

## **Closing Schools, Opening Schools and Changing School Codes: Instability In the New Orleans Recovery School District**

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During its first few years, the Recovery School District (RSD) simply opened schools in New Orleans, without closing any and without changing any school codes. But, five years ago the RSD began to close schools and change school codes as frequently as it opened schools. These actions compromise the RSD District Performance Score because test scores from students in closed schools are omitted. Also, when the RSD changes a school code, the old code and the test scores listed under that code are often eliminated. In addition, when schools are newly opened, many wait years to receive a School Performance Score, meaning that those students' test scores are not calculated into the RSD District Performance Score. During the last five years, 2010 through 2014, the RSD closed 25 schools, opened 23 new schools, and changed the codes of 21 schools in New Orleans. The question is whether these actions represent the challenges of the newly created Recovery School District, or if they are a deliberate attempt to thwart research on its progress.

Each student has a student code that records information, such as, the student's grade level, ethnicity, gender and test scores. Each public school has a school code that contains the collective information for all of the students in the school. The students' test scores are used to calculate the School Performance Score (SPS) that is then used, along with the scores from other schools in the district, to calculate the District Performance Score (DPS).

When the Recovery School District in New Orleans closes 25 schools in five years, then test scores from students in those closed schools are not included in the calculation of the RSD District Performance Score. When a school closes, the students' test scores are eliminated. Even if the students from the closed school enrolled in a different school the following year, their scores would still be discarded because their new school's performance score would have already been calculated using the test scores of the students from the prior year. Eliminating the scores of so many students by closing schools makes it difficult to determine whether the RSD has improved or not improved.

In addition to closing schools during the last five years, the RSD opened 23 new schools and assigned each a new school code. Many of these schools did not receive a performance score for their first few years because scores are calculated based on growth from the previous years. Thus, the test scores of students in many of the newly opened schools are not included in the RSD District Performance Score.

Also, during the last five years, the RSD changed the school codes of 21 schools. Of these, several continued to have performance scores reported. But, beginning in the 2011-12 school year, the RSD started to remove performance scores for most of the schools whose codes it

changed. For example, in 2011-12, five schools had school code changes and four of those schools, even though each had been opened for several years, did not have performance scores reported.

- Harriett Tubman had been opened for five years when its school code changed from 395006 to 363001, and its performance score was eliminated.
- Fannie C. Williams had been opened for four years when its school code changed from 396028 to 364001, and its performance score was eliminated.
- Sarah Towles Reed Elementary had been opened for five years, when its school code changed from 396021 to 369003, and its performance score was eliminated.
- Joseph S. Clark had been opened for five years when its school code changed from 396002 to 399003, and its performance score was eliminated.

The District Performance Score is cited to praise or decry the progress of each of the school districts in Louisiana. However, this cannot be considered an accurate yardstick by which to measure the Recovery School District in New Orleans since it has opened schools, closed schools, and changed school codes over the last five years at an alarming rate.

Recently, the Cowen Institute reported that from 2010 to 2014, the RSD pass rates increased by 11 percentage points, and the OPBS pass rates increased by 2 percentage points. That comparison lacks merit because during those 5 years, the RSD closed 25 schools, opened 23 schools and changed codes on 21 schools for a total of 69 schools whose students' test scores were mainly not used in the RSD calculation. Whereas, during those 5 years, the OPBS closed two schools, opened four new schools and changed the code of one school.

While the Orleans Parish School Board (OPSB) has considerably fewer schools than the RSD, percentages can be used to show the disproportionality of the school changes that resulted in eliminating test scores.

<b>School System</b>	<b>Total Schools in 2013-14</b>	<b>Closed over last 5 yrs.</b>		<b>New over last 5 yrs.</b>		<b>Changed Codes over last 5 yrs.</b>	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
<b>OPSB</b>	21	2	10%	4	19%	1	5%
<b>RSD</b>	66	25	38%	23	35%	21	32%

After its first three years in operation, the RSD was beginning to have its success questioned. It was then that the RSD began to close schools and to change school codes. Some schools had been open for only one year, then were closed or had their codes changed. Some had been open for as many as seven years, then were closed. Of the 34 schools that the RSD opened during its first full year of operation in 2006-07, only 20 remain opened in 2013-14.

Murray Henderson School and James Weldon Johnson School opened in 2006-07 and closed seven years later, at the end of the 2012-13 year. Whatever school will eventually open in each

of those buildings will receive a new school code. This process circumvents what was meant to happen. School performance, which was supposed to improve following the State Takeover, was to be measured by longitudinally assessing the schools. But, this now becomes difficult as so many schools are being closed and/or are having their codes changed.

