

Citizens for 1 Greater New Orleans Education Committee 2016

WHAT MATTERS IN NEW ORLEANS PUBLIC EDUCATION

The Education Committee of Citizens for 1 Greater New Orleans follows and supports the promising education reforms that are transforming public education in New Orleans and the State. There are several principles that guide our decision-making and priorities.

High Standards for Students

Citizens for 1 supports high standards for students. After years of development and review, in 2016 Louisiana Students Standards were adopted by BESE and the Legislature, and signed by the Governor. CF1 endorsed these standards and are excited that they are now being implemented for students across the state.

Accountability and Autonomy for Teachers and Schools

Teachers and schools must be held to high professional standards. To maintain the highest quality of education in the classrooms, teachers need resources, support, training, mentoring, and evaluation. The decisions that effect children's learning need to be made closest to the classroom. Individual schools make decisions regarding school programming, curriculum, personnel, and budgeting and are held accountable for the progress of their students.

School Choice for Parents and Families

Public charter Schools offer a wide variety of programs and choices for parents and students. Parents have access to all New Orleans schools and good information to guide them in making their decisions.

Governance Shared Between Central Office and Schools

Governance in New Orleans is shared: Schools have control over school operations and the School Board (OPSB) governs system-level decisions. Individual schools and networks of schools are responsible for the education of the children in their care, with autonomy over curriculum, staffing, programming, and school operations. OPSB has responsibility for system-level policies: accountability and oversight of schools, enrollment management, facilities assignment and development, and financial management.

New Orleans, with its post-Katrina charter system, has demonstrated that public schools with the authority to make decisions about faculty, staff, budgeting, and curriculum are demonstrably more effective attaining academic progress for students. Citizens for 1 supports this progress.