PUBLIC HEARING | ORLEANS PARISH SCHOOL BOARD | NOVEMBER 5, 2026

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Charter School for Science and Technology

King Today

2025-26 was King's first year as a stand-alone K-8 school with pre-K, after a 2024 renewal process that news coverage described as King being "in danger of closing." The letter grades cited in the October 1 notice included King's high school, which closed in 2025, and NOLA-PS has confirmed that King's first letter grade as a K-8 school has not been released.

448
K-8 students in 2025-26

31
pre-K students in 2025-26

Only
public school in the Lower Ninth Ward

From the 2024 renewal to today

1 Dec. 2024
The Orleans Parish School Board renews King's K-8 by a 5 to 0 vote

2 Summer 2025
A new leadership team restructures King as PK-8 and launches S.O.A.R., its school improvement campaign

3 2025-26
SOAR Hour, Tier II intervention, PLCs, MTSS, and high-dosage tutoring in place; organizational standing reaches In Good Standing

4 Spring 2026
With those structures in place, a larger share of students reach Basic or above in social studies, ELA, and science, and LEAP Connect students at or above goal rise from 50% to 74%

5 Oct. 2026
NOLA-PS issues its October 1 notice; King expands tutoring and enrolls eligible students in Steve Carter

6 Nov. 6
King submits its revised School Improvement Plan to NOLA-PS

Sources: NOLA-PS hearing slides; OPSB minutes, Dec. 10, 2024; WWL-TV and WWNO, Nov. 2024; NOLA-PS Notice of Breach, Oct. 1, 2026; NOLA-PS response to public records request R001945-101426, Oct. 19, 2026; King 2026-27 School Improvement Plan; NOLA-PS data dashboard, 2024-25 and 2025-26.

Historical Standings

PUBLIC SCHOOLS TM

ACADEMIC STANDING

SY22-23	SY23-24	SY24-25	SY25-26
Not in Good Standing	Not in Good Standing	Area(s) of Concern	Not in Good Standing

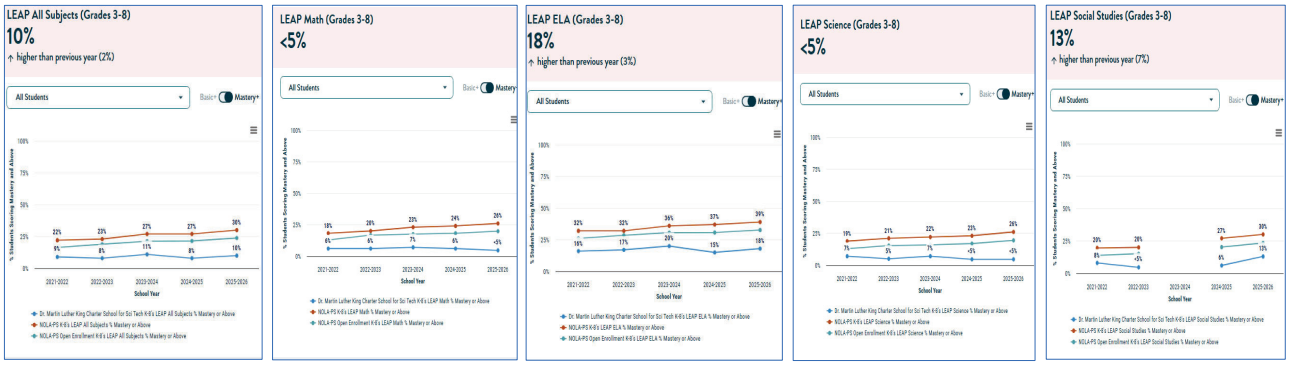
ORGANIZATIONAL STANDING

SY22-23	SY23-24	SY24-25	SY25-26
Not in Good Standing	Not in Good Standing	Area(s) of Concern	In Good Standing

FINANCIAL STANDING

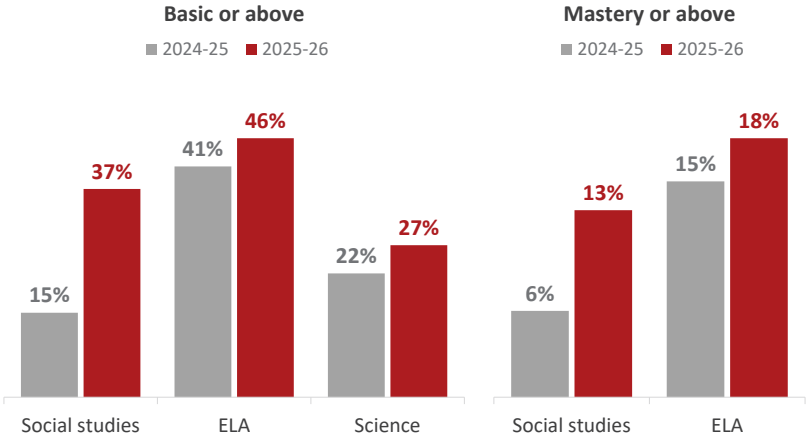
SY22-23	SY23-24	SY24-25	SY25-26
In Good Standing	In Good Standing	In Good Standing	In Good Standing

