



NEW SCHOOLS  
FOR NEW ORLEANS

## COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

Dear Newsletter Recipients:

Welcome to the new and improved New Schools for New Orleans Community Newsletter. Though our format and information are new, I encourage you to email me with thoughts and questions regarding information in this email, as always!

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

### Special Education in New Orleans: Report Findings

With the assistance of a grant through the U.S. Department of Education, New Schools for New Orleans commissioned a study on the special education services available in our city's charter schools. This report, which will be presented to the state Board of Elementary and Secondary Education later this month, highlights three primary findings:

- **Charters have the appropriate numbers of Special Education staff:** Every charter school has a special education coordinator who oversees the provision of services to students and should ensure compliance with special education laws.
- **Most charters serve a proportionate number of Special Education students:** In 75% of New Orleans' charter schools, special education students comprise between 7% and 10% of the student population, a rate comparable to traditional public schools.
- **The mental health needs of children in New Orleans public schools are the most profound in the United States:** The scope and magnitude of mental health problems faced by public school students in New Orleans are more severe than in any other city nationwide.

This report will be made public later this summer. Please stay tuned for further details on how you may obtain it!

### State and Local Test Scores Released

Preliminary LEAP test results show improvements in Recovery School District Schools. For a report on this early data, click [here](#).

In late July, individual school scores will be released, enabling the public to compare within-district scores and to analyze growth on a school-by-school basis. Keep an eye open for a detailed report in our August newsletter!

### Update on Voucher Legislation

Debates surrounding Governor Jindal's school voucher plan for

#### Spotlight

[Report Findings on SPED Services in NOLA Released](#)  
[Preliminary LEAP Scores are public](#)  
[Vouchers for New Orleans?](#)

#### 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

**June 22nd - June 25th:** Join education leaders from across the country at the National Charter Schools Conference in New Orleans! For more info, click here: [www.nationalcharterconference.org](http://www.nationalcharterconference.org)

**June 23rd, 5:30-8pm:** NSNO hosts a citywide prospective [charter board member meeting!](#)

New Orleans continue as accountability, transparency, and open-enrollment policies become a part of the conversation. To learn more, click [here](#).

## Recent Press

### [Who do the Presidential Candidates turn to for Public Education advice?](#)

**USNews and World Report, Dana Hawkins-Simons, *Whom the Candidates Listen to on Education*:** A May article in US News and World Report outlines each presidential hopeful's education advisors.

Click [here](#) for full article.

### [Do charter schools improve student achievement nationwide?](#)

**Washington Post, Jay Mathews, *Few Solutions in Book on Charters*:** An article by Washington Post education columnist Jay Mathews reviews the latest book on the charter school debate. Though the new book presents a sceptical viewpoint, Jay notes that it proposes few solutions to public school improvement other than chartering.

Click [here](#) for full article.

### [Facebooking to recruit teachers?](#)

**Edutopia, Hilary Maseel Oswald, *Can Your Friend Teach?: Social Networking Meets Teacher Recruitment*:** Edutopia discusses the merits of using social networking websites to seek employees, highlighting [teachNOLA](#)'s use of Facebook as a recruitment tool.

Click [here](#) for full article.

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