

New Orleans Charter-District Compact

I. Purpose

This Charter-District Collaboration Compact (the “Compact”) commits district and charter leaders in New Orleans to improve the ways they will work together and influence each other for the benefit of all students in the city, and to ensure that all children have access to high-quality public schools.

In designing the compact, two overarching principles guided its creation:

- Excellent schools thrive under autonomous conditions – as such, school operators must remain free of over burdensome regulations that inhibit their ability to make the decisions necessary to increase student achievement at the school level.
- Every family deserves to participate in a public school system that is governed by fair, transparent rules that meet the needs of all children.

New Orleans is at the national forefront of developing a high-performing system of schools where school performance drives city decision making. In the New Orleans system of schools, great schools are encouraged to expand, failing schools are turned around, and families have choices about selecting a school that best meets their children’s needs. It is the purpose of this Compact to accelerate the development of this system in a manner that drives both educational excellence and equity.

II. Execution

As it is written, the Compact includes many broad initiatives that will need to be executed in collaborative manner between all parties. As such, once the compact is signed, it is proposed that a Compact Execution Committee be formed to develop the systems and processes necessary to execute the Compact. The composition of the committee will be as follows:

- Compact Signatories:
 - Representative from each governmental entity
 - 3-5 representatives from charter school operators
 - 1 representative from each non-profit signatory
- Non-Compact Signatories:
 - 2 representatives from charter operators who did not sign initial compact but remain interested in execution of compact
 - Representative from any governmental entity that did not sign initial compact but remain interested in execution of compact

Issue	Initiative	Measure of Success	District Commitment	Charter Commitment	School and System Support Organizations
Compact	<i>Fidelity to Compact</i>	90% of compact measures of success met within 3 years	Devote necessary resources to ensure all measures are met	Devote necessary resources to ensure all measures are met	Select one third party group to monitor compact
	<i>Citywide Communications Supporting Educational Excellence</i>	Compact is framed as a citywide effort to promote educational excellence in New Orleans	Develops communication materials around compact; give consistent message that charters are part of the public system and are public schools	Give message about charters being a part of the city-wide vision to provide an excellent education for all students, to prevent antagonism between district and charter schools	Assist in disseminating communication materials
Student Enrollment	<i>Universal Enrollment System for New Orleans Families</i>	Universal enrollment system in place for 2012 school year that meets needs of all students (including special needs, mid-year, enrollees, etc)	Develop technological platform to support a universal citywide enrollment system	Participate in design of system; utilize system; keep data updated	Promote universal enrollment system; if necessary, support information campaigns on new system
	<i>Innovative Methods for Serving Special Education Students</i>	1 new charter school or school within a school launched to serve special needs students; 100% of charter signatories meet special education requirements outlined in charter contract and BESE policy	Advocate for local and state funding policies that provide requisite resources for serving special needs students	Meet all charter contract and BESE regulations; develop innovate solutions for charter sector to serve students with special needs (new schools, programs, etc)	Provide start-up capital and support to charter operators engaging in innovative solutions to serve special needs students
	<i>Innovative Methods for</i>	2 new charter schools launched to serve	Advocate for local and state funding policies	Develop innovate solutions for charter	Provide start-up capital and support to charter operators

	<i>Alternative Education Students</i>	students needing alternative settings; 100% of charter signatories meet expulsion requirements outlined in charter contract and BESE policy	that provide requisite resources for serving alternative needs students; Ensure funding follows students so that if students are expelled by one school then enrolled by another the new school receives the pro-rated funding for the expelled student.	sector to open schools to serve students who require alternative settings; execute legal expulsion procedures; accurately report all expulsion and withdrawal data to State as dictated by current law	engaging in innovative solutions to serve students who require alternative settings; publish data on school site expulsion and withdrawal numbers; work with charter boards to assist them in monitoring issue
Facilities	<i>Fair and Transparent Facility Assignment Process to Support Growth of Excellent Schools</i>	Transparent facility assignment process developed that supports the growth of excellent schools – and relies heavily on student achievement data, community input, and logistical requirements	With charter input develop a facility assignment process and execute process on annual basis	Participate in design of process and then use process when securing facilities to support growth	Monitor assignment process to ensure that rules are followed
School Development Cycle	<i>Meaningful Community Engagement that Promotes Educational Excellence in Every Neighborhood</i>	Develop process for community input in charter authorization process which both empowers communities around educational excellence and maintains government role as a quality authorizer	With charter input develop community input process and manage the process on an annual basis	Actively participate in community input / outreach process; ensure that all board meeting dates and board member contact information are posted / open and accessible to public / minutes available online	Provide education and training programs to communities interested in participating in charter process
	<i>Promoting New</i>	Create permanent	Maintain incubation	Develop talent to	Fund incubation costs for

	<i>School Creation</i>	citywide infrastructure for effective new school development	facility for start-up schools to be housed during early years (TBD on date as new facilities open)	ensure there is a long-term pipeline for new school creation	start-up teams to begin a year in advance of school opening; support human capital initiatives that develop leaders to support new school growth
	<i>Ensuring Failing School Closure or Turnaround</i>	All schools not meeting failing bar change close or change operators within two years	Be a vocal advocate for school quality; hold same bar for all schools in system; actively seek to close failing schools; work with parents during times of closure or change in operator	Voluntarily hand-back charters when performance goals are not met; work with district to open schools tied to failing school closures	Be a vocal advocate for the closing or taking over of failing schools; provide education and support to charter boards around state accountability and school performance management; provide funds to charters that need to wind down operations
Practice Sharing and Evaluation	<i>Charter / District Summit to Continually Hone Charter Accountability Rules to Support Charter Excellence</i>	Hold annual charter / district summit	Host summit where topics are addressed: authorizer district duties and execution / charter duties and execution / recommendations for successfully executing decentralized system	Attend and provide feedback on current state of authorization and regulatory environment	Coordinate and host event if necessary
	<i>School Report Card</i>	Develop a common school report card and evaluation system to compare school-level results	Utilize forthcoming state report card to organize data on individual charter schools	Provide all necessary data	Assist with disseminating information
Funding	<i>Ensuring Equitable Funding</i>	Maintain total charter fee (RSD, LADOE) charter fee at 2% or less and provide transparency on how	Provide budget and allocation narrative for 1.75% fee on an annual basis	Pay fee and provide feedback on how money could be best spent	Research best practices on district fees and resource use

		funds are used.			
	<i>Pursuing Grant Opportunities</i>	Successfully co-apply for federal and philanthropic grants	Work with charters and support organizations to develop city-wide grant applications	Work with district and support organizations to develop city-wide grant applications	Where appropriate, lead coordination process and act as fiduciary agent for grants
Human Capital	<i>Master Teacher Training Programs</i>	Develop Master Teacher Training Program to provide further development opportunities for educators	Provide portion of incubation funds and encourage teachers to participate in pilot; consider subsidizing part of tuition fee	Utilize if program supports educational excellence at school site	Recruit talent, incubate provider, and provide on-going support
Politics	<i>Legislation</i>	Coordinate efforts to promote mutually beneficial legislation	With LDOE, annually host legislative briefing to discuss upcoming legislative session and any legislation affecting charters	Attend legislative hearings in which charter legislation is being considered; provide input and information as necessary	State Charter Association hold annual meeting on legislative agenda
Research	<i>Effectiveness Experiments</i>	Conduct experimental and quasi-experimental studies on school effectiveness	Participate in studies	Participate in studies	Fund or conduct research