

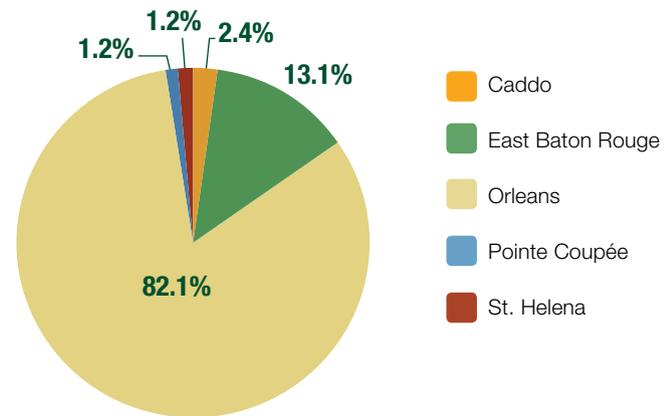
Recovery School District

What is the RSD?

- During the 2003 Regular Legislative Session, the Louisiana Legislature passed Act 9 to create the Recovery School District (RSD). Following Hurricane Katrina, the Louisiana Legislature passed Act 35 to allow the RSD to more easily takeover schools in failing districts.
- The RSD is a school district administered by the Louisiana Department of Education (LDE) and is designed to take over academically failing schools and turn them into successful schools.
- An academically failing school is determined by Louisiana's statewide program of school accountability adopted by the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE). School accountability in Louisiana is based on the Louisiana Educational Assessment Program (LEAP).
- Schools that do not meet the minimum academic standards for at least four consecutive years are eligible for state takeover. A school must have a School Performance Score (SPS) below 65 for the 2010-2011 school year and below a 75 for the 2011-2012 school year.
- Schools that are placed in the RSD must remain there for a minimum of five years. This length of time is meant to allow the schools to fully establish the instructional practices and expectations necessary for success prior to returning to the control of the local school board. All New Orleans schools in the RSD are currently in their fifth year.
- Currently there are 84 schools open under the RSD statewide. 69 of those schools are in Orleans Parish.

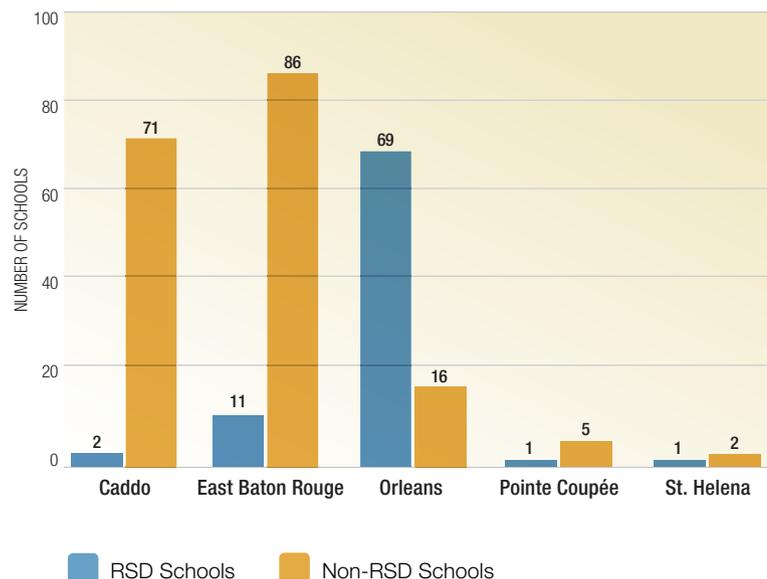
School Districts Represented in the RSD

The RSD is comprised of schools from Caddo, East Baton Rouge, Orleans, Point Coupée, and St. Helena Parishes



RSD and Local District Schools by Parish

The graph represents the number of schools under the RSD and under the control of the local school board within each parish.



Timeline of the Recovery School District

Timeline Highlights

2004

The RSD takes over its first school (Orleans Parish).

