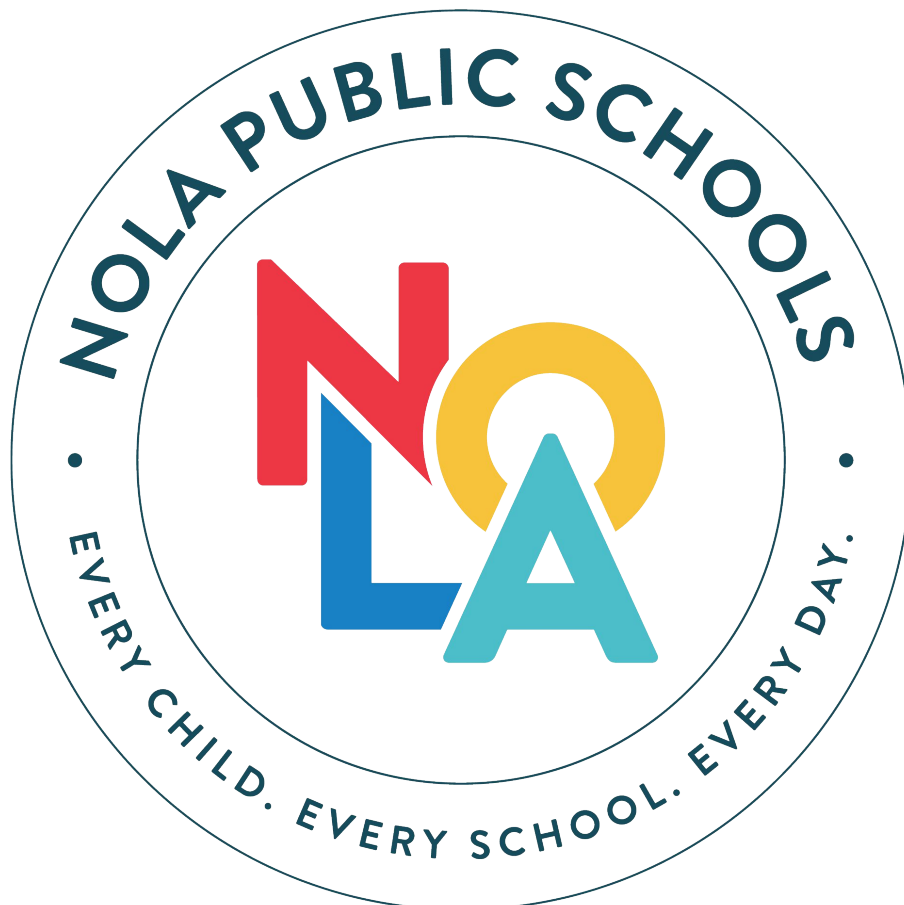


NOLA PUBLIC SCHOOLS TRANSITIONS RESOURCE GUIDE

SPRING 2020



ABOUT

NOLA Public Schools has assembled this Digital Transitions Fair and Resource Guide for individuals with disabilities of all ages, their families, support providers, and educators with a focus on students at points of transition (i.e. transition to high school, high school graduation, etc). This resource will allow students and families to learn more about the work of more than 60 local organizations and programs that provide support to individuals with disabilities and their families. Participants will have the opportunity to learn about supportive programs available to find meaningful employment as well as information to help transition into life as an independent citizen. This resource guide aims to provide critical information to students with Individualized Education Programs (IEP) or receiving 504 accommodations as well as their families, employers, and support providers.



COVID-19 UPDATES

The following organizational information is current as of April 2020. As the response to COVID-19 shifts, organizations' scopes of work will shift accordingly and the guide will be updated. Due to state-mandated facility closures and social distancing mandates, the in-person NOLA Public Schools Transitions Fair originally scheduled for April 21, 2020 had to be cancelled. This resource guide serves as a digital stand-in for the in-person fair.







Please direct any questions about transitions to Richard Hall (rhall@nolapublicschools.com). Questions about Transitions Fair logistics should be sent to Amanda Bonam (abonam@nolapublicschools.com)



COVID-19 SUPPORT & RESOURCES

COVID-19 RESOURCE TYPE	SOURCE
FOOD & NUTRITION	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● <u>COVID-19 Child Nutrition Programs Available for Families</u>● <u>Second Harvest Food Bank</u>
LEGAL	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● <u>Southeast Louisiana Legal Services</u>● <u>Legal Assistance: Housing and Evictions</u>
UNEMPLOYMENT	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● <u>Louisiana Unemployment Insurance</u>
OTHER GUIDES	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● <u>Cafe Reconcile Resource Guide</u>

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TRANSITIONS RESOURCE GUIDE

ROADMAP: For Individuals with IEPs or 504 Accommodations (Part 1)

IF....	THEN...
<p>You have a developmental disability (DD)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Autism, Intellectual Disability, Cerebral Palsy, Down Syndrome, fetal alcohol syndrome, spina bifida 	<p>Start with Metropolitan Human Services District</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MHSD is the first step in securing funding, resources, and supports for individuals with DD <p>Then visit</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The support coordinators and providers in Housing, Community Access, and Independent Living
<p>You receive 504 Accommodations or have an IEP,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - are 17 years or older and - are interested in EMPLOYMENT 	<p>Start with Louisiana Rehabilitative Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - LRS is the first step in securing funding, resources, and supports for individuals with 504s and IEPs seeking employment <p>Then visit</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Employment vendors
<p>You receive 504 accommodations or have an IEP,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - are exiting high school and - are interested in learning the skills to get a job 	<p>Visit Job Training Programs</p>
<p>You have an IEP,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - are 18-22 yrs old and - interested in continued education programs 	<p>Visit K-12 Programs</p>
<p>You receive SSI or SSDI and are 17 yrs or older</p>	<p>Visit The Advocacy Center</p>
<p>You are an adult with a disability interested in connecting with peers or pursuing a hobby</p>	<p>Visit Recreation and Leisure</p>

