

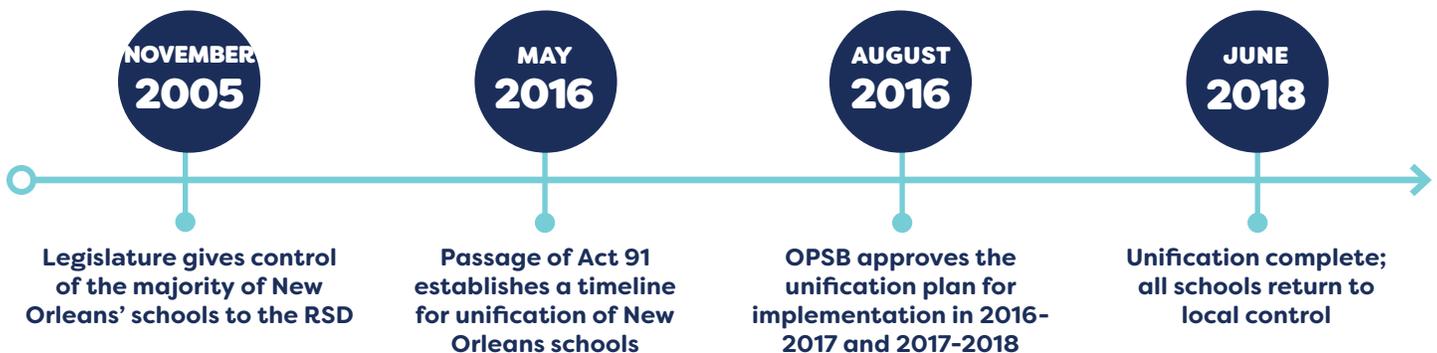
New Orleans SCHOOL UNIFICATION

WHAT IS THE NEW ORLEANS SCHOOL UNIFICATION?

In the wake of Hurricane Katrina in 2005, the Louisiana Legislature gave control of the majority of public schools in New Orleans to the Recovery School District (RSD) due to their habitual, low performance. Since that time, the RSD has converted all of these schools to charters and has seen substantial growth in academic performance.

Based on their success, in 2016, the Legislature voted to return governance of these charter schools to the Orleans Parish School Board (OPSB). The legislation requires RSD and OPSB to work together on a plan to ensure that these charter schools are unified and that the following critical elements are upheld.

- autonomy for charter schools
- citywide choice for parents
- strong accountability in charter authorization
- focus on equity and support for the city's most vulnerable students



WHAT SUCCESS HAS THE NEW ORLEANS SCHOOL UNIFICATION HAD IN LOUISIANA & NATIONALLY?

- In 2005, 63% of New Orleans' students attended a failing school. During the 2016-2017 school year, only 8% of New Orleans' students attended a failing school, and 67% of students attended an A, B, or C school.
- Since 2004-2005, New Orleans moved up in Louisiana's district rankings, from 67 out of 68 districts (second to last) to 43 out of 69 districts.
- African-American students in New Orleans closed the achievement gap on state tests in 2010-2011 and have outperformed the state average ever since.
- New Orleans' average composite ACT score for seniors was 18.9 in 2017, 0.5 points higher than in 2014 and up from 17 in 2005, when only college-bound students were tested.
- In 2015, a study by Education Research Alliance at Tulane University found that, due to the reforms implemented in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, a typical public school student saw their performance grow 8 to 15 percentage points. https://educationresearchalliancencola.org/files/publications/ednext_XV_4_Good-News-for-New-Orleans-Harris.pdf

WHAT'S NEXT FOR THE NEW ORLEANS SCHOOL UNIFICATION?

In 2016, OPSB approved a plan for unification that involved a number of milestones related to establishing the policies and procedures necessary for successfully overseeing a district of autonomous charter schools.

RSD and OPSB are working closely together to ensure that the charter schools returning to OPSB in June of 2018 are prepared for this unique task.

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