



NEW SCHOOLS  
FOR NEW ORLEANS

## COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

Dear Newsletter Recipients:

In the spirit of independent thinking, New Schools for New Orleans is proud to continue to provide each of you with information about education reform here and nationwide. As always, I encourage you to send me your thoughts and questions regarding the contents of this newsletter.

Enjoy,  
Renita  
[renita@nsno.org](mailto:renita@nsno.org)

### Financing Public Schools in New Orleans: The Millage Ballot

On July 19th, voters in Orleans Parish will have the opportunity to renew the existing millages that fund textbooks and classroom materials, teacher salaries, and facilities' maintenance. This renewal will provide for the continued education of children in clean, safe buildings with qualified teachers and the latest in textbooks, training materials and technology. To learn more, click [here](#).

### New Version of Valuable School Guide Upcoming!

The Parent Organizing Network will release an updated Second Edition of the *New Orleans Parents' Guide to Public Schools* this July. For new information about public schools opening in August, visit [www.nolaparentsguide.org](http://www.nolaparentsguide.org) and download the July 2008 version of the Guide.

### National Charter Schools Conference Held in New Orleans

The National Charter Schools Conference was held two weeks ago in New Orleans! Not only did the conference bring thousands of enthusiastic visitors to the city, it also spotlighted the hard work of many local leaders involved in education reform, including Governor Bobby Jindal and State Superintendent Paul Pastorek. Additionally, the National Alliance for Public Charter Schools honored 3 new inductees into the Charter Hall of Fame. To learn about these agents of change, visit the National Alliance [website](#).

### Legislative Update

As the general legislative session drew to a close on June 23rd, several charter-friendly bills were signed into law by Governor Jindal. For more information on these bills, and other education-specific legislation, please click [here](#).

### Recent Press

#### [Are Teach For America and teachNOLA Filling Our Schools with Better Qualified Teachers?](#)

**New York Times, Editorial, *Better-Qualified Teachers*:** A June editorial in the New York Times discusses a study's finding that better-qualified teachers drive improvements in student achievement. The article identifies two means to develop such teachers: higher salaries and alternative route certification programs such as those attended by Teach for

#### Spotlight

[Property Tax Vote Affects Schools](#)

[Parents' Guide to Public Schools Updated](#)

[Charter Conference a Success](#)

[Legislative Update](#)

#### Related Links

[New Schools for New Orleans](#)

[New Orleans Parent's Guide to Public Schools](#)

[NOLA Charter School Blog](#)

[Cowen Legislative Updates](#)

[Board of Elementary and Secondary Education](#)

[Recovery School District](#)

[Orleans Parish School Board](#)

#### Upcoming Events

**July 19, 2008:** Millage Renewal Voting Date for Orleans Parish

America corps members and The New Teacher Project's Teaching Fellows (the NYC counterpart to teachNOLA).

Click [here](#) for full article.

### **Agents of Change: Charter Schools Highlighted by Business Newspaper**

**New Orleans CityBusiness, Stephen Maloney, *Agents of Change*:** A local publication addressing the business community describes the changing landscape of public education in New Orleans, focusing on the charter movement and human capital efforts of teachNOLA.

Click [here](#) for full article.

### **Are Charter Schools the Answer to Education Reform?**

**NPR/KCRW, Warren Olney, *To The Point: Are Charter Schools the Answer to Education Reform?*:** A nationally syndicated radio program examines the effects of charters on public education reform in a conversation with Paul Vallas, RSD Superintendent; Sean Gallagher, Director of Akili Academy in New Orleans; Jay Mathews, Washington Post Education Columnist; Jeffrey Henig, Teachers College Professor; and Valerie Lewis, Principal of P.S./M.S. 124 in Queens.

Click [here](#) for full article.

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