2013 ANNUAL REVIEW
LOUISIANA ASSOCIATION OF PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS

Langston Hughes Academy students enjoying a lesson in their Dreamkeeper Garden, one of FirstLine Schools’ Edible Schoolyards.
LAPCS MEMBERS

SCHOOLS

Akili Academy of New Orleans
Albert Einstein Charter School
Algies Technology Academy
Alice M. Harte Elementary Charter School
Andrew H. Wilson Charter School
Arise Academy
Arthur Ashe Charter School
Baton Rouge Charter Academy at Mid City
Bayou Community Academy
Belle Chasse Academy
Bricolage Academy
Children’s Charter School
Cohen College Prep
Community School for Apprenticeship Learning
Crescent Leadership Academy
Crocker College Prep
D’Arbonne Woods Charter School
Delhi Charter School
Delta Charter School
Dwight D. Eisenhower Elementary School
Edna Karr High School
Einstein Extension
ENCORE Academy
Esperanza Charter School
G.W. Carver Collegiate Academy
G.W. Carver Preparatory Academy
Gentilly Terrace Elementary School
Harriet Tubman Charter School
Inspire Charter Academy
International High School of New Orleans
International School of Louisiana - Bunche
International School of Louisiana - Camp St.
International School of Louisiana - Olivier St.
J.K. Haynes Elementary Charter
John Dibert Community School
John McDonogh High School
Joseph Clark High School
Kenilworth Science and Technology Charter School
Kenner Discovery Health Sciences Academy
KIPP Believe College Prep
KIPP Believe Primary
KIPP Central City Academy
KIPP McDonogh 15 Primary School for the Creative Arts
KIPP McDonogh 15 School for the Creative Arts
KIPP New Orleans Leadership Academy
KIPP Renaissance High School
L.B. Landry-O. Perry Walker Senior High School
Lafayette Academy
Lake Area New Technology Early College High School
Lake Charles Academy
Langston Hughes Academy Charter School
Linwood Public Charter School
Louisiana Connections Academy
Louisiana Virtual Academy
Lusher Charter School
Lycee Francais de la Nouvelle Orleans
Madison Preparatory Academy
Magnolia School of Excellence
Martin Behrman Elementary School
McDonogh #28 City Park Academy
McDonogh #32 Elementary School
McDonogh 42 Elementary Charter School
Medard H. Nelson Elementary School
Mentorship Academy of Digital Arts
Mentorship Academy of Science and Technology
Mildred Osborne Charter School
Milestone SABIS Academy for Mathematics and Business
Miller-McCoy Academy
Morris Jeff Community School
New Orleans Military/Maritime Academy
Paul Habans Charter School
Pierre A. Capdau Learning Academy
ReNEW Accelerated High School
ReNEW Cultural Arts Academy at Live Oak Elementary
ReNEW Dolores T. Aaron Elementary School
ReNEW Schaumburg Elementary School
ReNEW SciTech Academy at Laurel Elementary
S.J. Green Charter School
Sci Academy
Slaughter Community Charter School
Southwest Louisiana Charter Academy
Success Preparatory Academy
Sylvanie Williams College Prep
The MAX Charter School
The NET Charter School
THRIVE
V.B. Glencoe Charter School
Virtual Academy of Lafourche
William J. Fischer Elementary School
Young Audiences Charter School

VENDORS

Bancorp South Insurance Services, Inc.
Goodwill Industries of Southeast Louisiana
ING Financial Partners
Lumpkin Agency
Sean M. Bruno CPAs
Internet Story Club of America

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As 2013 comes to a close, I reflect on the successes that LAPCS has orchestrated, the challenges that we have overcome, and the obstacles that remain in our path. The theme for the 2014 National Alliance for Public Charter Schools (NAPCS) conference is “The Numbers Add Up” and I am truly happy to say that for Louisiana, the numbers are adding up:

**2013 Successes**

- Louisiana’s NAPCS model law score increased from 119 points in 2012 to 151 points this year, from #13 (out of 42 states) to #6 (out of 43 states).
- 63% of charter schools across Louisiana were rated C or above in 2013 – compared to 56% of schools rated D or F in 2012.
- 59,251 students attend 117 charter schools across 19 parishes.
- 91 of 117 Louisiana charter schools are members of the LAPCS family.
- *The Board Bank*, the recruitment arm of LAPCS’ *The Top Shelf*, recruited 170 prospective board members and placed 34 with 12 partner schools.
- LAPCS launched *The Bottom Line* to provide a training program supporting charter school finance, operations, and human resource teams.

