



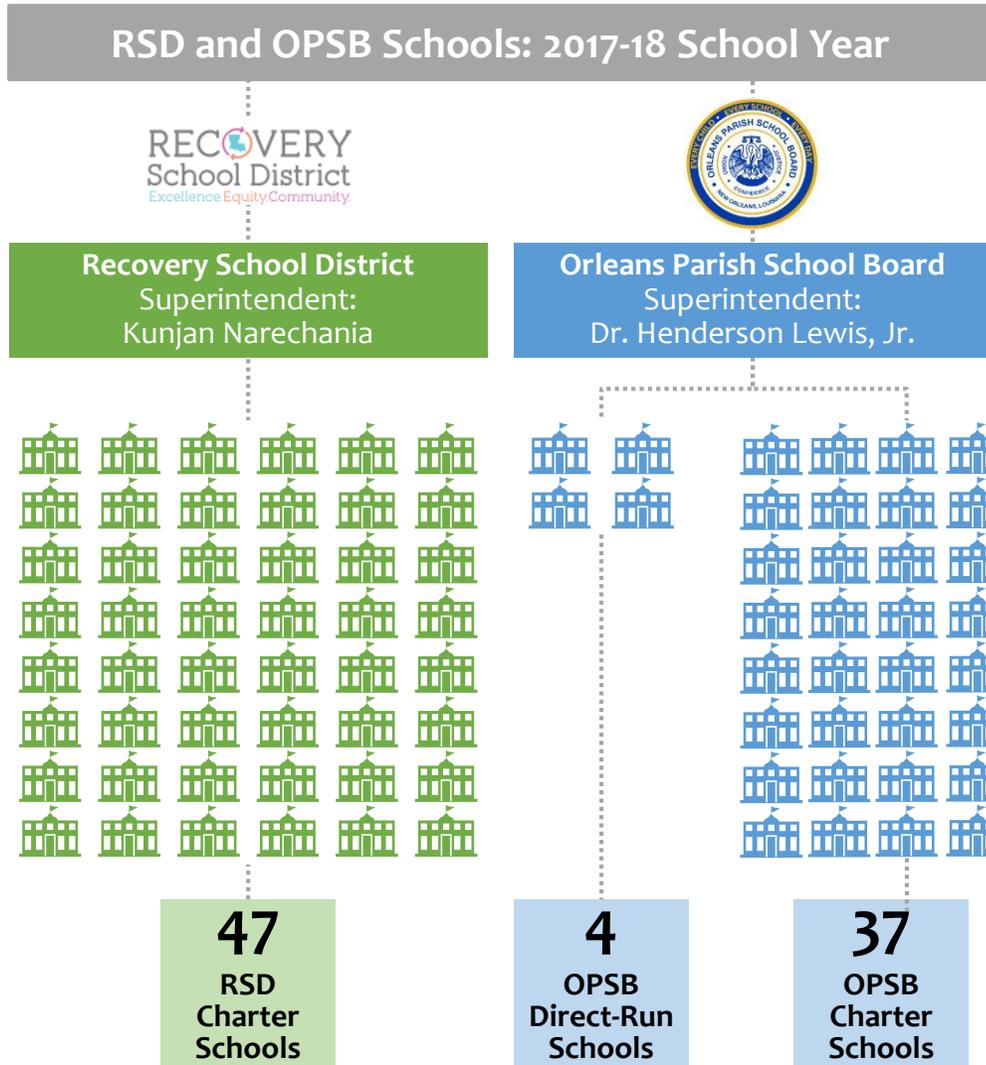
Spring 2018 Charter RFA Orientation

January 22, 2018



Overview

New Orleans Public Education Landscape



- ▶ In the current school year, approximately 45,600 students are served across 88 public schools
 - ▶ All are charter schools, except 4 schools currently directly operated by OPSB
- ▶ In May 2016, the Louisiana Legislature passed Act 91, which calls for all RSD schools and system functions to return to OPSB oversight by July 2018



