



New Orleans by the Numbers: School Enrollment & Demographics

December 2010

Scott S. Cowen Institute for Public
Education Initiatives
Tulane University
200 Broadway Street, Suite 108
New Orleans, Louisiana 70118
504-274-3690
<http://education.tulane.edu>



The Scott S. Cowen Institute for Public Education Initiatives at Tulane University launched the NOLA by the Numbers series in October 2010. This series aims to provide journalists, policymakers, community leaders, and the public with a timely and comprehensive analysis of state-released data on public schools in New Orleans. This report, the second in the series, focuses on school enrollment and demographics. This briefing, and others released by the Cowen Institute at Tulane University in the past, can be found at <http://education.tulane.edu>.

Each school year, the Louisiana Department of Education conducts two student enrollment counts: on October 1st and February 1st. These counts also document the race, sex, grade level, and free and reduced lunch eligibility status of students. The enrollment counts are particularly important because they are used to determine the amount of funding schools and districts receive from the state. The data used in this report was released by the state Department of Education on December 3, 2010 and can be accessed at <http://www.louisianaschools.net/lde/pair/1489.html>.

The October 2010 enrollment and demographic data shows that public schools in New Orleans are generally continuing along in their post-Katrina trajectory. Overall enrollment continues to increase, though at a progressively slower rate. Total enrollment is just over half what it was a decade ago and is nearly two-thirds what it was in the year just prior to Hurricane Katrina. The percentage of students attending charter schools continues its steady rise, outpacing any other city or district in the nation and nearly doubling the next city with a large percentage (District of Columbia, 38 percent). The proportion of low-income students attending public schools in New Orleans remains about the same as last year and continues to be significantly higher than the state of Louisiana and the nation. As seen in previous years, both low-income and minority populations continue to vary by school type.

Fast Facts

- **39,877** students are enrolled in public schools in New Orleans, an increase of 5% from last year.
- **92** public schools are currently open in the city.
- **71%** of students in public schools attend charter schools, more than any other city or district in the nation.
- **84%** of students in public schools qualify for free or reduced-price lunch, compared to the state average of 66%.
- **89%** of students in public schools are African-American, while **6%** are white and **6%** are another race or ethnicity.

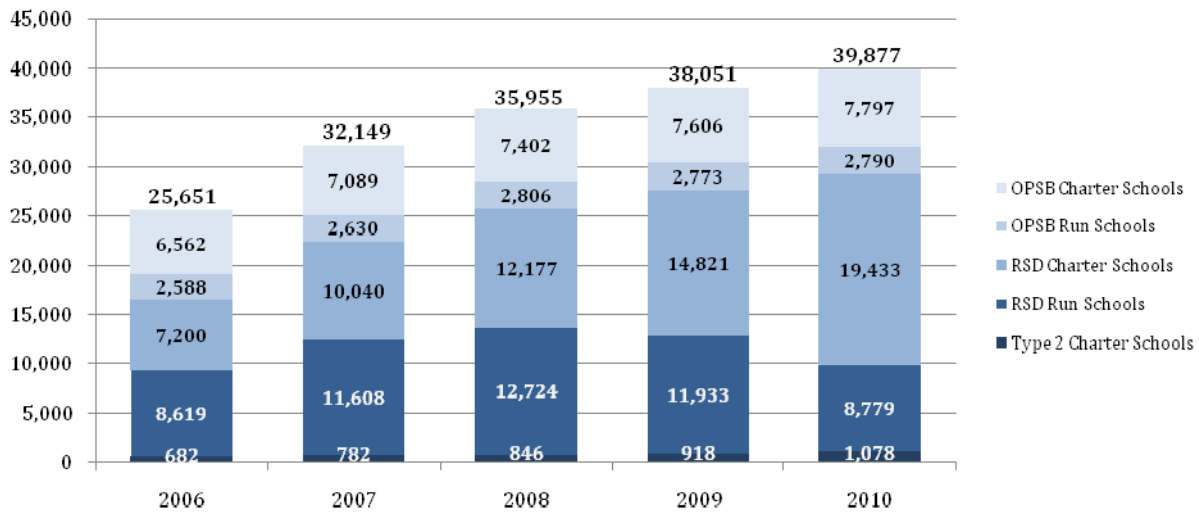


The Scott S. Cowen Institute for Public Education Initiatives at Tulane University is an action-oriented think tank that creates and advances solutions to the issues impeding student achievement in New Orleans and beyond. Areas of concentration include Applied Research, Public Policy, University-Based Initiatives, and College Readiness Programs. Additional information can be found online at <http://education.tulane.edu>.

