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Highlights from 2016-2017 Enrollment

Consistency and Stability Over Time
The 2016-2017 application process marked the 5th year of OneApp. Key metrics, such as overall application submission, match rate, top 3 match rate, student stability, grade-level participation, mid-year transfers and placements, and Hardship Transfer submission, have remained steady over several years. Consistent data in these areas is an encouraging indicator of a successful, accessible, stable application and enrollment process.

Rising 9th Grade Participation
EnrollNOLA has worked diligently with school and district leadership to support all rising 9th graders through the high school application process. 96% of graduating 8th grade students submitted a 2016-2017 OneApp, the second consecutive year 9th grade application submission has increased. In the two primary transitional grades, kindergarten and 9th, 85% of applicants were assigned to one of their top 3 choices.

Unified Early Childhood Enrollment
All publicly-funded early childhood programs for children ages birth to 4 participated in OneApp and unified enrollment processes for the first time during the 2016-2017 process,* increasing access and transparency for thousands of eligible families, and hundreds of programs. EnrollNOLA policies, procedures, and materials were adapted to accommodate a variety of eligibility types and requirements, including Federal- and State-funded programs. 6,013 families applied during the 16-17 Main Round for a seat in a publicly-funded early childhood program, ages birth to 4 years.

How to Read This Report
The March 2017 Annual Report covers enrollment processes that took place in the 2015-2016 and 2016-2017 school years. In the fall of each year, EnrollNOLA executes enrollment activities for the current school year, and launches the application process students will use to apply for the next school year. While mid-year placements for the 2015-2016 school year were occurring, the Main Round application cycle for the 2016-2017 school year was simultaneously taking place.

Report Timeline

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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2016-2017 OneApp Main Round</td>
<td>2015-2016 Mid-Year Placements</td>
<td>2016 Late Enrollment</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2016 OneApp Main Round
Takes place: Nov - Feb of the 2015-2016 school year
Enrolls for: the 2016-2017 school year

2015-2016 Mid-Year Placements
Takes place: Oct - Apr of the 2015-2016 school year
Enrolls for: the 2015-2016 school year

2016 Late Enrollment
Takes place: Jul - Oct of the 2016-2017 school year
Enrolls for: the 2016-2017 school year

Why OneApp?
In New Orleans, students can attend schools citywide, instead of being assigned to a school based on where they live. Because families can apply to any school they would like their child to attend, it is important there are systems in place to ensure families are treated fairly and schools are held accountable for equitable enrollment practices.

As early as 2007, families began advocating for an enrollment system that would provide fair access to all schools. In 2011, EnrollNOLA and the OneApp process were established in response. EnrollNOLA has since been committed to facilitating a fair, transparent, efficient enrollment process that ensures all students have fair access to every participating school, and are protected by clearly defined, publicly available policies and procedures.

EnrollNOLA manages admissions, readmissions, and transfers for 92% of New Orleans public schools. It also administers OneApp, the unified application process families use to apply to the schools of their choice, anywhere across the city. EnrollNOLA has adapted over time to represent an inclusive, diverse portfolio of schools with various programming models, authorizing bodies, and admissions criteria.

EnrollNOLA’s work is guided by three core values:

- **fairness**
  EnrollNOLA policies apply to all students in the same way, because every student should have fair access to every school.

- **transparency**
  EnrollNOLA procedures are clearly detailed and publicly available to all schools and families.

- **efficiency**
  Families fill out a single application with all of their school preferences, and receive a single best offer to one of their preferred schools.

The EnrollNOLA Annual Report, published as part of a commitment to transparency, is an accessible, data-driven portrait of the past year in student enrollment, citywide.

### Public School Participation Rate*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School Year</th>
<th>BESE</th>
<th>OPSB</th>
<th>OPSB Network</th>
<th>RSD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2014-15</td>
<td>78%</td>
<td>79%</td>
<td>79%</td>
<td>89%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Introduction

OneApp includes schools from across all authorizing bodies in Louisiana, including the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) Department of Education (Scholarship), Orleans Parish School Board (OPSB), and the Recovery School District (RSD).
**Introduction**

**Main Round Participation**

The “Main Round” is the annual, primary application window for students who would like to attend a new school for the upcoming year. There was an increase in applications to pre-kindergarten and entry-level grades during the 2016-2017 Main Round.

