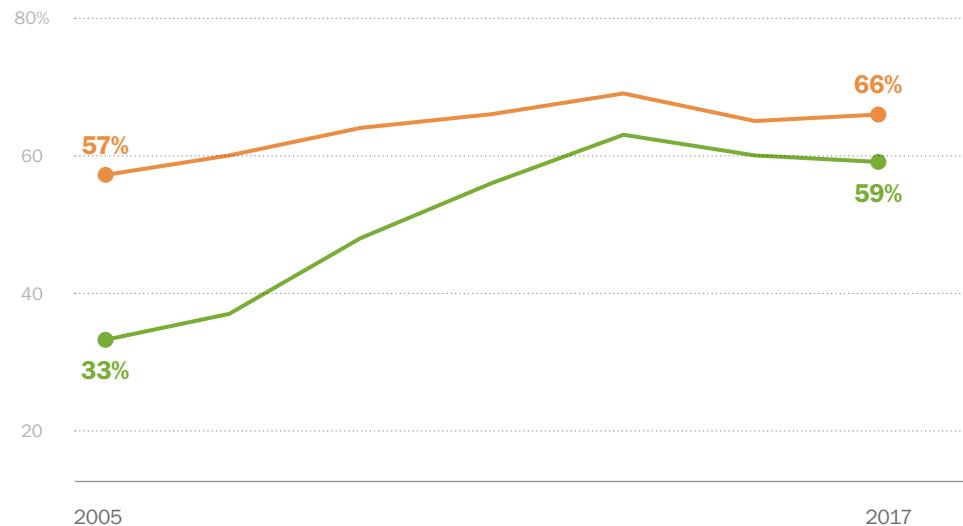
**\*\*ACT is not required by all students.**

*\*\*\* ACT is not required by all students. This is the weighted average of Composite scores between Shelby County Schools and Memphis Area High Schools in the Achievement School District.*

## More students are scoring Basic and Above on LEAP.

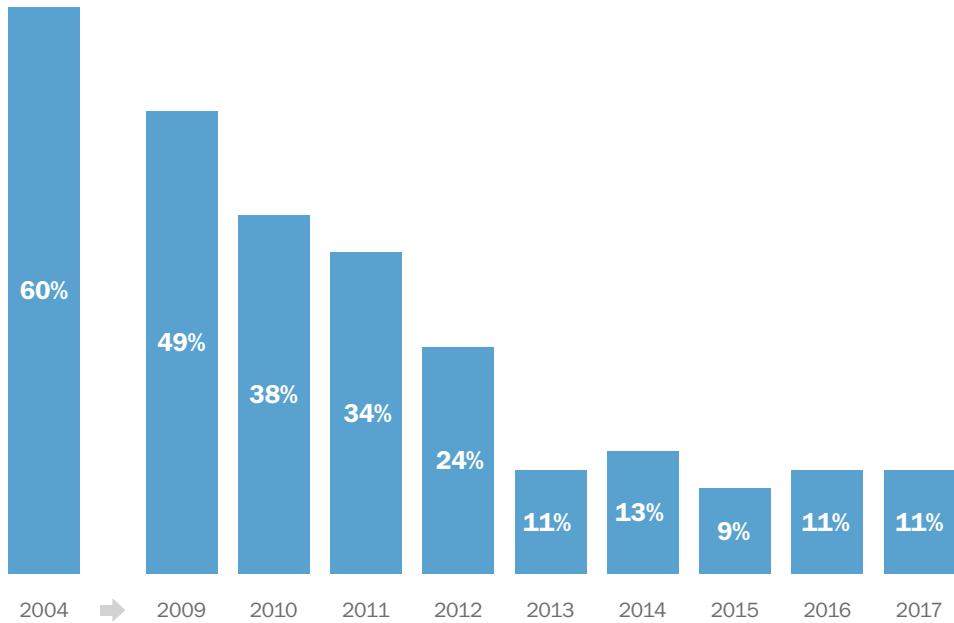
Percent of students who scored at basic or above on state assessments (K - 8)