Total Public School Enrollment

Student enrollment in New Orleans today has grown continuously since public schools reopened after Hurricane Katrina, though the rate of growth continues to slow each year. From October 2009 to October 2010, enrollment in all public schools in Orleans Parish grew from 38,051 to 39,877 or 4.8 percent. This was less than the 5.5 percent gain seen from October 2008 to October 2009 and the 10.6 percent gain from 2007-2008. Today's enrollment is just over half the 78,000 it was a decade ago and is nearly two-thirds the 65,000 it was in the year prior to Katrina. The graph below shows total public school enrollment by school type for October 2006-2010.

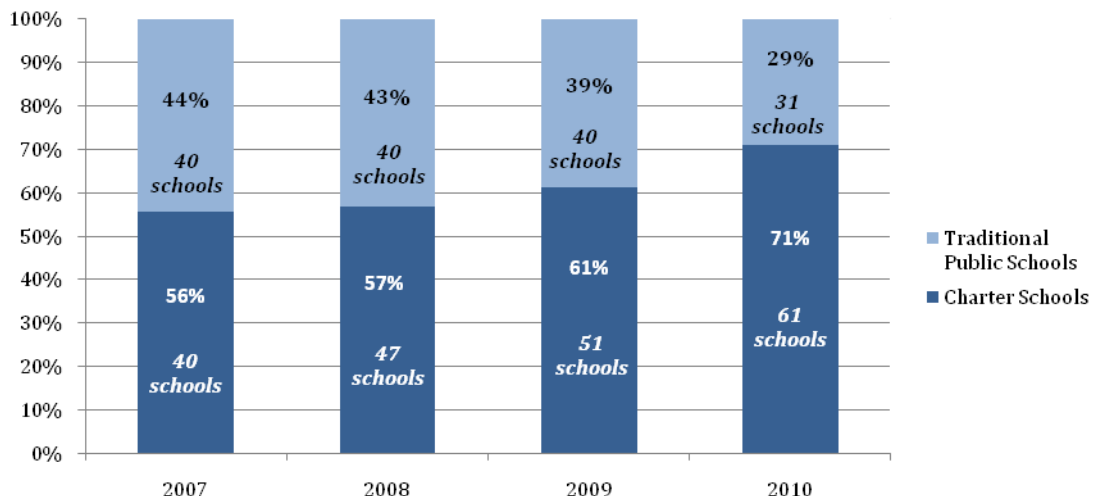
Public School Enrollment, 2006-2010



Charter School Enrollment

While growth in overall enrollment seems to be stabilizing, the percentage of total students enrolled in charter schools has continuously risen. There was a particularly large jump in charter enrollment this year, with over 70 percent of students attending charter schools in October 2010, compared to 61 percent in October 2009. This was due largely to the significant number of formerly RSD-operated schools (six schools) that were converted to charters this school year. New Orleans continues to have a larger percentage of its public school students attending charter schools than any other city or district in the nation. The graph below shows the change in the percentage of students attending public charter and traditional schools from 2007 to 2010.

