

## Who Knows If the Children are Enrolled?

In New Orleans, no single entity is responsible for knowing if all school-aged children and youth are enrolled in a school. In other Louisiana parishes, there is a local school board with a database of all school-aged children and that board is required to ensure that all are enrolled in a school.

In New Orleans this is different. There are 35 school boards that operate the 83 New Orleans schools (2021-22 school year):

- The first is the local school board (the Orleans Parish School Board) which operates **5** schools.
- The second is the state school board (BESE along with the legislature) which operates **7** charter schools.
- And the remaining are 33 different charter school boards which operate **71** charter schools.

Charter schools are public schools, but they are not operated by the publicly-elected local school board. Each is operated by its own privately-selected charter school board. Some charter boards operate only one school, while others operate several schools.

If a charter school removes a student, for any reason, that school board does not have the authority, nor responsibility, to place the student into another school. It is often difficult for the parent to place the student into another school since New Orleans charter schools can cap enrollment and selectively admit students.

With 35 school boards operating 83 public schools in New Orleans, it is difficult to know where the children are enrolled, if, in fact, they are enrolled.

The charter school movement was not intended to undermine the obligation of the local school board to ensure that all students are enrolled in a school. But this has been one of its unintended by-products.

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