TRANSITIONS RESOURCE GUIDE

ROADMAP: For Individuals with IEPs or 504 Accommodations (Part 2)

IF....	THEN...
You have assistive technology support needs	Visit Louisiana Accessible Educational Materials (AEM) Program 
You are seeking legal advocacy, financial, and benefits planning	Visit The Advocacy Center 

LOUISIANA REHABILITATION SERVICES (LRS)

Louisiana Rehabilitation Services (LRS)

Louisiana Rehabilitation Services (LRS), under the Office of Workforce Development, is the vocational rehabilitation program for the state of Louisiana. The program is designed to assist individuals with disabilities in their desire to obtain or maintain employment and/or achieve independence in their communities.



Contact: Christy Tassin, ctassin@lwc.la.gov, (504) 838-5180; Maghan Eugene, meugene@lwc.la.gov, (504) 838-5180; NaShawn Butler, nbutler@lwc.la.gov, (504) 361-6816
Website: www.laworks.net

Continue to [EMPLOYMENT VENDORS](#)

EMPLOYMENT:

After an individual goes through the application and interview process with LRS they will be asked to select an employment vendor. Vendors provide job development, placement and support. Select a vendor that has your strengths and interests in mind.



FEATURED ORGANIZATIONS

- [Louisiana Rehabilitation Services \(LRS\)](#)
- [Access to Meaningful Employment \(AcME\)](#)
- [ArcGNO](#)
- [Goodwill Industries](#)
- [Hospitality and Senior Care Training Institute \(HSCTI\)](#)
- [Lighthouse Louisiana](#)
- [Take the Lead NOLA](#)
- [The Me God Sees](#)
- [T.E.E.M. Academy](#)
- [Virage Community Services](#)
- [Volunteers of America](#)



EMPLOYMENT

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Website: www.laworks.net

Access to Meaningful Employment (AcME)

AcME, Inc. is an approved LRS vendor, Medicaid Waiver Provider and OCDD contract Provider. AcME, Inc. services include: Professional Vocational Evaluations, Apprenticeship Training, Pre-ETS (school to work transition), Apprenticeship Training, Work Readiness, Direct Placement, Time Limited Job Coaching and Supported Employment services. AcME, Inc. provides Job Placement and Job Coaching supports under the appropriate models and extended follow along through OCDD contracts and Waiver supports (New Opportunities Waiver and Adults Supports Waiver). AcME, Inc. has served New Orleans and Jefferson Parish adults with disabilities seeking competitive work in individual jobs since 1988. AcME, Inc. focuses on the individuals abilities, strengths and interests to obtain and maintain competitive work.

COVID-19 Update: AcME, Inc. has remained active in supporting approximately 25% of our clients who are essential workers at area grocery stores and hospital environmental service staff. AcME, Inc. assisted workers with disabilities who were furloughed with completing time off requests, filing for unemployment benefits and understanding the impact of earned (wages) and unearned (unemployment and stimulus checks) on SSA benefits, Medicare and Medicaid status and Waiver status.

Contact: Eva Belcas, evabelcas@nocoxmail.com, (504) 833-7291

Website: dh.la.gov/index.cfm/directory/detail/5350/catid/135

ArcGNO

ArcGNO is dedicated to promoting the independence of individuals with autism, Down syndrome, and other intellectual disabilities. We currently assist nearly 600 individuals in a five-parish metro New Orleans region. Our support services include in-home assistance and supported independent living, job placement and coaching, daytime community integration, and the coordination of infant therapies.

Contact: Tom Barnes, tbarnes@arcgno.org, (504) 837-5105

Website: arcgno.org

Goodwill Industries

The Workforce Development Division of Goodwill Industries of Southeastern Louisiana provides employment services to individuals with barriers to employment including the disabled, ex-offender, children aging out of foster care, homeless veterans and homeless families. Referrals for the disability employment program are initiated by Louisiana Rehabilitation Services. Goodwill Industries Technical School provides training and certification in five occupational fields: MOT (Microsoft Office Technology), Digital Literacy-IC3 Program, Hospitality & Customer Service & Sales, Communication Technology, and Medical Billing and Coding.

Contact: Shana Segura at ssegura@goodwillno.org (504) 456-2622

Website: goodwillno.org

Hospitality and Senior Care Training Institute (HSCTI)

HSCTI provides short-term, vocational training programs that lead to national industry-based certifications. HSCTI is licensed by the Louisiana Board of Regents and offers online, hybrid and traditional training programs. HSCTI offers a school nutrition assistant training program for students with or without a high school diploma.

Contact: Denise Smith, higheredspecialist@gmail.com

Take the Lead NOLA

Take the Lead NOLA is a community rehabilitation provider and approved vendor for Louisiana Rehabilitation Services. We offer vocational and community rehabilitation programs targeting vulnerable populations including individuals with disabilities of all ages. We provide specialized programs with an emphasis on workforce readiness, life skills training, transition services, supported employment and time limited job training. We have been educating, enriching and empowering individuals, families and communities for 10 years through engagement, collaboration and innovation.