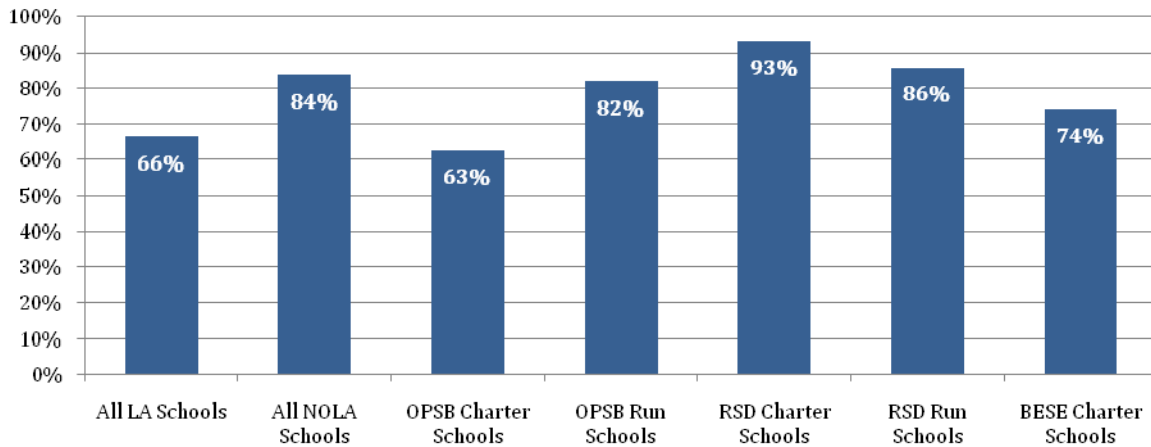
Percentage of Students Enrolled in Charter and Traditional Schools, 2007-2010



Free and Reduced-Priced Lunch Eligibility

The proportion of students eligible for free or reduced-priced lunch, a rough measure of students from low-income families, increased slightly in 2010 to 84 percent of the total student population. This remains well above the Louisiana average of 66 percent. On average, charter schools and traditionally operated schools currently serve similar percentages of low-income students. However, there was significant variation in the percentage of low-income students being served among the different types of charter schools, following the pattern of previous years. The Type 5 charter schools, which are authorized by the state Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) and under the auspices of the Recovery School District, enroll a much higher percentage of low-income students than those authorized by the Orleans Parish School Board (OPSB) and the Type 2 charters that are authorized by BESE. The graph below shows the percentage of low-income students enrolled in the various types of schools in 2010.

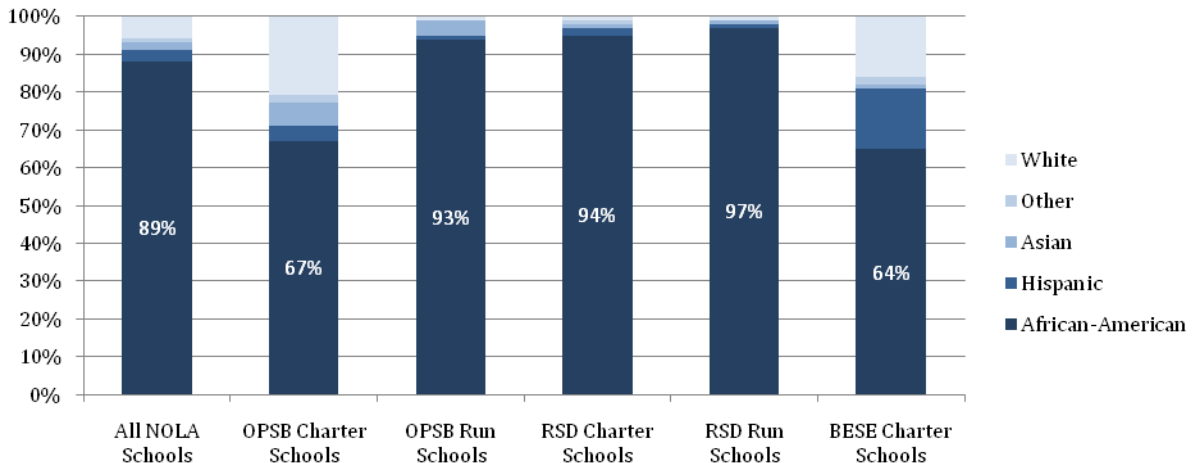
Free and Reduced-Price Lunch Eligibility by School Type, October 2010



Race/Ethnicity

As in previous years, nearly 90 percent of students enrolled in public schools in New Orleans are African-American. This does not reflect the city's population as a whole, which, according to the 2008 Census data, is about 60 percent African-American. Additionally, the percentage of black or minority students varies by school type. OPSB charter schools and Type 2 charters overseen by BESE enroll a smaller percentage of African-Americans than do the other types of schools, though African-Americans still make up the majority of their students. The graph below shows the percentage of students in each type of school by race or ethnicity.