Challenges still exist – in several districts, facilities remain a problem for new and existing charter schools; the Teachers’ Retirement System of Louisiana fight continues; and transportation remains an issue for both rural and urban areas. However, Louisiana welcomed new charter schools in nine parishes this school year, and we are excited about what LAPCS has to offer:

- The Greater Baton Rouge and North Louisiana Collaboratives
- LAPCS 2014 Annual Conference
- Charter School Legal Handbook

It is with great thanks that I say to you, our members, our supporters, our legislators, our staunch cheer-leaders, that we are truly excited to build on our advocacy work, our member service programs, and our role as leader of the only statewide organization working to support, promote, and advocate for the Louisiana charter school movement. All the best to you and our children in Louisiana’s public charter schools in 2014!

Best,

*Caroline Roemer Shirley*

Executive Director
OUR STAFF

VERONICA BROOKS
Policy Director

SIMONE GREEN
Membership & School Development Director

TORYAH CAMERON
Development Director

DONYELL McGLATHERY
Business Manager

MELISSA CAROLLO
Finance & Operations Director

MAKIYAH MOODY
Governance Initiatives Director

NIKKI CHATELAIN
Special Projects Manager

SARAH VANDERGRIFF
Legal Director
In 2013, 117 charter schools operated in 19 Louisiana parishes, educating 59,251 students. New schools opened in:
- Caddo
- Concordia
- East Baton Rouge
- Jefferson
- Madison
- Morehouse
- Orleans
- Ouachita
- Washington

**LOUISIANA CHARTER SCHOOL TYPES**

**TYPE 1**
- New school
- Local school board authorized

**TYPE 2**
- New or conversion school
- BESE authorized

**TYPE 3**
- Conversion school
- Local school board authorized

**TYPE 4**
- New or conversion school
- Local school board & BESE authorized

**TYPE 5**
- Recovery School District schools
- BESE authorized

A study earlier this year by the Center for Research and Education Outcomes (CREDO) noted that in one year, the typical student in a Louisiana charter school gains the equivalent of TWO MORE MONTHS of learning in reading and THREE MORE MONTHS of learning in math than a peer in a traditional public school.

New Orleans, leading the nation in charter school enrollment with 79% of public school students enrolled in charter schools, is on track to be the first high poverty urban school system in the country to outperform its state average.

US DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION 2013 BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL
Lake Forest Charter Elementary School

LA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION 2013 TOP GAINS SCHOOLS
Arthur Ashe Charter School
Avoyelles Public Charter School
D’Arbonne Woods Charter School
Dwight D. Eisenhower Elementary School
Einstein Charter School
Esperanza Charter School
Fannie C. Williams Charter School
Gentilly Terrace Elementary School
John Dibert Community School
Kenilworth Science and Technology Charter School
KIPP Central City Academy
KIPP McDonogh 15 School for the Creative Arts
KIPP New Orleans Leadership Academy
Lafayette Academy
Lagniappe Academy of New Orleans
Linwood Public Charter School
McDonogh #32 Elementary School
McDonogh #28 City Park Academy
Morris Jeff Community School
ReNEW Cultural Arts Academy at Live Oak Elementary
ReNEW Dolores T. Aaron Elementary
ReNEW SciTech Academy at Laurel Elementary
Samuel J. Green Charter School
Slaughter Community Charter School
Success Preparatory Academy
Sylvanie Williams College Prep
SUPPORT

LAPCS offers several programs to help our member schools address their evolving needs and find creative solutions to the unique challenges faced by charter schools.

THE BOTTOM LINE

*The Bottom Line* offers sessions to help member schools enhance employment, finance, and general operations policies and implement best practices.

VENDOR MEMBERSHIP

LAPCS provides charter school vendors an opportunity to promote their services to our member schools through direct marketing, networking opportunities, and discounted exhibitor rates at the LAPCS Annual Conference.

CHARTER DISCOVERY

Located at [www.charterdiscovery.com](http://www.charterdiscovery.com), this website offers a wealth of charter school data in easy to understand charts and tables. It is the most complete source of information on Louisiana’s charter schools.

TEACHER FAIR/STATEWIDE JOB PORTAL

In concert with the Eastbank Collaborative of Charter Schools (ECCS), LAPCS supports an Annual Teacher Fair, as well as partnering on the creation of a statewide virtual charter school job posting portal.

THE TOP SHELF

*The Top Shelf* enhances the capacity of charter school boards through professional development, board recruitment, and community engagement.

APPLY YOURSELF!

*Apply Yourself!* covers the critical aspects of creating a high quality charter school application for potential school developers.

LIAISON PROGRAM

This virtual concierge service for Louisiana charter schools offers members and non-members a personalized and direct link to the association’s services.