**Match Rate by Number of Choices**

This indicates that families who need to apply (i.e.: students in transitional grades, such as rising kindergarteners or high schoolers) are applying when they have the greatest opportunity to be matched to one of their top school choices. An increase in pre-kindergarten applications may be due in part to the increase in program options and accessibility afforded by the unified early childhood enrollment and application process.

The decline in non-entry grade applications suggests more students are choosing to continue at their current school. Overall, the student population remains relatively stable, and stability has increased: during the 2015-2016 Main Round, 91.5% of non-entry grade students enrolled in participating schools did not apply to transfer; during the 2016-2017 Main Round, that increased to 92.3%.

The percentage of applications submitted online for grades K-12 finished at 61%, up 12% from the previous year. The steady increase in online application submission over time, as well as the successful roll-out of the online-only early childhood application process, contributed to the decision to phase out paper applications for the 2017-2018 process.

**OneApp Over Time**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Total (PK4-12)</th>
<th>PK4</th>
<th>K&amp;9</th>
<th>Other Grades</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2012-2013</td>
<td>16,296</td>
<td>2,558</td>
<td>5,236</td>
<td>4,509</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013-2014</td>
<td>15,888</td>
<td>1,767</td>
<td>4,996</td>
<td>5,228</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014-2015</td>
<td>14,889</td>
<td>1,357</td>
<td>4,338</td>
<td>4,398</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Introduction**

New charter schools, NISECD Pre-K programs join

• Introduced online application process

• Improved process and verification rates for unified Early Childhood enrollment

• Pushed to online-only application process, all students birth to high school graduation

**Match Rate**

The “match rate” refers to applicants’ success in being assigned to a school they have chosen on their application. Every year, over two-thirds of applicants have been placed at one of their top three ranked schools. The “top 3” match rate for the 2016-2017 Main Round was 78%; the overall match rate was 82%.

The more school choices a family lists on their child’s OneApp, the more likely they are to receive a match to a school of their choice. For the 2016-2017 Main Round, applicants who listed 4 or more choices, had a match rate of 97%; students who listed 7 or 8 choices had a match rate of nearly 100%. An increase in the average number of choices* may have contributed to an overall increase in the match rate, up from 80% (15-16) to 82% (16-17).

Most primary schools in New Orleans finish at 8th grade, meaning rising 9th graders must submit a OneApp; 96% did so during the 2016-2017 Main Round. This, combined with a 25% increase in the average number of choices*, contributed to a rise in the match rate for rising kindergarteners and rising high-schoolers, from 86% to 90% for the 2016-2017 school year.

This indicates that families who need to apply (i.e.: students in transitional grades, such as rising kindergarteners or high schoolers) are applying when they have the greatest opportunity to be matched to one of their top school choices. An increase in pre-kindergarten applications may be due in part to the increase in program options and accessibility afforded by the unified early childhood enrollment and application process.

The percentage of applications submitted online for grades K-12 finished at 61%, up 12% from the previous year. The steady increase in online application submission over time, as well as the successful roll-out of the online-only early childhood application process, contributed to the decision to phase out paper applications for the 2017-2018 process.
Unified Early Childhood Education

In 2012, Act 3 was passed, mandating that Louisiana coordinate early childhood education to help ensure all children enter kindergarten academically and socially prepared. Act 3 represented a wide-ranging revision of early education expectations, including norming standards for quality teaching and learning, and ensuring eligible families have equitable access to program options through a unified enrollment system.

Acting as lead agency, Agenda for Children convened the New Orleans Early Education Network (NOEEN) to guide this work in Orleans Parish. NOEEN is comprised of all publicly funded early childhood care and education providers in Orleans Parish—more than 150 public schools, non-public schools, early learning centers, and Early Head Start and Head Start centers—serving more than 5,500 children ages birth to 5.

In 2014, NOEEN asked EnrollNOLA to lead the work of unifying early childhood enrollment, and all publicly-funded early childhood seats joined OneApp for the first time for the 2016-2017 Main Round. While most pre-kindergarten programs for 4 year olds have been included since OneApp was established in 2011, early childhood programs for children ages birth to 3 years were not previously included.

