



**2021-2022**

**Ready to Achieve!**

**Operational Plan for**

**Returning to In-Person**

**Learning**

As we prepare to embark on the 2021-2022 school year, it is the words of our leaders, Mr. Jamar McKneely (CEO) and Dr. Wylene Sorapuru (Chief Academic Officer) that most clearly explain the work and the why that will define this upcoming school year.

Student success is our number one goal this year. It's important that we all understand why we are here, and that we all understand what we have to do this year. We need to inspire the power. There is power in people. There's power to destroy, and there is also power to uplift. The collective of the way that we do things matters. The collective of how we show up each day matters. We have to understand there is power in this group: we can transform lives. I want 100 percent for our students. We're going to give them the best outcomes, opportunities and experience our youth can have.

***-Jamar McKneely, CEO, InspireNOLA Charter Schools***

I want us to remember the time when we were young and being in school and having fun. I urge you to go beyond the curriculum and beyond the standards. I urge you to go back to the heart of what makes classrooms and learning actually happen. It starts with joy and loving learning. We're guiding the light of children's hearts and minds. I need our kids to enjoy school.

***-Dr. Wylene Sorapuru, CAO, InspireNOLA Charter Schools***

Furthermore, although student outcomes remain the primary focus for the school year, safety is also a fundamental priority for InspireNOLA to ensure that learning can take place. As CEO McKneely shared, "Your safety matters. InspireNOLA will present multiple opportunities for COVID-19 vaccinations and tests for staff, students, and their families at our schools."

InspireNOLA believes in our staff, our families, and our students. These six statements will be our guiding theme for the year.

**We believe:**

- Every child can learn and thrive.
- Every child is entitled to an excellent, holistic education.
- In preparing students to become the next great leaders of our city, state, and country.
- In investing in our staff and celebrating their success.
- In partnering with our community to better serve our students, families, and neighbors.
- In equity and inclusion for all.

## ACADEMICS

This school year, InspireNOLA Charter Schools will continue to focus on implementing initiatives within four key priority areas to address learning loss and provide acceleration opportunities for students: core academics, students with diverse needs, workforce talent and the LEA system.



### **Core Academics**

InspireNOLA Charter Schools are committed to utilizing high quality assessments and Tier 1 curriculum to provide acceleration opportunities for students throughout the 2021-2022 school year. The school system will assess students' academic needs using high-quality screeners for students in grades K-3 and high-quality ELA and math diagnostics in grades 3 to high school. The school system will create an individual plan for students with the most significant learning gaps.

Our focus for this year is on providing a quality, in-person educational experience for students. The school system will have a plan for the continuous use of aligned curricular materials during periods of school facility closure or modified operations due to the pandemic, exclusive to adaptations produced by instructional materials providers.

The school system will also provide continuous instruction for non-core subjects, including CTE courses, during periods of school facility closure or modified operations due to the pandemic.

The school system will ensure high school students continue on their paths to graduation and a successful post-secondary transition. The school system will ensure each student has an updated IGP that reflects any changes needed due to interruption of instruction and that Class of 2022 graduates receive additional college and career support and mentoring through December 2022.

### **Students with Diverse Needs**

InspireNOLA Charter Schools believe in the power of supporting the mental, physical, socio-emotional and academic needs of our scholars and staff. The school system will ensure the well-being of all students and educators by providing social and mental health supports, including mental health screening.

In addition to access and modification of the Tier 1 curriculum, the school system will ensure that English learners receive appropriate services and accommodations, including language support services not only during regular, in-person instruction but also during periods of school facility closure or modified operations.

The school system will also ensure all students with disabilities receive instruction and related services, and have access to devices that meet their unique needs, regardless of school facility closures and/or modified operations.

The school system will conduct compensatory education reviews of all students with disabilities and will provide compensatory services accordingly.

### **Workforce Talent**

The power of InspireNOLA resides in its people. The school system has a comprehensive professional development plan that provides professional learning for staff regardless of facility closures, which includes training for all teachers on distance learning protocols and methods, acceleration strategies for students, and socio-emotional learning.

The school system will ensure all Mentor Teachers and new ELA, Math, and Science Content Leaders are trained, either virtually or in-person to support students throughout the school year.

The school system will provide additional personnel to support students as we address learning loss this year through small group intervention and innovation blocks focused on strengthening foundational skills and enhancing learning for students. During periods of school facility closure or modified operations due to the pandemic, we will employ adaptive staffing plans.

### **LEA Systems**

The school system will develop a plan to fully reopen school facilities for students and, when necessary, close school facilities in line with current public health guidance.

The school system will adopt flexible and opportunistic calendars and school schedules that maximize learning opportunities throughout the year, as well as ensure continuous learning during periods of school facility closures or modified operations due to the pandemic.

The school system will implement a strategic communications plan to:

- connect with every student regularly
- provide feedback on student work weekly; and
- help families understand their role in supporting their child's continuous learning

The school system will have a 1:1 student ratio for devices (laptop or tablet) and connectivity for every student grades preK-12 and a plan to issue these devices to students for use at home, if

necessary due to long term pandemic related facility closures. If Internet access is unavailable, the school system will ensure students have a reliable phone line.

