

Citizens for **1** Greater New Orleans

Supports Governor Jindal's Bold Education Reform Agenda

We agree that “our children only grow up once” and that our state should provide educational opportunities that prepare them for a better future.

We support the concept of choice in the delivery of public education. However, strong financial and academic safeguards need to be in place when transferring public monies to private schools.

Therefore, Citizens for 1 Greater New Orleans urges Section 4011 of **HB 976 and SB 597** be **amended** to make the scholarship program academically and financially accountable to the **CHILDREN of LOUISIANA**

Issues to be addressed in an **amendment**:

Accountability—there should be an academic threshold to become a designated scholarship school and an academic standard of improvement that schools must meet to remain in the program.

Prioritization of need—the State should focus resources on the students most in need and at risk. The selection process should begin with students trapped in F Schools, then move to D schools and finally C schools as capacity is reached.

Limit of 20% of scholarship students in first two years—there should not be an alternate pathway for private schools to avoid this requirement. A private school's ability to attract tuition-paying students is essential to avoid having schools formed solely to take public money.

Citizens for 1 Greater New Orleans is a non-partisan, non-sectarian grassroots initiative formed to be a voice for reform and renewal for Greater New Orleans and a better Louisiana
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