

# NEW ORLEANS DISTRICT-CHARTER COLLABORATION COMPACT

Date Signed: June 2012

Number of All Public School Students: 47,159 (2014-2015) Source: New Schools for New Orleans

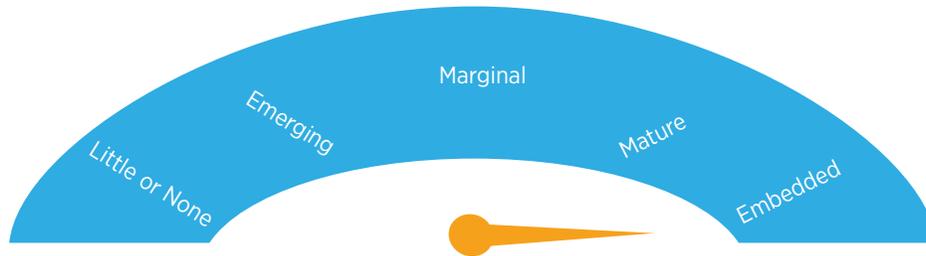
Percent of Charter School Students to All Public School Students: 92%

Charter Authorizer(s): Orleans Parish School Board, Louisiana Board of Elementary and Secondary Education

School District Governing Body: Elected School Board (Orleans Parish), State-control (Recovery School District)

Compact Grant Amount: \$3,000,000

## CURRENT STATUS OF COLLABORATION:



## OVERVIEW

New Orleans' public education system is the most advanced in the nation when it comes to implementing the [portfolio strategy](#). Over 90 percent of students attend charter schools, with the majority overseen by the state-run Recovery School District (RSD) rather than the local Orleans Parish School Board (OPSB). This results from state legislation enacted before Hurricane Katrina but employed post-storm to rebuild and radically remake the city's schools, which had struggled for decades under local control. However, most schools under the oversight of OPSB are also now charter schools. The initial Compact agreement helped launch the [OneApp](#) common enrollment system—a major win—and an equity report that included achievement, growth, and demographic data on each school in the city. It also led to some development for alternative education and facilities assignment processes.

Between 2013 and 2015, subsequent Compact work was led by New Schools for New Orleans (NSNO), a nonprofit organization that supports and helps develop New Orleans schools. NSNO facilitated quarterly meetings with six CMOs representing 26 campuses, and one stand-alone charter school, to share their experiences implementing Common Core and develop citywide best practices. NSNO also helped charter schools implement the new standards. To address the challenges of a young, inexperienced workforce, NSNO funded Match and the Center for Transformative Teacher Training, which provide instructional coaching and leadership development, and started residency programs at KIPP and Collegiate Academies. This work helped create an ecosystem

of talent providers that build systemwide capacity, including organizations like Leading Educators, Education Pioneers, and Relay.

Although grant funds from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation's second round of Compact funding were not used to support the special education work, in the larger portfolio context, RSD partnered with NSNO to implement [numerous strategies](#) ensuring equity for special education students and encouraging innovation. In 2014, RSD and OPSB signed a [cooperative endeavor agreement](#) addressing service improvements for the neediest students, facilities upgrades, and efficient/shared use of financial resources.

As the education system in New Orleans continues to evolve, opportunities may exist for another Compact-like document to help set the vision for collaboration among the many players. Most RSD-authorized schools will likely transition to OPSB oversight within the next five to ten years. OPSB superintendent Henderson Lewis recognizes that his central office must evolve to effectively support the portfolio of schools. In the interim, collaboration could occur between the city's charters and OPSB's direct-run and selective-admission schools. They could also coordinate strategies with the city's many youth-focused coalitions and organizations. Like any city, New Orleans faces challenges sustaining its educator workforce, improving the number of high-quality school options, and meeting changing student needs. Schools also struggle to provide mental health services and other student needs unmet by other public agencies.

COMMON AREAS OF COLLABORATION	COMPACT PROGRESS
<b>High-Performing Schools</b>	Multiple collaborative efforts have been geared toward improving school quality in New Orleans, including OneApp, a school facilities assignment plan that considers quality, reworking special education funding formulas, and other initiatives like Common Core, described below.
<b>Special Education &amp; English Language Learners (ELL)</b>	In 2014, RSD made an effort to <a href="#">address the fiscal challenges</a> around serving special education students by aligning special education dollars with the level of service a student needs, sharing catastrophic costs across schools, and, with NSNO, has given high-performing schools incentives to expand their special education offerings. In 2012, RSD restricted the placement of expelled students into their alternative school, Crescent Leadership Academy, to students that were expelled via a centralized expulsion system. Now all RSD, OPSB, and State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education schools use this centralized system to make final determination on student expulsions. SELF, a cohort-based program, provides professional development to special education coordinators across the city.
<b>Facilities &amp; Resources</b>	RSD and the OPSB jointly manage a <a href="#">School Facilities Master Plan</a> . Early Compact work helped to develop a facilities assignment process.
<b>School Performance Framework</b>	Information on schools has been provided through the <a href="#">New Orleans Parents Guide</a> and the OneApp system. The 2011-2012 Equity Report was published soon after the original Compact was signed to provide a comprehensive overview of the city’s education system and the performance of individual schools. Although this report was only published for one year, there is now a renewed effort to publish a citywide equity report. Both districts are participating and the process is being led by two nonprofits.
<b>Enrollment Systems</b>	The <a href="#">OneApp</a> common enrollment system covers approximately 89 percent of public schools in New Orleans, as well as 29 private schools that participate in the Louisiana Scholarship Program. The system’s development was an important “win” stemming from the original Compact, especially in an all-choice environment. CRPE researchers <a href="#">determined</a> that confusion and inequity surrounding enrollment has lessened. In 2016, early childhood programs, including private schools and childcare centers receiving public funding, were added to OneApp.
<b>Human Capital &amp; Professional Development</b>	NSNO used half of the second-round Compact grant to fund talent development organizations Match and Center for Transformative Teacher Training and to create residency programs. This work helped launch an ecosystem of talent providers that help build system capacity.
<b>Common Core</b>	NSNO used half of the second-round Compact grant to facilitate and coordinate supports for charter schools as they implemented the Common Core standards. The work included 60 schools across the city, with six large CMOs and one stand-alone charter school serving as lead partners. There is some appetite to revisit this work since the first round of student assessment data has been released.