

NOLA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

EVERY CHILD. EVERY SCHOOL. EVERY DAY.





Welcome to the 2020-2021 Annual Report from NOLA Public Schools (NOLA-PS), a retrospective of the achievements reached, and challenges met, in the past school year. NOLA-PS is a unique community of public schools

model, the elected members of the Orleans Parish School Board set policies and priorities; the Central Office administers school support and accountability; and schools and their management organizations tend to the specific needs of their student populations.

This report focuses on the role and accomplishments of the Central Office during this past school year. Please join NOLA-PS as it prepares for the next phase of its journey to be a national model for successful public education.

OUR VISION

*“All students receive
a high-quality education that fosters
their individual capabilities,
while ensuring that they thrive
and are prepared for civic, social,
and economic success”*



Newly minted graduates
from Edna Karr High
School celebrate their
milestone in May 2019.

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WHO WE ARE



NOLA Public Schools is a community of public schools devoted to educating and preparing students in New Orleans to thrive in life. For 180 years, we have embraced change, overcome adversity, and championed resilience to pursue the promise of a quality education for all students. In our district students can grow and learn to be well-prepared, engaging leaders in the community, in business, and in public life.

We have immense pride in the many generations of New Orleans public school graduates who are making a difference in New Orleans and beyond. NOLA-PS is New Orleans — our people, our values, our culture, our creativity and connection to the arts reflect this unique city we call home. Our values of Inclusivity, Trust, Respect, Cultural Awareness, and Collective Progress are the driving force behind our mission to build a system where students are uplifted and supported, and families are empowered.

Because our schools can design academic programs tailored to their students, NOLA-PS

provides flexibility and room for innovation in classrooms. Because our schools offer different ways to learn, families can seek out the best fit for their students' needs. And because we are a public school system, NOLA-PS provides the oversight needed to hold its schools to high standards for the sake of those same students. We strive to be the “good change” that we want to see in public education. NOLA-PS will continue to be a district that prioritizes equity and provides students with a robust whole-child education that prepares them to learn, grow, and thrive. We are a system that parents can trust and turn to for support. We are a district that listens to our educators, values our teachers, and champions lifelong careers in education. And we are a system that engages with community members and collaborates with local partners on solutions.

At our core, our community of public schools embraces our students, coaching them not only to love learning, but also to be strong people who can guide the next generation of New Orleans to great things.

Students at Bethune Elementary School celebrate Carnival with Superintendent Dr. Henderson Lewis, Jr.

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A NOTE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Dear Members of the NOLA-PS Community,

For these past six years, I have had the honor to serve the students, teachers, staff, and school leaders of NOLA Public Schools. I am proud and humbled every day by the depth of talent and dedication our team, our schools, and our School Board members show in everything they do for our students. NOLA-PS is in good hands, and I look forward to the bright future ahead of us.

It goes without saying that we have all endured a year like no other. The COVID-19 pandemic has tested the resolve of our community, our families, and our selves. But with great adversity comes great opportunity. Our supporters, our students, our teachers and support staff, and our education leaders came together to show the true strength of collaboration. As soon as schools closed in March 2020, our teams united to focus on two goals: keeping our school community safe and setting the course to return all students to in-person learning as soon as possible.

As a District, we secured \$5 million to purchase laptops and hotspots for students to virtually engage in learning. Our schools did a tremendous job distributing these assets and counseling families through the hurdles of virtual or hybrid classrooms. We banded together to create our Roadmap to Reopening, a successful plan that allowed NOLA-PS to lead the nation in COVID-19 safety and to reopen our schools in September 2020 when many urban district classrooms remained closed. I applaud everyone's efforts, and I hope the partnerships

forged this year will become steppingstones to greater things for New Orleans public education.

Despite the challenges of this pandemic, NOLA-PS and our schools did not lose sight of the daily work that needed to be done.

Our teachers are teaching, and our students are learning.

But we can always do better. We will turn our focus to the 2021-2022 school year with three goals in mind:

- Return all students to in-person, classroom learning at the end of summer, and re-engage those who have struggled with their studies through this pandemic;
- Elevate ways to promote equity in our public education, so that no student is left behind, regardless of income, gender, color, or creed;
- Elevate our schools to show they are phenomenal institutions focused on the development of all students in ways that go beyond the state standardized test scores.

I invite you to explore our 2020-2021 Annual Report to celebrate with NOLA-PS the accomplishments we achieved during this year like no other.



Lake Forest Charter School student enjoys a visit from Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Henderson Lewis, Jr..

