
Recovery School District

School Facilities Assignment Matrix

Paul G. Vallas, Superintendent
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Introduction

This document outlines the long-term building assignments and building assignment recommendations for all existing direct-operated and charter schools within the Recovery School District (RSD). This draft document is intended to generate input from school leaders and community members throughout New Orleans. The RSD expects to finalize these building assignments by the end of February 2011. Given the continuing shift of building assignments in the post-Katrina public education landscape within New Orleans, it is important to understand the School Facilities Master Plan for Orleans Parish, the implementation of this plan and its financing, and the possibility of shifts within the plan.

School Facilities Master Plan for Orleans Parish

The School Facilities Master Plan was approved by the Louisiana Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) and the Orleans Parish School Board (OPSB) in late 2008. The objective of the plan was to determine the final use of the 128 school campuses in New Orleans that made up the New Orleans Public School system pre-Katrina. The plan was based on enrollment estimates for each neighborhood in New Orleans for the years 2008-2016, facility condition assessments of all buildings, and nationally accepted school design standards. Additionally, the plan was informed by a vast amount of public input from school leaders, teachers, community members, and elected officials. The four-month public comment period yielded more than 700 comments and included more than 290 community meetings.

Recognizing that the number of public school buildings exceeded the capacity needs even pre-Katrina, the master plan “right-sizes” the city’s public school building stock. It calls for the replacement or total renovation of 87 campuses, with 48 campuses landbanked. If a campus is scheduled for landbanking, this means the campus will be repurposed for another use. Additionally, **if an RSD campus is scheduled for landbanking and it is currently occupied by an existing school program, the RSD will only relocate the school if a campus of equal or better condition becomes available.** The RSD will postpone the landbanking of a campus should the student seats be needed and a better campus is unavailable.

RSD Construction Program

The Recovery School District is currently managing the largest post-Katrina public sector construction program on the Gulf Coast. Thus far, the district has built six new or completely renovated schools. **These schools are the only new public facilities to be built in New Orleans since Katrina and represent an infusion of more than \$179 million into the New Orleans economy less than five years after Katrina.** These schools are only the initial projects scheduled to be built as part of the school facilities master plan. Within phase 1 of the six phase master plan, the RSD is scheduled to complete 24 new or totally renovated school facility projects. The RSD and OPSB reached a landmark settlement with FEMA in August 2010. Additionally, the district is in the process of leveraging these funds through tax credits to generate additional revenue to cover the cost of implementing the master plan. The below chart lists all RSD phase 1 projects and their current status:

RSD Phase 1 Projects				
Group 1				
Project	Design	Procurement	Construction	Complete
Guste ES	Occupied (August 2008)			
Langston Hughes ES	Occupied (August 2009)			
Langston Hughes Gym	■	■	■	
Andrew H. Wilson ES	Occupied (January 2010)			
Lake Area HS	Occupied (January 2010)			
L.B. Landry HS	Occupied (July 2010)			
Joseph A. Craig ES	Occupied (January 2010)			
Fannie C. Williams ES	■	■		
William Frantz ES	■	■		
Jean Batiste de Bienville ES	■	■		
Parkview ES	■	■		
Mildred C. Osborne ES	■	■	■	
Carter G. Woodson ES	■	■		
Charles J. Colton ES	■	■		
Booker T. Washington HS	■			
Lawrence D. Crocker ES	■	■		
Group 2				
Project	Design	Procurement	Construction	Complete
Phillis Wheatley ES	■			
Edwards/Moton School				
Little Woods ES	■			
OE Int Baccalaureate				
George W. Carver HS	■			
Edward Livingston MS	■			
OE Federal City				

By the end of November 2010, the following schools are scheduled to be under construction: Osborne, Parkview, Crocker, Bienville, Frantz, Fannie C. Williams, and Woodson. The RSD capital program spends approximately \$200 million per year, creating more than 1,100 full-time construction jobs every year, with a total of more than 20,000 full-time year long positions. The construction program generates hundreds of additional direct and indirect jobs, from architects to the construction site food service vendors.

