

## Charter School Boards

Historically, locally elected school boards operated all public schools. Now, in Louisiana and some other states, public schools can be removed from the local school board and operated by another school board. This begins with the state legislature enacting a law that authorizes this transfer of power.

Louisiana's law says that public schools can be removed from local control by nonprofit organizations. The nonprofit applies to charter the public school and, if approved, the nonprofit's school board, which is sometimes called a governance board or board of directors, operates the school. The school is still a public school, but it is now referred to as a charter school.

Local school boards would generally resist an attempt by a nonprofit to remove any of its schools. And, the Orleans Parish School Board would have resisted this attempt, but the majority of its schools already had been removed from its control. In 2005, 107 of New Orleans 120 schools were removed and placed under the control of the state education board, which then chartered them to nonprofits.

The state removed these schools by changing the law about what to do with schools that were labeled as "failing." This new law became known as Act 35.

Previously, 80 New Orleans schools were labeled "failing." Under the new law, 107 were labeled "failing." How did the state label an additional 27 schools as "failing?" They did this using a new definition of "failing," wherein all schools that once had a "one star" label and some schools that had a "two star" label now became labeled as "failing."

This new definition of "failing" said that any school with a score below the state average is to be labeled as a failing school. Half of the Louisiana schools are below the average, and half are above. Yet, only New Orleans "failing" schools were taken over and not the "failing" schools in any of the other parishes.

The state takeover and the state's chartering of the schools to nonprofits dramatically changed how schools are monitored. Prior to charter schools, the local school board would receive all federal, state and local funds and distribute them to the schools; and, the schools would report enrollment, dropout and discipline data and all other data to the local school board, which then would compile and submit the data to the Louisiana Department of Education. This is different for charter schools. The charter school boards are each their own entities, their own education agencies. They bypass the local boards. The charter school board receives its funds directly from, and reports its data directly to, the Department of Education.

When the New Orleans failing schools were taken over and chartered, their charter was defined as a Type 5 charter. The state's charter school law allows for other types of charter schools. Eventually, the few schools that had remained under the New Orleans school board became charter schools, leading to an all-charter school system.

Many years after 2005, the New Orleans local school board regained some oversight authority. Some schools that continued to fail were placed back under the control of the local school board.

In the 2021-22 school year, 83 public schools were operated in New Orleans by 35 different operators. Of the 83 schools, 71 were charter schools. These 71 charter schools were operated by 33

nonprofit organizations. (Some nonprofits operated only 1 school and others operated up to 8 schools.) The remaining 12 schools were operated by 2 public entities.

Specific information can be found on the two lists below. The first lists the 35 operators: 33 are nonprofit organizations each with their own private charter school boards, and 2 are public bodies with publicly elected boards. The second list provides the names of the 83 schools operated by the 35 operators. A governance chart can also be located on the New Orleans Public Schools website.

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**New Orleans Public Schools: 2021-22**  
**35 Operators: 33 Nonprofit Operators with private boards**  
**2 Public Operators with publicly elected boards**

**Nonprofit operators with private boards**

1. Algiers Charter School Association
2. Advocates for Academic Excellence in Education
3. Advocates for Arts-Based Education
4. Advocates for Innovative Schools
5. Advocates for Science & Mathematics Education
6. ARISE
7. Bricolage Academy
8. Collegiate Academies
9. Community Academies of New Orleans
10. Community Leaders Advocating Student Success, Inc.
11. Crescent City Schools
12. Dryades YMCA
13. Educators for Quality Alternatives
14. ENCORE Academy
15. FirstLine Schools
16. French and Montessori
17. Friends of King
18. Hynes Charter School Corp.
19. IDEA Public Schools N.O.
20. Inspire NOLA
21. Institute for Academic Excellence
22. KIPP
23. Living School Charter
24. Morris Jeff Community Schools
25. New Orleans College Prep
26. ReNEW
27. Rooted School
28. Success Preparatory Academy
29. The Citizens' Committee for Education
30. The Council for Quality Education
31. The Einstein Group
32. Warren Easton Charter High School Foundation
33. Young Audiences Charter Schools

**Public Operators with publicly elected boards**

- 34. Local: Orleans Parish School Board (NOLA-PS)
- 35. State: Board of Elementary and Secondary Education/ State Legislature

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**New Orleans Public Schools: 2021-22**  
**83 Schools (numbered consecutively)**

Algiers Charter School Association

- 1. L.B. Landry-O. Perry Walker College and Career Preparatory High School 9-12
- 2. Martin Behrman Charter School Academy of Creative Arts and Sciences, PK4-8

Advocates for Academic Excellence in Education

- 3. Benjamin Franklin High School, 9-12

Advocates for Arts-Based Education

- 4. Lusher Charter School, K-12

Advocates for Innovative Schools

- 5. Robert Russa Moton Charter School, pk4-8

Advocates for Science & Mathematics Education

- 6. New Orleans Charter Science and Math High School, 9-12

ARISE

- 7. ARISE Academy, K-8
- 8. Mildred Osborne Charter School, K-8

Bricolage Academy

- 9. Bricolage Academy Pk4-8

Collegiate Academies

- 10. Abramson Sci Academy, 9-12
- 11. Livingston Collegiate Academy, 9-12
- 12. G.W. Carver High School, 9-12
- 13. Opportunities Academy, 10-12
- 14. Rosenwald Collegiate Academy, 9-12

Community Academies of New Orleans

- 15. Esperanza Charter School K-8
- 16. Lafayette Academy Charter School, Pk4-8
- 17. Foundation Preparatory K-7

Community Leaders Advocating Student Success, Inc.

