



LAPCS

Capitol Day 2015

A Look Back at Capitol Day



I want to extend a huge thank you to those of you who joined us for our first Capitol Day this past week. We had a great turnout - close to 90 charter school supporters - and your participation was critical to showing our legislators that the charter school movement is growing and here to stay. Thank you for taking the time from your busy schedules to travel to Baton Rouge, and for providing testimony and engaging in frank conversations with legislators about the importance of charters and choice.

This was our first attempt at Capitol Day, so we know there are things we can improve upon next year. We know scheduling this year was a challenge, given PARCC testing and all that's going on in your schools. We also recognize that we can do a better job of connecting you directly to your legislators during the day. We're committed to addressing these issues and making other improvements next year, so please send us any feedback you may have on this year's event by emailing Nikki Chatelain at nchatelain@lachaarterschools.org.



While we look forward to hosting Capitol Day again next year, I implore you not to confine your legislative activities to that one day. As we've seen just this past week, your testimonies, your emails, and your calls are critical to ensuring that bills harmful to the charter school movement are defeated. Make your presence known at the Capitol throughout the legislative session both this year and in the future. Engage your senators and representatives by writing letters and inviting them to your schools. Champion charter schools with your legislators; let them know that charters are working and that you will continue to fight for educational choice in Louisiana.

As always, we are here working for you. Let us know if there's anything we can do better to help you as you work to serve our kids.

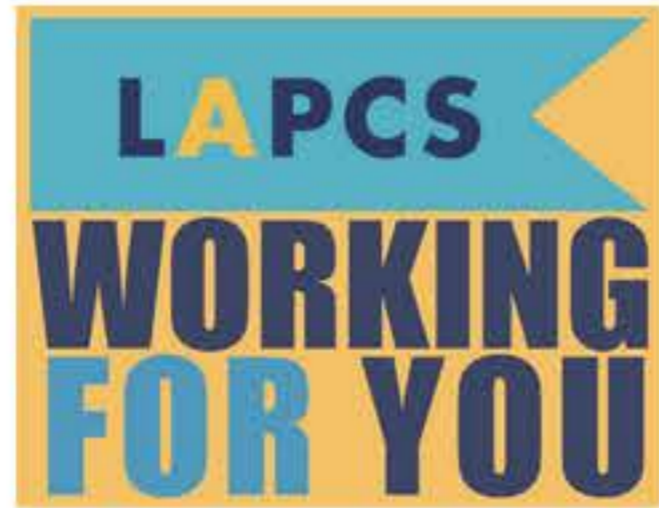
Sincerely,
Caroline

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LAPCS: Working for You!



May 21:
Ethics Training
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Finding and Recruiting Outstanding Board Members (webinar)
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June 2:
Board Members Behaving Badly (webinar)
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June 16:
Board Meeting Mojo (webinar)
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In the News



- [Orleans Parish high school graduation rate 6th best in Louisiana](#)
- [K12 Inc. report highlights achievement gains at Louisiana Virtual Academy](#)
- [New Orleans charter schools bring fresh air to devastated](#)
- [LAPCS celebrates 20th anniversary of charter law this Charter Schools Week, May 3-9](#)
- [J.S. Clark Academy partners with South Louisiana Community College in Opelousas for dual program for high school students](#)
- [Letter: Parents key to the success of charter schools](#)
- [Common Core test results: 4 things for parents to expect](#)
- [They're off to college, and New Orleans celebrates](#)

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Educating Louisiana: New Episodes Airing Now!



The newest episode of *Educating Louisiana*, featuring Eva Kemp Melder of Democrats for Education Reform and Stephen Tremaine of the Bard Early College Program, airs May 21! New episodes of the show will air on Cox 4 each Thursday night at 8:30 pm (repeating on Monday evenings at 10:30 pm) in New Orleans, Baton Rouge and Lafayette and on Northshore Channel 17 on Sundays at 7:00 pm (repeating on Wednesdays at 7:00 PM and Mondays at 4:30 pm). You can always view past episodes on our [Vimeo page](#).