The expansion of unified enrollment to include early childhood programs increased options and accessibility for thousands of families with very young children. It also increased visibility into the level of need for early childhood programming citywide, and the system’s ability to meet that need, helping NOEEN work strategically to ensure program options expand and adapt in a way that meets families’ needs and preferences.

Publicly-Funded Early Childhood Program Types by Funding Source

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Funding Source</th>
<th>Grade Levels</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LA &amp; Expansion Grant</td>
<td>Pre-kindergarten programs operating in partnership with a public elementary school or early learning center.</td>
<td>INF, YR, PK3, PK4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuition Pre-K 4</td>
<td>Pre-kindergarten program in partnership with a public elementary school, where family income is not a factor for eligibility. Open to all age-eligible families willing and able to pay tuition.</td>
<td>INF, YR, PK3, PK4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NSECD</td>
<td>Pre-kindergarten programs associated with a nonpublic school or early learning center, the pre-K equivalent of the LA Scholarship Program.</td>
<td>INF, YR, PK3, PK4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Head Start</td>
<td>Federally-regulated early childhood programs for qualifying applicants ages 3-4 year olds, who live in Orleans Parish.</td>
<td>INF, YR, PK3, PK4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Early Head Start</td>
<td>Federally-regulated early childhood programs for qualifying applicants ages infant-3 years, who live in Orleans Parish.</td>
<td>INF, YR, PK3, PK4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The application count above includes all applicants, even those who did not complete verification, and including families reapplying to continue at their current program. This therefore represents the total number of families who interacted with the early childhood enrollment process. In future years, families will not have to reapply to continue at their current program.

Overall Match Rates by Grade

Higher Pre-K 4 verification rates may be attributed to a less demanding eligibility and assignment process for Pre-K 4, versus other early childhood grade levels. Most participating programs serving Pre-K 3 and younger are Head Start and Early Head Start programs, federally-regulated early childhood programs with extensive verification and needs-assessment processes, designed to ensure the neediest families receive access to early childhood programming. EnrollNOLA has partnered with local Head Start and Early Head Start providers to help families connect with programs and ensure they submit all required documentation per federal guidelines.

EnrollNOLA has worked to develop responsive practices that ensure families who find the verification process daunting, have non-traditional family structures, or who have limited documentation, are still able to access the verification process within state and federal guidelines. Moving forward into upcoming application cycles, additional resources will continue to be invested into early childhood outreach, expanding verification events, targeted communications, and marketing in order to help applicants verify their eligibility.

Early Childhood Results

In Louisiana, public funding for early childhood programs is reserved for programs providing free or affordable early childhood education to qualifying, economically disadvantaged families. Program seat availability is limited, and not all early childhood applicants are guaranteed a placement. Eligible families who are not assigned to their preferred early childhood programs are added to the waitlists of those programs.

The unification of Early Childhood enrollment is a window into how the limited supply of early childhood seats compares to family demand. The fluctuation in early childhood match rates across grades demonstrates where family need is currently being met by program availability, and where the number of applicants exceeds availability. Low match rates in infant - 2 year old programs are an indicator of limited availability, and therefore, families with non-traditional family structures, or who have limited documentation, are still able to access the verification process within state and federal guidelines. Moving forward into upcoming application cycles, additional resources will continue to be invested into early childhood outreach, expanding verification events, targeted communications, and marketing in order to help applicants verify their eligibility.
OneApp Main Round

15,758 families participated in the 2016-2017 OneApp Main Round, a significant increase from years prior. This increase largely results from the launch of unified Early Childhood Enrollment. 3,455 families applied for publicly-funded infant, 1-year, 2-year, and 3-year programs during the 2016-2017 Main Round. Pre-K 4 applications also saw an increase, up from 1,767 to 2,558, due in part to the new inclusion of federal Head Start programs.

Encouraging trends such as an increase in the average number of choices listed, and in transitional 8th grade participation, may be healthy signs of increased understanding or improved communication about the application process, and contributed to a higher overall match rate. 96% of graduating 8th grade students submitted a OneApp during the 2016-2017 Main Round. 85% of students entering kindergarten and 9th grade were assigned to one of their top 3 choices.

