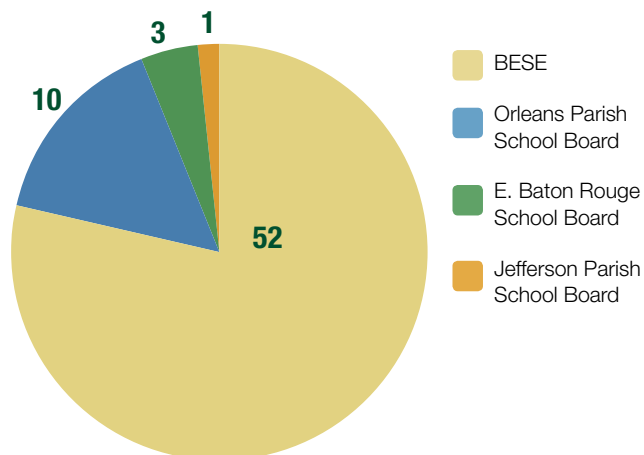


Charter Schools in Louisiana

What is a Charter School?

- Charter schools are public schools operated by a private non-profit or for profit organization under a 5-year contract (or “charter”) with either a local school board or the state Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE).
- Charter schools are required to participate in the state accountability program and must meet certain achievement results in order to keep their charter.
- Charter schools are free from many of the rules and regulations that traditional public schools are subject to and have significant flexibility in the areas of hiring, budgeting, and instruction.
- Charter schools are subject to a 3-year review by their authorizer and a 5-year review to determine whether the charter will be renewed or revoked.

Number of Charter Schools by Authorizer



Charter School Governance

Charter School Authorizer

The authorizer is the entity that enters into a contract with the charter school operator. In Louisiana, only BESE and local school boards are able to authorize charter schools. Authorizers approve charters, monitor and hold schools accountable, and renew or end charters based on school performance.

Charter School Operator

The charter school operator is the organization that oversees the operation, finances, and administration of the charter school. It is generally led by a board which sets policy and hires a school leader to implement its policy and handle school operations.

Charter School Leader

The charter school leader is hired by the school’s operator to oversee the daily operations of the school, including budgeting, personnel, and curriculum decisions. The school leader may or may not also fill the role of principal.

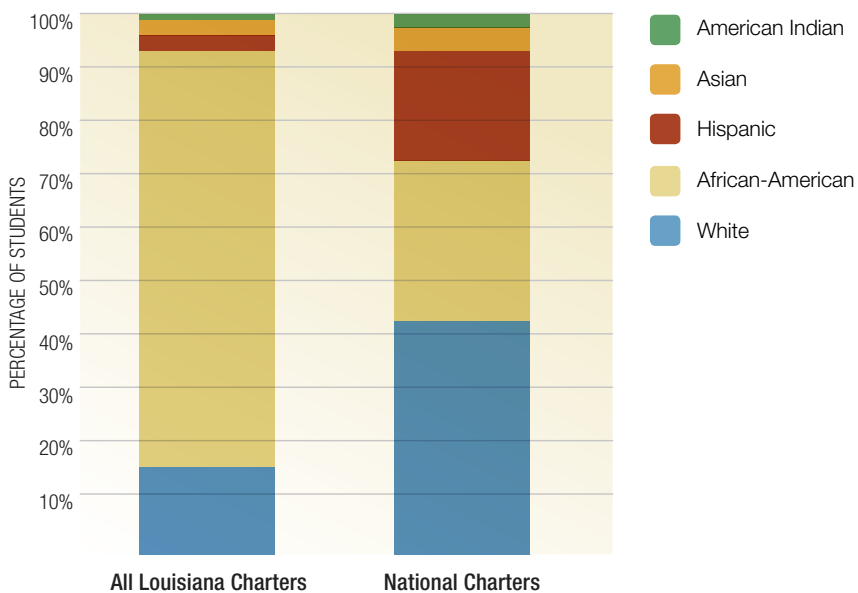


Charter School Student Demographics

Percentage of Students by Ethnicity

While nationally the ethnic background of students in charter schools mirrors somewhat the student population as a whole, Louisiana's charter school population does not. However, students in Louisiana charter schools have backgrounds similar to the large urban districts where most are located.