We have an opportunity to define what a unified public school system can mean for our students and our city

Note: 5 charter schools overseen directly by BESE, 2 educational programs for court-involved youth in secure care facilities, and 1 magnet school directly authorized by the La. Legislature, are unaffected by Act 91

Charter Schools in New Orleans



- ▶ Three entities currently oversee charter schools in Orleans Parish
 - ▶ BESE directly authorizes Type 2 charter schools
 - ▶ BESE, through the Recovery School District (RSD), oversees Type 5 charter schools
 - ▶ Orleans Parish School Board (OPSB) authorizes Type 1, Type 3, and Type 3B charter schools

- ▶ With the exception of BESE-authorized Type 2s, all charter schools may only serve students residing in Orleans Parish

Overview: OPSB as Authorizer



OPSB Authorizes Three Types of Charter Schools:

- ▶ **Type 1:** new start-up, transformation, or reconfiguration
 - ▶ Must enroll students from Orleans Parish only
 - ▶ May only establish program-specific or geographic admissions or enrollment criteria (i.e., no academic magnets)
 - ▶ Not entitled to a district public school building

- ▶ **Type 3:** conversion of an existing district public school
 - ▶ Must enroll students from Orleans Parish only
 - ▶ Entitled to the school facility occupied by the existing district school

- ▶ **Type 3B:** conversion of a former Type 5 (RSD) charter school

Refer to LA R.S. 17:3973(2)(b) for complete definitions

Overview: OPSB as Authorizer (cont'd)



▶ Authorization Pipeline

- ▶ Up to 4 Type 1 charter schools will open for the 2018-19 school year
- ▶ 2 additional Type 1 and 2 Type 3 charter schools have been authorized and are currently in pre-opening for the 2019-20 school year and thereafter



Preparing to Apply

Spring 2018 Charter RFA Part 1 & 2 Clarification



Application Sections	Due Date
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ Part 1<ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ Eligibility Determination▶ Threshold for Evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ February 1, 2018<ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ Required▶ Optional, Required by 3/2
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ Part 2<ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ Common Application▶ Supplementary Materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ March 2, 2018<ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ Required▶ Required

Spring 2018 Charter RFA Timeline



Spring 2018 Charter RFA Timeline

MILESTONE/TASK	DATE
RFA Release	January 12, 2018
Part 1: Information Session	9:00 a.m., January 22, 2018
Fluid Review Portal Opens	January 22, 2018
Part 1: Eligibility Determination & Threshold for Evaluation due	12:00 p.m., February 1, 2018
Part 1: Evaluation Report shared with Applicants	February 16, 2018
Part 2: Full Application due	12:00 p.m., March 2, 2018
Completeness Findings Re-submission due	12:00 p.m., March 9, 2018
Request for Clarification presented to Applicants	March 29, 2018
Application Resubmission / Response for Clarification response due	12:00 p.m., April 12, 2018
Capacity Interviews	May 1-3, 2018
Final Independent Evaluation Reports presented to Applicants and OPSB staff	May 11, 2018
Applicant response to Independent Evaluation Report due	12:00 p.m., May 14, 2018
Public Hearing	Tentative: May 17, 2018
OPSB June Board Business Meeting – Presentation of Superintendent’s Recommendation	Tentative: June 19, 2018



Spring 2018 Charter RFA Key Dates for Applicants

- ▶ **February 1st, 2018, 12:00 p.m., CT** – Part 1 Eligibility Determination & Threshold for Evaluation due
- ▶ **March 2nd, 2018, 12:00 p.m., CT** – Part 2 – Full Application due
- ▶ **March 29th, 2018** –Requests for Clarification presented to applicants
 - ▶ Applicants are provided an opportunity to respond to evaluator questions regarding application submissions
- ▶ **May 1st – 3rd, 2018**– Capacity Interviews
 - ▶ Interview times will be assigned after the close of the application period
- ▶ **May 11th, 2018**– Independent Evaluation Results presented to applicants
 - ▶ Applicants are provided an opportunity to respond to the independent evaluation report
- ▶ **May 17th, 2018 (tentative)** –Public Hearing
- ▶ **June 19, 2018 (tentative)** – OPSB Board Business Meeting – Presentation of Superintendent’s Recommendations

