What is it like for parents to choose a public school in cities that provide multiple options? According to a survey of 4,000 public school parents in eight “high-choice” cities, including New Orleans, parents’ experiences vary widely. New Orleans parents were among the most likely to report that their city’s schools were getting better. Black and Hispanic parents, however, were significantly less optimistic in their outlook compared to white parents. Yet, more parents in New Orleans reported struggling to find a school that provided a good fit for their child than in most other cities surveyed. However, compared to most other cities, fewer parents in New Orleans reported transportation as a barrier to choosing a school. For the full report comparing all eight cities, visit crpe.org.
NEW ORLEANS

COMMON BARRIERS TO CHOOSING A SCHOOL

- Parents with a high school diploma or less
- Parents with a bachelor’s degree or more

Available schools weren’t a good fit
- 44% Report Difficulty
- 38%
- 48%

Understanding which schools their child was eligible to attend
- 35% Report Difficulty
- 42%
- 27%

Difficult or confusing paperwork
- 15% Report Difficulty
- 15%
- 11%

Finding transportation for their child to and from school
- 19% Report Difficulty
- 21%
- 16%

Number of applications
- 21% Report Difficulty
- 22%
- 17%

Different application deadlines
- 27% Report Difficulty
- 26%
- 25%

HOW PARENTS BECOME INFORMED ABOUT THEIR OPTIONS

Parents use on average 2 information sources

50% of parents say visiting the school is the most useful information source

23% Unable to get information needed to choose

HOW PARENTS GET THEIR CHILD TO SCHOOL

55% of parents report driving their child to and from school

TRIP TIME (EACH WAY) FOR CHILDREN IN NON-NEIGHBORHOOD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
00:18:00

Children in non-neighborhood public schools traveled longer (4 minutes longer than those in neighborhood public schools).

CLICK HERE TO READ THE FULL REPORT | crpe.org/publications/how-parents-experience-public-school-choice