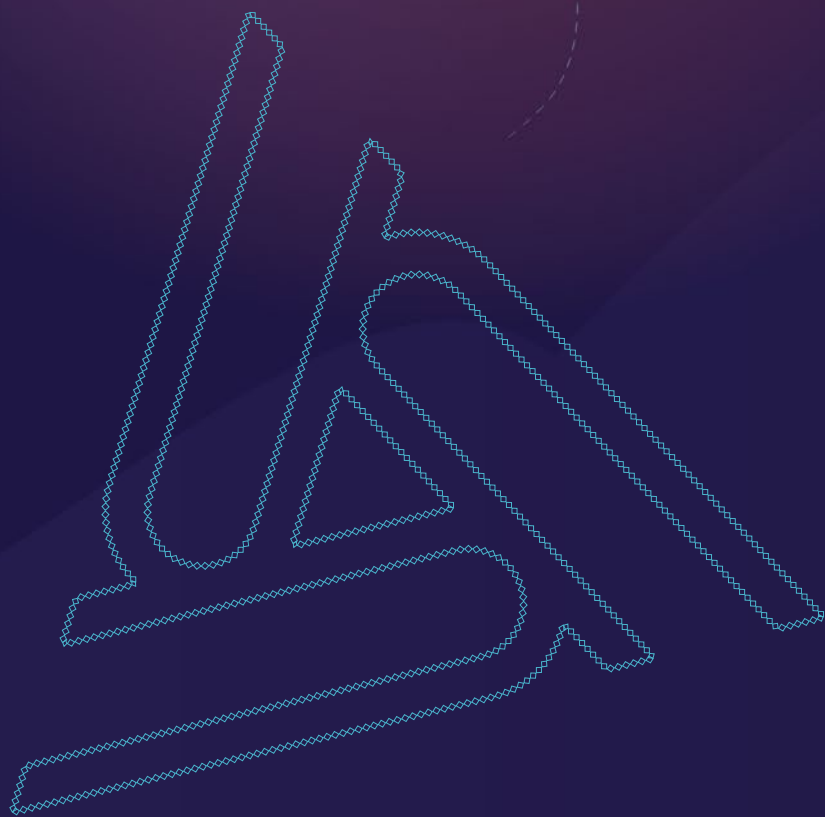


LAPCS

Louisiana Association
of Public Charter Schools

YEAR IN REVIEW
**20
23**

Growth



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Student performance
now **exceeds**
pre-pandemic growth.

State of the State

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your continued support and partnership with our small (but mighty!) team. We are honored to work alongside you to serve Louisiana charter school students and communities.

Charter schools have been an essential part of the Louisiana education landscape for almost three decades. As parents' demand for choice continues to grow, our hard work is beginning to pay off. Studies show that student performance now exceeds pre-pandemic growth! With this in mind, we are optimistic about what we can accomplish in the coming year.

Reflecting on 2023, we are honored that so many of you took the time to engage with our programs, respond to our calls to action, and participate in task forces and committees. You lent your expertise to problem-solving issues such as truancy, teacher shortages, accountability, workforce development, and transportation. We truly could only have accomplished our goals with your participation!

The word **advocate** is both a noun and a verb — a rewarding, albeit exhausting endeavor. As we begin a new year under a new governor and administration, LAPCS remains committed to advocating alongside you in action and shared purpose.

Wishing you a healthy, successful, and happy 2024 -

Caroline Roemer
Executive Director

Jude Melville
Board Chair

The mission of the Louisiana Association of Public Charter Schools is to advance equity and educational access through the advocacy, support, and promotion of excellent charter schools in Louisiana.



We Work with **Purpose.**

Every decision and action we take supports the mission and vision of LAPCS.



We are **Inclusive.**

We believe success comes with awareness, intentionality, and collaboration. We include and value all backgrounds, experiences, and perspectives



We Act with **Integrity.**

We are always truthful, consistent, and values-aligned, ensuring we meet goals and produce outcomes that serve our mission.

By the Numbers

147 Charter Schools
94,000+ Students
5,000+ Teachers

Today, there are 147 charter schools across Louisiana, serving 94,000+ students and employing 5,000+ teachers.

Since its inception, Team LAPCS has spent countless hours at the Capitol and BESE.

No, really – we tried to tally the hours spent, and we finally gave up!

32+ Training Sessions
Countless+ Hours Spent

Since 2015, the Bottom Line program has hosted 32+ statewide training sessions covering finance, operations, HR best practices, employment law, special education supports, and more.

YEAR IN REVIEW

234 Leadership Fellows
20 Placed on School Boards
100+ Education Credit Hours

Since 2018, LAPCS has graduated 234 Charter Board Leadership Academy Fellows and placed over 20 Fellows onto Greater New Orleans and Baton Rouge school boards.