Race/Ethnicity by School Type, October 2010



Appendix: Enrollment, Free & Reduced Lunch, & Race/Ethnicity by School

School	Total Students	% Free & Reduced Lunch	% Minority	% Black	% White	% Hispanic	% Asian	% Other
A.P. Tureaud Elementary School	287	95%	100%	99%	0%	1%	0%	0%
Abramson Science & Technology Charter School	591	80%	99%	91%	1%	1%	7%	0%
Akili Academy of New Orleans	219	88%	99%	90%	1%	0%	0%	9%
Algiers Technology Academy	330	88%	98%	93%	2%	4%	1%	0%
Alice Harte Elementary Charter School	643	70%	95%	88%	5%	5%	2%	0%
Andrew H. Wilson Charter School	562	92%	99%	96%	1%	2%	0%	1%
Arise Academy	241	100%	98%	98%	2%	0%	0%	0%
Arthur Ashe Charter School	323	97%	97%	94%	3%	2%	1%	0%
Audubon Charter School	731	46%	56%	43%	44%	3%	3%	5%
Benjamin Banneker Elementary School	425	92%	98%	92%	2%	4%	0%	2%
Benjamin E. Mays Preparatory School	198	98%	99%	99%	1%	0%	0%	0%
Benjamin Franklin Elem. Math and Science	640	78%	96%	93%	4%	1%	1%	0%
Benjamin Franklin High School	657	29%	58%	30%	42%	3%	23%	3%
Carver Elementary School	180	93%	100%	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Crocker Arts and Technology School	223	89%	97%	96%	3%	0%	0%	0%
Dr. Charles Richard Drew Elementary School	291	90%	100%	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Dr. M.L.K. Charter School for Science & Tech.	746	98%	99%	99%	1%	0%	0%	0%
Dwight D. Eisenhower Elementary School	599	90%	99%	89%	1%	4%	6%	0%
E. P. Harney Spirit of Excellence Academy	374	100%	99%	98%	1%	0%	0%	1%
Edna Karr Secondary School	875	75%	99%	93%	1%	3%	3%	0%
Edward Hynes Charter School	532	64%	71%	66%	29%	3%	2%	1%
Einstein Charter School	476	94%	100%	65%	0%	7%	28%	0%
Eleanor McMain Secondary School	639	78%	100%	82%	0%	3%	15%	0%
Esperanza Charter School	398	92%	98%	43%	2%	51%	0%	4%
F.W. Gregory Elementary School	281	77%	91%	89%	9%	1%	0%	0%
Fannie C. Williams Elementary School	498	94%	99%	98%	1%	1%	1%	0%
G.W. Carver High School	401	79%	100%	99%	0%	1%	0%	1%
Gentilly Terrace School	387	92%	96%	95%	4%	1%	0%	0%
Greater Gentilly High School	258	79%	98%	96%	2%	1%	1%	0%
H.C. Schaumburg Elementary School	609	93%	100%	98%	0%	0%	0%	2%
Harriet Tubman Elementary School	508	96%	99%	96%	1%	3%	0%	0%
Hope Academy	165	75%	100%	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%
International High School	167	90%	87%	62%	13%	25%	1%	1%
International School of Louisiana	525	52%	72%	43%	28%	24%	1%	4%
James M. Singleton Charter School	659	99%	100%	99%	0%	1%	0%	0%
James Weldon Johnson School	291	100%	99%	97%	1%	2%	0%	1%
John Dibert Community School	398	98%	96%	90%	4%	6%	0%	0%
John McDonogh Senior High School	556	77%	99%	99%	1%	0%	0%	0%
Joseph A. Craig School	546	94%	100%	99%	0%	1%	0%	0%
Joseph S. Clark Senior High School	353	72%	99%	97%	1%	2%	0%	0%
KIPP Believe College Prep	348	87%	99%	99%	1%	0%	0%	0%
KIPP Central City Academy	387	94%	100%	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%
KIPP Central City Primary	301	93%	100%	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%
KIPP McDonogh 15 School for the Creative Arts	506	89%	94%	92%	6%	2%	1%	0%
KIPP New Orleans Leadership Academy	110	96%	100%	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%
KIPP Renaissance High School	142	92%	97%	96%	3%	1%	0%	0%

