

STATEMENT : 2Q 2019

LOUISIANA BUSINESS LEADER STATEMENT

IN SUPPORT OF CHARTER SCHOOLS



**LA BUSINESS LEADERS AND PARENTS TO THEIR GOVERNOR:
TO PRODUCE “FUTURE READY” GRADUATES, WE MUST
SUPPORT CHARTER SCHOOLS**

Business Forward has organized hundreds of briefings across the country on education reform, workforce development, and the future of work. These briefings have included dozens of mayors, governors, Members of Congress, and senior Administration officials. This year, we asked business leaders and parents of students in Louisiana to sign the following statement in support of charter schools. Nearly 400 Louisianans responded.



TO THE GOVERNOR AND STATE LEGISLATURE:

Today, 3 million students attend charter schools, and 5 million more students would switch to a charter if they could.

With charter schools, families decide what's best for their kids. Teachers have more control over their lessons. Principals have more control over their budgets. Schools can specialize. High-performing charter schools grow; underperforming schools are replaced. Best of all, students come first.

As states weigh new education reforms, business leaders are speaking out to support successful charter schools.

WORK IS CHANGING

BY 2030, WORKPLACE DEMAND FOR SKILLS IN TECHNOLOGY WILL INCREASE BY 60%, FOR CREATIVITY BY 40%, FOR ENTREPRENEURSHIP BY 33%, AND FOR ADAPTABILITY BY 24%.

THE AVERAGE YOUNG AMERICAN WILL HAVE AT LEAST 11 DIFFERENT JOBS BETWEEN THE AGES OF 18 AND 50.

WORKERS MUST CHANGE

2/3 OF JOBS ARE FILLED BY WORKERS WITH SOME COLLEGE EDUCATION

ACADEMIC KNOWLEDGE + LIFE SKILLS + CHARACTER

STATES MUST ACT

ENSURE THAT CHARTERS QUALIFY FOR EQUAL FUNDING

REQUIRE BETTER ACCESS TO BUILDINGS FOR CHARTERS

STRONG OVERSIGHT OVER CHARTER SCHOOLS

SIGNATORIES

Nearly 400 Louisianaans signed this statement, including:

Alicia Alcina, New Orleans
Amanda Stoffer, Bastrop
Angela Byrd, New Orleans
Arlene Stephens, New Orleans
Audrey Davis, New Orleans
Becky Tittle, West Monroe
Brad Risinger, Bastrop
Brandy Campeaux, Hammond
Brenda Battaglia, Monroe
Carla Armand, Vacherie
Cassie Ball, Dubach
Cecil Catolos, New Orleans
Charleen Boyle, Metairie
Charlotte Lewis, New Orleans
Christie Turner, Denham Springs
Connie Patterson, Ferriday
Craig Eiswirth, Kenner
Cynthia Coc, Bossier City
Damon Gremillion, Slaughter
Daniel Whittington, Bogalusa
Daphany Scott, New Orleans
Darla Sanford, Dubach
Darlene Cancienne, Thibodaux
Daryl Richard, Gibson
Dawn Liggins, New Orleans
Deborah Ventroy, Lafayette
Deborah Settoon, Kenner
Debra Waller, Marion
Debra Jeane, Leesville
Denise Cagnolatti, Gretna
Desiree Williams, New Orleans
Dinah Sam, Gretna
Donna Shotwell, Youngsville
Donna Hixon, West Monroe
Donna Spence, Bastrop
Dori St. Amant, Ruston
Doris Dale Jumonville, Baton Rouge
Elizabeth Figueroa, Atlanta
Elizabeth Box, Ethel

“

Our charter system faces challenges both locally and state-wide. However, they seem to excel where others are slower to improve.

”

- E.W.
PARENT/CONSULTANT,
NP
NEW ORLEANS, LA

“

Charter schools were a completely different approach to education after Hurricane Katrina. They radically improved New Orleans Parish educational outcomes.

”

- DEBORAH SETTOON,
OFFSHORE PROJECT MANAGER,
SHELL OIL COMPANY,
KENNER, LA

“

I think that our charter school is really doing well. I love that some high school students are really standing out. They are getting scholarships to top-notch colleges.

”

- ANGELA BYRD
NEW ORLEANS, LA

“

Traditional public schools need to bring back recess and stop focusing on teaching to the tests. We need to focus on teaching children and promoting a healthy, safe environment.

”