Community Engagement

The RSD capital construction program includes a substantial community engagement component. The district holds a minimum of five community meetings focused on design and site layout per school construction project. For example, community members are able to contribute their input on potential bus pick-up and drop-off locations during the site development meetings.

To date, the RSD has conducted approximately 100 community meetings focused on the site layout and design of schools alone.

The RSD is working to ensure that communities – and charter school organizations – are able to include their input in the school building assignment process. Along with small group meetings, the district will hold

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meetings in each of the five city council districts by the end of January 2011 to discuss preliminary assignments and receive input that will be considered as the district finalizes building assignments.

Factors in Building Assignments and Recommendations

For the purpose of this memorandum, a “school program” refers to a direct-operated RSD school program or an RSD charter school program, while “campus” refers to the actual buildings managed by the RSD.

The RSD’s process for allocating campuses to school programs is based on five primary considerations:

- 1) Whether the school program is located within existing temporary facilities;
- 2) Grade configuration (i.e., elementary school, high school, pre-kindergarten / current configuration, or planned configuration according to approved charter school plans);
- 3) Neighborhood of origin of students;
- 4) Facility preference of the school program;
- 5) Community input.

RSD staff has met with many charter and direct-operated school leaders regarding campus assignments throughout the last several months. The district’s campus assignments are based on the above factors, as well as the broad input of charter and direct-run school leaders.

The RSD is the only school district in the nation that provides new and fully renovated facilities free of cost to charter organizations. Additionally, the district is in the unprecedented position of rebuilding the majority of its facilities using federal disaster recovery funding. Given the unique circumstances of the RSD, the district’s means of determining when to initiate a project into the design/construction process within a given phase is based on the matrix below:

Rating	Criteria for Initiating a Project				
	Funding	Environment	Historical	Capacity	Location
5 High	Building over 50% storm damaged and/or external funding in hand	Cleared of FEMA issues	Cleared of FEMA issues	Creates a complete school, 450-600 seats	Area of the City that will allow for the demobilization of Modular Campus
4 Significant	Internal funding in hand and/or external commitments imminent	FEMA issue identified and assessed with a process to follow	FEMA issue identified and assessed with a process to follow	Creates additional seats on a campus due to an addition 300 seats	In an area of the city that does not have a permanent structure with capacity within 3 miles
3 Medium	Internal funding identified and/or external commitments agreements signed	FEMA issue identified and working through the FEMA process	FEMA Issue Identified and working through the FEMA process	Creates additional seats on a campus due to an addition 200 seats	In an area of the city that does not have a permanent structure with capacity within 2 miles
2 Minor	External commitment Identified	FEMA issue identified	FEMA issue identified	Creates additional seats on a campus due to an addition 100 seats	In an area of the city that does not have a permanent structure with capacity within 1 mile
1 Low	External commitment probable	FEMA HOLD	FEMA HOLD	Does not create seats	In an area of the City that does not have a permanent structure with capacity within 0.5 miles

Unassigned RSD Master Plan Campuses		
School	Current Master Status	Notes
Alexander, Avery	Phase 4 new school	UNO has requested consideration for the assignment of Capdau
Allen, Henry W.	Phase 3 renovation	RSD-controlled building houses OPSB charter; Lusher school has requested consideration for expansion into Allen once new site for Sci High secured.
Dunbar, Paul L.	Phase 2 new school	Continue informal meetings with community around possible program for school
Fisk-Howard	Phase 4 new PK-8 school	Morris Jeff Community School has requested consideration for assignment
Jones, Valena	Phase 4 new PK-8 school	Possible site for Lagniappe Academies or alternate site for A.P. Tureaud
Jordan, Barbara	Phase 4 new PK-8 school	TBD
Rosenwald	Phase 6 new PK-8 school	Currently occupied by 9-12 school (Algiers Technology Academy)
Shaw/Hansberry	Phase 3 new PK-8 school	TBD
Sherwood Forest	Phase 4 new school	TBD
New School (Algiers)	Phase 1 new school	TBD
New School (Planning District 8)	Phase 3 new school	TBD
New School (Planning District 12)	Phase 4 new school	TBD
Lower 9 th Ward High School	Phase 2 new school	TBD