



Spring 2019 Charter RFA Orientation

January 17, 2019



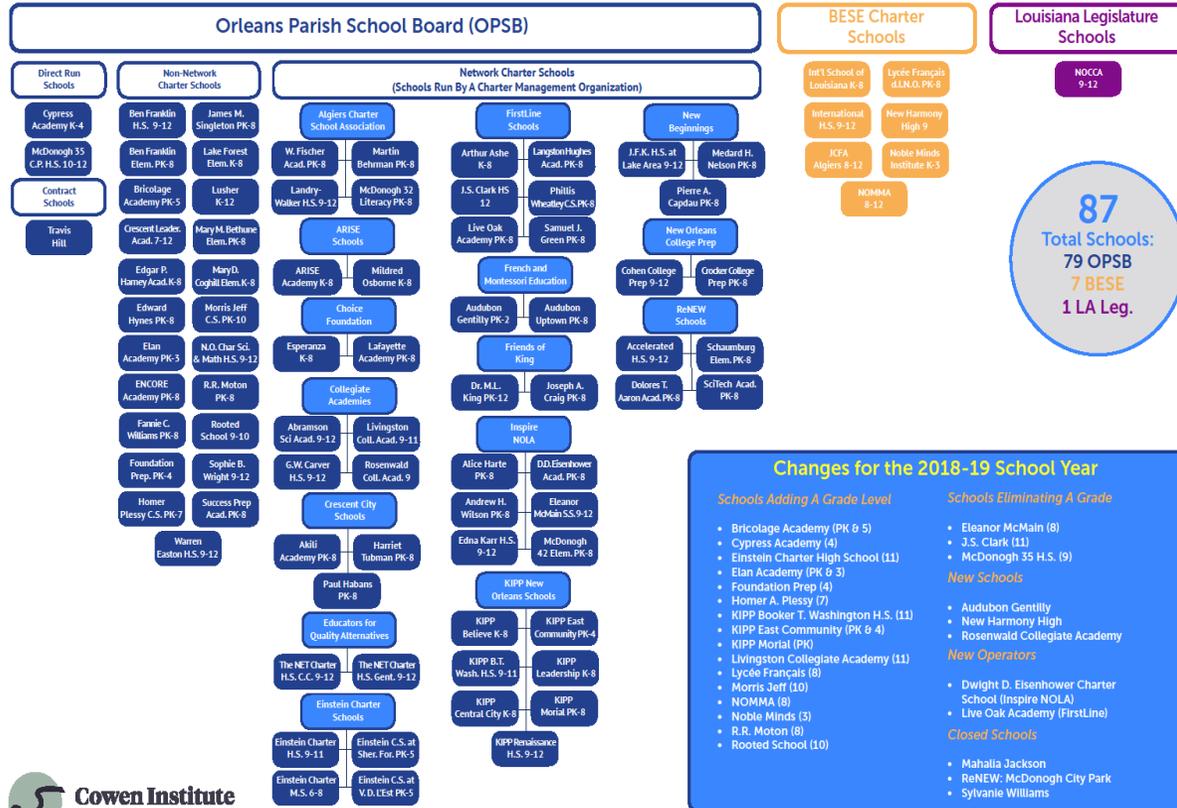
Overview

New Orleans Public Education Landscape



The Blueprint of Public Schools in New Orleans: Governance in 2018-2019

Louisiana Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) & Louisiana Department of Education



As of July 1, 2018 All New Orleans Public Schools were unified under the oversight of locally elected OPSB. In the current school year, approximately 47,000 students are served across 87 public schools

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



A charter school is an independent public school

1. Improve pupil learning;
2. Increase learning opportunities and access to quality education for pupils;
3. Increase educational opportunities for students in formerly failing schools;
4. Increase learning choices for families;
5. Encourage the use of different and innovative teaching methods;
6. Require appropriate assessments and measurement of academic results;
7. Account better for educational results;
8. Create new opportunities for teachers and staff;
9. Provide competition within the system to stimulate improvement; and
10. Expand the capacity of the public school system.

R.S. 17:6(A)(10), R.S. 17:3972, and R.S. 17:3981.

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 and Type 3 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 Two 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

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



Questions?



Authorizer Expectations

Charter School Accountability Framework (CSAF)



Overview of Annual Charter School Oversight Activities

Annual Site Visit

Annual Facilities, Health, and Safety Review

School Handbook and Website Review

Charter Board Governance Review

Review of Financial Documents and Records

Analysis of Student and School-Level Data

Receipt and Assessment of Family and Community Concerns

Overview of Renewal and Extension Decisions

Area of Oversight	Essential Question
Academic Performance	Is this school demonstrating academic success and progress on overall performance metrics?
Organizational Performance	Is this school organizationally effective?
Financial Performance	Is this school fiscally sound?

Management

- ▶ Responsibility is to **LEAD** and **MAKE** the school perform
- ▶ Executing –
 - ▶ “How will we meet our goal?”



Board

- ▶ Responsibility is to **ENSURE** the school performs.
- ▶ Ensuring –
 - ▶ “What is the goal?”
 - ▶ “How well are we meeting the goal?”



Charter School Policy and Law



- ▶ Charter Contract
- ▶ OPSB Board Policy H
- ▶ Louisiana Bulletin 126, 117, 118

Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)



- ▶ Public agencies must provide early intervention, special education, and related services to children with disabilities.
 - ▶ It addresses the educational needs of children with disabilities from birth to age 21.