In 2023, LAPCS provided over 100 hours of continuing education credits to education professionals statewide.



LAPCS
reaches **millions**
of individuals
each year,
promoting positive
charter champions,
students, faculty,
and schools
statewide.



Advocacy in Action

2023 Advocacy Accomplishments

- Advocated for charter schools by ensuring representation on state and city-level policy-making committees, including the Minimum Foundation Program Task Force, Accountability Commission, Dual Enrollment, Workforce Opportunity and Readiness Task Force, New Orleans School Medicaid Work Group, the State Teacher Shortage Work Group, and the State Student Discipline Task Force.
- Worked collaboratively with New Orleans charter school leaders and representatives of the Orleans Parish School Board and NOLA-PS, the Mayor's Office of Youth and Families, and Members of the New Orleans City Council to troubleshoot and problem-solve citywide issues that impact student and school success including truancy, transportation, and Medicaid.
- Advocated daily for charters at the Capitol during the legislative session to support favorable bills and defend against bills that would negatively affect charter schools, **thereby:**
 1. Supporting increases to the MFP as well as Teacher Pay Raises
 2. Protecting charter schools against curriculum mandates and restrictions that would have impeded teachers' and school leaders' ability to make decisions as close to their classrooms as possible.
 3. Working directly with the Greater New Orleans charter school community to defeat New Orleans-specific legislation that would have undermined the school board's authority and eroded many of the pro-charter school reform efforts that have continued since Hurricane Katrina.



In 2023, the LAPCS team worked to **defeat SB S5** by partnering with school leaders and parents to coordinate participation in Baton Rouge advocacy efforts.

We also secured overwhelming participation from New Orleans School leaders and parents for **Charter Day at the Capitol!**

LAPCS Support



Bottom Line

In 2023, LAPCS **trained 100+** school staff in Human Resources Best Practices, High Functioning Finance Operations, New Laws, Student Safety, Facilities Safety and Security, and the Annual Financial Report.

Additionally, in 2023, LAPCS **provided annual ethics training** for over 1,000 charter school teachers, administrators, and board members.

1,000+
Individuals Received
Ethics Training





Top Shelf

Supported boards by providing:

- Board retreat support/presentations
- Ethics training for board members

Provided in-depth board training, including strategic planning and succession planning, for eight charter school boards through a grant partnership with the Louisiana Department of Education.

Charter Board Leadership Academy:

- Convened the sixth annual New Orleans Metropolitan Area CBLA cohort, graduating 14 Fellows.
- Facilitated the fourth annual Baton Rouge CBLA cohort, graduating 18 Fellows.
- Circulated CBLA Board Bank and recommended Fellows for board recruitment, connecting ten schools with Fellows for board service in 2023.



2023 Annual Conference

LAPCS
CHARTER
SCHOOL
CONFERENCE



The LAPCS Charter School Conference is the only statewide conference dedicated to bringing together charter school educators, experts, and advocates for dynamic learning and networking opportunities each year.

LAPCS welcomed nearly 400 members and education partners for a full day of professional development and fellowship with national, regional, and local education experts.





18 Unique Sessions / Covering topics such as:

Why and How to Engage Your Lawmakers

Expansion and Contraction:

Managing the Ebbs and Flows of Workforce Changes – Including in the C-Suite

Leading Inclusion:

Improving Student Achievement through Building Supportive Classroom Communities and Inclusion-Friendly Campuses

The Dos and Don'ts of Employee Handbooks

The Future Is Here:

Combining Human and Artificial Intelligence to Help Emergent Bilinguals Learn English

Vibrant Communities:

Bringing Food Security to Youth
Year-round Outside the School Day

20
23 Award
Luncheon
Honorees

New Orleans Career Center

LAPCS Community Roots Award

Sponsored by TenSquare

GEO Next Generation High School

LAPCS Innovative Education Award

Sponsored by b1 Foundation

Leslie Leavoy on behalf of JCFA

LAPCS Excellence in Governance Award

Sponsored by Schulman, Lopez, Hoffer & Adelstein

InspireNOLA

LAPCS Charter PROPS* Award

Sponsored by EdOps

* Public Relations Opportunities for Positive Storytelling



Thank You

2023 BUSINESS MEMBERS/SPONSORS

4th Sector
Adams and Reese
B1 Foundation
Curriculum Associates
EdOps
Gallagher
HUB International
Schulman, Lopez, Hoffer & Adelstein
Teachers Now
TenSquare

2023 SPONSORS

Baker Donelson
BCBS-LA
Breazeale, Sachse & Wilson, LLP
Building Hope
Career Compass
Cariina
Chartwells K-12
Cognia
Cox Business
Crescent HR
First Onsite Property Restoration
GEO Foundation
Grace Hebert Architects
Grand Canyon University
Guarantee Restoration
Louisiana Asset Management
Move This World
National Heritage Academies
ParentSquare
Radion Health
Reach University
SLA Management
Strix I.T.
Technology Lab
Transcendent Law
Varsity Tutors

The logo for the LAPCS Charter School Conference is a dark blue square with white text. It is set against a background of overlapping geometric shapes in orange, teal, and light blue. A white stylized logo is visible in the bottom right corner of the dark blue square.