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In Service,
Dr. Henderson Lewis, Jr.
Superintendent of Schools

ORLEANS PARISH SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS

Ethan Ashley

President



Mr. Ashley has focused his career on civil rights, working for the Juvenile Justice Project of Louisiana, the Urban League of Louisiana, and the Anti-Defamation League. He has taken particular interest in disrupting the notorious school-to-prison pipeline, which includes his work to end juvenile life sentences for non-homicide offenses. He is the co-owner of JE Howard Ventures, a community development investment company; and he is the cofounder of School Board Partners, a non-profit organization that supports, trains and mentors rising stars on local school boards toward developing anti-racist, high-quality school systems. He is a member of the Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, a 2014 fellow of the W.K. Kellogg Foundation's Community Leadership Network, where he launched the New Orleans Black Male Achievement Network. Mr. Ashley is the proud parent of two school-aged children and husband to an amazing wife, Arielle McConduit.

Nolan Marshall, Jr

Vice President



A native New Orleanian, Mr. Marshall attended Macarty Elementary in the Lower 9th Ward and St. Augustine High School. He took over his father's photography business, Marshall Studios, running it from 1972 to 2013. He has served on several local non-profit boards and has been a member and officer in many school and community organizations. He serves on the board of directors for the Bayou District Foundation, which has the responsibility for the redevelopment of the St. Bernard Housing Development area. He is the father of two daughters and one son and has five granddaughters and three grandsons.

ORLEANS PARISH SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS

Katherine Baudouin



Mrs. Baudouin has spent her career working in state and local government and for nonprofit organizations. She worked to expand the capacity of Louisiana's non-profit sector at the Louisiana Association of Nonprofit Organizations; helped improve health outcomes and Medicaid expansion during her time at the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals; and served as a policy analyst for the National Academy for State Health Policy. She also spent more than three years as a staff member to two City Council members, Stacy Head and Joseph Giarrusso. She has a bachelor's degree from Loyola University and a master's degree in public administration from Louisiana State University. Mrs. Baudouin lives in the Touro Bouligny neighborhood with her husband, Jason Sappington, and their two daughters.

John A. Brown



Mr. Brown is a proud graduate of Walter L. Cohen High School. After his discharge from the U.S. Army in 1973, he served as a supervisor for the New Orleans Recreational Department before embarking on what would be a 30-year career in education in New Orleans. Mr. Brown joined the School Leadership Center of Greater New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina, serving its mission to inspire and develop instruction leadership among principals and other educators. He has a bachelor's degree from Winston-Salem State University and a master's degree in education from the University of New Orleans. He is also a member of the Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity. He and his wife of over 43 years, Wynella, have three children and three grandchildren.

ORLEANS PARISH SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS

Olin G. Parker



A former high school math teacher, Mr. Parker has dedicated his career to education, serving most recently as executive director of charter and nonpublic school accountability for the Louisiana Department of Education. While there, he helped expand access to high quality schools, developed statewide accountability frameworks, and managed programs and grants designed to benefit students with a combined budget of \$50 million. He co-founded the 18th Ward Sports Club, where he still coaches, and he served two years as the chairperson of the Mid-City Neighborhood Association. He is the husband of a lifelong educator and current school administrator, and the proud parent of three children, all of whom attend public schools.

Dr. Jancarlos “J.C.” Wagner-Romero



Dr. Wagner-Romero is a native New Orleanian who has dedicated his entire adult career to the field of education. A former Teacher of the Year in 2015 when he was teaching students at Paul Habans Elementary School, he is committed to ensuring that education is the gateway for cultivating sustainable and socially just communities in New Orleans. He also serves as an adjunct professor of education and is CEO and principal consultant of Romero Educational Strategies, LLC. He has an associate’s degree in English Literature from Delgado Community College, a bachelor’s degree from Northwestern State University, a master’s degree in education from Northeastern University, and a doctorate in education from the University of Missouri-St. Louis. He serves the community on a variety of boards, including the Center for Racial Justice at Dillard University. He lives in Algiers with his husband, Alex Wagner-Romero, and their four dogs—Titi, Patches, Frankie Rue, and Jack.