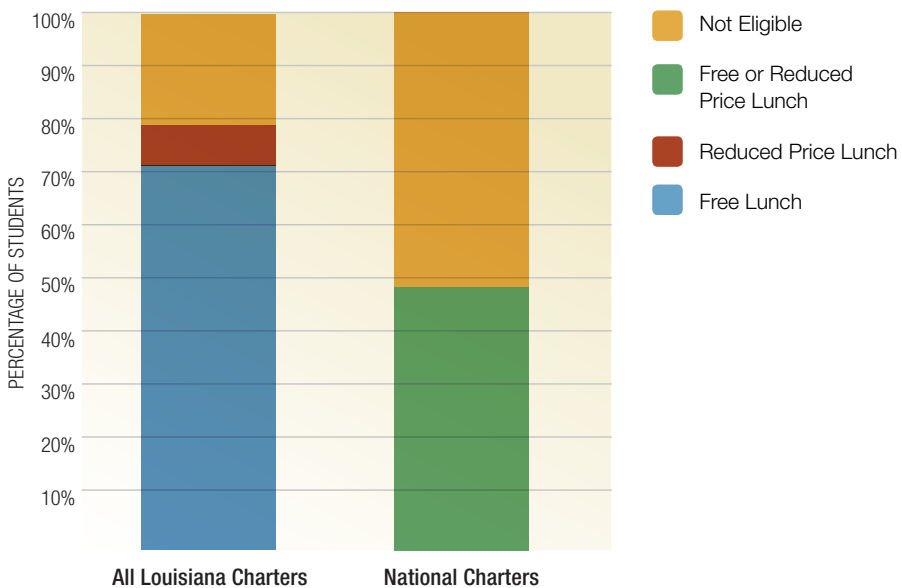
Data on Louisiana students taken from the October 2008 state enrollment counts. National data from the 2003-2004 National Center for Education Statistics Schools and Staffing Survey.



Percentage of Students Eligible for Free and Reduced Lunch

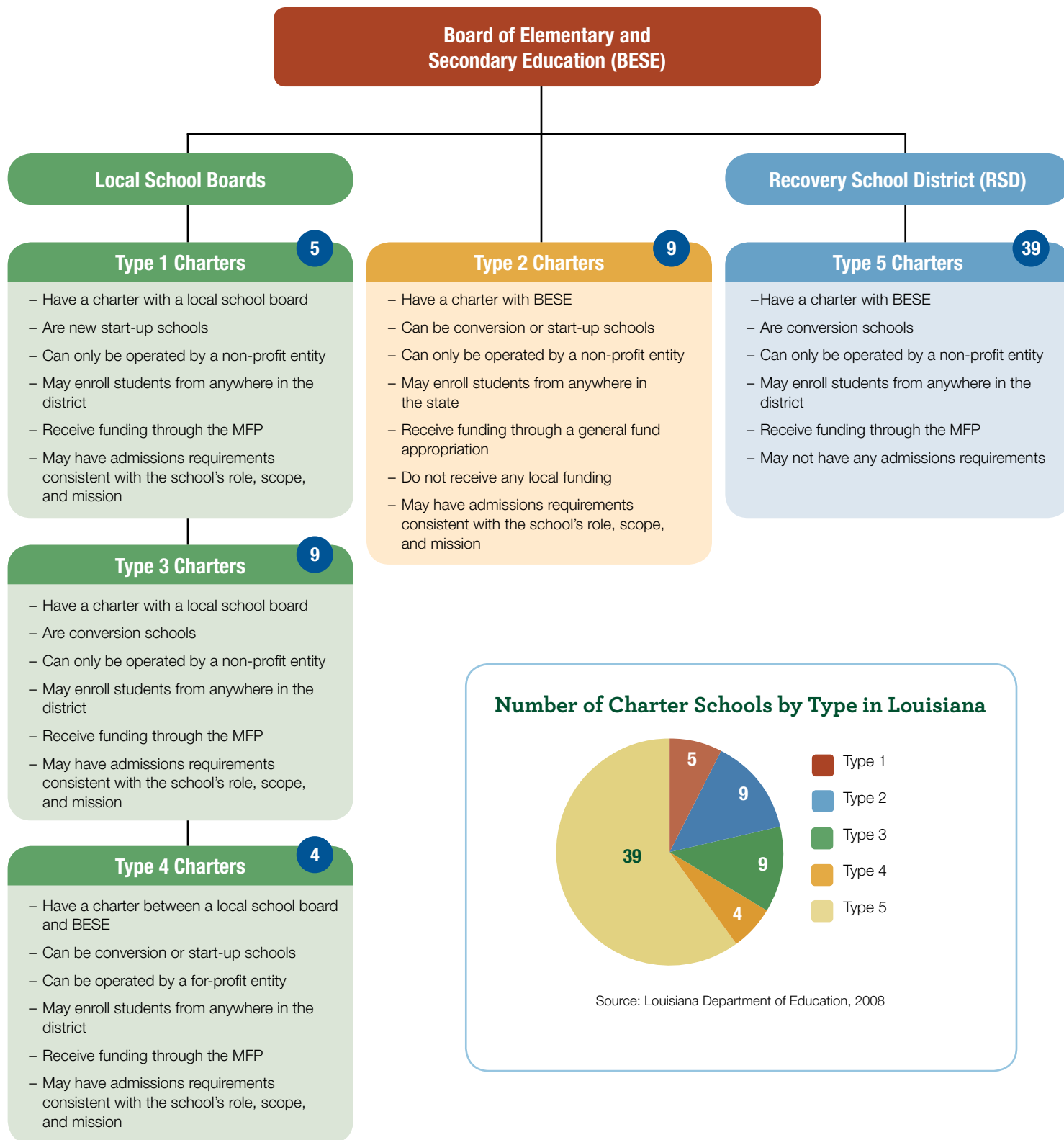
Nationwide and in Louisiana, students in charter schools are eligible for free and reduced lunch at a rate slightly higher than the general student population in non-charter schools.