2005

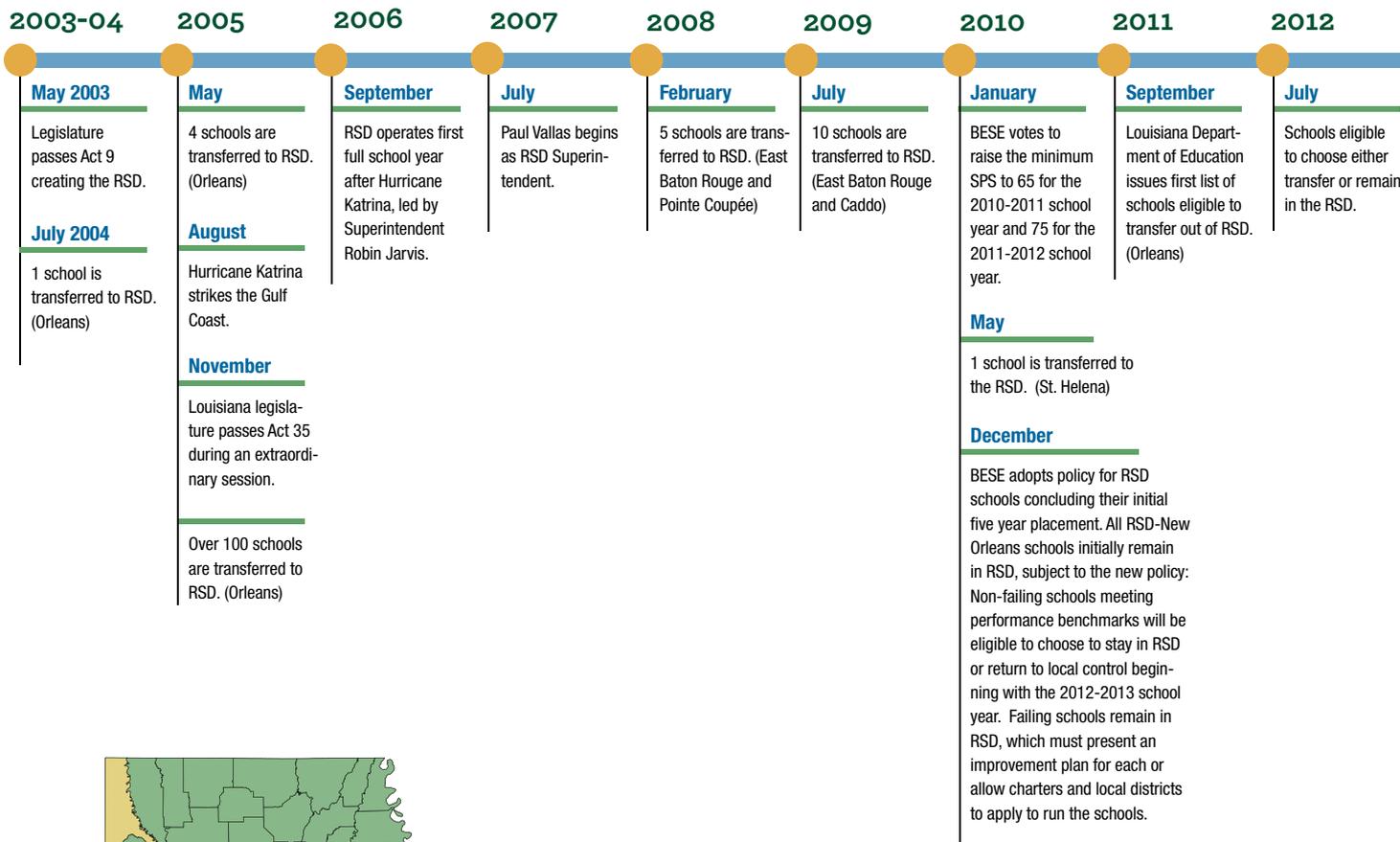
Act 35 raised the minimum SPS necessary for the RSD to take over failing schools. Subsequently, over 100 schools in Orleans Parish were taken over in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

2005 through 2010

The RSD reopened a portion of these schools, some as charters and some as district-run schools. The RSD continued to take over failing schools around the state.