ORLEANS PARISH SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS

Carlos Luis Zervigón



A native New Orleanian, Mr. Zervigon is a proud graduate of Eleanor McMain Secondary School. He taught social studies at Benjamin Franklin High School for eight years, where he developed a new geography curriculum and served as the freshman class sponsor. He remains dedicated to helping students with learning disabilities. He co-founded the New Orleans Creative Glass Institute, leaning on his experience as a nationally recognized glass sculptor. He oversaw NOCGI's merger with YAYA, Inc. and was elected founding board chair of Audubon Montessori / L'Ecole Franco-Américaine as the school reopened after Hurricane Katrina. he has also served as President of the board of Ben Franklin High School, founding treasurer/secretary of New Orleans College Beyond, a board member of the NOCCA Institute and the Ruby Bridges Foundation, and vice president of the Louisiana SPCA. Mr. Zervigón and his wife, Elizabeth, have six children, all of whom attended New Orleans Public Schools.

Special thanks

NOLA Public Schools would like to extend a special thanks to our former School Board members, Leslie Ellison, Grisela Jackson, Woody Koppel and Sarah Usdin, whose leadership was essential to our community of schools as it returned to local control in 2018 and it prepared to provide our students with the tools they needed to keep learning through the COVID-19 pandemic. We are grateful for your service.

COVID-19 PANDEMIC RESPONSE

NOLA Public Schools, in collaboration with our unique system of schools, led the nation in its response to COVID-19 by deploying a **measured, data-driven planning and execution process** to address the challenges of the pandemic, successfully keeping our students, staff and educators safe while reopening schools less than two months into the 2019-2020 school year.



Staff at McDonogh 42 do routine COVID-19 protocols for students as they arrive for the first day of school.

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HOW WE DID IT

MARCH 16, 2020

When New Orleans shut down to arrest the spread of the coronavirus, NOLA Public Schools followed suit and shifted all grade levels to distance learning.

Citywide Community feeding program with partner schools established within one week of school closure.



APRIL 6-10, 2020

The Orleans Parish School Board gave the District the go-ahead to spend \$5 million on 10,000 Chromebook laptops and 8,000 hotspots to connect students to their teachers online. School leaders then mobilized to get those assets to their families.

QUICK STATS

LESS THAN 0.2%

Percent of active COVID cases among 51,000 students and staff.

3,400

Staff members received first vaccine doses by March '21.

8,000

Hotspots bought and distributed to students.

1M+

Masks sent to schools

10,000

Laptops bought by NOLA-PS and distributed by schools to students.

1.4 M+

Meals delivered to student families learning from home.

\$1 M+

Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) Distributed



Vaccinations are administered at Warren Easton High School.

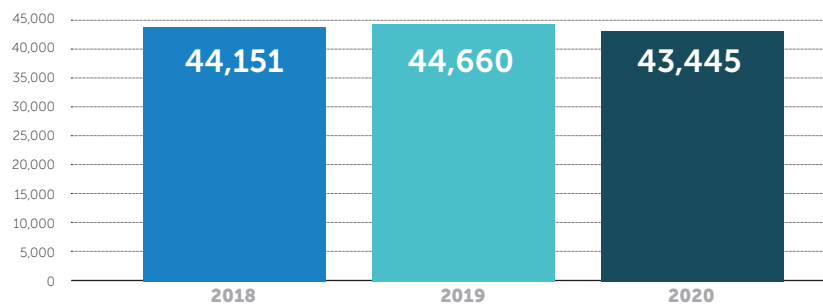
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ENROLLMENT

NOLA Public Schools oversees and supports **77 schools** across New Orleans, delivering high-quality education to **43,445 K-12th grade students**.

K-12 ENROLLMENT TOTALS SINCE REUNIFICATION

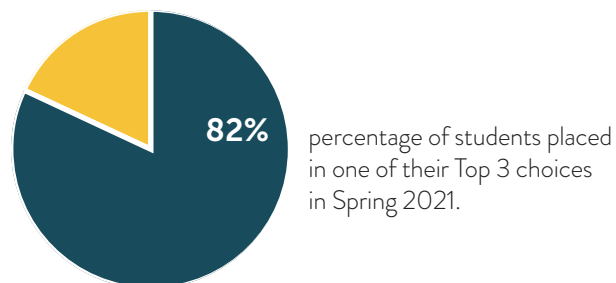


Students at Andrew Wilson Elementary school in the Broadmoor neighborhood.

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ONEAPP PARTICIPATION RATE

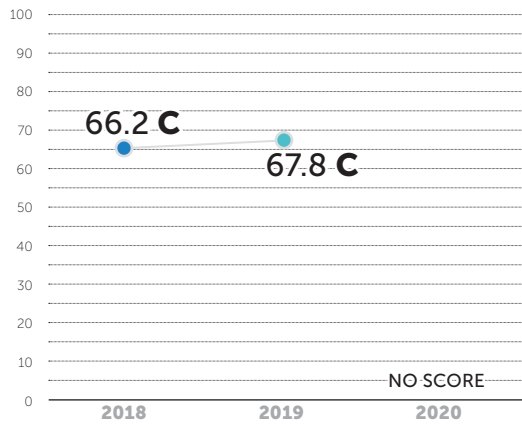
9,201 2021 Main Round applicants



By Fall 2021, all public schools in New Orleans will participate in the OneApp process.

