

Student Enrollment & Demographics

PUBLIC SCHOOL ENROLLMENT

In 2004–05, there were over 65,000 students enrolled in New Orleans¹ public schools. After Hurricane Katrina, schools re-opened slowly for an abbreviated school year, and by the end of the 2005–06 school year, an estimated 12,000 students were enrolled in New Orleans public schools.²

In 2006–07, the first full school year following Hurricane Katrina, enrollment increased to 25,000 students, still less than half of pre-Katrina enrollment. Enrollment has since returned to 67 percent of pre-Katrina levels (see figure A).

In New Orleans 70 percent of students are enrolled in RSD charter schools, and 30 percent are enrolled in OPSB schools. Within OPSB, 75 percent of students are enrolled in charter schools (see figure B). All RSD schools are charters.

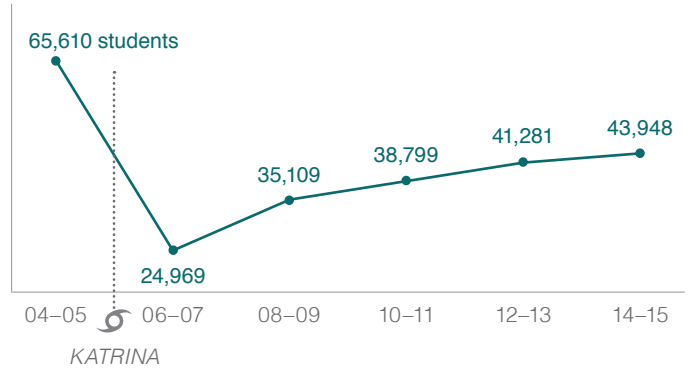
Charter School Enrollment

In the fall of 2014, 92 percent of New Orleans students were enrolled in charter schools (see figure C). New Orleans has the highest percentage of students in charter schools of any district in the nation. Detroit, Michigan is the next highest at 55 percent followed by the District of Columbia and Flint, Michigan at 44 percent.³

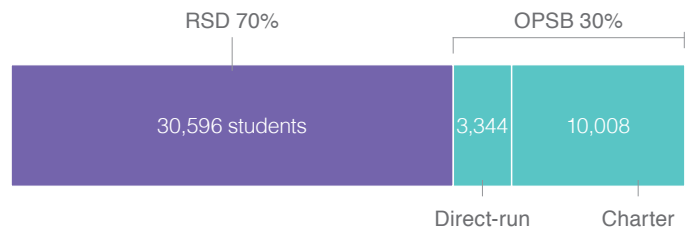
ETHNICITY

Since Hurricane Katrina, New Orleans schools have become more diverse. Enrollment of Hispanic students has gone from 1 percent of total enrollment in 2004–05 to 5 percent in 2013–14. Enrollment of African-American students has gone from 93 percent of total enrollment in 2004–05 to 87 percent in 2014–15 (see figure D).

