

September 23, 2014

Dear Pre-Kindergarten Program Leaders,

Thank you for the work you are doing to educate our city's youngest learners. Since the passage of Act 3 (2012), leaders like you are working across the state to create a more unified system of early childhood education in order to reach more students and serve them equitably. In our city, that work is being led by Agenda for Children, the Orleans Parish School Board, and the Recovery School District.

As part of our efforts to unify early childhood education in New Orleans, we are committed to streamlining the enrollment process for families. Several years ago New Orleans introduced a unified system of enrollment for students in PK-12, called OneApp, which allowed families to submit one application for admission to school or to transfer between schools. Through that one application, families share their top preferences for school assignment and receive one placement for their child based on these preferences.

Families of our youngest learners deserve the same opportunity to apply through one application, express their preferences, and receive one assignment. Act 717 (S.B. 533), which passed in the recent legislative session, requires that all early childhood programs participate in a unified enrollment system by summer of 2015. In Orleans parish, we have the opportunity to launch our unified enrollment system a full year ahead of schedule by incorporating any interested programs not already participating in OneApp to join the system this Fall in preparation.

As such, Agenda for Children, the Orleans Parish School Board, and the Recovery School District are inviting all LA4, 8(g), and NSECD programs to participate in OneApp for the cycle that starts this fall for an August 2015 school start. For the past two years, OneApp has enrolled LA4 programs at over 30 schools and childcare centers. As you're considering this option and have questions, please reach out to Kristen Morgan, Executive Director of Student Enrollment at kristen.morgan@rsdla.net. We ask that you make your final decision by October 8, 2014 and share that decision with Kristen Morgan. For Orleans Parish School Board charter schools, please also include Kathleen Padian, Deputy Superintendent, at Kathleen.Padian@opsb.us in your correspondence.

OneApp provides a transparent and equitable enrollment process for the families in Orleans parish. We are excited to be able to give parents the opportunity to use OneApp to enroll our city's four year old students.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Patrick Dobard".

Patrick Dobard
Superintendent
Recovery School District

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Stanley Smith".

Stanley Smith
Interim Superintendent
Orleans Parish School Board

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dr. Anthony Recasner".

Dr. Anthony Recasner
Chief Executive Officer
Agenda for Children