PERFORMANCE

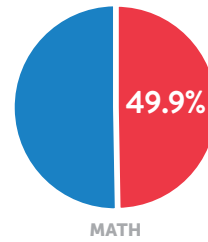
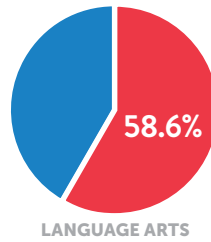
DISTRICT PERFORMANCE SCORE



STUDENT PROFICIENCY

Due to COVID-19 the Louisiana Department of Education suspended statewide LEAP and iLEAP testing in the spring of 2020. We resumed testing in Spring 2021 to set a new, post-COVID baseline on which to continue our progress achieving meaningful results to our students

2018-19 DATA ■ Basic grade level or above



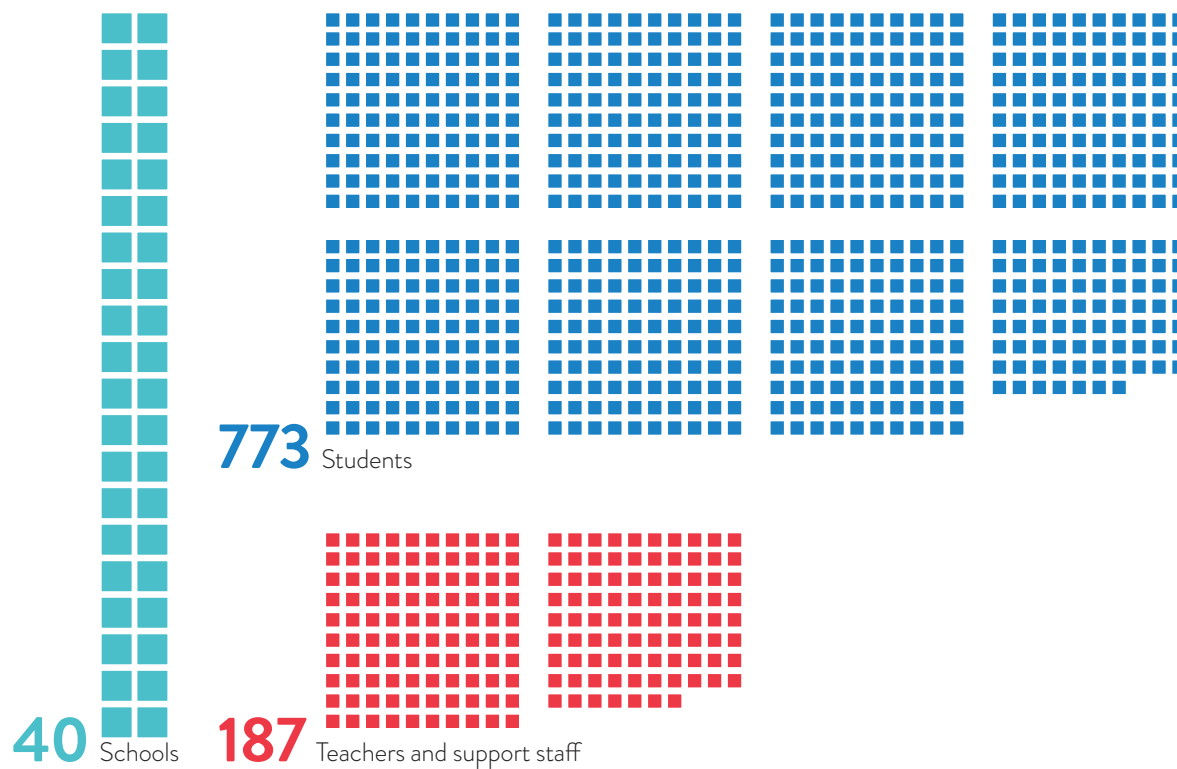
Students at Firstline Live Oak work in the classroom.

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SPECIALLY DESIGNED EDUCATION

Five schools participated in the **Exceptional Children's Services Shared Services Cooperative** during the 2020-2021 school year.