- DORI ST. AMANT
PROFESSOR,
LOUISIANA TECH,
RUSTON, LA

SIGNATORIES

Emma Addison-Brown, Baton Rouge
Eulena Nunez, Slaughter
Floyd Ware, Homer
Franchelle Simpson, Westwego
G. Norwood, Natchitoches
Genevieve Brown, New Orleans
George LaHood, Carencro
Gerald Lane, New Orleans
Geraldine Sanchell, Lafayette
Glenda Chandler, Shreveport
Hal Gould, Baton Rouge
Harry Pemberton, Erath
Heidi Hitter, Lafayette
Janet Hasty, Lake Charles
Janet Yarbrough, New Orleans
Janet Stewart, Trout
Janet Guerrini, Lafayette
Jeanna Wheat, Franklinton
Jeffrey Johnson, Zachary
JK Henderson, Bogalusa
Joan Wilson, Boyce
Jockquelnisha Van Norman, New Orleans
Jody Miguez, Carencro
Joyce Colins, Shreveport
Joyce Hurst, Bastrop
Judy Manuel, Lafayette
Karen Raymond, Lacombe
Karen Hughes, Hammond
Karen Jackson, Gretna
Karen Tuttle, Houma
Karen Ragland, Hammond
Kathleen Flynt, Marrero
Kathy Lipford, Shreveport
Keishone Sylvester, New Orleans
Kellie Petitfils, Jeanerette
Latoya Alexis, Harvey
Laura Domingue, Lafayette
Margie Hawsey, Woodworth
Mariah Louque, Destrehan
MARION KING, Slaughter
Mary Rope, New Orleans
Mary Brown, Morgan City

“

I think all areas are proficient except for mathematics. That subject needs serious reform.

”

- KATHY VIDRINE
VILLE PLATTE, LA

“

Most high school students are competent in utilizing computers. Expand that knowledge into mechanical repair of electrical and gas powered motors, skills in carpentry, plumbing, building, architecture, agriculture, and product storage and transportation. These are occupations with needed expertise.

”

- JOHN W. TURNER
BALL, LA

“

Teach more computer, or AI, subjects. Most of the new jobs in the future will need more math and science courses. Also we need to increase trade school courses in plumbing, electrical, mechanical, automotive, and make these schools more affordable.

”

- KAY M.
SELF-EMPLOYED
METAIRIE, LA

“

I feel that we need to focus on helping students develop more 'soft skills' and STEM. Our entire state has the potential to grow our economy and the students can do it. The 21st century is here and we as a state need to stop staying in the 19th and 20th century of skills.

”

- DELANO WILSON
CEO,
M*A*C*S* LLC,
SHREVEPORT, LA

SIGNATORIES

Michael Martin, Erath
Mona Mistic, Denham Springs
Monca Waasdorp, Covington
Nancy Booker, Baton Rouge
Nicole Evans, Angie
Octavia Mitchell, Shreveport
Pam Sanderlin, Monroe
Pamela Chrest, Logansport
Patricia Darby, Shreveport
Paul Jagneaux, Lafayette
Peter Brands, Metairie
Pj Padilla, Lafayette
Rasheda Collins, Baton Rouge
Raye Brofford, Hammond
Ricardo Saif, Metairie
Rick Hill, Zachary
Rita Wohlgemuth, Slaughter
Rita Bolyer, Ferriday
Roberto Brumen, Port Allen
Robin Frangulescu, Lake Charles
Robin Rector, New Orleans
Roxanna Royal, Deville
Rufus Brown, Baton Rouge
Ruth Baker, Darrow
Ruth Perez, Kenner
S. Noel, New Iberia
Sandy Ellis, Schriever
Sarah Hill, Harvey
Sharon Parker, Chase
Shawanda Williams, Lake Charles
Sheril London, Metairie
Sheryl Goins, Shreveport
Shonda Mcknight, Oak Ridge
Shontel Eisley, Baton Rouge
Silvia Benton, Lafayette
Sondra Hill, Bastrop
Stacey Barnes, Bastrop
Starla Holloway, Lafayette
Sue Gaden Preece, New Orleans
Tammy Verrette, Norco
Taylor Aiken, Ponchatoula
Thaddeus Chauvin, New Iberia

“

Focus on more vocational trade opportunities as well as having advanced education for those who are preparing for college. We need a fair, equitable, balanced, and practical approach.

”

- JESSE KIRKHAM
REGULATORY ADVISOR,
FED EX EXPRESS CORP.,
DANVILLE, LA

“

We need to restructure our leadership so we can utilize funds strictly for classrooms and students... It seems the good teachers are not being utilized to the best of their abilities.

”

- GILEN NORWOOD
NATCHITOCHES, LA

“

All children should have the same opportunity. The public schools do not have the same support they had 15-20 years ago. It's a sad situation, and they wonder why the new generation is doing so badly. Our schools need resources.

”

- RUTH PEREZ
KENNER, LA

SIGNATORIES

Theresa Watkins, Port Allen
Theresa Diamond, New Orleans
Tiffany Hussien, Gretna
Virginia Brocato, Baton Rouge
Vivian Cardriche, New Orleans
William Morgan, Shreveport
Yashira Rosado, Thibodaux
Youlondar Prevost, Marrero
Yvette Alle, Shreveport
Zola Turner, Kaplan

“ Graceland schools are unbelievably poor. The buildings are run down and the classrooms are like prison. Charter schools are the only way for a child to be challenged and succeed in Graceland. Unfortunately the waiting list is long and some children never get in. ”

- REGINA VERDIN
VICE CHANCELLOR FOR ACADEMIC AND
STUDENT AFFAIRS,
FLETCHER TECHNICAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE,
GRACELAND, LA

“ Our local system has had years to change and has not. The charter school is the best thing that has happened. ”

- DOREEN SEAL
BOGALUSA, LA

“ I support not-for-profit charter schools that give schools more choice for innovation. ”

- DORI ST. AMANT
PROFESSOR,
LOUISIANA TECH,
RUSTON, LA

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