

February 29, 2016

Mr. Patrick Dobard, RSD Superintendent  
Dr. Henderson Lewis, OPSB Superintendent  
Mr. John White, Louisiana State Superintendent  
Members of the Louisiana Board of Elementary & Secondary Education

Dear Superintendents & Board Members:

We are writing to express our collective support for the unified funding formula approved by the Act 467 Committee on February 24, 2016. Together, our schools represent **90% of the New Orleans public schools** affected by this formula, across both RSD and OPSB.

We believe this formula appropriately prioritizes scarce resources for the most vulnerable children in our city – including special education students, English language learners, and overaged students. This formula still provides appropriate resources for gifted & talented students.

As you know, there are significant differences in the proportions of “at risk” students served across New Orleans public schools. It is important for our funding formula to account for these differences, ensuring that schools with above-average populations of high needs students receive the additional resources required to serve those children.

The formula approved by the committee does exactly that, and we are hopeful that the Board of Elementary & Secondary Education (BESE) will approve the new city-wide formula at its meetings next week.

Thank you for your partnership as we all work together to provide an excellent education to every child in New Orleans.

Sincerely,

Jay Altman  
CEO  
FirstLine Schools

Sharon Clark  
Charter School Director  
Sophie B. Wright Charter School

Kelly Batiste  
CEO / Principal  
Fannie C. Williams Charter School

Josh Densen  
CEO & School Leader  
Bricolage Academy of New Orleans

Tracy Bennett-Joseph  
CEO  
Crescent Leadership Academy

Niloy Gangopadhyay  
Executive Director  
Success Preparatory Academy

Sametta Brown  
CEO  
New Beginnings Schools Foundation

Dr. Doris Roche'-Hicks  
CEO  
Friends of King Schools

Claire Jecklin & Chana Benenson  
Co-Principals  
New Orleans Science and Math High School

Aisha Jones  
CEO  
Mary D. Coghill Charter School

Rhonda Kalifey-Aluise  
CEO  
KIPP New Orleans Schools

Myrialis King  
Founder & Head of School  
Foundation Preparatory Charter School

Ben Kleban  
President  
New Orleans College Prep

Mickey Landry  
Executive Director  
Choice Foundation

Rene Lewis-Carter  
Interim CEO  
Algiers Charter School Association

Colleen Mackay  
CEO  
ReNEW Schools

Ben Marcovitz  
CEO  
Collegiate Academies

Jamar McKneely  
CEO  
InspireNOLA Charter Schools

Alexina Medley  
Principal & CEO  
Warren Easton Charter High School

Kate Mehok  
CEO  
Crescent City Schools

Elizabeth Ostberg  
Principal  
The Net Charter High School

Patricia Perkins  
Principal  
Morris Jeff Community School

Gregory Phillips  
President / CEO  
Dryades YMCA  
James Singleton Charter School

Joan Reilly  
Head of School  
Homer A. Plessy Community School

Andrew Shahan  
CEO  
ARISE Schools

Terri Smith  
CEO & School Leader  
ENCORE Academy

Shawn Toronto  
CEO  
Einstein Charter Schools

Eileen Williams  
CEO / Principal  
Edgar P. Harney Spirit of Excellence Academy