



Governor's Proposed Education Reforms Endorsed

Louisiana's only statewide non-profit organization dedicated solely to PreK-12 education improvement, has endorsed Governor Bobby Jindal's proposed education reforms. "While Louisiana has made progress in improving educational outcomes over the past decade, we must not be disillusioned -- education in Louisiana and the U.S. is in a state of crisis," said Steven Scheurich, president and chairman of Education's Next Horizon, and vice-president of customer service and external affairs for Entergy Louisiana, LLC and Entergy Gulf States Louisiana, LLC. "We need to act urgently to pass the Governor's proposed education reforms," said Scheurich.

Since its inception in 2007, Education's Next Horizon has worked to frame the debate for comprehensive system-wide reform, and to connect Louisiana's leadership and key stakeholders as a force supporting school improvement. Our statewide reform agenda addresses improvement at every step of the education pipeline - from Pre-K to elementary school literacy to teacher effectiveness and the preparation of students for post-secondary education and careers - to give every child in Louisiana the opportunity to reach his or her fullest potential.

We believe that the Governor's proposals will:

- Empower school leaders by giving them more flexibility and rewards for doing the right things, then holding them responsible and accountable for results.
- Build a more effective system of educating children with a performance-driven strategy that will attract, develop, and retain talent in the classroom.
- Create a more efficient and effective early learning system that will ensure kindergarten readiness, improve early learning outcomes, and establish a uniform system of assessment and accountability for publicly-supported early learning programs.

- Expand educational options for students and parents.
- Give parents a stronger voice in effecting needed changes in school governance and management in failing schools.

John Warner Smith, Education's Next Horizon CEO, said, "While we support the Governor's proposals conceptually, we realize that various elements of the overall plan might be amended during the legislative process. We urge the Governor and Legislature to ensure strong accountability of results in all measures enacted and to incorporate a research design that will enable the State to measure the impact and effectiveness of these reforms over time."