MUST provide a Free, Appropriate Public Education (FAPE)



Questions?



Preparing to Apply

Spring 2019 Charter RFA Part 1 & 2 Clarification



Application Sections	Due Date
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ Letter of Intent▶ Eligibility Determination	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ January 28, 2019▶ February 6, 2019
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ Full Application<ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ Common Application▶ Supplementary Materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ March 1, 2019

Spring 2019 Charter RFA Timeline



Spring 2019 Charter RFA Timeline

MILESTONE/TASK	DATE
RFA Release	January 4, 2019
Applicant Information Session (Face to Face)	January 15, 2019 (5:00pm @ OPSB)
Applicant Information Session (Webinar)	January 17, 2019 (10:00am)
Letter of Intent due	5:00pm; January 28, 2019
Fluid Review Portal Opens	January 28, 2019
Eligibility Determination Forms due	5:00pm. February 6, 2019
One on One Orientation w/ Applicant (contact person, Board Chair, and School Leader)	February 25-27, 2019
Full Application due	5:00pm; March 1, 2019
Completeness Findings Re-submission due	5:00pm; March 15, 2019
Public Hearing	5:30pm; March 19, 2019
Request for Clarification presented to Applicants	April 5, 2019
Application Resubmission/ Response for Clarification Response due	5:00pm; April 12, 2019
Capacity Interviews	April 29-May 1, 2019
Final Independent Evaluation Reports presented to Applicants	May 15, 2019
Applicant response to Independent Evaluation Report due	5:00pm; May 17, 2019
OPSB May Board Business Meeting- Presentation of Superintendent's Recommendation	May 23, 2019

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 Kwame Juakali (Kwame_Juakali@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- 5:00pm (CT), February 6, 2019.
 - ▶ 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 Types



- ▶ New Operator
 - ▶ Applicants whose primary members (founder and/or proposed school leader) do not have prior experience in managing a public school, and who do not intend to employ and educational service provider (ESP) with prior experience in managing public schools

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

Application Addenda



- ▶ 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



Questions?



Evaluation Process Overview



Who Will be Evaluating my Application?

- ▶ Your organization's application will be evaluated by three groups:
 - ▶ OPSB Internal Review Team
 - ▶ Independent Review Team
 - ▶ Community Review by Superintendent Advisory Groups
 - ▷ Parent Advisory
 - ▷ Student Advisory
 - ▷ Teacher Advisory



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 OPSB School & Program Development Priorities



Understanding the Rubric

How Should I use the Rubric?



Application Section

- ▶ Executive Summary
 - ▶ Explain the mission and vision of your school. What will your school set out to achieve in the long term, what will success look like, and how will your school get there?
 - ▶ Explain why your school would be important to the community in which you are proposing to locate.

Rubric Guidance

- ▶ The mission statement identifies the role of the school in addressing the problem or demand that the school seeks to address.
- ▶ The vision describes what success for students beyond school looks like if the applicant group fulfills the role described in its mission.
- ▶ Applicant group aspires to rigorous goals that are aligned with and supported by the plan articulated in the application.
- ▶ The applicant group provides specific detail on the community it wishes to serve, demonstrating an analysis of the student need has occurred.
- ▶ The applicant group describes a unique educational model that is aligned with the needs of the community it seeks to serve.
- ▶ The applicant group proposes a school that solves a problem related to student outcomes that is shown to exist with data or is in response to demonstrated demand for a particular school model.

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 2018 Charter RFA Authorizer Priorities

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



Questions?



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



1. Public Hearing

- ▶ **Timing: March 19, 2019**
- ▶ March 19, 2019 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.



2. Request for Clarification / Resubmission

- ▶ Timing:
 - ▶ Questions issued: **April 5, 2019**
 - ▶ Responses from applicants due: **April 12, 2019**

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



3. Capacity Interview / Performance Task

- ▶ **Timing: April 29 – May 1, 2019**
 - ▶ Applicants must be available during this date range, with invitations to interview and final date/time to be provided.

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



Capacity Interview: Additional Details

- ▶ Maximum of 8 individuals per applicant team, including
 - ▶ All board officers including; Board Chair, Vice-chair, Secretary and Treasurer
 - ▶ Proposed school leader (required, if identified)
 - ▶ 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 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 recorded for future reference; as with all application materials, these recordings are subject to Louisiana Open Records Law



Capacity Interview: Additional Details

- ▶ The format for the Capacity Interview will be as follows:

Item	Time
Introductions	5 Minutes
School Presentation	5 Minutes
Performance Task	25 Minutes
Performance Task Debrief	5 Minutes
Interview Questions	60 Minutes
Applicant Clarification Questions to Evaluators	10 Minutes
Next Steps	5 Minutes
Total Time	115 Minutes



4. Response to Independent Evaluation

- ▶ Timing
 - ▶ Independent Recommendation Reports Issued: **May 15, 2019**
 - ▶ Applicant Responses Due: **May 17, 2019**
- ▶ 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

OPSB Superintendent Recommendations



- ▶ Timing: **May 23, 2019**
(tentative – May OPSB Board Business Meeting)
- ▶ Superintendent will present his recommendation on all applications during the May OPSB Board 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



Questions?



Closing

Submission Reminders



- ▶ 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 Kwame_Juakali@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 2019 OPSB Charter School RFA or charter school application evaluation process, please contact

Kwame Juakali

Manager of Charter Applications

Kwame_Juakali@opsb.us