Louisiana  
New Orleans



**11% of New Orleans students attend Louisiana's lowest performing schools—down from 60% in 2004.**

Percent of students in schools performing at bottom ten percent in Louisiana

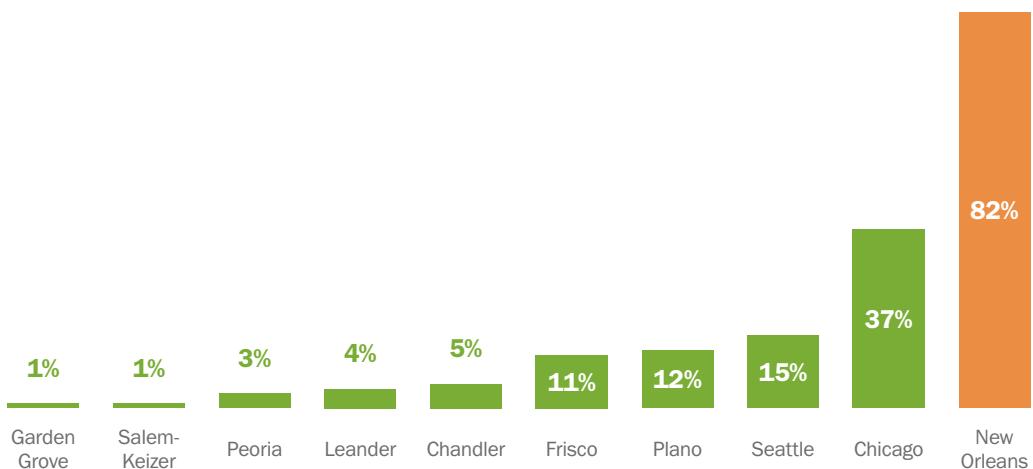


**According to research from Stanford's Center for Education Policy Analysis, of the largest 2000 districts in the United States, New Orleans was in the top ten for academic growth.**

SCHOOL DISTRICT	GROWTH AFTER 5 YEARS
City of Chicago (IL)	6.0 years
Chandler Unified District (AZ)	5.8
Seattle Public Schools (WA)	5.7
Leander (TX)	5.7
Salem-Keizer 24J (OR)	5.7
Plano (TX)	5.7
<b>Orleans Parish (LA)</b>	<b>5.7</b>
Garden Grove Unified (CA)	5.7
Frisco (TX)	5.6
Peoria Unified School Dist. (AZ)	5.6

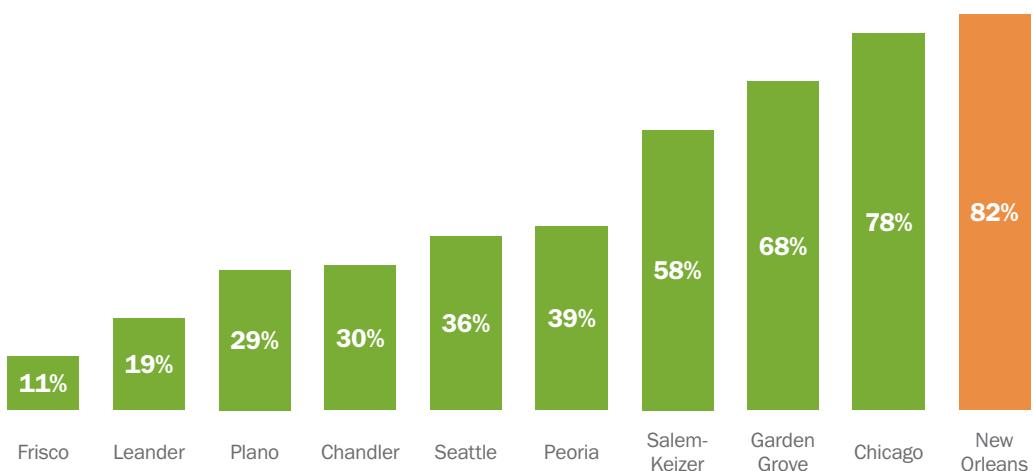
**New Orleans was the only city serving primarily black students to rank in the top ten.**

*Percent of black public school students*



**Of the top ten districts, New Orleans serves the highest percentage of economically disadvantaged students.**

*Percent of economically disadvantaged students based on comparable state definitions and NSNO analysis*



“NSNO is an important partner in the city, and I appreciate their support in continuing to improve academic achievement in New Orleans. As the city moves toward unification, their focus on strengthening the talent pipeline and quality of instructional materials is critical to raising our schools to the next level of success.

Kunjan Narechania, Superintendent of RSD



“I want to thank NSNO for their many years of partnership and hard work. As we begin what is a new era for our public schools, we know that we've come a long way and have a long way to go. It is more important than ever to have non-profit leaders like NSNO to help continue making progress on ensuring high quality schools for all our young people.”

