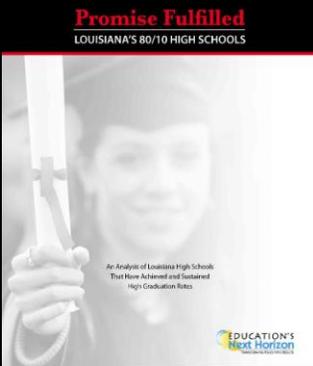




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## **Entergy Louisiana Leads School Zone Initiative Coalition Formed to Assist Istrouma High**

In October 2011, a coalition consisting of Entergy Louisiana, ExxonMobil, Object 9, Capital Area United Way, East Baton Rouge Parish School System, Louisiana Department of Education, Louisiana State University, and Education's Next Horizon launched the Istrouma School Zone initiative. The goals of this initiative are to:

1. Reduce poverty and support community-driven development and economic opportunity in neighborhoods surrounding Istrouma High School.
2. Increase graduation rates and better prepare Istrouma students for careers and post secondary education.

Equally important, the initiative is seeking to demonstrate that public and private organizations can come together to promote education improvement and make a difference.

Istrouma High School, which is set to be taken over by the Louisiana Recovery School District, has a student enrollment of 622 students, 39% of whom are overage. As one of five academically failing schools to be included in the newly established Baton Rouge Achievement Zone, Istrouma will be direct-run before becoming a Type 5 charter school. The Entergy-led zone initiative will remain a vital part of the school's turnaround strategy.

Education's Next Horizon is providing planning and coordination assistance to the zone initiative, which is operationally comprised of three working committees. In leading the Student and School Development Committee, Education's Next Horizon assists in identifying strategies and action steps to address critical gaps in interventions that can improve student and school performance. These include mentoring, tutoring, career education, student leadership training, Dual Enrollment, Industry-Based Certifications, family engagement, and other supports and interventions. Each of these practices is cited as a "best practice" by the 36 Louisiana high schools whose graduation successes are captured in *Promise Fulfilled: Louisiana's 80/10 High Schools*, a publication recently released by Education's Next Horizon.

Two other committees of the zone initiative are focusing on family assistance and healthcare, with the aim of improving the wellness of students and families, and alleviating the financial burdens that contribute to poverty.

For information about the zone initiative, contact John Warner Smith at (225) 383-3844 or by email at [jsmith@lanexthorizon.org](mailto:jsmith@lanexthorizon.org).