LAPCS
**CHARTER
SCHOOL
CONFERENCE**

A group of five diverse students, three girls and two boys, are standing in a modern school hallway with large windows and orange pillars. They are all wearing KIPP Central City New Orleans sweatshirts in different colors (blue, black, yellow, red, and grey) and khaki pants. The text "LAPCS promotes our schools" is overlaid in large white letters. A poster titled "Stop the Spread of Germs" is visible on the left wall, and a colorful poster with words like "TRUST", "HELPFUL", "INSPIRING", "NECESSARY", and "KIND?" is on the right pillar.

**LAPCS promotes
our schools**

In 2023, we ...

- Created a citywide **communications strategy** and **public awareness campaign** that reached over **2.5 million** people across Greater New Orleans. This video ad campaign highlighted charter school alumni success stories and school programs solving for learning disruptions caused by the pandemic.
- Nominated Dolores T. Aaron teacher, **Raquel Crader**, for a National Alliance of **Public Charter Schools Changemaker Award** for her work building an interactive YouTube reading channel for parents and students during the pandemic, helping foster their love of reading when they had less access to books during school shutdowns.
 - During National Charter Schools Week, May 8-14, 2022, Ms. Crader was one of only ten changemakers recognized nationally for their outsized impact on their communities, our nation, and the world.
- Co-hosted with **DFER** (Democrats for Education Reform) a series of New Orleans **charter school visits** with legislators, school board officials, city council members, and other key community leaders to showcase schools and host roundtable discussions with school leaders on issues that both hinder and help students and schools.
- Created one-pagers** to distribute to policymakers and elected officials, outlining each school's specialties, demographics, successes, and challenges. These handouts helped us educate policymakers on the innovative things happening in schools, giving them something tangible to refer back to after the tour.

School Tours and Dates

September 14	The Net Gentilly
September 20	Collegiate Opportunities Academy
September 27	Foundation Prep
September 28	Tubman Montessori
October 3	New Orleans Career Academy
October 5	Homer Plessy



Developed **Future Advocates Fellowship** (FAF)
Program wherein LAPCS developed relationships
with parent participants through PTO work with
the following schools:

Collegiate Academies

Warren Easton

KIPP

Firstline Schools



LAPCS also developed
a partnership with the
education organization
AlignED to increase
awareness of issues
associated with charter
schools and increase
parent participation
around said issues.



Statewide Charter School Tours



August 7

Lincoln Preparatory School

Attendees

Rep. Foy Gadberry
Rep. Wayne McMahan
Rep. Chris Turner
Rep. Patrick Jefferson
Grambling Mayor Alvin Bradley
Grambling President Rick Gallot
Congresswoman Julia Letlow

Media

KNOE was present, and the segment aired on the evening news on August 7

→ [Link](#)

August 14

Avoyelles Public Charter School

Attendees

Sen. Heather Cloud
Sen. Glen Womack
Rep. Daryl Deshotel
Rep. Gabe Firment
Rep. Lance Harris

Media

KALB was present, and the segment aired on the evening news on August 14

→ [Link](#)

August 24

Collegiate Baton Rouge

Attendees

Rep. Rick Edmonds
Rep. Kathy Edmonston
Rep. Barbara Freiberg
Rep. Vanessa LaFleur
Ana Martinez for Rep. Larry Selders
BESE Member Ronnie Morris

Media

Invited all local media in the Baton Rouge area but none attended.

Statewide Charter School Tours

September 6

Bayou Community Academy

Attendees

Rep. Beryl Amedee
Rep. Phillip DeVillier
Rep. Bryan Fontenot
Rep. Greg Miller
Rep. Joe Orgeron
Rep. Vinney St. Blanc
Rep. Jerome Zeringue
BESE Member Sandy Holloway

Media

Houma Courier, Lafourche Gazette

September 12

Ecole Saint-Landry

Attendees

Rep. Roy Adams
Rep. Rhonda Butler
Rep. Mike Huval
Rep. Dustin Miller
Rep. Troy Romero
Sen. Jeremy Stine
BESE Member Sandy Holloway

Media

KADN News 15

[→ Link](#)

Summary

- 5 School Visits
- 27 Legislator Attendees
- 2 BESE Attendees
- 1 Mayor
- 1 University President
- 5 Media Attended
 - 3 TV Stations and 2 print
- 4 Media Reported
 - 3 TV Stations and 1 print

Our Team



Caroline Roemer

Executive Director

LAPCS 2007 - present

Advocacy warrior, the connector of dots, head cheerleader for Team LAPCS, mom of one child and two fur babies, and forever honing my fishing skills.

