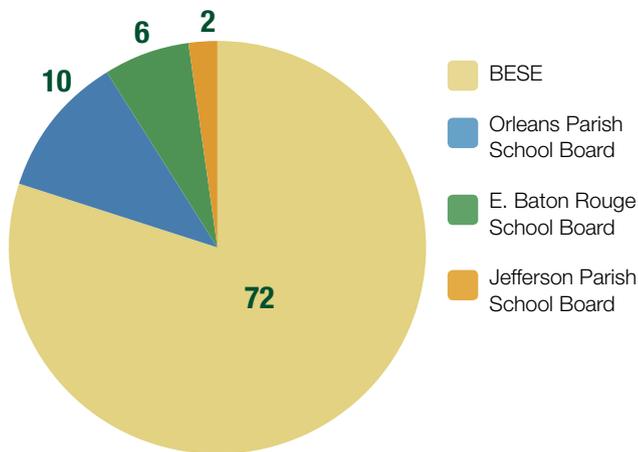


Charter Schools

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.

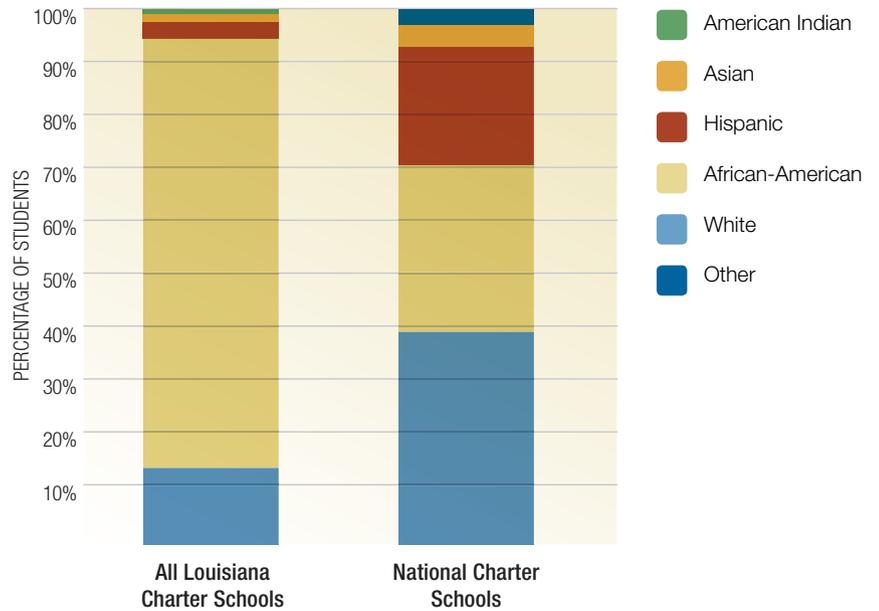
Charter Schools

Charter School Student Demographics

Percentage of Students by Ethnicity

The ethnicity of students in Louisiana charter schools is different from the ethnicity of students in charter schools nationally. However, students in Louisiana charter schools have ethnicities similar to the large urban districts where most are located.

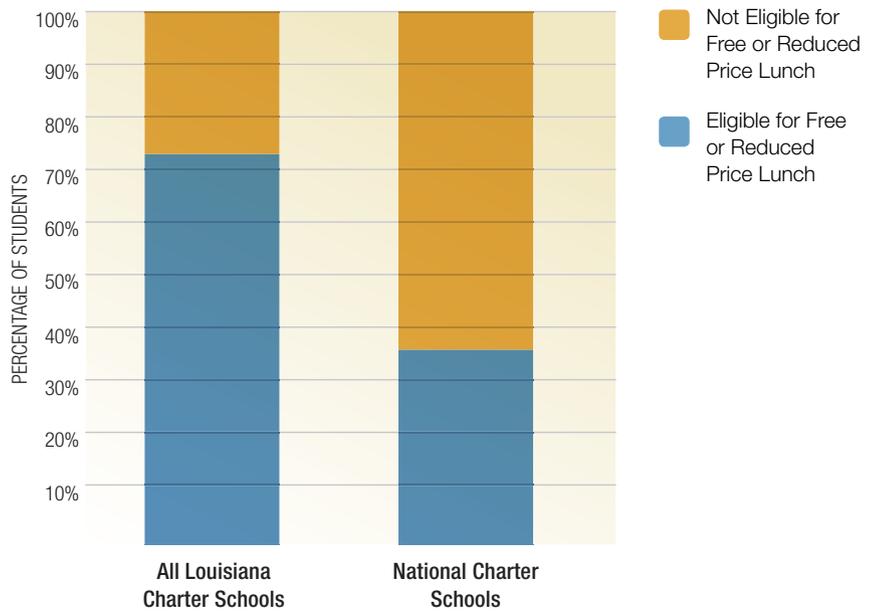
Data on Louisiana students taken from the October 2010 state enrollment counts. National data from the National Alliance for Public Charter Schools, 2009-2010



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 traditionally operated schools.

