



Statement of Support for Increased Municipal Investment in Quality Early Learning for New Orleans Children

The future of New Orleans depends on our city's investment in our children. Research shows that young children who participate in high-quality early learning programs are four times more likely to graduate from high school and become more productive citizens than their peers who do not participate in such programs. This is because 80% of brain development happens between birth and age three, which provides the foundation for future learning, social and emotional development.

High-quality early care and education prepares students for success, enables families to be productive in the workforce, and supports a thriving local economy. Yet, less than 16% of at-risk New Orleans children birth through age three have access to a publicly-funded child care seat. This is in spite of the fact that most New Orleans parents – 66% of married parents and 67% of single mothers – are working, and need access to affordable high-quality child care, which costs almost as much as tuition for a state college or university.

High-quality summer programming supports families in the workforce and can close the reading achievement gap for low-income students by two years between kindergarten and fourth grade. Yet, more than 2,000 New Orleans children, between the ages of 4 and 8, who are living in poverty do not have access to a publicly-funded summer program.

We, the undersigned, ask the candidates for Mayor and City Council of New Orleans to commit to increasing our municipal investment in children by:

- Committing to make children a priority for the next administration in City Hall by creating a department of children and families within the Mayor's office;
- Creating a dedicated city funding stream to increase the number of New Orleans children, birth through age three, who can access high-quality early care and education; and
- Increasing investment in high-quality summer programming that stems summer learning loss for children, birth through age eight, and helps keep them on track for success.

Signed:

Agenda for Children

Anna's Place NOLA

Big Class
Bricolage Academy
CASA New Orleans
Center for Development and Learning (CDL)
Children's Bureau of New Orleans
City Year New Orleans
Clara's Little Lambs Preschool Academy, Inc.
Communities In Schools of Greater New Orleans
Community Works of Louisiana
Converge
Crescent City Schools
DJ's Learning Castle
Early Learning Focus
Families and Friends of Louisiana's Incarcerated Children
Family Service of Greater New Orleans
Giggles Child Development Center, LLC
Good Work Network
Greater New Orleans Foundation
Health and Education Alliance of Louisiana (HEAL)
Institute of Mental Hygiene
Kennedy's Child Care Academy
KIDsmART
Kingsley House
Liberty's Kitchen
Louisiana Center for Children's Rights
Louisiana Children's Museum
Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities
Louisiana Policy Institute for Children
Lycée Français de la Nouvelle-Orléans
New Orleans Arts Education Alliance
New Orleans Campaign for Grade-Level Reading
New Schools for New Orleans
Noble Minds Institute for Whole Child Learning
Orleans Public Education Network (OPEN)
Personal Care Nursery & Preschool
Rochelle Wilcox's Academy of Early Learning
Royal Castle Child Development Center
St. Anna's Episcopal Church
Stand For Children
STAR Yoga

Strategies for Youth Development, LLC
The Learning Castle
Toddler University
Total Community Action
Training Grounds
United Way of Southeast Louisiana
Urban League of Greater New Orleans
VIA Link
VIET
Winn's Discovery Center
Women's Leadership Council of the United Way of Southeast
Louisiana
YMCA of Greater New Orleans
Youth Development Intermediary
Youth Empowerment Project
Youth Run NOLA

The New Orleans Campaign for Grade Level Reading is part of the National Campaign for Grade Level Reading, a collaborative effort by foundations, nonprofit partners, business leaders, government agencies, states and communities across the nation to ensure that more children in low-income families succeed in school and graduate prepared for college, a career, and active citizenship. Please visit our website to learn more about the Campaign, www.nolagradelevelreading.org.