COVID-19 Update: Take the Lead NOLA is still actively but cautiously providing specific services. We have transitioned into an online learning platform and are providing Pre-ETS and some Vocational Rehabilitation services via Google Classroom. We have also adapted other forms of communication with clients including phone calls, Google Hangouts, Zoom and FaceTime weekly check-ins. Job placements are on hold for individuals with underlying health issues, we are only working to place those individuals with previous experience in essential service areas at this time.

If you are an individual with a disability and need workforce readiness training contact your LRS counselor and request Take the Lead NOLA as your vendor. If you are not receiving services from LRS, contact them to determine your eligibility before you can choose a vendor. All other community rehabilitation programs such as the New Beginnings Initiative and Summer Learning Experience have been postponed until further notice.

Contact: LaRita Francois, tlfnola@gmail.com, (504) 662-8168
Website: taketheleadnola.org

T.E.E.M. Academy

TEEM Academy is a reputable organization currently serving Job Seekers in career development and Employers with workforce solutions. We help increase confidence and transform lives for people ages 17-77, who may have had some set-backs to obtaining employment or are in a transitioning stage of their career life. We provide employment services and advocacy through our unique job readiness and job placement programs, as well as supported employment services. We pride ourselves in the genuine concern, mentorship and advocacy we have for our clients' well-being and success in life. Our ultimate goal is to help our clients navigate the world of competitive work, job search and the hiring process. We put humanity to work!

Contact: Ernest J. Reilly, ejreilly@Teemacademy.org, (504) 237-5707
Website: teemacademy.org

The Me God Sees, Inc.

At The Me God Sees, our guiding principles are simple. We ask ourselves "What would I want for myself?". These seemingly simple words prohibit us from traveling in the lane called good enough. We help persons living with disabilities connect with employers who value their skills, talents, and abilities. Services offered: disability advocacy, Louisiana Workforce Commission Provider, Louisiana Rehabilitation Services vendor, community rehabilitation, community rehabilitation, supported employment provider, and more. THE ME GOD SEES, INC is an Authorized Social Security Ticket To Work Service Provider (Employment Network).

Contact: Pashena T. Casimire, pashena@themegodsees.com, (504) 366-5499
Website: www.themegodsees.com

Virage Community Services

Virage Community Services helps individuals with both mental and physical disabilities in their community with training in areas of resumes, interview skills, job search and much more. Virage also provide life skills training, employment placement services, employment stability services, and on the job training. Our goal is to turn lives around within communities providing resources and guidance, ultimately resulting in individuals reaching their goals.

Contact: Neisha Jackson, viragecommunityservices@gmail.com, (504) 298-8675

JOB TRAINING:

An individual does not need an IEP or 504 accommodations to enter a job training program. However most programs will provide supports for individuals with needs. Job training programs are typically for individuals who have exited school and would like to develop a set of skills that will lead to employment.



FEATURED ORGANIZATIONS

- [Cafe Reconcile](#)
- [Liberty's Kitchen](#)
- [Operation Spark](#)
- [Youth Empowerment Project](#)
- [New Orleans Career Center \(NOCC\)](#)



JOB TRAINING

Café Reconcile

Café Reconcile is a workforce development/job skills training program for young people ages 16-24. The Reconcile program consists of two weeks of Foundational Skills (Life Skills/ Soft Employment Skills) followed by six weeks of split time in the Café receiving both Front of the House and Back of the House training. Upon completion, students will either start working to straight employment or gain an internship with one of Café Reconcile's Employment Partners. Cafe Reconcile provides case management supports: housing, child care, substance abuse counseling, one-on-one mental health counseling and referrals, and court support. Reconcile supports re-connecting students to positive educational pathways; both for those students looking to finish their high school diploma, and those pursuing higher education. Reconcile students receive a weekly stipend based on attendance, breakfast and lunch every day, bus passes (or a weekly gas stipend) and a full uniform. Cafe Reconcile starts a new class every 8 weeks, and is always accepting applications.

COVID-19 SERVICES: Currently (4.21.2020: COVID-19) Café Reconcile continues to provide wrap around supports in five main areas to Reconcile alumni: Unemployment Insurance applications, SNAP applications, Medicaid, Mental Health supports, and a catch-all which includes things like food access and diaper procurement.

Reconcile is unsure when regular programming post-COVID-19 will resume; our website and social media pages can provide up-to-date information.



Contact: grow@cafereconcile.org

Website: <https://www.cafereconcile.org/program/>

YouTube: <https://www.cafereconcile.org/thank-you-for-donating-on-givenola-day/youtube/>

Liberty's Kitchen

Liberty's Kitchen Youth Development Program (YDP) serves young people ages 16-24 years old who are out of work or out of school. The program teaches social skills and employability skills with a holistic approach combining hands-on food service training, life skill activities and presentations, individual case management, job placement services and follow up support. Trainees graduate from the 12-week program with the skills, tools and opportunities to thrive in employment and their communities.



Contact: Andryan LaGarde, (504) 684-5474

Website: <http://www.libertyskitchen.org/>

Operation Spark

Operation Spark is opening a new door to prosperity for low-opportunity individuals by presenting the fastest route to a career in software development. Operation Spark's mission is to provide career training courses that prepare low-income, low-opportunity individuals for various levels of employment in the technology sector in the Greater New Orleans area and beyond. Technology is the future and we want to continue to open that door for those who didn't see themselves there.