The Louisiana Department of Education provided raw data to Research on Reforms, Inc. to conduct longitudinal studies on the progress of the RSD during its first few years. However, when the RSD began to close schools and change school codes, the Department denied the requests for the data. Instead, the Department began to select certain entities to whom it released the data. Thus, Research on Reforms, Inc. sued the Department under the Louisiana Public Records Act. That lawsuit is still pending.

The Appendix below lists the schools referenced in this report. The continued closing and opening of RSD schools, and the changing of school codes makes research on student progress difficult. The RSD District Performance Score is supposed to reflect the test scores of all students, not just the scores of students in the schools that are unaffected by closings, openings, and changing codes.

## APPENDIX

### **Recovery School District New Orleans: Closed Schools, New Schools, Schools with Changed Codes**

#### **2009-10**

<b>Changed Code and Changed Name 2009-10 (Same Building, Same Address)</b>			
<i>New Code 09-10</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Previous Code(s)</i>	<i>Name</i>
300003	Thurgood Marshall Early College High School 4621 Canal St., 70119	396033	Thurgood Marshall School (07-08, 08-09) 4621 Canal St, 70119

<b>Closed 2009-10</b>				
	<i>Code</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Number of years opened</i>
1	392002	N.O. Free Academy	Camp St. at Foucher	Opened for 3 yrs.: 06-07, 07-08, 08-09
2	396018	Sylvanie Williams Elementary	3127 MLK Blvd, 70125	Opened for 2 yrs.: 07-08, 08-09
3	396024	Agnes L. Baudit Elementary	3649 Laurel St, 70115	Opened for 3 yrs.: 06-07, 07-08, 08-09
4	396030	Livingston Elementary	7301 Dwyer Rd., 70126	Opened for 2 yrs.: 07-08, 08-09

<b>New: 2009-10 year</b>			
	<i>Code</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Address</i>
1	373001	Arise Academy	3819 St. Claude Ave, 70117
2	374001	Success Preparatory Academy	2011 Bienville St., 70112
3	375001	Benjamin E. Mays Preparatory School	3059 Higgins Blvd, 70126
4	376001	Pride College Preparatory Academy	1700 Pratt Dr., 70122
5	396036	Excel Academy	2239 Poydras, 70119
6	396042	International High School	727 Carondelet St., 70130
7	396043	Greater Gentilly High School	6026 Paris, 70122
8	396044	Hope Academy	1912 LB Landry, 70114
9	396045	New Orleans Career Academy	727 Carondelet St., 70130

## 2010-11

<b>Changed Codes and Changed Names 2010-11 (Same Building, Same Address)</b>				
	<i>New Code 10-11</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Previous Code(s)</i>	<i>Previous Name</i>
1	300004	Gentilly Terrace School	396040	Gentilly Terrace Elementary for 3 yrs.: 07-08, 08-09, 09-10 <b>8720 Prentiss, 70122</b>
2	367001	E.P. Harney Spirit of Excellence Academy	396030	Harney Elementary School for 3 yrs.: 07-08, 08-09, 09-10 <b>2503 Willow, 70113</b>
3	369001	Batiste Cultural Arts Academy at Live Oak Elem.	396014	Live Oak Elementary School for 4 yrs.: 06-07, 07-08, 08-09, 09-10 <b>3128 Constance, 70115</b>
4	369002	Sci Tech at Laurel Elem.	396013	Laurel Elementary School for 4 yrs.: 06-07, 07-08, 08-09, 09-10 <b>820 Jackson, 70130</b>
5	398005	KIPP Renaissance High School	396007	Frederick Douglass HS for 4 yrs.: 06-07, 07-08, 08-09, 09-10 <b>3820 St. Claude Ave, 70117</b>
6	398006	KIPP N.O. Leadership Academy		
7	393002	Esperanza Charter School	386001	A.D.Crossman Esperanza Charter School for 3 yrs.: 07-08, 08-09, 09-10 <b>4407 S. Carrollton, 70119</b>
8	399004	John Dibert Community School	396005	John Dibert Elementary School for 4 yrs.: 06-07, 07-08, 08-09, 09-10 <b>4271 Orleans, 70119</b>
9	344001	BESE International High School	396042	RSD International High School for 1 yr.: 09-10 <b>727 Carondelet St., 70130</b>

<b>Closed 2010-11</b>				
	<i>Code</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Number of years opened</i>
1	396006	B.T. Washington	1201 S. Roman St, 70125	Opened for 3 yrs.: 07-08, 08-09, 09-10
2	396030	Excel	2239 Poydras St.,	Opened for 1 yr.: 09-10
3	396041	Julian Leadership Academy	2701 Lawrence St. 70114	Opened for 3 yrs.: 07-08, 08-09, 09-10
4	396007	Fredrick Douglass	3820 St. Claude, 70117	Opened for 4 yrs.: 06-07, 07-08, 08-09, 09-10
5	396020	Albert Wicker	2011 Bienville, 70112	Opened for 4 yrs.: 06-07, 07-08, 08-09, 09-10

