



BATON ROUGE COLLEGE PREPARATORY CHARTER SCHOOL

A proposed tuition-free public charter school for the students of Baton Rouge



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Baton Rouge College Preparatory Charter School

equips all students in grades five through twelve with the knowledge, skills, and character necessary to excel in college and in life.

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*It is not enough to do your best;
you must know what to do, and then do your best.*

-W. Edwards Deming

Dear Friends of **Baton Rouge College Prep**,

Thank you for the many encouragements of the last month as our Founding Board of Directors and Lead Founder defended the charter proposal at the Louisiana Department of Education. Our team demonstrated strong commitment to the mission and vision of **Baton Rouge College Prep**, as well as the knowledge and capacity to effectively govern a high quality charter school.

We are grateful to our volunteers, community partners, and team members who have helped us gather over 660 signatures of support, demonstrating that **Baton Rouge College Prep** is a school that families and the North Baton Rouge community want.

Our vision is clear: we will prepare every student at **Baton Rouge College Prep** to access the opportunities of college and life. We believe that college begins in middle school and that students must be academically prepared for the rigorous demands of a true college preparatory high school curriculum.

To meet this need, we will focus intensively on reading and math, quickly closing gaps and pushing students to and above grade level. We will continuously collect and use data to ensure that each student at **Baton Rouge College Prep** receives exactly what he or she needs to be successful.

Please continue to share this newsletter with friends, family, and colleagues to spread the word about our mission, vision, and core principles. Thank you for your continued support of and engagement with **Baton Rouge College Prep**.

Sincerely,

OUR EDUCATIONAL PHILOSOPHY

Baton Rouge College Prep is founded on the belief that all students can achieve at high levels. Our school design is grounded in eight core principles, based on the proven practices of the highest performing charter schools in the nation. Each month we will highlight one of the core principles and explain how it promotes student success. This month, we highlight the fifth core principle:

- 1) High academic expectations for all
- 2) Great teachers, great results
- 3) Highly structured environment
- 4) Focused character development



5) Data-driven culture

- 6) Extended learning time
- 7) Seamless grade transitions
- 8) Family involvement

Data-Driven Culture

Baton Rouge College Prep will have a data-driven culture, informed by the knowledge that we must use our data to get students on and above grade level as efficiently and swiftly as possible and to assure every student is prepared for college. This means that we will constantly collect, meaningfully analyze, and strategically act on student achievement data. We will implement four essential elements of data-driven instruction:

1. *Assessment* - creating rigorous interim assessments

- that furnish meaningful data
2. *Analysis* - examining the results of assessments to identify root causes of strengths and weaknesses
 3. *Action* - prioritizing, planning for, and effectively teaching what students most need to learn
 4. *Culture* - creating an environment in which data-driven instruction is the norm

The key to high levels of academic success for all students will be effective, targeted instruction that ensures students have the requisite skills and knowledge. Teachers will reflect on results of frequent assessments to determine appropriate interventions, ensuring that all students meet our rigorous academic expectations. Student assessment data will drive professional development, ensuring that all teachers are prepared to meet student needs.

Data Days every six weeks will be a core component of our professional development and staff culture, with teachers working in teams to analyze the data from interim assessments, plan strategically, and act rapidly to address any learning gaps. Continuous assessment of the efficiency and effectiveness of our school's operational and cultural practices will lead to adjustments that maximize student learning time and opportunity.

Our focus on student data, paired with high quality teachers, a rigorous curriculum, and support from leadership, will ensure that each individual student gets the attention s/he needs. Through our targeted action planning, we will support our students who need extra help to meet the standard, build momentum for students who are already on track, and challenge our students who are exceeding expectations.

OUR PROGRESS

- Our Board is preparing for governance while waiting for the final authorization decision from the Louisiana Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, expected in August.
- In addition to over 660 Signatures of Support, we collected our first **Intent to Enroll** forms from families interested in sending their child to **Baton Rouge**

College Prep in August 2015. If you know families with **students who will be entering 5th or 6th grade in 2015**, please contact Lead Founder Kathryn Rice at krice@buildingexcellentschools.org.

- Lead Founder Kathryn Rice spent two weeks in June in residency at two high performing urban charter schools in Tennessee: [Liberty Collegiate Academy](#) in Nashville and [Freedom Preparatory Academy](#) in Memphis. Ms. Rice will be returning to these schools throughout the summer and the coming year to study culture, operations, instruction, and professional development as we plan for **Baton Rouge College Prep**. We are deeply grateful for the generosity of these excellent schools and look forward to learning from them.

OUR CALL TO ACTION

- **Connect to Excellent Educators.** We are seeking great teachers who are passionate about our students and committed to the mission of **Baton Rouge College Prep**. If you know an excellent teacher, please email Kathryn Rice at krice@buildingexcellentschools.org.
- **Spread the Word.** Help us grow the network of support for **Baton Rouge College Prep**. Share this newsletter. Invite us to events and meetings. If you have ideas or connections, please email Lead Founder Kathryn Rice at krice@buildingexcellentschools.org.
- **Support Our Cause.** Your time and support make a difference! If you are interested in volunteering, email krice@buildingexcellentschools.org.

Learn more. Support our efforts. Join us.