Mastery+ Performance



Momentum in 2025-26

In King's first year as a stand-alone K-8 school, with a new leadership team and new instructional structures in place, a larger share of students reached Basic or above in social studies, ELA, and science, and Mastery or above in social studies and ELA.



+22

percentage points at Basic or above in social studies, the largest one-year gain of any school on the district's data dashboard

6% to 13%

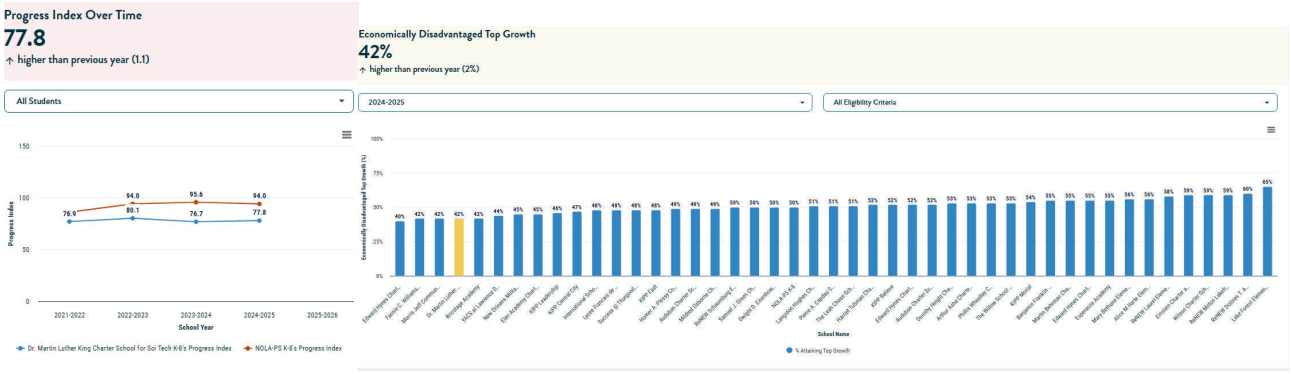
Social studies Mastery or above more than doubled, among the ten largest gains in the district

1 in 3

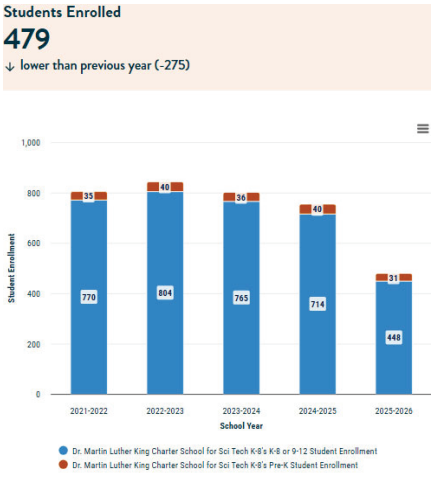
Of 15 eighth graders who took Algebra I, one in three scored Mastery and none scored Unsatisfactory

Sources: NOLA-PS data dashboard, Quality domain, grades 3-8, 2024-25 and 2025-26; LDOE 2026 LEAP school and Algebra I summaries. LEAP Basic or above and Mastery or above are both Enhanced Data Review indicators (CSAF 2.8.4).

Student Growth



Enrollment History



Our Plan: Building on What Is in Place

King's plan builds on the structures that were in place during last year's gains and the support added this fall, and the November 6 plan will name a lead, a measure, and checkpoints for each of four priorities.

Already in place

- Curriculum-aligned core instruction
- Tier II intervention
- SOAR Hour
- High-dosage tutoring
- Coaching and professional learning
- Weekly PLCs and walkthroughs
- Weekly MTSS meetings
- University partnerships: Dillard and Tulane (tutoring), Xavier (health and wellness)

Added this fall

- **Daily tutoring:** Since the second week of October, certified teachers have worked daily with small groups in ELA and math.
- **Steve Carter Literacy Program:** King is enrolling every student who qualifies for this state-funded program.
- **Teacher support:** Since October 20, ISG has observed classrooms and coached teachers, with leadership and data support beginning in November.