<b>New: 2010-11</b>			
	<i>Code</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Address</i>
1	366001	Lagniappe Academies of New Orleans	1501 St. Louis St., 70112
2	368001	Morris Jeff Community School	3368 Esplanade , 70119
3	396031	L.B. Landry High School	1200 L.B. Landry Ave, 70114

## 2011-12

<b>Changed Codes and Changed Names 2011-12 (Same Building, Same Address)</b>				
	<i>New Code 11-12</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Previous Code(s)</i>	<i>Previous Name</i>
1	363001	Harriett Tubman Charter School <b>2832 Gen. Meyer, 70114</b>	395006	Harriett Tubman Elementary School 5 yrs.: 06-07, 07-08, 08-09, 09-10, 10-11

2	364001	Fannie C. Williams Charter Sch. <b>11755 Dwyer Rd., 70128</b>	396028	Fannie C. Williams Elementary School 4 yrs.: 07-08, 08-09, 09-10, 10-11
3	369003	ReNEW at Reed Elementary <b>5552 Read Blvd, 70127</b>	396021	Sarah Towles Reed Elementary 5 yrs.: 06-07, 07-08, 08-09, 09-10, 10-11
4	396203	Abramson Science & Technology <b>5552 Read Blvd, 71027</b>	389001	Abramson Science and Technology Charter Sch. 4 yrs.: 07-08, 08-09, 09-10, 10-11
5	399003	Joseph S. Clark Preparatory HS <b>1301 N. Derbigny, 70116</b>	396002	Joseph S. Clark HS 5 yrs.: 06-07, 07-08, 08-09, 09-10, 10-11

<b>Closed 2011-12</b>				
	<i>Code</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Number of years opened</i>
1	396016	Rabouin Career Magnet HS	727 Carondelet 70130 6026 Paris Ave 70122	5 yrs.: 06-07, 07-08, 08-09, 09-10, 10-11
2	396025	Carver Elementary School	3059 Higgins 70126	4 yrs.: 07-08, 08-09, 09-10, 10-11
3	396043	Greater Gentilly High School	6026 Paris Ave 70122	2 yrs.: 09-10, 10-11
4	396044	Hope Academy	From BTW Annex to 1912 LB Landry	2 yrs.: 09-10, 10-11
5	396045	N.O. Career Academy	727 Carondelet 70130	2 yrs.: 09-10, 10-11

<b>Same Code, but Changed Name 2011-12</b>				
<i>Code</i>	<i>New Name</i>	<i>New Address</i>	<i>Previous Name</i>	<i>Previous Address</i>
30003	Lake Area High School	6026 Paris Ave. 70122 (Merged with Greater Gentilly )	Thurgood Marshall HS	4621 Canal St., 70119

<b>New: 2011-12 year</b>			
	<i>Code</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Address</i>
1	334001	New Orleans Center for Creative Arts	2800 Chartres, 70117
2	347001	Lycee Francais de la Nouvelle-Orleans	5951 Patton, 70115
3	348001	New Orleans Military and Maritime Academy	4250 Bannon St, 70114
4	369004	ReNEW Accelerated HS #1	3649 Laurel, 70115
5	369005	ReNEW Accelerated HS #2	3649 Laurel, 70115

## **2012-13**

<b>Changed Codes and Changed Names 2012-13 (Same Building, Same Address)</b>				
	<i>New Code 12-13</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Previous Code(s)</i>	<i>Previous Name</i>
1	362001	John McDonogh High School <b>2426 Esplanade, 70119</b>	396011	Same Name for 6 yrs.: 06-07, 07-08, 08-09, 09-10, 10-11, 11-12
2	391002	Joseph A. Craig Charter School <b>1423 St. Philip, 70116</b>	396001	Joseph A. Craig School for 6 yrs.: 06-07, 07-08, 08-09, 09-10, 10-11, 11-12
3	399005	Langston Hughes Charter Academy <b>3519 Trafalger, 70119</b>	387001	Langston Hughes Academy Charter for 5 yrs. 07-08, 08-09, 09-10, 10-11, 11-12

<b>Closed in 2012-13</b>				
	<i>Code</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Number of years opened</i>
1	383001	Sojourner Truth Academy	1301 N. Derbigny 70116	Opened 4 yrs.: 08-09, 09-10, 10-11, 11-12
2	396008	Dr. Charles Richard Drew Elem	3819 St. Claude	Opened 6 yrs.: 06-07, 07-08, 08-09, 09-10, 10-11, 11-12