Henderson Lewis, Superintendent of OPSB



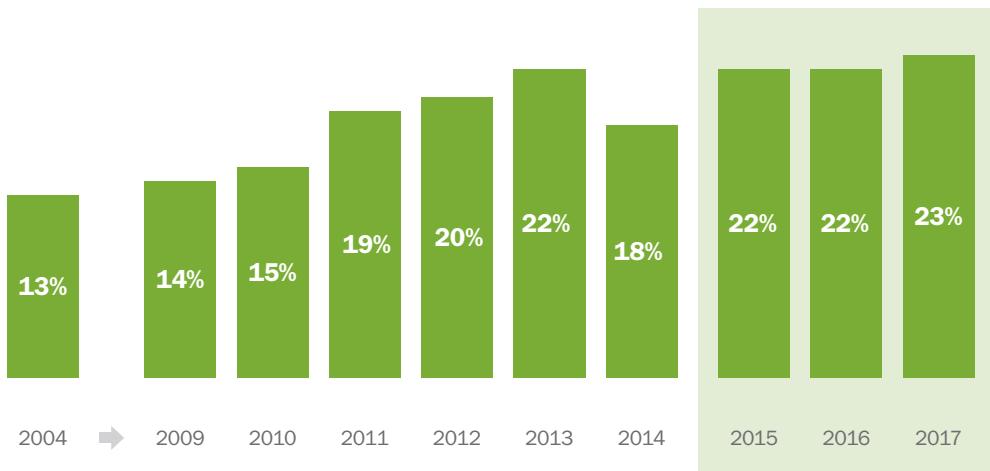
# New Orleans by the Numbers

## Numbers to Motivate

Following more than a decade of unprecedented improvement, academic gains have stalled in the last few years. For the first time in over a decade, statewide performance has begun to outpace New Orleans.

**The percent of students in Louisiana's top performing schools has barely increased in the last 3 years.**

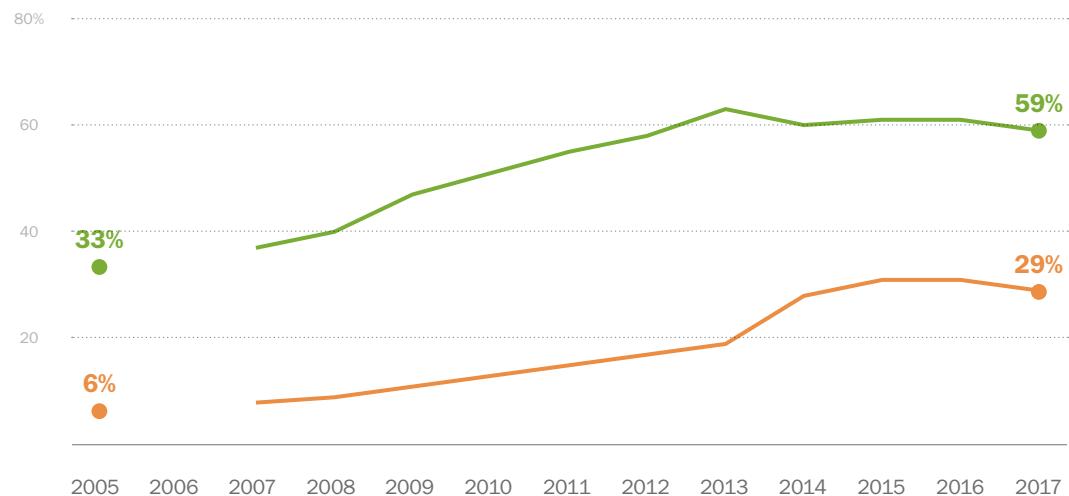
*Percent of New Orleans students attending schools performing in the top 25% of statewide performance*