Data on Louisiana students taken from the October 2010 state enrollment counts. National data from the National Alliance for Public Charter Schools, 2009-2010



Charter School Types

Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE)

Local School Boards

Type 1 Charters

- Have a charter with a local school board
- Are new start-up schools
- Can only be operated by a non-profit entity
- May enroll students from anywhere in the district
- Receive funding through the MFP
- May have admissions requirements consistent with the school's role, scope, and mission

Type 3 Charters

- Have a charter with a local school board
- Are conversion schools
- Can only be operated by a non-profit entity
- May enroll students from anywhere in the district
- Receive funding through the MFP
- May have admissions requirements consistent with the school's role, scope, and mission

Type 4 Charters

- Have a charter between a local school board and BESE
- Can be conversion or start-up schools
- Can be operated by a for-profit entity
- May enroll students from anywhere in the district
- Receive funding through the MFP
- May have admissions requirements consistent with the school's role, scope, and mission

Type 2 Charters

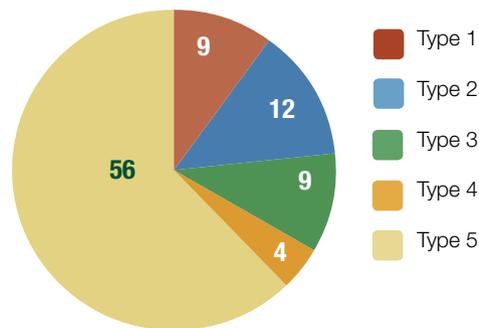
- Have a charter with BESE
- Can be conversion or start-up schools
- Can only be operated by a non-profit entity
- May enroll students from anywhere in the state
- Receive funding through a general fund appropriation or through the MFP
- Do not receive any local funding
- May have admissions requirements consistent with the school's role, scope, and mission

Recovery School District (RSD)

Type 5 Charters

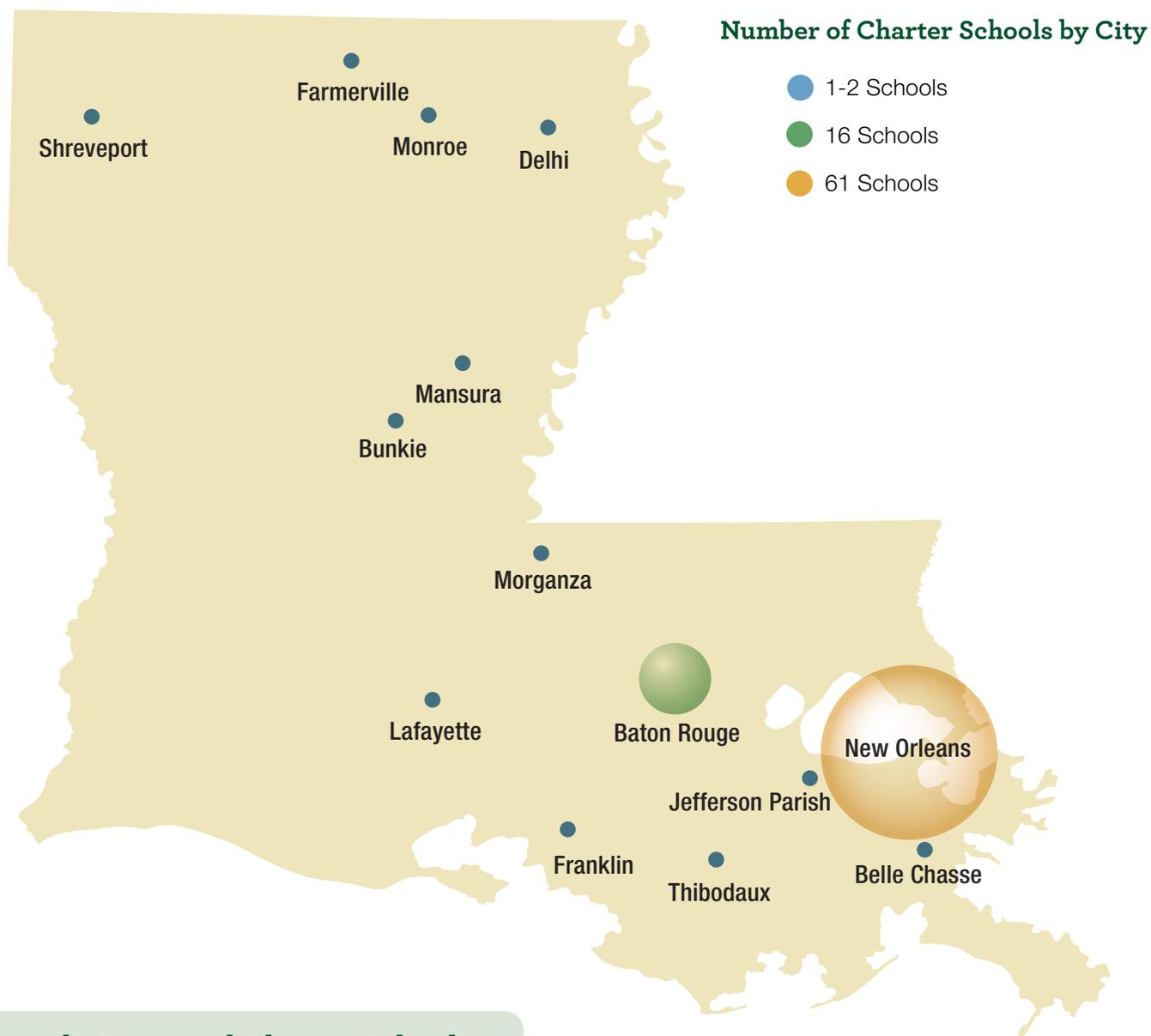
- Have a charter with BESE
- Are conversion schools
- Can only be operated by a non-profit entity
- May enroll students from anywhere in the district
- Receive funding through the MFP
- May not have any admissions requirements

Number of Charter Schools by Type in Louisiana



Source: Louisiana Department of Education, 2010

Charter School Locations, 2010-2011



Recently Approved Charter Schools

BESE recently approved 11 new charter schools for opening in the 2011-2012 school year. All but one of these schools, Lake Charles Charter Academy in Calcasieu Parish, are in East Baton Rouge or Orleans Parishes. Two of these schools are virtual schools.

Source: Louisiana Department of Education, 2010