The school system will ensure that, at minimum, it maintains the number of four-year-old seats filled in the 2019-2020 school year.

# OPERATIONS

## STUDENT AND STAFF SAFETY

Student and staff safety is a priority at InspireNOLA Charter Schools. We are following the guidance and procedures for COVID-19 safety measures as set forth by NOLA Public Schools in their [COVID Guidance for the 2021-2022 School Year](#), as well as CDC, city, state, and federal guidelines. We will continue monitoring the situation and adjust our safety requirements and procedures as necessary. Please see below for the latest information.

### **Student Grouping**

Students in grades PK-8 will be placed in static groups by homeroom. Seating and line charts will be utilized to facilitate contact tracing in the event of possible COVID-19 exposure. When students from different static groups must come into contact with each other, such as when students receive Special Education services, social distancing guidelines will be observed.

Students in grades 9-12 will practice social distancing at all times. Assigned seats and seating charts will be utilized to facilitate contact tracing in the event of possible COVID-19 exposure

Students who utilize InspireNOLA sponsored yellow bus transportation will be assigned a seat on the bus and a seating chart will be used to facilitate contact tracing in the event of possible COVID-19 exposure

### **Vaccinations**

InspireNOLA family, follow the lead of our amazing educators and staff. Let's get vaccinated today! We can all work to help our fellow neighbors and community by getting vaccinated.

COVID-19 vaccines are proven to be safe and effective at preventing the spread of the virus and continue to be highly effective at preventing hospitalization and death, including against the Delta variant. Getting vaccinated is one of the most important steps we can take to keep ourselves and our loved ones safe.

InspireNOLA Charter Schools requires all employees to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 with a vaccine authorized for emergency use by the U. S. Food & Drug Administration OR submit evidence of a negative PCR test weekly with an approved exemption or accommodation.

Additionally, since extra-curricular activities are not required, only fully vaccinated high students age 12 or older or those under the age of 12 with a weekly negative PCR test will be allowed to participate in extra-curricular activities, including athletics, band, and choir.

InspireNOLA Charter Schools, following the direction of New Orleans city officials, will also mandate, commencing August 16, 2021, that any person in attendance at any InspireNOLA athletic or school-sponsored event must be either fully vaccinated or provide evidence of a negative PCR test administered within the previous 72 hours of the event.

We encourage all our eligible students and their family members to get vaccinated. Vaccinations are widely available. To schedule a vaccination, find a provider or to connect with medical professionals who can answer your question, call the Louisiana Department of Health Vaccine Hotline at 1-855-453-0774.

### **COVID Testing**

Experiencing COVID-like symptoms or have been exposed to the COVID-19 virus?  
Schedule a test today.

As of August 23, CORE will offer testing for all NOLA Public Schools at the following sites/times.

- Tuesdays 3-6 p.m. - NOLA PS Central Office (West Bank), 2401 West Bend Parkway
- Fridays 3-6 p.m. - LIVING SCHOOL (New Orleans East), 6003 Bullard Avenue
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Beginning in October 2021, weekly COVID testing will be offered at school sites through a partnership with NOLA-PS and LDH. Additional testing is also available through DePaul at our school clinic sites.

You can also visit [NOLA Ready](#) for a list of local testing providers as well as the updated schedule for the City of New Orleans Mobile Testing.

To prove vaccination status, individuals can use the [LA Wallet app](#); an original, digital photograph, or photocopy of CDC vaccination cards (both sides); or an official vaccine record issued by another state, foreign nation or the World Health Organization.

### **Masks**

All students, staff, and anyone entering a school building must wear a mask at all times. Masks must also be worn at all times on school busses.

### **Visitors**

For our students' and staff's safety, visitor entrance to our schools will be restricted. All visitors must make an appointment with the school prior to arriving.

## **ADDITIONAL SAFETY MEASURES**

- The temperature of all students and staff will be taken upon entering the school building.
- Students will remain in static groups.
- Appropriate social distancing will be practiced.
- All students and staff will hand sanitize upon arrival and during transitions.
- Breakfasts will be in the classroom.
- Lunch will rotate outside and in class.
- Students are encouraged to bring water bottles.
- Stringent disinfecting and cleaning measures are in place in alignment with NOLA-PS guidelines.

## **WHEN TO KEEP YOUR CHILD HOME**

If your child OR anyone in your household exhibits any of the following symptoms, your child should NOT come to school:

- Cough
- Shortness of breath or breathing difficulty
- Chills
- Sore throat
- Loss of taste or smell
- Muscle pain
- Fever
- Vomiting
- Diarrhea

If a family member and/or someone living in the same household has tested positive for COVID-19 or believes they may have contracted the virus, do NOT send your child to school until they have tested negative for the virus.

## **COVID-19 Health Eligibility Form**

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has identified several groups with certain underlying medical conditions as those at increased high-risk for severe illness from COVID-19. Families, along with their physician, can apply for distance learning via an [eligibility form](#) ONLY IF your child needs accommodations due to medical issues as a result of COVID-19 as [outlined by the CDC](#).