



THE RETURN MODEL

A New Approach to Governance for Public Schools in New Orleans

Acknowledgements

The Return Model was developed by a group of school, community, parent, civic and business leaders with an informed interest in public education. They brought different perspectives and experiences to the table, and each of them committed time to studying and thoughtfully considering the issues facing New Orleans public schools. The goal was to develop a governance model that would best serve the needs of students and schools.

Educate Now! would like to thank all members of the Task Force for their participation. While the governance model outlined in these pages benefited from the input of every Task Force member, participation should not imply that any member, or his or her organization, endorses the Return Model.

Governance Framework Task Force

Jay Altman
Co-Founder and CEO, FirstLine Schools

Michelle Douglas
Principal, Hynes Charter School

Erin Bendily
Governor's Education Policy Advisor

Ruthie Frierson
Founder and Chairman, Citizens for 1
Greater New Orleans

Cherylyn Branche
Principal, Benjamin Banneker Elementary and Middle
School

Sean Gallagher
Executive Director, Akili Academy of New Orleans

Hal Brown
Board of Directors, New Orleans College Prep

Mary Haynes
Principal, Mary McLeod Bethune School

Deirdre Johnson Burel
Executive Director, Orleans Public Education Network

Doris Hicks
Principal, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Charter School

Larry Carter
President, United Teachers of New Orleans (UTNO)

Janet Howard
President, Bureau of Governmental Research

Sharon Clark
Principal, Sophie B. Wright Charter School

Leslie Jacobs
Founder, Educate Now!

Michael Cowan
Executive Director, Common Good

Kira Orange Jones
Executive Director, Teach for America, New Orleans

Penny Dastugue
President, Louisiana Board of Elementary &
Secondary Education

Mary Joseph
Relief Project Director, Children's Defense Fund

Kathy Kilgore
Executive Director, The SUNS Center (Serving the
Unique Needs of Students)

Woody Koppel
President, Orleans Parish School Board

Mickey Landry
Head of School, Lafayette Academy Charter School

Jay Lapeyre
Past President, New Orleans Business Council

Rayne Martin
Chief of Innovation, Louisiana Department of Education

Erika McConduit
Executive Vice President, The Urban League
of Greater New Orleans

Chris Meyer
Special Advisor to the Superintendent,
Louisiana Department of Education

Nash Molpus
Associate Director, Cowen Institute

Ron Nabonne
Board Member, The Dryades Street Public
Policy Group

Kathleen Padian
Founder, New Orleans School Facility Project

Andre Perry
Associate Director, Loyola University
Institute for Quality and Equity in Education

Karen Carter Peterson
State Senator, District 5

Aesha Rasheed
Director and Founder, New Orleans Parent
Organizing Network

Tony Recasner
CEO, Agenda for Children
Vice Chairman, Greater New Orleans Foundation

Kathy Riedlinger
CEO, Lusher Charter School

Nolan Rollins
President, The Urban League of Greater New Orleans

Caroline Roemer Shirley
Executive Director, Louisiana Association of Public
Charter Schools

Brooke Smith
Director of Strategic Partnerships, City of New Orleans

Andrea Thomas-Reynolds
CEO, Algiers Charter Schools Association

Sarah Usdin
Founder and CEO, New Schools for New Orleans

Educate Now! would also like to acknowledge and thank the following individuals who provided tremendous technical expertise and support for this effort:

Greg Richmond
President and CEO, National Association of Charter School Authorizers

Jim Peyser
Managing Director, New Schools Venture Fund

Sally Upham Hays
Consultant, The Crescent Group