Contact: Zuri Gracin, admissions@operationspark.org, (504) 534-8277

Website: operationspark.org

Youth Empowerment Project

New Orleans Career Center (NOCC) is New Orleans' hub for high quality technical education, training skilled and prepared graduates for a lifetime of opportunities, advancement, and success. NOCC provides high quality, half day career and technical training to juniors and seniors from partner public high schools in Orleans Parish. Student trainees attend half days for coursework in high wage, high growth career pathways aligned to technical and soft skills and workplace readiness in our region. Trainees gain relevant work experience, and earn employer-valued credentials. In some courses, trainees also earn concurrent college credit. New Orleans Career Center partners with industry to provide rapid workforce training courses for adult learners in our community for immediate entry in high demand careers.

COVID-19 Operations: (4.27.2020) On March 16, 2020, NOCC shifted from in-person instruction to virtual learning. NOCC will continue offering virtual learning for the remainder of the training year, which ends May 15th. Classes are interactive and independent work is self-paced. NOCC has provided trainees with laptops, for those in need, to ensure access to virtual platforms and resources. NOCC is continuing to recruit high school trainees for the 2020-2021 school year. Our website will provide updated program information as we move toward next school year.



Contact: Carlin Jacobs, carlin@nolacc.org (225) 302-0553

Website: www.nolacc.org

METROPOLITAN HUMAN SERVICES DISTRICT

Metropolitan Human Services District (MHSD)

Metropolitan Human Services District is the local lead agency for mental illness, addictive disorders and intellectual/development disability services. MHSD provides community-based services for all ages in Orleans, St. Bernard and Plaquemines parishes through agency clinics and community partners. State and Federal funding are the primary resources for MHSD.



Contact: Elise Washington (Transition Coordinator), (504) 620-2204

Website: <https://www.mhsdla.org/>

Youtube: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UChI6U9q5VF3VEdVuBdq_4Yw

Continue to [HOUSING, COMMUNITY ACCESS, AND INDEPENDENT LIVING](#)

HOUSING, COMMUNITY ACCESS, AND INDEPENDENT LIVING

There are several agencies and providers in the New Orleans area that offer a variety of supports for individuals with disabilities. The common goal of these organizations is to enable individuals with disabilities in being independent citizens. Their supports range from finding a home to learning how to grocery shop to facilitating adult peer interactions.



FEATURED ORGANIZATIONS

- [Metropolitan Human Services District \(MHSD\)](#)
- [A Life Choice for Personal Enhancement LLC](#)
- [Crossroads Louisiana, Inc.](#)
- [Easterseals Louisiana: PEERS](#)
- [Magnolia Community Services](#)
- [Patti Barovechio DNP MN CCM – Smooth Moves YHT](#)
- [Permanent Supportive Housing](#)
- [Quality Support Coordination](#)
- [Regional Transit Authority](#)
- [Strive Center](#)
- [Superior Options of LA, Inc](#)
- [Unity GNO](#)
- [Westbank ARC](#)



HOUSING, COMMUNITY ACCESS, AND INDEPENDENT LIVING

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Website: <https://www.mhsdla.org/>

Youtube: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UChI6U9q5VF3VEvduBdq_4Yw

A Life Choice for Personal Enhancement, LLC

A Life Choice for Personal Enhancement, LLC is a Support Coordination agency serving the EPSDT Targeted population and the Tiered Waiver population which include Children's Choice Waiver, Supports, Residential Options and New Opportunity Waiver. A Life Choice for Personal Enhancement is located on the Westbank just outside of New Orleans at 401 Whitney Avenue, Ste. 135, Gretna, LA 70056.

Contact: Calvin Marshall, alifechoice4@yahoo.com, (504)362-0504

Crossroads Louisiana, Inc.

Crossroads Louisiana is a 501(c) non-profit agency founded by Dr. Gerald Murphy in 1982 to serve persons with Developmental Disabilities in the Greater New Orleans and Jefferson areas. Crossroads Louisiana offers Residential Group Homes and Supported Living for individuals 18 and older with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Crossroads Louisiana provides community-based services that maximize each individual's potential for independents in community living and self-sufficiency. The Crossroads Day Program is Monday - Friday 9am to 2pm. The Day Program features music and art classes, field trips, and a variety of other classes intended to help participants reach their goals.

Contact: Donelle Matlock, info@crossroadsla.com, (504) 366-1828

Website: <http://www.crossroadsla.com/>

Easterseals Louisiana: PEERS

PEERS is a research-based 14 week course for youth who have a hard time making and keeping friends. The course meets once a week for 90 minutes. Youth attend with an adult who agrees to be their coach for the full class. Social skills are broken down into steps, practiced, and then assigned as homework each week. It is a lot of fun, but a very effective program. We are currently taking a waiting list for PEERS in the Covington area.

Contact: Holly Bell, hbella@easterseals.com, (504) 595-3408

Website: www.easterseals.com/louisiana/

Magnolia Community Services

Magnolia Community Services is a private 501(c)3 non-profit organization providing support to adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities in the Greater New Orleans area. Magnolia offers support and services in twenty-one group homes, supported community living, vocational/day habilitation and wellness programs, and supported employment. Our Supported Employment program is continuum of employment services to help participants find, secure and maintain meaningful employment in the community.