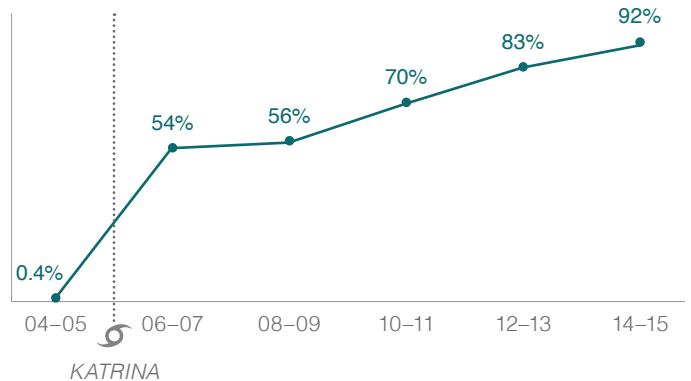
A. Student Enrollment Over Time



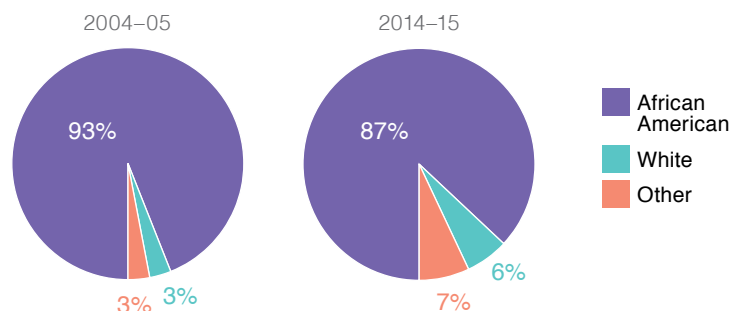
B. Student Enrollment by District



C. Percentage of Students Enrolled in Charter Schools



D. Racial Make-up of Students



ECONOMICALLY DISADVANTAGED STUDENTS

The percentage of New Orleans students who are economically disadvantaged⁴ is greater today than before Hurricane Katrina. In 2004–05, 77 percent of New Orleans students were economically disadvantaged, compared to 61 percent statewide. In the fall of 2014, 84 percent of students were economically disadvantaged, compared to 68 percent statewide (see figure E).

Within New Orleans, economically disadvantaged students make up 92 percent of enrollment at RSD charter schools, 86 percent at OPSB direct-run schools, and 59 percent at OPSB charter schools (see figure F).

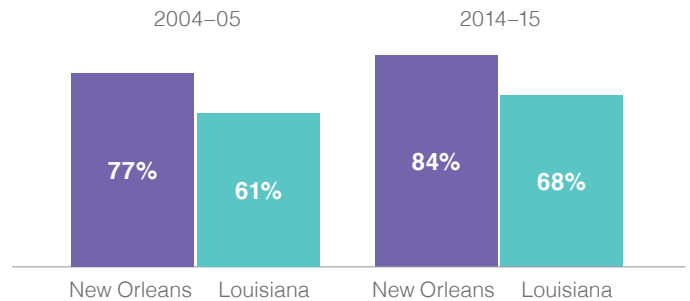
STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

The percentage of students with disabilities enrolled in New Orleans schools is 11 percent, the same as it was before Hurricane Katrina, and the same as the state average.

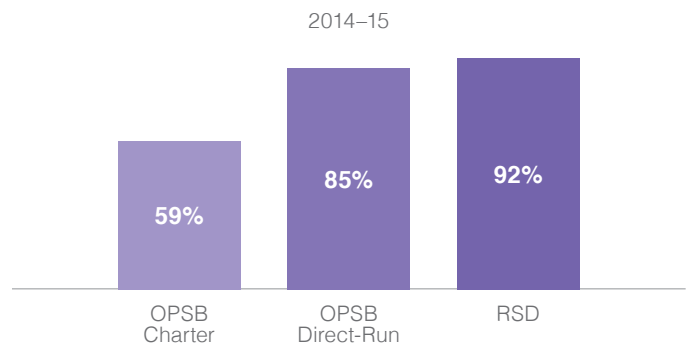
Within New Orleans, students with disabilities make up 13 percent of enrollment at RSD schools, 11 percent of enrollment at OPSB's direct-run schools, and 6 percent of enrollment at OPSB's charter schools (see figure G).

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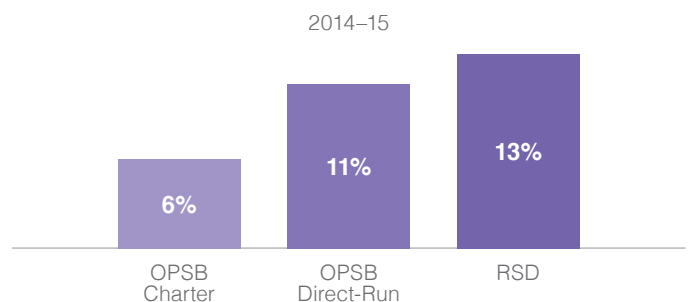
E. Percentage of Economically Disadvantaged Students



F. Enrollment of Economically Disadvantaged Students by Type of School



G. Enrollment of Students with Disabilities by Type of School



1 Data labeled "New Orleans" include all RSD and OPSB schools, both direct-run and charter. This distinction applies throughout the report.

2 Total enrollment includes students in K-12 as well as pre-K, pre-school, and special education infants.

3 Source: National Alliance for Public Charter Schools [December 2014 Report](#).

4 Economically disadvantaged for 2004–05 to 2013–14 is the percentage of students receiving free or reduced-priced lunch. For 2014–15, it is percentage of students eligible for SNAP, TANF or Medicaid.