Leslie Hill

Civic Affairs Director

LAPCS 2022 - present

Political junkie, advocate, mom of twin boys and a princess, =^..^= lover, likes small home renovation projects, antique cypress, and makes a mean cocktail.

Melissa Carollo

Finance & Operations Director

LAPCS 2009 - present

Wicked smart with numbers, HR advisor, Captain Compliance, Chief Reminder Officer, mom to Trevor and his three puppy siblings, Wolfpack grad, and NOLA native.

Harmony Hobbs

Communications Director

LAPCS 2023 - present

Word nerd, celebrity gossip connoisseur, mom of three kids and three cats. Loves to shop, laugh, and drink strong coffee. Appreciator of art, bookstores, authenticity, and pizazz.

Tiffany Crawford

Community Engagement Coordinator

LAPCS 2023 - present

Lover of children and families with an understanding that we can change the world by being involved and informed. Educator at heart, activist by calling. Music lover, wife, and mother. NOLA girl.

Sarah Vandergriff Kelley

Legal & Policy Director

LAPCS 2011 - present

Legal eagle, team historian, loves people and fun facts, cruise director, always up for a challenge and New Orleans native.

Our Board

Jude Melville

Chairman, Chairman and CEO, Business First Bank

Dujan Johnson

CEO, Community School for Apprentice Learning, Inc.

Kenneth Campbell

CEO, New Schools for Baton Rouge

Cleland Powell

Executive Vice President, Iberiabank

Jaimmé Collins

General Counsel and Vice President of Strategic
Initiatives Division, Liberty Bank

Delano Wilson

Owner, M*A*C*S* LLC



LAPCS Business Members

LAPCS' business membership program allows businesses that offer educational resources and services to connect with charter schools throughout Louisiana. Our business partners are essential to helping LAPCS fulfill our mission of supporting, promoting, and advocating for excellent and equitable charter schools in Louisiana.

For nearly three decades, the charter school community has flourished with professional service organizations like these. LAPCS business members support school needs ranging from financial services and paper supplies to legal, curriculum, and technology support -- and much more!

Thank You.

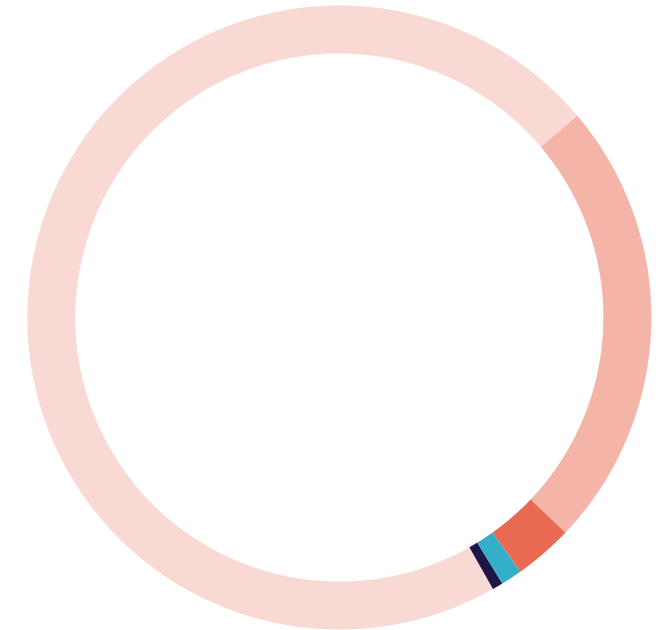


4th Sector Solutions Inc.
Adams & Reese
Advanced Office Systems
Alignstaffing
Arthur Gallagher
b1 foundation
Baker Donelson
Beanstack
Charter School Capital
ClassLink
Curriculum Associates
Dunn Financial Solutions LLC
EdOps
Grace Hebert Curtis
HUB International
Multistudio
School Food Solutions
SchoolInfo
Schulman, Lopez, Hoffer & Adelstein,
LLP
Star Service, Inc.
Strix I.T.
Teachers Now
Technology Lab
TenSquare

Audited Financials 2023

Revenue and Support \$1,561,539

860,429	Philanthropy
442,769	Membership Dues
235,113	Annual Conference
22,275	Program Service Fees
953	Other



Expenses \$1,867,402

1,542,577	Program Services
178,476	Management
146,379	Fundraising



Support.
Promote.
Advocate.

lacharterschools.org



Louisiana Association *of* Public Charter Schools