LAPCS ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Each year, LAPCS hosts a conference for charter school leaders, teachers, parents, and community members across the state to facilitate discussions and share best practices on some of the leading questions being raised in the charter school community.
ADVOCATE
LAPCS is the only statewide entity dedicated to advocating for charter schools at both the state and local levels. In addition to advocacy, LAPCS provides resources to legislators, district officials, policymakers, and communities about the issues important to charter schools.

LEGAL LIBRARY
Our legal library offers a detailed overview of federal and state education laws and policies that affect charter schools.

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POLICY AND MEDIA VOICE
Recognized locally and nationally as a leading expert in the area of charter school and K-12 public education reform, LAPCS staff provides key testimony for policy making bodies and management of press in key media markets.

PROMOTE
The best way to promote charter schools is to help people understand what they are, why they work, and how they are quantifiably successful. LAPCS offers several resources that promote the charter school movement.

LA SCHOOL FINDER
Located at www.laschoolfinder.com, this website includes information on every public school in New Orleans, allowing parents and guardians to easily compare schools side-by-side. We will expand its use to target markets across the state in 2014.

ADVOCATE
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LEGISLATIVE TRACKER
LAPCS monitors all bills that may impact charter schools and regularly issues summaries, updates, and action alerts.
REGIONAL COLLABORATIVES
Beginning February 2014. To better understand the challenges, successes, and needs of charter schools across Louisiana, LAPCS will introduce two new collaboratives for charter schools in North Louisiana and Greater Baton Rouge. These groups will convene on a quarterly basis and agendas will be driven by respective collaborative members. LAPCS will use these opportunities to inform schools of new rules and policies while facilitating collaborative brainstorming and learning more about membership needs.

LAPCS ANNUAL CONFERENCE
Scheduled for October 21, 2014. The LAPCS Annual Conference will take place in Baton Rouge. More details will soon follow.

CHARTER SCHOOL LEGAL HANDBOOK
Coming 1st Quarter of 2014. LAPCS, in partnership with Louisiana Appleseed, will release the Charter School Legal Handbook.

APPLY YOURSELF!
Scheduled for January 16-18, 2014. LAPCS will host an Apply Yourself! bootcamp in Baton Rouge.

FINANCE & OPERATIONS BOOTCAMP
Coming in Summer 2014. Our Finance and Operations Bootcamp is an intensive 5-day training designed to strengthen a school’s accounting, office management, finance, and operations for the upcoming school year.

AUTHORIZING 101
Coming Spring 2014. LAPCS is currently developing an Authorizing 101 handbook to guide school districts in authorizing, monitoring, and managing great charter schools.

WALTON GRANT
Beginning January 2014. The Walton Family Foundation (WFF) invests in organizations and programs that encourage competition in public education and allow parents to choose among high performing schools as part of its K-12 education reform focus. The WFF’s Public Charter Startup Grant program supports the creation of public charters by providing grants of up to $250,000 to school developers as they launch new schools. LAPCS acts as the Grant Partner to identify prospective candidates (qualified schools during the authorization process and up to their first year of operation).

NATIONAL CHARTER SCHOOL WEEK
Scheduled for May 2014. National Charter School Week highlights the success of public charter schools throughout the United States while increasing awareness of the charter school movement and advocating for a more favorable policy environment for public charter schools.

SCHOOL CHOICE WEEK
Scheduled for January 26-February 1, 2014. School Choice Week highlights varied educational options available to parents and students, from traditional public schools to charter schools, private schools, online instruction and homeschooling.
OUR MISSION
The mission of the LOUISIANA ASSOCIATION OF PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS is to SUPPORT, PROMOTE, and ADVOCATE for the Louisiana charter school movement, increasing student access to high quality charter schools statewide.

OUR VALUES

CUSTOMER SERVICE FOCUSED
We are committed to providing excellent customer service to all our stakeholders. This includes providing quality programs and services, excellent communication both to and for our schools, and opportunities to educate the general public about our successes.

ACCOUNTABILITY
We believe in accountability. We hold both ourselves, and our schools, accountable to results.

INTEGRITY
We expect ourselves and our schools to act with integrity. We ensure this through holding ourselves and our schools accountable.

MISSION ALIGNED
We believe in our mission and strive to ensure our programs, services, and priorities are mission aligned.

PARTNERSHIPS
We value partnerships with all our stakeholders. From schools to community members to political allies, we strive to form and sustain partnership to help move our mission forward.
THANK YOU
to our donors:

Baptist Community Ministries

Booth-Bricker Fund

Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation

Greater New Orleans Foundation

Institute of Mental Hygiene

Laura and John Arnold Foundation

Makiyah Moody

Pro Bono Publico

Travis Chase

Walton Family Foundation