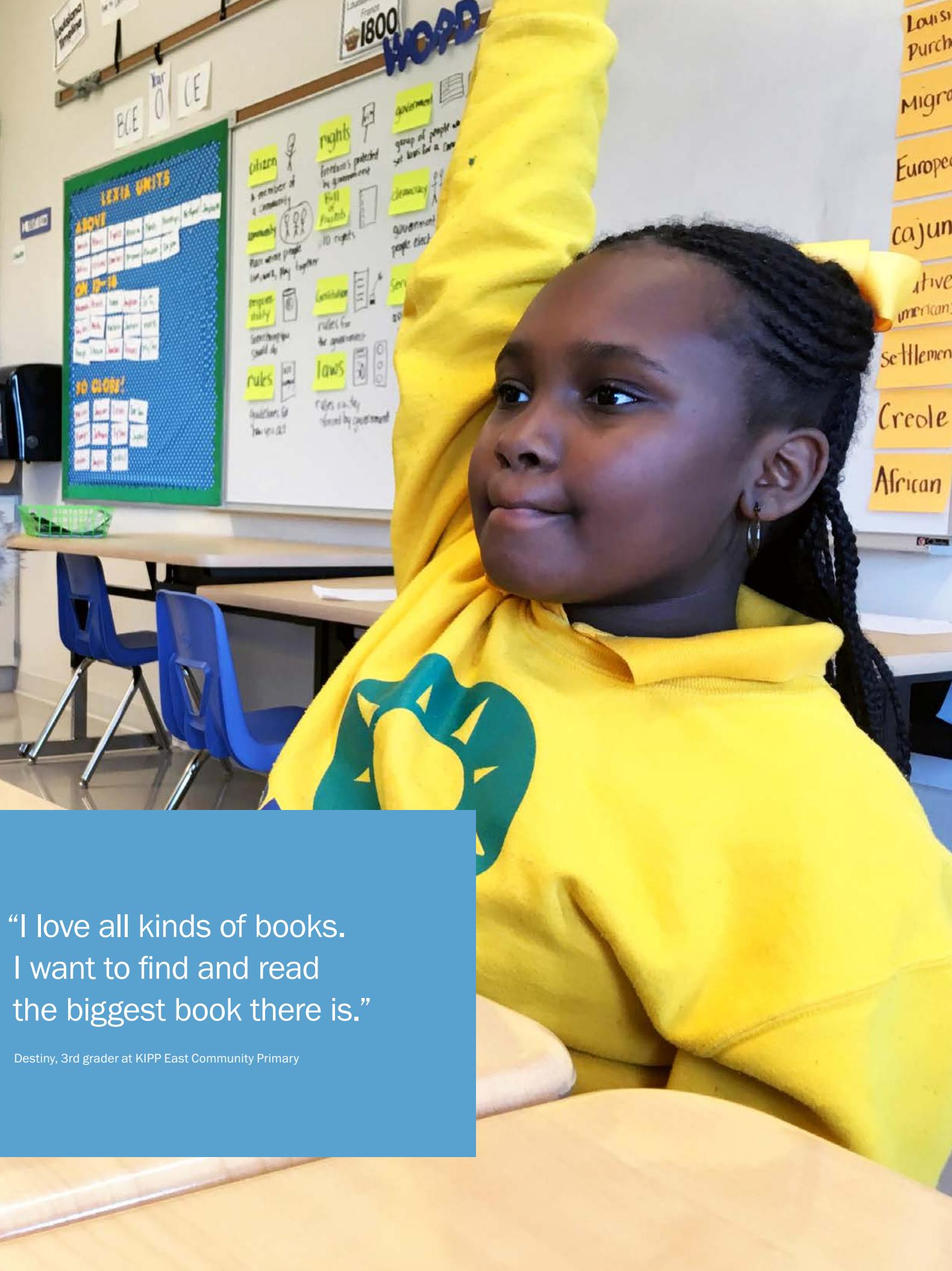


**Student achievement has remained flat for the past 3 years.**

*Percent of NOLA students in Grades 3-8 in Math, Science, ELA, and Social Studies. Math and ELA only in 2016 and 2017*

Basic or Above  
Mastery or Above





"I love all kinds of books.  
I want to find and read  
the biggest book there is."

Destiny, 3rd grader at KIPP East Community Primary

“NSNO’s work to support schools and find solutions to larger, citywide challenges is essential to the shared work of continuing to improve the quality of education across New Orleans.”

Jay Altman, CEO of FirstLine Schools

# NSNO Strategic Priorities

New Schools for New Orleans has identified four areas of focus for the coming years. Each of our strategic priorities aims to address the root causes of our recent limited achievement gains.

## Portfolio

We invest in schools and partner with OPSB to improve the quality of New Orleans' school options.



## Curriculum

We help schools make the curricular and instructional shifts necessary to meet more rigorous standards.



## Talent

We take a leading role in coordinating solutions to the city's teacher recruitment and retention challenges.



## Policy

We provide communications and policy support to maintain a reform-friendly environment.