Contact: Stacy Bell, stacyb@mcs-nola.org, (504) 731-1371

Website: www.mcs-nola.org/programs/supported-employment

Patti Barovechio DNP MN CCM – Smooth Moves YHT

Patti is the Statewide Care Coordinator Supervisor for Louisiana Children's Special Health Services (CSHS). She is a certified case manager and NCQA Patient Centered Medical Home Certified Content Expert. In her professional role, Patti leads provider education outreach programs on youth health transition, care coordination and the medical home healthcare delivery model. Patti also writes a quarterly column for the 'Family Matters' newsletter on youth transition. SmoothMovesYHT is a teen health promotion website. The information on this site is developed from evidence informed guidelines (what the experts say), transition research (what the research scientists discovered), and recommendations from organizations (important expert groups) such as the National Alliance to Advance Adolescent Health, Society for Adolescent Health and Medicine, the U.S. Maternal and Child Health Bureau, and the American Academy of Pediatrics.

Website: <https://www.smoothmovesyht.org/about-us-.html>

Permanent Supportive Housing

Louisiana Department of Health's Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) program combines permanent, subsidized rental housing with flexible, individualized housing support services to people with disabilities so they are able to remain in or reenter the community. To be eligible, a household must include a person who has a disability and currently lives in a Medicaid-funded institution (like a nursing home or ICF/DD facility) or receives one of the following community-based services: behavioral health (MHR/ACT/FACT), an eligible OAAS or OCDD waiver, or Ryan White. The household must also be at or below income limits (50% AMI; 30% AMI for 811 PRA). 811 Project Rental Assistance (PRA) serves central and north Louisiana. The qualifying member for 811 PRA must be between 18 and 62. 811 PRA applications are only accepted from a qualified referral source. PSH is a waiting list-based program.

Contact: Susan Garner, Susan.Garner@la.gov, pshapplications@la.gov, (844) 698-9075

Website: ldh.la.gov/psh

Quality Support Coordination

Quality Support Coordination develops supports to enable individuals with disabilities to live in the community and achieve desired personal choices while maintaining the participant's health and safety. Quality Support Coordinators link the individual to supports to purchase their own home, as well as coordinating and assisting individuals to access employment opportunities, volunteer experiences, roommates, transportation, family/individual counseling, equipment, community inclusion, marriage, relationship building, assuring basic safety, coordinating health concerns, receiving all entitlements, developing hobbies, interest and talents, self-advocacy and other areas that maximize a person's quality of life.

Contact: Jane Serrano, jserrano@qscmail.com, (504) 885-6745

Website: www.qualitysupportcoordination.com

Regional Transit Authority (RTA)

The Regional Transit Authority provides transportation in the City of New Orleans. All regular fixed-route buses and all red streetcars are accessible to persons with disabilities. Features such as kneeling capability, lifts, wheelchair securement areas and priority seating areas, ensure equal access on the fixed route system. Persons with disabilities utilizing the fixed route regular bus system can apply for or receive the reduced fare and pay 40 cents (with free transfers). Medicare Card recipients must bring their Medicare Card and a State ID or Driver's License to the ID Center to get an ID card to use on the system to pay the reduced fare.

If a person cannot utilize the fixed route system even in a wheelchair, they can apply for Paratransit Service. Paratransit service is a curb-to-curb (origin-to-destination) service for persons with disabilities. It is a shared ride service, meaning that a client will be in the vehicle as the operator drops off and picks up other passengers along the route until the vehicle reaches the client's destination. Each one-way trips cost \$2.00 and a person must apply and be determined eligible in order to use the service.

Contact: Karen Wilson-Sider, ADA Compliance Officer for the Regional Transit Authority

General Information: (504) 248-3900

ADA Information: (504) 827-8345

Website: <https://www.norta.com/>

Strive Center

Strive, Inc. is established for the purpose of assuring people with developmental disabilities the opportunity for life-enriching experiences in work, in play and wherever they live, by providing a continuum of programs and services. Since its founding in October 1963, the Sophie Gumbel Guild has afforded opportunities for persons with mental retardation to grow and to develop. The Guild formally changed its name to Strive, Inc. in 1996. The facility-based program Strive Center began its operations with a pilot program in a small rented cottage in 1972 with 14 clients. Strive Center operates in a large building at 1139 Napoleon Avenue and now serves 100 clients in a diversified program of job related training, facility based work and supported employment. In addition Strive, Inc. sponsors residential and recreational programs.

Contact: Denise Washington, information@striveincorporated.org, (504) 895-2557

Website: www.striveincorporated.org

Superior Options of LA, Inc.

Superior Options of La, Inc. is committed to serve people with mental and physical challenges in the community by securing the opportunities to develop, function and live their life to their fullest potential.



Contact: Rebecca Johnson, rjohnsonsolinc@gmail.com (504) 236-8626

Unity GNO

Founded in 1992, UNITY of Greater New Orleans is a nonprofit organization leading a collaborative of 63 organizations providing housing and services to the homeless. UNITY's mission is to coordinate community partnerships to prevent, reduce and end homelessness. In addition to raising and distributing funds for the provision of housing and services by the collaborative, UNITY conducts homeless outreach on the streets and in abandoned buildings, develops nonprofit-owned apartment buildings for those who are homeless or low income, helps the public locate affordable housing and advocates for public policy to prevent and reduce homelessness.



Website: <https://unitygno.org/>

Westbank ARC

The WESTBANK ARC, INC. Currently offers Center-based, community based and employment services. All services are thoughtfully designed by professional staff to support the needs, abilities and interest of each participant. Our mission is to remain committed to empowering persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities to achieve full participation in community life through informed choices, access to meaningful employment and active social involvement.