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The Top Shelf: NAPCS Conference



Learning is constant at LAPCS and we are thrilled to have the National Alliance of Public Charter Schools conference in New Orleans this year. Need some reasons to attend? Check out this [blog](#) written by Makiyah Moody about why she's excited to attend.

This week's Board Member Focus spotlights [Robert Evans](#), Vice-Chairman of the Board of Choice Foundation.

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The Bottom Line: MFP Ruling



We won! LAPCS and seven Type 2 charter schools won a major victory in the 19th Judicial Court of East Baton Rouge when Judge Wilson Fields upheld the constitutional rights of Type 2 charter schools to receive MFP funding, along with the

constitutionality of the existing funding formula that governs MFP. For more information, check out this [story](#) from The Advocate. LAPCS will also provide further updates as warranted.

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Just the Facts: Eleven Louisiana Charter High Schools Recognized by US News & World Report



Benjamin Franklin High School, ranked as the number one public high school in the state, and Lusher Charter School, ranked third in the state, earned gold

medals from *U.S. News & World Report*, given to the top 500 schools nationally based on highest college readiness indicators. Franklin was ranked 80th on the national list, and Lusher was 185th. The two schools also appeared on the nation's best charter schools list at 23rd and 53rd respectively.

Nine charter schools received the bronze medal designations. The schools are Avoyelles Public Charter School in Mansura; Downsville Charter School in Downsville; Edna Karr High School in New Orleans; International High School in New Orleans; Madison Preparatory Academy in Baton Rouge; New Orleans Charter Science & Mathematics High School in New Orleans; New Orleans Military/Maritime Academy in New Orleans; Sci Academy in New Orleans; and Warren Easton Senior High School in New Orleans.

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Charter Schools Perform at Jazz Fest



The end of April and beginning of May mark the annual New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival. We want to congratulate our member schools for putting on an amazing show and being an integral part of the culture of the festival. Participants included

Encore Academy, International School of Louisiana, Landry-Walker Charter High School and Young Audiences Charter School.

Thanks to the staff, families and students of these organizations for helping to make Jazz Fest memorable!

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Featured School: Louisiana Virtual Charter Academy

Each month, LAPCS will feature a different school (or school system) and share highlights, milestones, and good news for that school. This month we're featuring Louisiana Virtual Charter Academy, but we would love to feature your school in the coming months! [E-mail us](#) and let us share your good news!



Louisiana Virtual Charter Academy (LAVCA) is a public school using an innovative educational model to provide your child with the best education possible. As a statewide school available to Louisiana students in

grades K-12, our unique educational approach allows us to tailor an education that is specific to each learner.

LAVCA uses the award-winning K12 curriculum, which has been developed by some of the best minds in education. This rigorous, content-rich curriculum meets or exceeds state standards across all subject areas. Students demonstrate their knowledge and skills through state standardized tests.

LAVCA is available to Louisiana students in grades K-12 through a partnership between K12 Inc. and Community School for Apprenticeship Learning Inc. (CSAL). Founded in 1997, CSAL is a not-for-profit with a mission to provide students with real-world experiences by giving them access to alternative forms of instruction. Since its inception, CSAL has operated a small middle school and high school centered on individualized attention, integrated project-based instruction, and motivating students to do their best. LAVCA is its third charter school.

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Partner Connection Spot



From curriculum materials to back office solutions, we've got you covered! Check out some of our vendor partners.



Pearson is working to create real results that break through the challenges in education today. We partner with educators to deliver new personalized ways of learning

through effective, scalable assessment, instructional tools, services, and technologies. We help individuals improve learning outcomes and achieve their own definitions of success.



Academic Resource Solutions is a Louisiana-based company administering charter schools' business needs so that school leaders can focus on what matters most: student achievement. With decades of experience, we create systems and processes that save time and reduce expenses: savings that can be reinvested in the education of our children and teacher development. One of our largest attributes is our flexibility. We have the capabilities to deliver superior services to our clients.

Check out our entire list of partners by visiting our [website](#). Don't see something you're searching for? Help us pick the partner you desire by completing a short feedback [survey](#).

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