Critical Main Round data points, such as sibling match rate, student stability, overall participation, and kindergarten and 9th grade match rates have remained consistent and stable over time.

Many more applications were submitted in Zone 5 as compared to the other zones, reflecting the greater number of students overall who reside in that area.

Most families participating in OneApp choose to apply to schools citywide. 77% of all applicants listed at least one school outside of their geographic zone on their OneApp during the 2016-2017 Main Round, and 64% of all applicant choices were outside of the applicants’ zone. This data is consistent with prior years’ application patterns.

Geography

The biggest driver in where students are placed at school is family preference; applicants who exhibit a strong preference to go to school closer to home are overwhelmingly matched to a school in their zone. During the 2016-2017 OneApp Main Round, 100% of kindergarten applicants and 93% of all applicants who listed 3 or more choices, all in-zone, were placed at an in-zone school. 64% of all choices were outside of the student’s geographic zone, and 77% of applicants listed at least 1 choice outside of zone.

Nearly all K-8 participating schools grant priority for half of all open seats to applicants living within the school’s zone. This is called "geographic priority." The six zones used to determine geographic priority can be seen in the key, top left. These zones were drawn to ensure that students living in all parts of the city receive geographic priority to a similar number of school seats.

For many families, it’s important that their child’s school be close to home, while to other families, it’s important to be able to pursue school options beyond their neighborhood. OneApp gives families the opportunity to apply to schools citywide, while making it possible to attend school close to home if they would prefer to do so.
Siblings

OneApp enables parents to choose either to send all of their students to school together, or to choose different schools based on each student’s individual interests and needs. “Sibling Priority” and “Family Link” are two ways the application process prioritizes keeping families together.

Sibling Priority

a way OneApp prioritizes assigning an applicant to the same school their sibling is scheduled to attend the upcoming year

For the 2016-2017 OneApp Main Round, 96% of sibling-applicants were successfully placed in the same school as their sibling(s), and 100% of kindergarten sibling-applicants were matched with their siblings.

Family Link

a way OneApp helps assign concurrently applying siblings to the same school

Family Link is a way to keep siblings together when they are applying to change or enter school at the same time. If a parent submits an application for each child listing the same school selection in the same order, the students will be family-linked, and OneApp will prioritize assigning the students to the same school if possible. During the 2016-2017 OneApp Main Round, 82% of family-linked students were matched to school together.

For example, let’s imagine a family looking for a new school for their children who will be in the first and second grade the upcoming year. The parent lists the same schools on each child’s application, in the same order. The family’s first-choice school only has a seat for the first-grader, but both students can be matched to their second choice together. In this scenario, OneApp would match both to their second-choice school to keep the family together.

Family Link Matches, by Number of Choices

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th># of Choices</th>
<th>Matched Together</th>
<th>Not Matched Together</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>103</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>168</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5+</td>
<td>168</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Families have the greatest success being assigned together, the more choices they list. 92% of family-linked families were matched together overall, and 94% of family-linked applicants who listed 5+ choices were matched together.

Late Enrollment

Families who miss the application windows can enroll in schools with open seats during Late Enrollment, from early July to October 1. EnrollNOLA placed 6,723 K-12 students over the course of Late Enrollment 2016, and 2,078 early childhood families. As in 2015, 88% of all Late Enrollment placements were made in July and August, suggesting that most families in need of a placement or transfer were placed in school within the first few weeks of classes.

Many early childhood families were placed on waitlists during Late Enrollment, as numerous programs were full. While more K-12 placements are made during Late Enrollment, more resources are dedicated to supporting families through the ECE process. For all grades, families seeking to enter or change schools are strongly encouraged to participate in the OneApp Main Round rather than Late Enrollment, so they have the greatest chance of being placed at a preferred school. This is particularly true for early childhood families, because openings are limited and there is no guarantee of placement.

Late Enrollment Placements by Grade & Month

The graph above includes new placements as well as transfers. The greatest number of students served were seeking placements in entry-level grades (kindergarten and 9th), and the majority of placements were made during July and August.