2010

BESE adopts the RSD's plan for schools reaching the end of their initial five year period in the RSD, beginning with Orleans Parish schools; includes a policy allowing eligible schools to choose governing authority and includes roadmap for possible return to local control.



Parishes with Schools in the RSD

As of January 2011 the RSD has taken over more than 120 schools in four parishes – Caddo, East Baton Rouge, Orleans, Point Coupée and St. Helena.

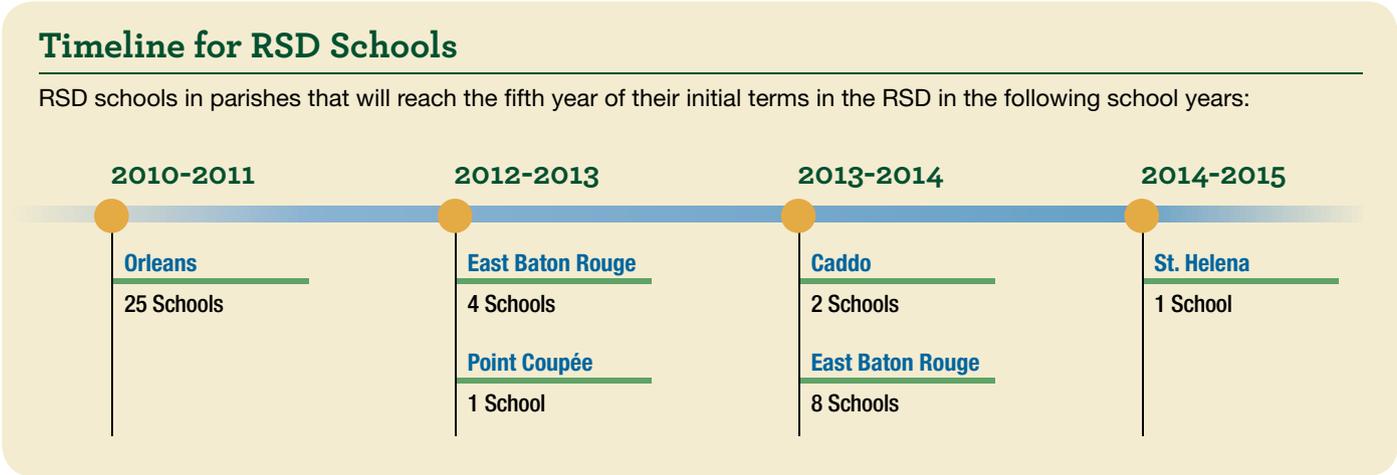
 Parish with schools in RSD

Transfer of Schools After Initial RSD Placement



A school transferred into the RSD must remain there for an initial period of five years, at the end of which BESE must decide whether the school will remain in the RSD, be returned to the transferring district, or closed. In December 2010, BESE adopted a policy to govern the possible return of schools to local control.