Data on Louisiana students taken from the October 2008 state enrollment counts. National data from the 2003-2004 National Center for Education Statistics Schools and Staffing Survey.

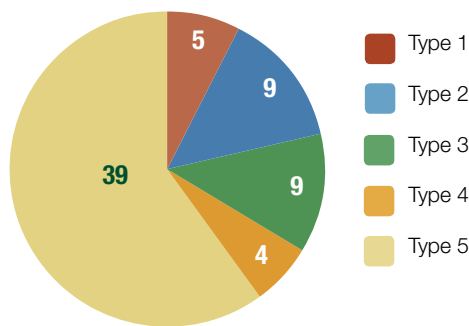


Charter School Types

Number of Schools



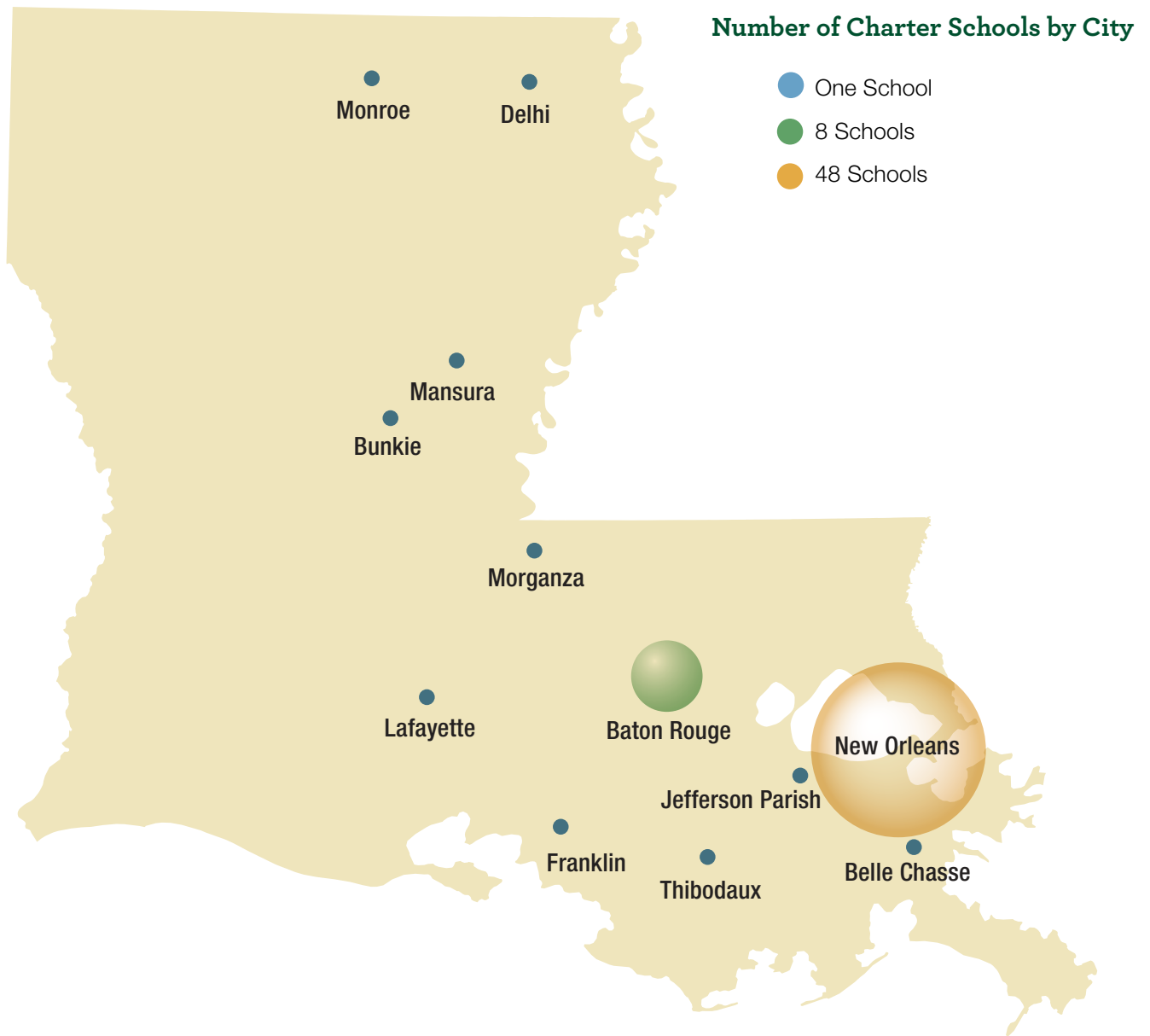
Number of Charter Schools by Type in Louisiana



Source: Louisiana Department of Education, 2008



Location of Louisiana Charter Schools



Source: Louisiana Department of Education, 2008