Four priorities in the November 6 plan

1. **Writing/ELA**
   ELA Mastery or above, toward the operating agreement's 25% target for 2026-27
2. **Early Literacy**
   Kindergarten through grade 2 students at benchmark on the state literacy screener
3. **Mathematics**
   Math Mastery or above, toward the operating agreement's 12% target for 2026-27
4. **Attendance**
   PK-8 attendance back to 92%, the 2024-25 rate (90.5% in 2025-26)

Reporting: a progress report to NOLA-PS every month and an update to families after each testing window.
If progress falls behind: the school team adjusts within two weeks of any missed checkpoint, and when a target is missed at two checkpoints in a row, the principal brings a corrective plan to the Friends of King board within 30 days and King shares it with NOLA-PS.

Sources: Charter school operating agreement, Contingent Renewal Contract Addendum (May 20, 2025); LDOE attendance rate by site, 2024-25 and 2025-26; school records on instruction, tutoring, partnerships, and enrollment.

The District's December 2024 Decision

Less than two years ago, NOLA-PS evaluated King's K-8 on its own and recommended contingent renewal, which the Orleans Parish School Board approved without a dissenting vote.

NOLA-PS FINDING, DECEMBER 10, 2024

"...there was sufficient data and information provided to support the contingent renewal of grades K-8..."

Superintendent's renewal recommendation on King's comprehensive evaluation, OPSB Special Board Business Meeting, item 3.1

5 to 0
The Orleans Parish School Board approved the contingent renewal of King's K-8 on December 10, 2024, and all five members who voted serve on the board today.

2025 to 2028
The three-year operating agreement that followed began July 1, 2025 and runs through June 30, 2028.

B
In January 2026, the superintendent's office notified King that it would be recognized at the State of the District Address for its B in progress.

Sources: OPSB Special Board Business Meeting minutes, Dec. 10, 2024, item 3.1; charter school operating agreement, Section 1.4; NOLA-PS Superintendent's Office to Principal Miles, Jan. 9, 2026.

The 3-Year Contract signed by Orleans Parish Board and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Elementary School

The operating agreement signed May 20, 2025 sets the term, the academic targets, and the date by which those targets are measured.



Signing the three-year operating agreement between the Orleans Parish School Board and The Friends of King School

1. **Term**
   Section 1.4: three years, "commencing on July 1, 2025, and expiring on June 30, 2028…"

2. **Academic targets**
   Mastery or above among initially testing students, from 20% to 25% in ELA and from 7% to 12% in math, "by the results from the 2026-2027 school year."

3. **District support**
   The addendum provides that the school "will be assigned a Director of School Support to navigate the cycle." To date, no Director of School Support has been assigned to King.

Source: Charter School Operating Agreement between the Orleans Parish School Board and The Friends of King School, May 20, 2025: Section 1.4 and Contingent Renewal Contract Addendum.

Why King, and Our Request

Closing King or replacing its operator would disrupt the 479 children King enrolled in 2025-26, about 12 percent of them students with disabilities, and closure would leave the Lower Ninth Ward without a public school.

207

K-8 children who live in the Lower Ninth Ward attended King in 2025-26; every other public school is outside their neighborhood.

First to reopen, first to return
The first public school to reopen in the Lower Ninth Ward after Katrina (2007) and the first Recovery School District school to return to the Orleans Parish School Board (2015-16).

First choice of every new placement
Every new student placed at King in 2025-26 had listed King as the first choice.

A board that governs
In good financial standing every year shown, a clean FY2024 audit with no findings, and organizational standing improved in each of the last two years to In Good Standing in 2025-26, the first year of this contract.

Momentum
Gains in social studies and ELA, and a larger share of students at Basic or above in science, in its first K-8 year.

Allow King to continue operating under its current contract through June 30, 2028, with conditions:

1. Carry out the revised School Improvement Plan King will submit on November 6, 2026.
2. Report to NOLA-PS monthly and adjust within two weeks of a missed checkpoint; when a target is missed at two checkpoints in a row, bring a corrective plan to the Friends of King board within 30 days and share it with NOLA-PS.
3. Be held to the operating agreement's academic targets, measured by the 2026-27 LEAP results.
4. Work with the Director of School Support the agreement provides, once assigned.

Continued operation with conditions is an outcome the district's accountability framework provides for this review (CSAF 3.9).

Sources: NOLA-PS hearing slides; NOLA-PS dashboard, 2025-26 (Maps, Choice, students with disabilities); Legislative Auditor, FY2024 audit; American School & University, Aug. 14, 2007; NOLA-PS K20 Timeline; operating agreement; CSAF.