INAUGURAL DR. ROSALYNNE B. DENNIS FITNESS CHALLENGE



CHILD SEARCH PROGRAM

During the pandemic, this program continued scheduling evaluations through an innovative model to ensure access to early intervention supports for **770 students**, ages 3-5

FAMILIES HELPING FAMILIES

232 families of students ages 3-5 were connected to Families Helping Families for advocacy support



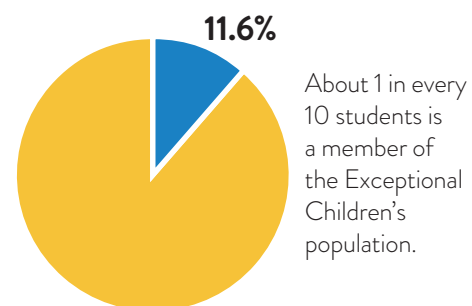
Four students from our Exceptional Children's population at Coghill and Bethune participated in the Special Olympics Youth Summit, where they will focused on qualities such as leadership, kindness, and respect, with the purpose of igniting new and future young leaders within in their schools, community, and/or state. ©NOLA Public Schools

SPECIALLY DESIGNED INSTRUCTION

16 special education teachers

participated in the Specially Designed Instruction year-long cohorts, led by national expert, Dr. Marilyn Friend, focused on building teacher and special education leader capacity

PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS



CHILD NUTRITION SERVICES

Fifteen schools and NOLA-PS provided child nutrition services in the District.



Caption
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Schools

COMMUNITY FEEDING PROGRAM

During the pandemic NOLA-PS collaborated with our partner schools to shift to community feeding, distributing **1.4 million** meals to families in need with students learning from home.



Habans and Bethune Elementary served as a COVID-19 Food and Work Distribution site for families during the pandemic.

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Schools

FACILITIES INVESTMENT

In 2020-2021, we **invested \$10 million** in needed repairs to our existing school facilities and in collaboration with the Recovery School District, completed the construction of Edna Karr High School and the New Orleans Charter Science and Mathematics High School.

CONSTRUCTION BEGAN ON THE FOLLOWING PROJECTS



Booker T. Washington Auditorium



Cohen High School Demolition



New Orleans Career Center



Lafayette Refurbishment



McMain High School Auditorium



Martin Behrman Elementary School



Rosenwald Renovation

THE RENAMING INITIATIVE

During the past school year, in which we celebrated the 60th anniversary of the integration of public schools in New Orleans, it is fitting that **NOLA Public Schools and the Orleans Parish School Board took the initiative to eliminate vestiges of our painful past.**

The School Board approved in August 2020 a new policy to do away with any names on school buildings that honored slave owners, figures of the Confederacy and their sympathizers, and avowed segregationists.

The renaming process, led by a knowledgeable and thoughtful Renaming Committee, was conducted with input from the community. The new names given to these identified school buildings reflect and honor individuals who embody our shared values of Equity, Equality, Inclusivity, Trust, Respect, Cultural Awareness, and Collective Progress.

We should be proud that, together, we have turned a page in history for the better.

Former Names	New Names
Allen, Henry W.	Ellis L. Marsalis, Jr.
Audubon School	Dorothy Mae Taylor
Behrman, Martin	Rose Mary Loving
Bienville	Arthur Ashe
Fisk-Howard	Morris F.X. Jeff, Sr.
Fortier, Alcee	Elijah Brimmer, Jr.
Franklin, Benjamin E.S.	Vorice Jackson Waters
Franklin, Benjamin H.S.	Katherine Johnson
Habans, Paul	Dorothy I. Height
Jackson, Andrew	Justice Revis Oliver Ortique, Jr.
Lafayette, Marquis de	Leah L. Chase
Livingston, Edward	Dr. Milton J. Becnel
Lusher, Robert Mills	Dr. Everett J. Williams, Jr.
McDonogh, John	Elliot C. and Mary J. Willard
McDonogh 15	Homer Plessy
McDonogh 28	Albert W. Dent
McDonogh 35 (Kerlerec)	Dr. Alice R. Geoffray
McDonogh 35 (Phillips/Waters)	35 College Preparatory High School
McDonogh 42	Leah Metoyer McKenna
Walker, O. Perry	Augustus T. Walker
Wright, Sophie B.	Judge James Skelly Wright
Habans, Paul (Herschel Drive)	OPSB 32B
McDonogh 32	OPSB 32
McDonogh 7	OPSB 7



2021 NOLA-PS Annual Report

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New Orleans, Louisiana



Teacher at Firstline
Live Oak overlooks
her students while
they work in the
classroom.

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