Submitting Application Materials



- ▶ FluidReview Portal:
<http://opsb-charter-rfa.fluidreview.com/>
 - ▶ See Fluid Review Tutorial here: <https://opsb.us/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/Fluid-Review-Tutorial-2018.pdf>
- ▶ All deadlines and length/formatting requirements will be strictly enforced – where provided, use the template documents
- ▶ Contact Forrest Collins (forrest_collins@opsb.us) with any questions regarding submission of materials

Eligibility to Apply



- ▶ Louisiana non-profit organization
 - ▶ Registered and in good standing with the Louisiana Secretary of State
- ▶ 3 certified Louisiana teachers must participate in the development of the charter application
- ▶ Free of any sectarian or religious affiliation
- ▶ Free of any entanglements with an existing private school
 - ▶ Application cannot reflect the conversion of an existing private school
 - ▶ Overlapping board or staff membership, substantially shared property or other assets (excluding leases)
- ▶ Free of any legal entanglements or history of adverse legal action
- ▶ Non-profit board requirements
 - ▶ OPSB requires 3 members at eligibility determination, 5 members at School Board approval, and 7 members at execution of an Operating Agreement
 - ▶ Majority (60%) Orleans residents
 - ▶ At least 1 parent/legal guardian of a current student at the school,
 - ▶ No elected officials may serve on charter boards
 - ▶ No more than one member of the same family may serve on a charter board
 - ▶ No OPSB administrative employees (e.g., principals, Central Office staff) may serve on charter boards
 - ▶ No charter board member may be employed by or receive compensation from the school

Eligibility determinations



- ▶ Eligibility determinations are conducted for all applicants following the close of the Part 1 submission period – 12:00pm (Central Time), Thursday, February 1, 2018.
 - ▶ Initial eligibility findings will be provided within 2 business days.
- ▶ Applicants are encouraged to address any missing information or deficiencies following the initial eligibility check. Complete applications with eligibility deficiencies will not be reviewed.

Application Addenda



- ▶ Experienced Operator
 - ▶ Applicants currently operating one or more schools or partnering with an ESP currently operating one or more schools

- ▶ Transformation
 - ▶ Applicants seeking or potentially willing to seek a match to operate an existing Orleans public charter school or school facility, which is subject to nonrenewal, revocation, or voluntary relinquishment by the existing chartering organization

- ▶ Corporate Partnership
 - ▶ Applicants intending to establish a formal corporate partnership, as defined in La. R.S. 17:3991.1

- ▶ Virtual Schools
 - ▶ Applicants where primary instruction (>50% of student time) will be delivered via technology



Understanding the Rubric

How Should I use the Rubric?



Application Question

- ▶ **Academic Model**
 - ▶ Describe the academic needs of the student population you propose to serve. Explain how you will set, and measure progress towards, performance goals that put your students on a path towards achieving your vision. Include your plan to gather baseline data necessary to establish goals.

Rubric Guidance

- ▶ The applicant group has accurate estimates of baseline performance for the student population that they propose to serve.
- ▶ The applicant group provides a logical plan to establish student performance goals that relies on diagnostic data that uses the same metrics as the performance goals themselves.
- ▶ The applicant group has a plan to establish performance goals for all student achievement data considered in calculating schools' performance scores.
- ▶ The applicant group provides a plan to improve student performance at a rate that they show is reasonable and ambitious and takes into consideration the renewal and extension performance standards.
- ▶ (If applicable) If the applicant group additionally names mission-specific goals, the goals are measurable, ambitious, and feasible.