# Portfolio

## NSNO Strategic Priority

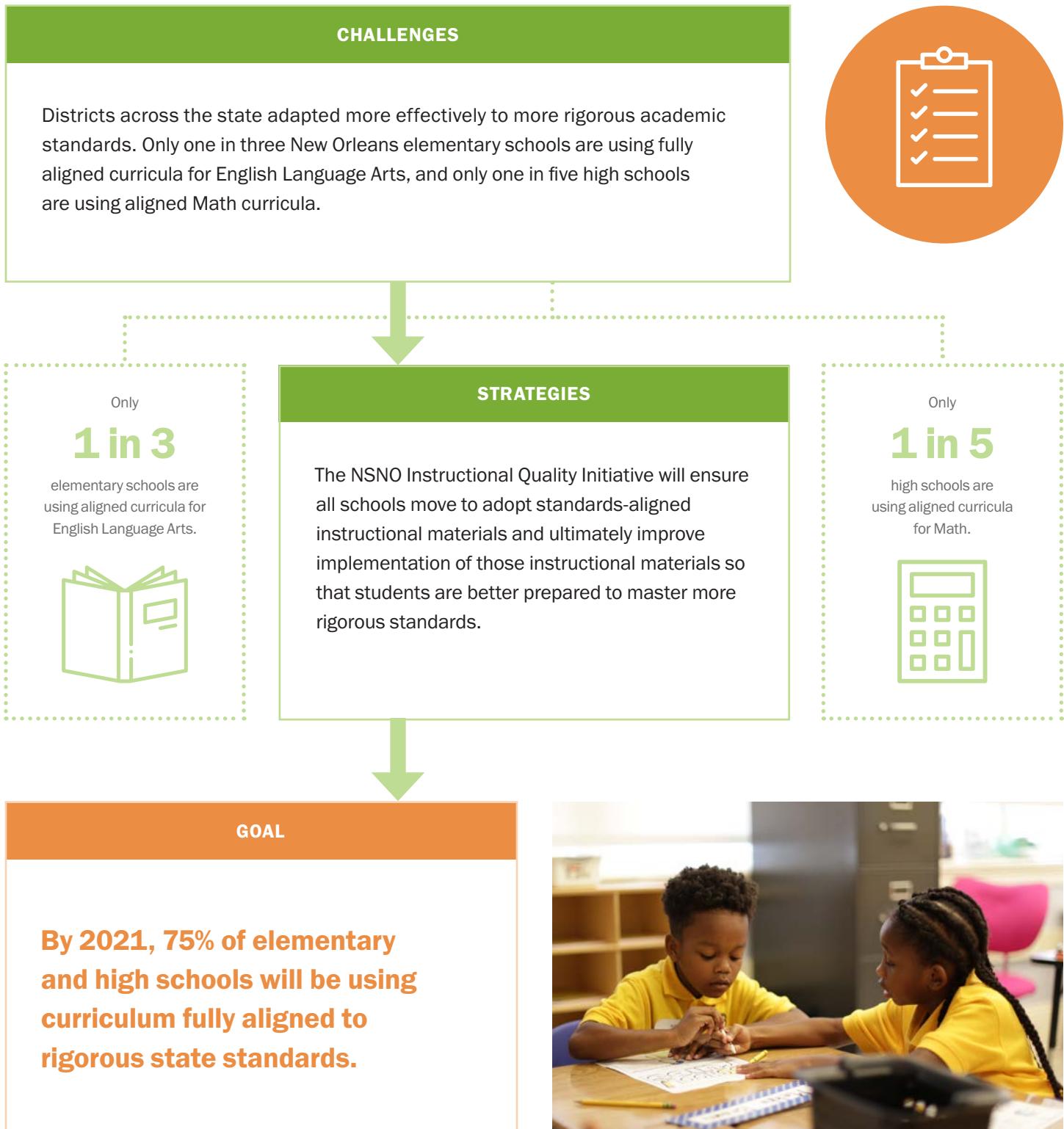
We invest in schools and partner with OPSB to improve the quality of New Orleans' school options.