L. B. Landry High School	561	75%	99%	98%	1%	0%	0%	1%
Lafayette Academy of New Orleans	796	93%	99%	98%	1%	1%	0%	0%
Lagniappe Academies of New Orleans	61	87%	100%	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Lake Forest Elementary Charter School	466	85%	100%	94%	0%	1%	4%	0%
Langston Hughes Academy Charter School	597	96%	100%	99%	1%	0%	0%	0%
Laurel Elementary School	638	89%	99%	95%	1%	1%	0%	3%
Live Oak Elementary School	580	83%	99%	95%	1%	2%	0%	2%
Lusher Charter School	1636	27%	49%	34%	51%	7%	4%	4%
Mahalia Jackson Elementary School	75	93%	99%	97%	1%	1%	0%	0%
Martin Behrman Elementary School	637	96%	99%	97%	1%	1%	1%	0%
Mary Bethune Elementary	367	82%	98%	95%	2%	2%	1%	1%
Mary D. Coghill Elementary School	585	92%	100%	99%	0%	1%	0%	0%
McDonogh #28 City Park Academy	407	97%	100%	99%	0%	1%	0%	0%
McDonogh #32 Elementary School	560	95%	100%	99%	0%	1%	0%	0%
McDonogh #35 Senior High School	945	84%	100%	99%	0%	0%	0%	0%
McDonogh #42 Elementary Charter School	562	99%	99%	85%	1%	0%	0%	14%
Milestone SABIS Academy of New Orleans	386	97%	99%	95%	1%	2%	0%	1%
Miller-McCoy Academy	533	72%	100%	99%	0%	0%	0%	1%
Morris Jeff Community School	140	58%	64%	55%	36%	3%	2%	4%
Murray Henderson Elementary School	349	95%	100%	98%	0%	1%	0%	0%
Nelson Elementary School	408	98%	100%	97%	0%	1%	2%	0%
New Orleans Career Academy	89	78%	93%	93%	7%	0%	0%	0%
New Orleans Charter Science & Math Academy	210	89%	99%	98%	1%	0%	0%	0%
New Orleans Charter Science & Math High	349	69%	91%	87%	9%	2%	1%	0%
NOLA College Prep Charter School	604	96%	100%	99%	1%	0%	0%	0%
O.P. Walker Senior High School	874	95%	100%	99%	0%	0%	0%	0%
P. A. Capdau School	361	99%	98%	98%	2%	0%	0%	0%
Paul B. Habans Elementary School	325	87%	98%	93%	2%	6%	0%	0%
Pride College Preparatory Academy	194	97%	99%	98%	1%	1%	1%	0%
Priestley School of Architecture/Construction	268	79%	99%	99%	1%	1%	0%	0%
Rabouin Career Magnet High School	12	58%	100%	92%	0%	8%	0%	0%
Recovery School District-LDE Central Office	69	41%	87%	83%	13%	0%	3%	1%
Robert Russa Moton Charter School	300	100%	100%	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Samuel J. Green Charter School	484	96%	98%	94%	2%	2%	0%	2%
Sarah Towles Reed Elementary School	536	95%	99%	95%	1%	3%	2%	0%
Sarah Towles Reed Senior High School	564	78%	100%	92%	0%	2%	6%	0%
Schwarz Alternative School	130	80%	100%	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Sojourner Truth Academy	248	91%	100%	94%	0%	4%	0%	2%
Sophie B. Wright Inst. of Academic Excellence	405	100%	99%	96%	1%	2%	0%	0%
Success Preparatory Academy	330	98%	100%	99%	0%	1%	0%	0%
The Alternative Learning Institute	103	100%	100%	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%
The Intercultural Charter School	361	93%	100%	68%	0%	7%	25%	0%
Thurgood Marshall Early College High School	387	88%	100%	98%	0%	2%	0%	0%
Walter L. Cohen High School	418	77%	100%	99%	0%	1%	0%	0%
Warren Easton Senior High School	864	84%	99%	97%	1%	2%	0%	0%
William J. Fischer Elementary School	506	96%	100%	98%	0%	1%	0%	0%
Youth Study Center	21	100%	100%	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%
TOTAL/AVERAGE	39,877	84%	95%	89%	6%	3%	2%	1%