Evaluation Process Overview



What Are Evaluators Looking For?

- ▶ A clear, cohesive, aligned plan for all aspects of school operation
- ▶ Team capacity to execute the plan and deliver results and potential to produce high-quality outcomes for all students.
- ▶ Responsiveness to the evaluation criteria
- ▶ Alignment with 2018 School & Program Development Priorities

Independent Evaluation Team Composition



- ▶ Substantive areas of experience/expertise
 - ▶ Curriculum
 - ▶ Instruction/Assessments
 - ▶ Operations
 - ▶ Public finance and budgeting

- ▶ NOLA, Louisiana, and national perspectives

Evaluation Process Steps



- ▶ The Evaluation Team will utilize the following process in reviewing all applications:
 1. Individual review
 2. Team debrief
 3. Request for clarification / Resubmission
 4. Capacity Interviews / Scenarios / Performance Tasks
 5. Recommendation
 6. Review applicant response
 7. Rebuttal

Independent Evaluation Team Ratings



Rating	Characteristics
Meets the Standard:	The response reflects a thorough understanding of key issues. It addresses the topic with specific and accurate information that shows thorough preparation; presents a clear, realistic picture of how the school expects to operate; and inspires confidence in the applicant's capacity to carry out the plan effectively.
Meets the Standard with Reservations:	The response meets the criteria in many respects, but lacks detail and/or requires additional information in one or more areas.
Approaches the Standard:	The response meets the criteria in some respects but has substantial gaps in a number of areas.
Does Not Meet the Standard:	The response is wholly undeveloped or significantly incomplete; demonstrates lack of preparation; or otherwise raises substantial concerns about the viability of the plan or the applicant's ability to carry it out.



Independent Evaluation Team Results

What the evaluation **is**:

- ▶ Recommendation report to OPSB district staff and School Board members
- ▶ Evaluators consensus recommendation to approve or deny an application
- ▶ Analysis of strengths/concerns
 - ▶ Final report is aligned to application plan elements

What the evaluation is **not**:

- ▶ A final decision
 - ▶ The district administration, Superintendent and School Board are not bound by the results of the independent evaluation
- ▶ A rank ordering/preference for one quality application over another

OPSB Evaluation & School Board Final Decisions



- ▶ OPSB district administration will forward to the Superintendent two reports in May
 - ▶ Results of the independent evaluation of each application, including all applicant responses and rebuttals
 - ▶ An Administration recommendation, which will be informed by the independent evaluation as well as
 - ▶ the district's own internal review of the application, and
 - ▶ an assessment of the applicant's alignment with district needs, as articulated in the Spring 2018 Charter RFA Authorizer Priorities

- ▶ The district administration, Superintendent and School Board are not bound by the recommendations of the independent evaluation team



Opportunities to Respond During the Application Evaluation Process

Opportunities to Respond



Applicant groups are afforded four formal opportunities to respond during the application evaluation process

1. Request for Clarification / Resubmission
2. Capacity Interview / Performance Task
3. Response to Independent Evaluation
4. Public Hearing



1. Request for Clarification / Resubmission

- ▶ Timing:
 - ▶ Questions issued: **March 29, 2018**
 - ▶ Responses from applicants due: **April 12, 2018**

The Request for Clarification / Resubmission is an opportunity to respond to questions from independent evaluators in writing, based on their initial review of your team's submissions

- ▶ Divided by application section and subsection
- ▶ Submitted via Fluid Review



2. Capacity Interview / Performance Task

- ▶ **Timing: May 1-3, 2018**

- ▶ Applicants must be available during this date range, with invitations to interview and final date/time to be provided by no later than **April 1, 2018**

The interview is an opportunity for applicants to:

- ▶ Clarify the plan
- ▶ Address proposal gaps
- ▶ Address evaluator questions and concerns
- ▶ Demonstrate competency through performance tasks

What the interview is **not**:

- ▶ Formal presentation to evaluation team
- ▶ Opportunity to present new, written information
 - ▶ No documents will be accepted at the interview



2. Capacity Interview: Additional Details

- ▶ Maximum of 8 individuals per applicant team, including
 - ▶ Proposed school leader (required, if identified)
 - ▶ Proposed board members
 - ▶ CMO representative (strongly recommended, if applicable)
 - ▶ Other key individuals for the school
- ▶ Individuals should be collectively prepared to speak in detail about all application elements, including the educational, organizational and financial plans
- ▶ Lines of questioning will be specific to your application and team – interviewers will be evaluating responses for
 - ▶ Internal consistency (alignment)
 - ▶ External validity
 - ▶ Capacity of the applicant team to execute
 - ▶ Evidence of success (or potential for success)
- ▶ Interviews will be videotaped for future reference; as with all application materials, these recordings are subject to Louisiana Open Records Law



3. Response to Independent Evaluation

- ▶ Timing
 - ▶ Independent Recommendation Reports Issued: **May 11, 2018**
 - ▶ Applicant Responses Due: **May 14, 2018**
- ▶ Opportunity to correct *factual errors* in the Independent Recommendation Report
- ▶ No new information or attachments will be considered by either OPSB or the Independent Evaluation Team at this stage
 - ▶ The independent evaluation team will be afforded the opportunity to respond to any substantive issues raised
- ▶ No template will be provided
- ▶ Submissions via Fluid Review



4. Public Hearing

- ▶ **Timing: May 17, 2018**
(tentative – May OPSB Business Meeting)
- ▶ The May 2018 OPSB Business meeting is currently designated as the public hearing regarding each charter application, as required by BESE Bulletin 126, §306.4
 - ▶ At its discretion, the Board may elect to conduct a separate public hearing for this purpose – if so, time and date information for this hearing will be publically noticed, and clearly communicated to applicants well in advance
- ▶ Applicant teams are welcomed to address School Board members and the Superintendent regarding their proposal at this time

OPSB Superintendent Recommendations



- ▶ Timing: **June 19, 2018**
(tentative – June OPSB Business Meeting)
- ▶ Superintendent will present his recommendation on all applications during the June OPSB Business Meeting
- ▶ Applicant teams may address the Board regarding their application in advance of the Superintendent’s recommendations, following the procedures for public comment observed during Board meetings



Closing

Submission Reminders



- ▶ Up to two email reminders will be sent for each application deadline
 - ▶ 1 week (when applicable) and 1 day prior to each deadline
- ▶ Submissions must be uploaded through Fluid Review
 - ▶ This process can take up to 1-2 hours for all required attachments – please plan accordingly!
- ▶ Late or improperly formatted submissions will not be accepted
- ▶ Use the template documents provided, and submit all documents in the requested file formats
 - ▶ PDF for all documents except for financial workbooks (XLS)
- ▶ For technical issues and all other concerns, email forrest_collins@opsb.us

Closing Reminders



- ▶ All application materials submitted to OPSB are considered to be public records, and are subject to dissemination under the provisions of state Open Records Law (La. R.S. 44:1 et seq).
- ▶ The RFA Applicant Code of Conduct prohibits any lobbying or attempt to influence the decision of School Board member(s) by an applicant, outside of the submitted application materials & public hearing process.
- ▶ All RFA deadlines are **firm & final** – out of fairness to all applicant groups, no extensions or other special considerations will be granted.
- ▶ All materials should be submitted via FluidReview, and in PDF format unless otherwise requested (financial templates should be in Excel format) – this is to your benefit, as well as for ease of review by evaluation teams.
- ▶ The quality of application materials is a reflection of the professionalism of your applicant group – formatting & presentation counts!

Contact Information



- ▶ For any questions or concerns regarding the Spring 2018 OPSB Charter School RFA or charter school application evaluation process, please contact

Forrest Collins, Director of New School Development
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