Contact: Preston Wright, Preston@westbankarc.org, (504) 361-1131

Website: <http://westbankarc.org/>

COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITY PROGRAMS

All colleges and Universities have an Office of Disability Services (ODS) to ensure that individuals with disabilities are receiving supports according to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

Several local Colleges and Universities have programs that are accessible to individuals with disabilities. In addition, they have programs to provide direct supports.



FEATURED ORGANIZATIONS

- [Delgado Community College](#)
- [Delgado Accelerated Career Education \(ACE\)](#)
- [Louisiana Deafblind Project for Children and Youth](#)
- [Loyola University Office of Accessible Education](#)
- [Southern University of New Orleans \(SUNO\)](#)
- [University of New Orleans Project ACCESS: Educational Talent Search](#)
- [Youth Occupational Skills Training \(Delgado CC\)](#)



COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES (PROGRAMS)

Delgado Community College

Contact: Gretchen Peoples, (504) 671-5161; Joseph Williams Jr., (504) 762-3229

Website: <http://www.dcc.edu/>

Delgado Accelerated Career Education (ACE)

The Accelerated Career Education (ACE) program at Delgado Community College provides an opportunity for students to acquire industry skills and increase academic skills simultaneously. Students enrolled in ACE take both college classes and Adult Education Classes while receiving enhanced support services via a Success Coach.

Contact: Nia Davis, aceprogram@dcc.edu

Website: www.dcc.edu/academics/adult-ed/ace_program.aspx

Louisiana Deafblind Project for Children and Youth

The Louisiana Deafblind Project for Children and Youth is a technical assistance project charged with supporting individuals with deaf blindness across the state of Louisiana. The project is funded by the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs and provides a variety of services to students (birth through age 22 years), families, teachers, schools, school systems and the state of Louisiana Department of Education. Services are centered around five broad areas – Family Engagement, Interdisciplinary Professional Preparation, Continuing Education in Best Practices, Louisiana Deafblind Registry, and Post-Secondary Transition.

Contact: Michael C. Norman, Ph.D, mnorm2@lsuhsc.edu, (504) 556-3455

Website: www.hdc.lsuhs.edu/ladbp

Loyola University Office of Accessible Education

Contact: Andrea Rodriguez, M.S., alrodrig@loyno.edu, (504) 865-3265

Website: <http://success.loyno.edu/accessible-education>

Southern University New Orleans (SUNO)

Contact: C. Maxille Moultrie, M.S. Director of Recruitment, cmoultrie@suno.edu, (504) 286 - 5033

Website: <http://www.suno.edu/>

University of New Orleans Project ACCESS: Educational Talent Search

The University of New Orleans Project ACCESS: Educational Talent Search program is a federally funded Trio program that assist middle and high school students with the development of skills necessary for post-secondary success. We serve Orleans and Jefferson parish students directly in their schools throughout the academic school year. We provide workshops and advisory sessions, field trips to post-secondary institutions, and cultural enriching activities.

Contact: Derek Bridges, Coordinator (dsbridge@uno.edu); Amy King, Director (aaking@uno.edu) (504) 280-7284

Website: <https://www.uno.edu/disability-services>

Youth Occupational Skills Training (Delgado CC)

The Youth Occupational Skills Training (YOST) provides training for student's ages 18 - 24 yrs. Emphasis will be placed on serving older young adults who have dropped out of school or graduated from high school and are unemployed, under-employed, or basic skills or work skills deficient.

Delgado provides training in two high-growth, high-wage sectors: Healthcare, Hospitality and Tourism. Students enrolled in these sectors will earn industry-based credentials from national accrediting entities, National Healthcareer Association (NHA), CPR/First Aid, ServSafe, and OSHA 10 respectively. Training is delivered using the Integrated Career Pathways Model, which employs a team-teaching approach to technical and foundational skills training. All trainings are ranked in the top ten demand occupations according to O'Net Summary reports. In addition to training, the College will provide wrap-around services in the form of educational and career advisement, job readiness preparation and job placement assistance.

Contact: Rachel Harrell , yost@dcc.edu

Website: www.dcc.edu/workforce-development/community-economic-development/youth-occupational-skills-training.aspx

K-12 PROGRAMS

If you have an IEP and are currently enrolled in school, several of our NOLA Public Schools Charter schools have programs either for students with disabilities or open to students with disabilities.

FEATURED ORGANIZATIONS

- [Academy of Career and Community Education \(ACCE\)](#)
- [ICFA](#)
- [Opportunities Academy](#)
- [Raphael Village](#)
- [ReNEW Accelerated High School](#)
- [The NET Charter High School](#)

K-12 PROGRAMS

Academy of Career and Community Education (ACCE)

The Academy of Career and Community Education (ACCE) is a comprehensive program at Cohen College Prep High School designed to prepare students with significant exceptionalities (ages 14-22) to achieve their most rigorous post-graduation goals. We provide a holistic model of programming that addresses every facet of a scholar's high school experience and transition. We are data-driven and IEP-guided. We use an innovative research-based curriculum, community-based instruction, professional internships, assistive technology, and targeted agency partnerships to push ACCE graduates to be active citizens, lifelong learners, and advocates for themselves as well as their community.

Contact: Nicole Mayeux, nmayeux@nolacollegeprep.org, (504) 500-7944

Website: www.nolacollegeprep.org/acce

JCFA

JCFA is a non-traditional high school that offers a year-round school, a computer-based curriculum, and individualized learning to help students earn a high school diploma. Our mission is to provide a safe and nurturing learning environment that allows students to develop their potential, and prepare students for post-secondary education or the workforce.