Many early childhood placements and transfers during the summer and fall are made through the process of seats becoming available to applicants on a program waitlist. The table above illustrates the number placements and transfers made from waitlist openings, as well as placements and transfers into programs without a waitlist, and with available seats.
Mid-Year Enrollment

EnrollNOLA has worked collaboratively with schools to establish enrollment policies that protect classroom stability and educational consistency for students, while also honoring parent choice. The mid-year placement process ensures that families will always have several school choices available to them, no matter what time of year they are enrolling in school.

Schools received a median of 2-6 new students in each grade after October 2. Most schools that received placements in grades K-8 had open seats and were seeking to enroll more students. High school median placements tend to be higher because there are fewer school options in grades 9-12, but high school grades also tend to have larger cohorts and are therefore more readily equipped to accommodate a greater number of new students mid-year.

Median Mid-Year Placements per School, by Grade

Students move in and out of EnrollNOLA schools throughout the school year, with a peak at the start of the second semester.

Hardship Transfers

To help preserve a stable social and academic environment for students and teachers, families who would like to transfer during the school year must qualify for a documented hardship, beginning October 1.

There are three categories of Hardship Transfer: medical, safety, and childcare. 75% of Hardship Transfer requests were received between October and January. A lower incidence of spring transfers means fewer students were transitioning between school environments during important testing periods, and student mobility decreases as the year goes on.

Transfer request rates have remained fairly stable year-to-year. Approximately 61% of Hardship Transfer requests were approved during the 2015-2016 school year.
Appendix 3 is publicly available at www.EnrollNOLA.org.
EnrollNOLA: EnrollNOLA is the organization responsible for overseeing all enrollment for schools participating in the unified enrollment process. EnrollNOLA manages the OneApp application and placement processes, mid-year placements and transfers, enrollment planning and student rosters, and the Late Enrollment cycle for 89% of New Orleans public schools. Most enrollment processes take place from EnrollNOLA Family Resource Centers. EnrollNOLA is also responsible for ensuring schools are held accountable for following enrollment policies and procedures that protect students’ rights.

Sibling Priority: If an applicant applies to a school to which their sibling currently attends, they will receive sibling priority to that school. Sibling priority is an aspect of the OneApp process that helps assign siblings to the same school.

Priority Structure: Each school participating in OneApp has a “priority structure.” This is a way of determining how to fairly place students if there are more applicants than available seats. Priorities can include things like siblings of currently attending students, or students who live in the school’s geographic zone.

Match Rate: The “match rate” is the percentage of applicants who were successfully assigned to a school they chose on their application.

Late Enrollment: Late Enrollment is the enrollment period following the end of the OneApp application cycles, and preceding the beginning of the school year. It generally spans from early July to October 1. Late Enrollment is intended to give families who are new to New Orleans, missed the application window, or are experiencing circumstances requiring a placement change opportunity to enroll in school based on remaining seat availability.

Main Round: The OneApp Main Round is the primary application round for families applying to enter or change schools for the upcoming school year. The Main Round generally takes place from Early November to the end of February every year. Applicants are strongly recommended to apply during the Main Round, as there is a much greater chance that they will be placed at a school of their choice. In subsequent application rounds, many schools will have been filled by Main Round applicants.

Hardship Transfer: After October 1, students must qualify for a documented hardship in order to transfer schools. There are three types of Hardship Transfers: childcare, medical, and safety. Criteria for each hardship type is detailed on Hardship Transfer paperwork, available at all Family Resource Centers.

Glossary of Terms

EnrollNOLA has historically reported OneApp match rate data (pages 6, 9, 10) inclusive of grades PK4 – 12, and continues to do so in the March 2017 Annual Report.

With the expansion of early childhood enrollment for the 2016-2017 school year, early childhood data on children ages INF – PK4 is being reported for the first time in the March 2017 Annual Report (pages 8, 9). INF – PK3 data is not included in overall reported match rates, and will continue to be separated, as it is a very different enrollment environment.

Initially, PK4 data reported in the Annual Report included state-funded programs at public schools (LA4), private schools (NSECD), and childcare centers (Pre-School Expansion Grant), as well as tuition-based programs at schools. For the first time this year, PK4 data also includes Head Start programs. New additions to the number and type of publicly-funded PK4 programs may lead to additional future changes in the PK4 programs included in this report.