3	396022	Schwartz Alternative School (Merged with ReNEW West Bank)	709 Park Blvd., 70114	Opened 5 yrs.: 07-08, 08-09, 09-10, 10-11, 11-12
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<b>New: 2012-13 year</b>				
	<i>Code</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Address</i>	
1	360001	The NET Charter HS	1614 Oretha Castle Haley 70113	
2	361001	Crescent City Leadership Academy	4300 Almonaster 70126	
3	382002	GW Carver Collegiate Academy	5552-C Read Blvd, 70127	
4	382003	GW Carver Preparatory Academy	5552-B Read Blvd, 70127	
5	385002	Cohen College Prep	3520 Dryades St, 70115 Cohen College Prep still in 13-14 396004 Walter Cohen HS from 07-08 until 13-14	

## **2013-14**

<b>Changed Codes and Changed Names 13-14 (Same Building, Same Address)</b>				
	<i>New Code 13-14</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Previous Code(s)</i>	<i>Previous Name</i>
1	363002	Paul Habans Charter School	396009	Paul B. Habans Elementary School for 7 yrs.: 06-07, 07-08, 08-09, 09-10, 10-11, 11-12, 12-13 <b>3819 Hershel St., 70114</b>
2	369006	ReNew Schaumburg Elem.	396034	H.C. Schaumburg Elementary School for 6 yrs.: 07-08, 08-09, 09-10, 10-11, 11-12, 12-13 <b>9501 Grant St., 70127</b>
3	385003	Lawrence D. Crocker College Prep	379001	Crocker Arts and Technology School 5 yrs.: 08-09, 09-10, 10-11, 11-12, 12-13 <b>2300 Gen. Taylor, 70115</b>
4	3A5001	Mary D. Coghill charter School	396037	Mary D. Coghill Elementary School for 6 yrs.: 07-08, 08-09, 09-10, 10-11, 11-12, 12-13 <b>4617 Mirabeau</b>

<b>Closed in 2013-14</b>				
	<i>Code</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Number of years opened</i>
1	375001	Benjamin E. Mays Preparatory School	3059 Higgins 70126	Opened for 4 yrs.: 09-10, 10-11, 11-12, 12-13
2	376001	Pride College Preparatory Academy	1700 Pratt 70122	Opened for 4 yrs.: 09-10, 10-11, 11-12, 12-13
3	380001	The Intercultural Charter School	5316 Michoud Blvd. 70129	Opened for 5 yrs.: 08-09, 09-10, 10-11, 11-12, 12-13
4	396010	Murray Henderson Elementary School	2701 Lawrence 70114	Opened for 7 yrs.: 06-07, 07-08, 08-09, 09-10, 10-11, 11-12, 12-13
5	396012	James Weldon Johnson School	1800 Monroe 70118 (Wright)	Opened for 7 yrs.: 06-07, 07-08, 08-09, 09-10, 10-11, 11-12, 12-13
6	396203	Abramson Science and Technology School	5552 Read Blvd, 70127	Opened for 2 yrs.: 2011-12, 2012-13
7	396031	L. B. Landry HS (Merger- See below)	1200 LB Landry Ave, 70114	Opened for 3 yrs.: 10-11, 11-12, 12-13

<b>Merger 2013-14 between:</b>		
<i>Code</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Address</i>
395005	OP Walker	2832 General Meyer, 70114

396013	LB Landry	1200 LB Landry Ave, 70114
<b>New Name</b>		<b>Address</b>
Lord Beaconsfield Landry –Oliver Perry Walker High		1200 LB Landry Ave, 70114
<b>Retained Code</b>		
395005 (Walker's Code for 7 yrs.: 06-07,07-08,08-09, 09-10,1011, 11-12,12-13)		
<b>Closed Code</b>		
396031 (LB Landry's code for 3 yrs.: 10-11, 11-12, 12-13)		

<b>New: opened this 2013-14 year</b>			
1	373002	Mildred Osborne Charter School	6701 Curran Blvd. 70126

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### **Orleans Parish School Board Changes Over Last Five Years**

<i>Year</i>	<i>Code</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Change</i>
2009-10	036184	Orleans Parish PM School	Closed
2010-11	036089	Mahalia Jackson Elementary	New
2011-12	036186	Architecture, Design and Engineering HS	Changed code. Previous code: 036073
2012-13	036157	Alternative Learning Institute	Closed
2012-13	036187	Encore Academy	New
2012-13	036188	Bricolage Academy	New
2012-13	036189	Homer A. Plessy Community School	New