Contact: Millie Harris, millie.harris@jcfa.co, (504) 296-0987

Website: www.jcfa.co

Opportunities Academy

Opportunities Academy is a full-day program for college aged students with intellectual disabilities and autism. All students have an on or off-campus work experience and receive instruction on community access, independent living, and employability. We also provide speech, physical and occupational therapy, counseling, and transition services.

Contact: Kathleen Coverick, kcoverick@collegiateacademies.org, (504) 503-1421

Website: opportunitiesacademy.org

Raphael Village

Raphael Village provides support for differently-abled people in becoming fully engaged in life and community through a school, Raphael Academy, and an adult day program, the Guild at Raphael. Raphael Academy educates students (K through Twelfth Grades) who may have Autism Spectrum Disorder, Down syndrome, or other intellectual disabilities. The Guild focuses on continued life skills that each individual needs for greater independence both at home and in the community, vocational skills training, vocational worksites, in addition to cooking, baking, handwork, and gardening.

COVID-19: Raphael Academy and The Guild at Raphael Village are closed due to the COVID-19 outbreak. Both programs are currently being provided through distance learning formats. We are adhering to local, state, and national recommendations and declarations for future reopening.

Our staff is working remotely. For updates, Village news, and more, follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#)

Contact: Erin Pelias, enrollment@raphaelvillage.org, (504) 343-8580 (direct)

Website: <http://www.raphaelvillage.org/>

ReNEW Accelerated High School

ReNEW Accelerated High School (RAHS) has provided over 400 students ages 16-22 with an opportunity to earn a high school diploma since opening its doors in 2011. Students can earn 6 credits per semester to graduate in half the time as a traditional high school. Our smaller classes, differentiated instructional support, access to three career pathways and personalized college AND career counseling meet individuals' unique needs, ensuring hundreds of current and future alumni can define and achieve their own version of success.

Contact: Emily Perhamus, eperhamus@renewschools.org

Website: www.rahs.renewschools.org

The NET Charter High School

The mission of The NET is to provide struggling high school students with the skills, confidence and experiences necessary to succeed in the education and career paths of their choice. The NET is a high school program serving students aged 15 - 21 through a year-round curriculum. The school is designed to meet students where they are; provide them with academic, career, and life training; and raise their own, their families', and society's expectations of their abilities and their future prospects. Students at The NET earn Louisiana High School Diplomas and complete 22 professional internships which help them start their careers.

Contact: Kara M. Dorsey, kdorsey@thenetnola.org, (504) 259-5359

Website: www.thenetnola.org

OTHER SUPPORTS

There are several organizations who provide services ranging from

- Family advocacy
- Legal supports
- Financial Benefits Planning
- Assistive technology evaluations and supports

FEATURED ORGANIZATIONS

- [Advocacy Center](#)
- [Families Helping Families NOLA](#)
- [Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council \(DDC\)](#)
- [Louisiana Accessible Educational Materials Program](#)
- [Louisiana Assistive Technology Access Network \(LATAN\)](#)

OTHER SUPPORTS

Advocacy Center

The Advocacy Center's Work Incentives Planning and Assistance program provides benefits planning services to residents of South Louisiana, providing accurate, case-specific information about how working may affect Social Security Disability and other benefits. This program is housed in the Advocacy Center of Louisiana, the state's protection and advocacy system for people with disabilities.

Contact: Marlene Hester, mhester@advocacyla.org, (504) 522-2337 x120

Website: www.advocacyla.org

Families Helping Families NOLA

Families Helping Families NOLA provides supports to families of individuals with disabilities. Supports include information and referrals for medical services, community organizations, educational materials and publications, as well as educational training workshops on topics ranging from healthcare to transition to IEP/504, and peer to peer support, including continuous information and guidance from parents, siblings and self-advocates.

Contact: Aisha Johnson, ajohnson@fhfnola.org, (504) 943-0343

Website: www.fhfnola.org

Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council (DDC)

The Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council's mission is to increase independence, self-determination, productivity, integration, and inclusion for Louisianans with developmental disabilities by engaging in advocacy, capacity building, and systems change. To facilitate in accomplishing this mission, activities are implemented and information disseminated through the Louisiana Council's Advocacy Network (LaCAN), support is provided to People First of Louisiana, and collaborations are conducted with other DD Network State partners: Disability Rights Louisiana, and LSU-HSC Human Development Center.

Contact: Courtney Ryland, Toll Free: 1 (800) 450-8108, (225) 342-6804

Website: www.laddc.org

Louisiana Accessible Educational Materials Program

The Louisiana Department of Education and the Special School District have partnered together to implement the Louisiana Accessible Educational Materials Program. LA-AEM will provide services to school systems across the state by offering regional support with accessible instructional materials, assistive technology, deaf/hard of hearing and blind outreach.

Contact: Josh Miller, josh@ssdla-aem.org, (225) 757-3470

Louisiana Assistive Technology Access Network (LaTAN)

LATAN is a 501(c)(3) statewide nonprofit organization with the mission to help people of all ages with functional limitations or disabilities to gain greater independence at work, home, or school through the use of Assistive Technology (AT). We will be sharing information on LATAN's Assistive Technology Services, Alternative Financing Programs and Rehabilitation Services. LATAN has over 600 devices in our demonstration center. Expect to see assistive technology from the categories of vision, home automation, daily living, learning and cognitive development, speech/communication, hearing and computer access.