# Curriculum

## NSNO Strategic Priority

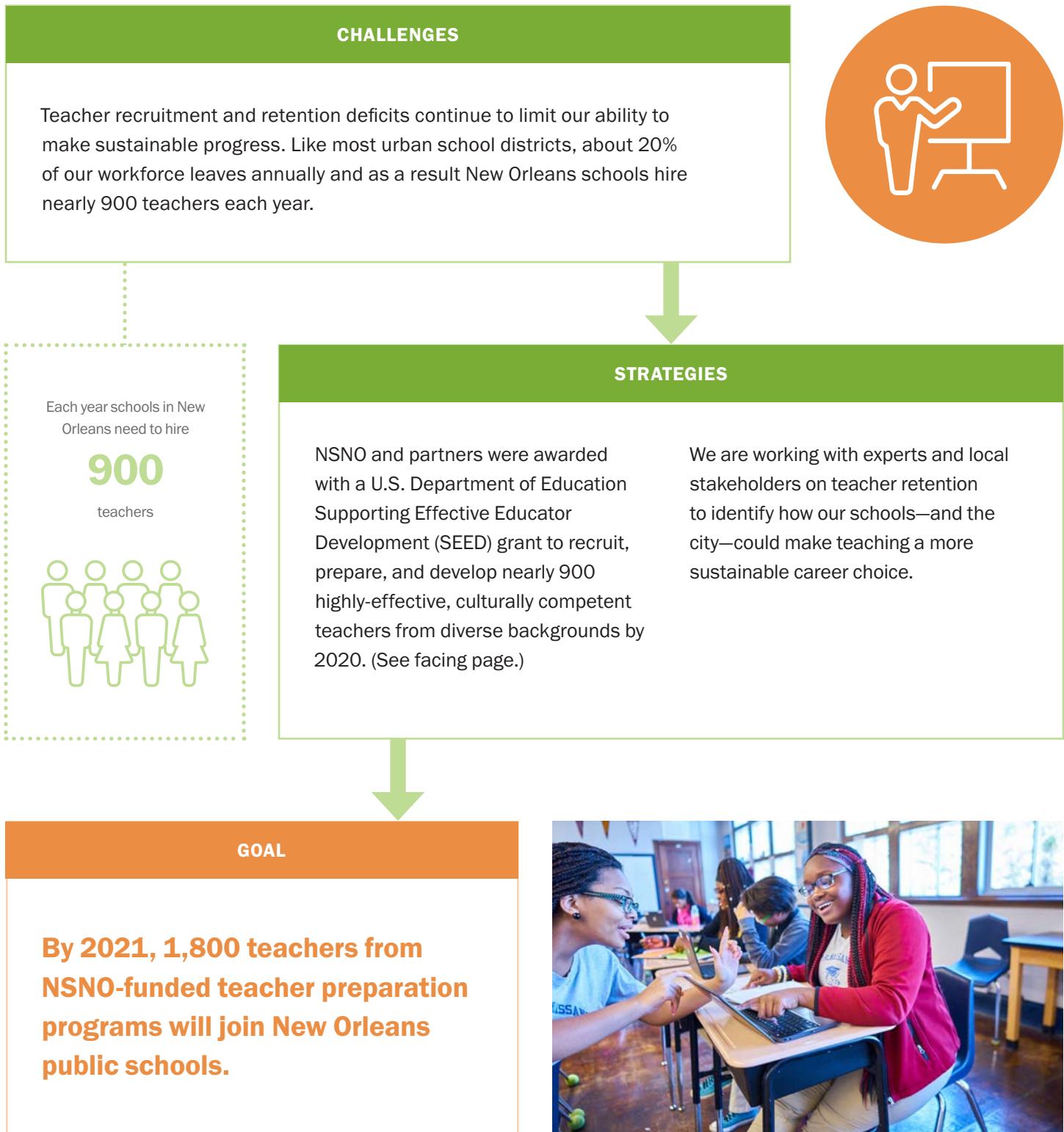
We help schools make the curricular and instructional shifts necessary to meet more rigorous standards.