- 18. Fannie C. Williams Charter School, Pk4-8

### Crescent City Schools

19. Akili Academy of New Orleans, Pk4-8
20. Paul Habans Charter School, Pk4-8
21. Harriet Tubman Charter School, Pk4-8

### Dryades YMCA

22. James M. Singleton Charter School, K-8

### Educators for Quality Alternatives

23. The NET Charter High School: Gentilly (Alternative School) 8 - 12
24. New Orleans Accelerated High School (Alternative School) 9-12
25. The NET Charter School (Alternative School) 8-12

### ENCORE Academy

26. ENCORE Academy PK4-8

### FirstLine Schools

27. Arthur Ashe Charter School, K-8
28. Live Oak Academy, Pk4-8
29. Langston Hughes Academy, Pk4-8
30. Samuel J. Green Charter School, Pk4-8
31. Phillis Wheatley Community School, pk4-8

### French and Montessori

32. Audubon Charter School: Gentilly, Pk3-5
33. Audubon Charter School: Uptown, Pk3-8

### Friends of King

34. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Charter School for Science and Technology, pk4-12

### Hynes Charter School Corp.

35. Edward Hynes Charter School- Lakeview, Pk3-8
36. Edward Hynes Charter School - Parkview, K-8
37. Edward Hynes Charter School – UNO, K-2

### IDEA Public Schools N.O.

38. Oscar Dunn, K-8

### Inspire NOLA

39. Alice Harte Charter School, Pk4-8
40. Andrew H. Wilson Charter School, Pk4-8
41. Dwight D. Eisenhower Academy of Global Studies, Pk4-8
42. Edna Karr High School, 9-12
43. Eleanor McMain Secondary School, 9-12
44. McDonogh 35 Senior High School, 9-11
45. McDonogh 42 Elementary Charter School, Pk4-8
46. Pierre A. Capdau Charter School at Avery Alexander Elementary, Pk4-8

### Institute for Academic Excellence

47. Sophie B. Wright Charter School, 9-12

### KIPP

- 48. KIPP Believe, K-8
- 49. Booker T. Washington High School, 9-12
- 50. KIPP Central City, Pk4-8
- 51. KIPP East Community, pk4-7
- 52. Frederick A. Douglas High School, 9-12
- 53. John F. Kennedy High School, 9-12
- 54. KIPP Leadership, pk4-8
- 55. KIPP Morial, Pk4-8

### Living School Charter

- 56. Living School, 9-11

### Morris Jeff Community Schools

- 57. Morris Jeff Community School, Pk4-12

### New Orleans College Prep

- 58. Walter L. Cohen College Prep, 9-12

### ReNEW

- 59. ReNEW Dolores t. Aaron Academy Pk3-8
- 60. ReNEW Sci Tech Academy PK4-8
- 61. ReNEW Schaumburg Elementary Pk4-8

### Rooted School

- 62. Rooted School, 9-12

### Success Preparatory Academy

- 63. Success @ Thurgood Marshall, Pk4-8

### The Citizens' Committee for Education

- 64. Homer A. Plessy Community School, Pk4-8

### The Council for Quality Education

- 65. Lake Forest Elementary Charter School, K-8

### The Einstein Group

- 66. Einstein Charter High School at Sarah Towles Reed, 9-12
- 67. Einstein Charter Middle School at Sarah Towles Reed, 6-8
- 68. Einstein Charter School at Sherwood Forest, Pk4-5
- 69. Einstein Charter School at Village D'Lest Pk4-5

### Warren Easton Charter High School Foundation

- 70. Warren Easton Charter High School, 9-12

### Young Audiences Charter Schools

- 71. Young audiences Charter Schools at Lawrence D. Crocker, Pk4-8

Local: Orleans Parish School Board (NOLA -PS)

- 72. Benjamin Franklin Mathematics and Science School
- 73. Delores T. Arthur School for Young Men
- 74. Elan Academy Charter School
- 75. Mary McLeod Bethune Elementary School of Literature and Technology
- 76. Travis Hill School

State:

*Board of Elementary and Secondary Education*

- 77. International High School of New Orleans, 9-12
- 78. International School of Louisiana, K-8
- 79. Lycee Francais de la Nouvelle-Orleans, Pk4-11
- 80. New Harmony High, 9-12
- 81. New Orleans Military and Maritime Academy, 8-12
- 82. Noble Minds Institute for Whole Child Learning, K-6

*State Legislature*

- 83. New Orleans Center for Creative Arts, 9-12