



BASIC INFORMATION REGARDING ACT 91 (SB 432)



Overview:

Unifies 24 OPSB & 52 RSD schools into a single, unified system of schools under the governance of the Orleans Parish School Board over the next 2 years.

Codifies in law elements of the New Orleans system that have contributed to students' successes:

- 1) Autonomous public schools
- 2) Citywide family choice
- 3) School authorizing & accountability standards
- 4) Focus on student equity.

ROLE OF THE ORLEANS PARISH SCHOOL BOARD

- Establishes OPSB as the primary governing authority for public education in Orleans Parish.
- Requires the OPSB Superintendent to present for School Board approval, a transition plan before September 1, 2016 to "effect the return of schools" from the RSD to OPSB by July 1, 2018.

RETURN OF SCHOOLS & FACILITIES TO UNIFIED LOCAL OVERSIGHT:

- All RSD schools & facilities in Orleans Parish required to return by no later than July 1 2018; OPSB or BESE may approve a delay of up to one additional year under specific circumstances.
- Guarantees for completion of facility projects with RSD funding obligations.

MAINTAINING STRINGENT AUTHORIZING & ACCOUNTABILITY:

- Provides for clear authority for the Superintendent to recommend & implement charter authorization actions (approvals, extensions, renewals, closures, monitoring & intervention).
- Provides for School Board authority to review authorization actions by the Superintendent, with a supermajority able to overturn decisions.

PROTECTING PARENTAL CHOICE:

- Requires all schools to participate in a common enrollment & common expulsion system.
- Provides for limited geographic preference.
- Provides for local policy to ensure diversity of high-quality school operators in the system.

ADVANCING EQUITY:

- Requires School Board to provide for the allocation of state & local funds to schools based on student characteristics.
- Empowers School Board to enact policies to manage the common enrollment system & ensure a diversity of school operators.

ENSURING SCHOOL OPERATOR AUTONOMY

- Preserves charter school autonomy in critical areas, such as: programming, curriculum, materials, HR decisions, and budgeting.
- Modeled from current OPSB Policy HA provisions.
- Opportunity for all schools to petition OPSB for independent LEA status.