# Talent

## NSNO Strategic Priority

We take a leading role in coordinating solutions to the city's teacher recruitment and retention challenges.





**New Schools for New Orleans helped secure a nearly \$17 million grant to recruit and train teachers.**

NSNO and five partners—Xavier University of Louisiana, Loyola University New Orleans, Teach For America Greater New Orleans, teachNOLA/TNTP, and Relay Graduate School of Education—won a highly-competitive federal Supporting Effective Educator Development Grant. The grant includes \$12,586,449 million (75%) from the Department of Education and an additional \$4,195,483 (25%) in private matching funds over three years.

The partnership among the two New Orleans universities and four non-profits aims to recruit, prepare, and develop nearly 900 highly-effective, culturally competent teachers from diverse backgrounds by 2020. The organizations will work together to address teacher pipeline challenges across the city by implementing their unique teacher preparation models to meet the needs of schools with high concentrations of economically disadvantaged students. The partners will place additional emphasis on efforts to increase the number of teachers of color and enhance the cultural competency of their teachers.

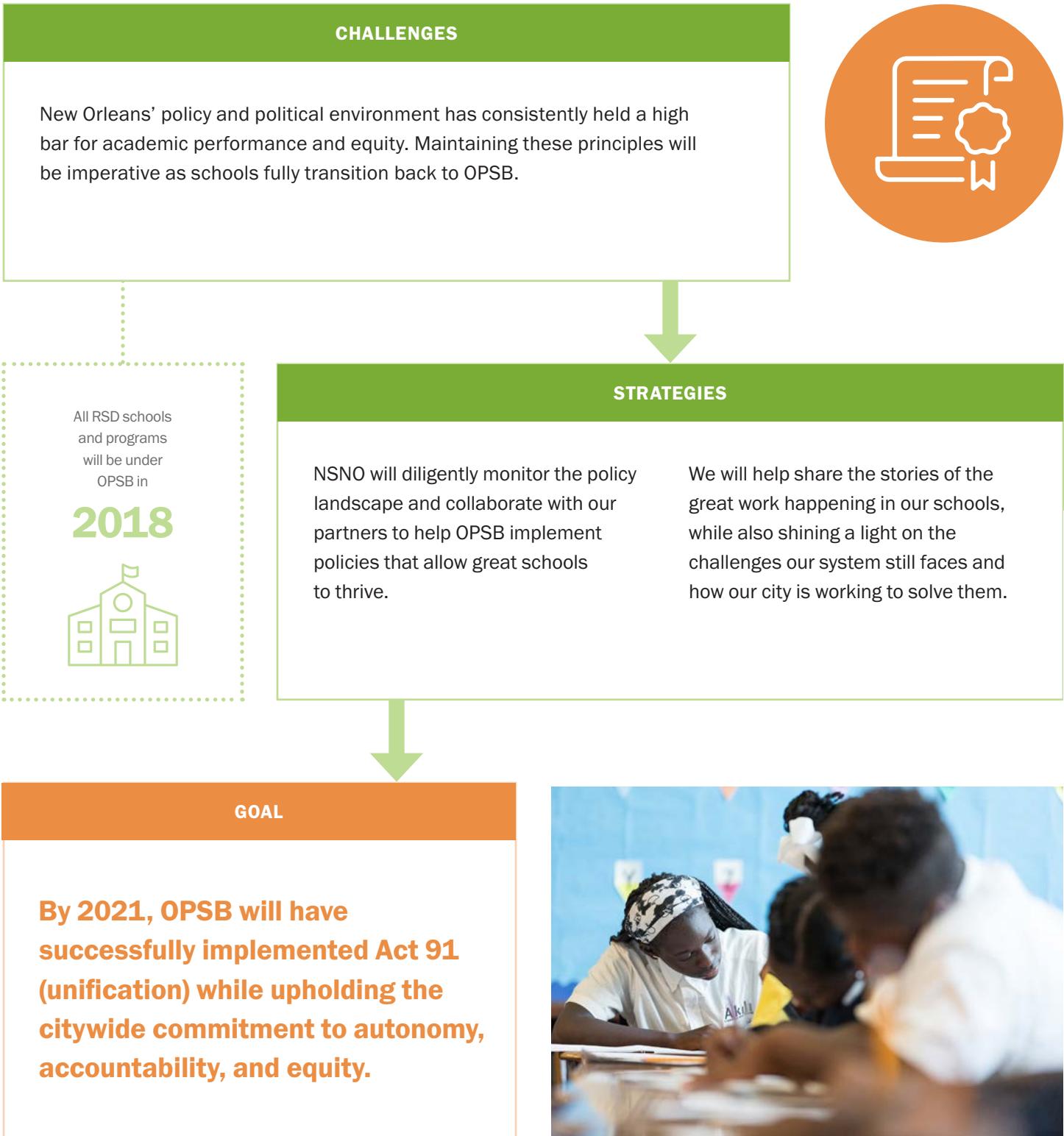
**“The partnership that this award will help foster is an important step for our city. We will come together across the full range of ways teachers are prepared to work in our city’s schools – residencies, university programs, and alternative routes.”**

Dr. Renee Akbar, Chair & Associate Professor of Xavier University's Division of Education and Counseling

# Policy

## NSNO Strategic Priority

We provide communications and policy support to maintain a reform-friendly environment.