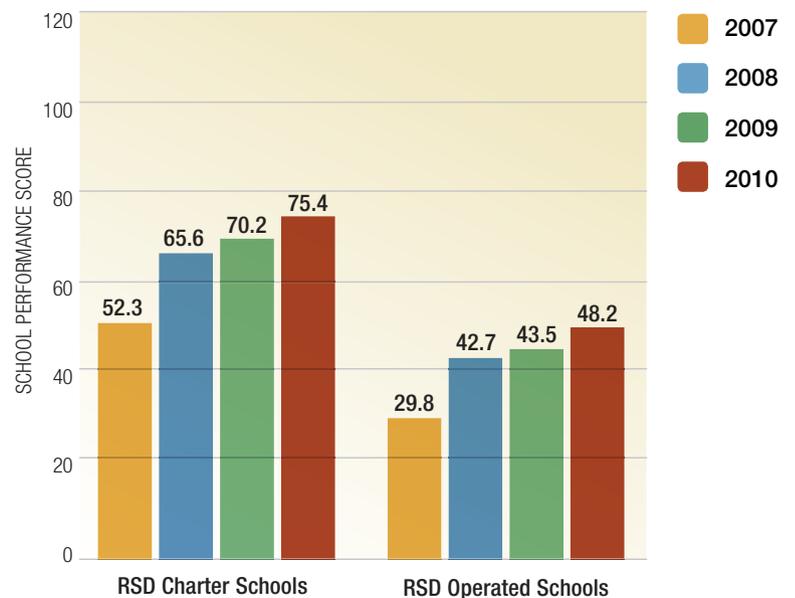
- Under the new policy, RSD schools (both direct-run and charter) that have an SPS of at least 80 (or at least 5 points above the AUS level if that level is raised above 75) for two consecutive years, beginning with the 2009-2010 and 2010-2011 school years, will be eligible to choose whether to stay in the RSD or return to a local governing authority. Schools that do not meet the performance benchmark will remain in the RSD.
- This policy will enable a gradual reduction of the number of schools in the RSD as they return to local control. During each year from Year 5 to Year 10 in the RSD, certain schools will be eligible to choose and may return to local control, certain schools will be eligible to choose but may stay in the RSD, and certain schools will not be eligible to choose and will remain in the RSD.
- For the low-performing schools that remain in the RSD, failing charter schools may be subject to non-renewal, and failing direct-run schools may be retained with a new turnaround plan, phased out, or transferred to a new operator (charter or local district), who must apply to and be approved by BESE.
- At the end of each five year term, BESE must reconsider the status and governance of each school remaining in the RSD at that point.



School Performance Scores of Schools Under RSD Intervention

RSD Performance in New Orleans

- RSD direct run schools and RSD charter schools (authorized by BESE) have shown consistent improvement in School Performance Scores since 2007.
- Under Act 35, the RSD was allowed to take over schools that fell below the state average (86.2) and not just below 60. Thus, some RSD schools had a pre-takeover SPS above 60.
- Collectively, RSD schools in New Orleans grew from an SPS of 54.4 in 2009 to 60.6 in 2010. This increase of 6.2 points represented the second-best SPS growth in the state. The state average was 3.1.
- The values represented in the graph are average scores for the RSD charters and RSD-run schools.



Future Governance of New Orleans Schools

Recent public debate in New Orleans over the possible transfer of RSD schools to local control has also raised a discussion over possible changes to the structure of local control. A recent Cowen Institute commissioned public opinion poll revealed the complex feelings and desires of the New Orleans community. The survey's findings included:

- 58% of New Orleans voters support the state's decision to take over most New Orleans schools after Hurricane Katrina
- 47% of New Orleans voters oppose giving all schools to the RSD
- 70% of New Orleans voters oppose placing schools under mayoral control
- 59% of New Orleans voters oppose giving all schools back to the OPSB
- 70% of New Orleans voters support a new board that is elected citywide

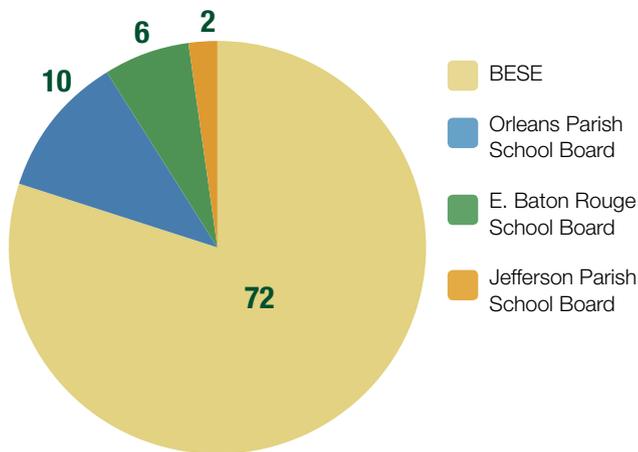
Source: Cowen Institute, K-12 Public Education through the Public's Eye: A Survey of the New Orleans Community, November 2010

Charter Schools

What is a Charter School?

- Charter schools are public schools operated by a non-profit organization under an initial five year contract (or “charter”) with either a local school board or the state Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE). The non-profit organization may contract with a for-profit organization for day-to-day operations of the school.
- 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 in Louisiana



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 and other factors (financials, legal).

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 Schools