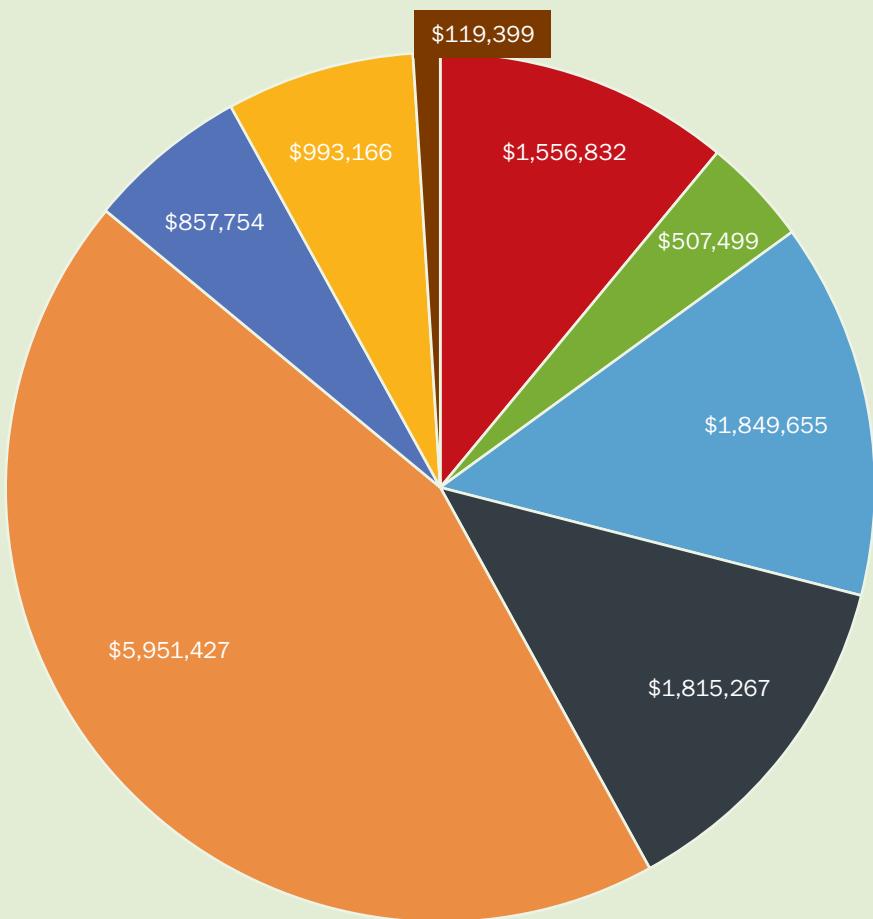


# Financials

	UNRESTRICTED	TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED	TOTAL
<b>REVENUE AND SUPPORT</b>			
Grants and contributions	8,894,635	636,133	9,530,768
Donated use of facilities	22,050	-	22,050
Interest income	27,443	-	27,443
<b>Total Revenue and Support</b>	<b>8,944,128</b>	<b>636,133</b>	<b>9,580,261</b>
<b>NET ASSETS RELEASED FROM RESTRICTIONS</b>			
	4,789,715	(4,789,715)	-
<b>Total Revenue, Support, and Net Assets Released from Restriction</b>	<b>13,733,843</b>	<b>(4,153,582)</b>	<b>9,580,261</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
Program Services			
Seat creation	2,064,331	-	2,064,331
Seat improvement	3,664,922	-	3,664,922
Strategic leadership	6,809,181	-	6,809,181
Supporting Services			
Management and general	993,166	-	993,166
Fundraising	119,399	-	119,399
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>13,650,999</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>10,434,056</b>
<b>CHANGE IN NET ASSETS</b>	<b>82,844</b>	<b>(4,153,582)</b>	<b>(4,070,738)</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>			
Beginning of year	5,397,085	5,423,497	10,820,582
End of year	5,479,929	1,269,915	6,749,844

## 2017 FISCAL YEAR EXPENSES

- █ Seat Creation
- █ i3
- █ Seat Improvement
- █ TIF
- █ Strategic Leadership
- █ CSP
- █ Management and General
- █ Fundraising



*Investing in Innovation Grant (i3): \$29 million – 83.33% - from the Federal Department of Education and \$5.6 million – 16.67% - in private matching funds over seven years.*

*Teacher Incentive Fund (TIF3): \$13.9 million funded 100% from the Federal Department of Education over six years.*

*Teacher Incentive Fund (TIF5): \$19.8 million funded 100% from the Federal Department of Education over five years.*

*Charter Schools Program (CSP): \$2.4 million funded 100% from the Federal Department of Education over three years.*

If you want  
to go fast,  
go alone. If  
you want to  
go far, go  
together.



“NSNO helped lead the effort to further educational equity in New Orleans. I’m excited to be part of the NSNO board and help ensure more of our young New Orleanians receive the quality education they deserve.”

Former U.S. Attorney Kenneth Polite on joining the NSNO board

# Donors and Board

## Contributions to the 2017 Fiscal Year

### \$3,000,000 & ABOVE

Laura and John Arnold Foundation  
U.S. Department of Education

### \$1,000,000–\$2,999,999

Robertson Foundation  
The Walton Family Foundation

### \$250,000–\$999,999

Baptist Community Ministries  
Bloomberg Philanthropies  
Booth-Bricker Fund  
Hastings Education Fund at Silicon Valley  
Community Foundation  
National Center for Teacher Residencies  
Oak Foundation

### \$100,000–\$249,999

Charter School Growth Fund  
Rosenthal Family Fund  
Zemurray Foundation

### \$50,000–\$99,999

Capital One  
Methodist Health System Foundation  
The RosaMary Foundation  
The Stephen & Sandy Rosenthal Family  
Foundation  
The Toler Foundation

### \$25,000–\$49,999

Pro Bono Publico Foundation

### \$5,000–\$24,999

Gray and Mary Kay Parker  
Loving Family Fund  
Robert D. Reily Family Trust  
Relay Graduate School of Education  
Rosenthal and Jacobs Foundation Fund

### \$4,999 & BELOW

Allison Lewis and Pierre Stouse Family Fund  
Dorothy W. Phillips  
Erik Bengtsson  
Mr. & Mrs. J. Thomas Lewis Fund  
Stephanie Green

A special thank you to the Oak Foundation, the Greater New Orleans Foundation, and the 125 individual donors who helped us raise \$47,500 to support victims of the tornado that struck New Orleans in February 2017.

### BOARD MEMBERS

Scott Benson  
Patrick Dobard (CEO)  
Stephen W. Hales, M.D.  
Walter Isaacson  
Christine Jordan  
Ruth Kullman  
Erika McConduit  
Hunter Pierson III (*Board Chair*)

Kenneth Polite

Stephen Rosenthal  
David Sylvester  
Sarah Ussdin

### MEMBERS EMERITUS

Anthony Recasner, Ph.D



NEW SCHOOLS  
FOR NEW ORLEANS

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