Need an American Sign Language Interpreter?

Lighthouse Louisiana is a responsive and professional interpreting agency with highly skilled American Sign Language (ASL) interpreters to provide full, culturally sensitive communication access.

Advocacy and Resources

If you have questions about your communication rights as a Deaf, Hard-of-Hearing, or Deafblind individual, or if you are wondering about your responsibility as a business or organization, we provide information, resources and advocacy. We are here to support you, your business, and our community.

We help foster successful communication in a variety of settings, including, but not limited to:

- Medical Appointments
- Job Interviews
- Job Training/Orientations
- Mental Health
- Conferences/Workshops/Conventions
- Classrooms
- Public Meetings
- Trainings
- And more!



123 State St.
New Orleans, LA 70118

2773 North Flannery Rd.
Baton Rouge, LA 70814

Call: 504-899-4501, ext. 253

Text: 504-812-3765

VP: 504-383-8554 or 225-224-3147

E-mail: deafservices@lighthouselouisiana.org

Facebook: [Lighthouse Louisiana](#)

Twitter: [@lighthouse_nola](#)

www.lighthouselouisiana.org

RECREATION & LEISURE

These organizations provide opportunities for enrichment, physical activity, social interaction and health education to individuals with disabilities.

FEATURED ORGANIZATIONS

- [Dancing Grounds](#)
- [LOOP NOLA](#)
- [NORD Commision](#)
- [Miracle League of Greater New Orleans](#)
- [Students Together Acquiring Recreational Skills \(STARS\)](#)
- [Goalball \(Lighthouse Louisiana\)](#)
- [Special Olympics New Orleans](#)
- [Swimming Lessons \(Various Vendors\)](#)

RECREATION & LEISURE

DANCING GROUNDS

Dancing Grounds (DG) is a multigenerational arts space that brings inclusive and accessible dance programs to New Orleans residents of all ages. With youth dance companies, summer camps, and the annual Dance for Social Change Festival, DG creates safe and celebratory spaces in which the lived experiences of youth are truly valued and their unique creative talents are recognized, developed, and celebrated. We also host the most comprehensive adult dance program in the city. Since 2012, DG has become a driving force for arts and education in New Orleans and a hub for the local dance community, serving over 3,000 youth, 5,000 adults, and countless audience members. Our work is guided by a set of core values: equity, racial justice, integrity, relationships, learning, collaboration, abundance, and joy.

COVID-19 Update: Due to COVID-19, Dancing Grounds has shifted all youth and adult classes to an online format. FREE instructional videos (live and prerecorded) can be found on our YouTube, Facebook and Instagram pages.

Contact: info@dancinggrounds.org

Website: <http://www.dancinggrounds.org/>

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/user/DancingGrounds>

Facebook: [Facebook.com/dancinggrounds](https://www.facebook.com/dancinggrounds)

Instagram: @dancinggrounds

LOOP NOLA

LOOP NOLA is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to provide positive, life-changing outdoor experiences for children and youth in Greater New Orleans. LOOP NOLA addresses the lack of opportunity for urban children to experience the outdoors. We nurture students' connections to nature by developing a sense of wonder at the natural world along with their social, technical and academic skills through repeated exposure to outdoor adventures over multiple years. LOOP NOLA is proud to offer outdoor activities geared specifically toward students with special needs. For the safety of our staff and participants, our programs are currently suspended until it's deemed safe to gather again

Contact: Heather West, hwest@loopnola.org, (504) 655-2770.

Website: www.loopnola.org

NORD Commision

New Orleans Recreation Department Consortium (NORDC) Flag Football

Contact: Jahanna Brightman

Phone: (504) 658-3052

Family Game Night

Taking the "Bored" Out of Board Games Family Game Night provides an opportunity for all children, including those with special needs, to have fun, in a safe and accepting environment. FREE! Location changes monthly; rotates between city parks.

Address: 5420 Franklin Avenue, New Orleans, LA

Phone: (504) 658-3052

Website: nordc.org

Excite All-Stars

Play Unified expresses the movement's ambition to be recognized as an inclusive community where people with and without intellectual disabilities (ID) have the opportunity to enjoy and appreciate each other's gifts, both on and off the playing field.

Contact: Penny Williams

Phone: (504) 218-2607 ext. 701

Website: <https://exciteallstars.org/>

Miracle League of Greater New Orleans

The vision of the Miracle League is to provide any disabled child, regardless of their level of disability, the opportunity to play league sports and enjoy the emotional and physical benefits of being part of a team sport. Basketball, soccer, and baseball are offered.

Contact: (504) 899-9511

Website: <https://www.chnola.org/community/miracle-league-of-greater-new-orleans/>

Students Together Acquiring Recreational Skills (STARS)

STARS offers recreational activities on Saturdays during the school year for students who are visually impaired. Activities include pottery, painting, and more! This program is available to students grades kindergarten through 8th grade.

Contact: info@lighthouseouisiana.org, (504) 899-45001

Website: <http://lighthouseouisiana.org/>

Goalball (Lighthouse Louisiana)

Goalball is a fun and challenging competitive sport designed for people who are blind. Generously sponsored by area Lions Clubs, games take place on Saturdays during the school year. This program is available to students in grades kindergarten through 12th grade.

Contact: info@lighthouseouisiana.org, (504) 899-4501

Website: <http://lighthouseouisiana.org/>

Special Olympics New Orleans

Swimming - Swimmers must be at least 8 years old to participate, all ability levels are welcome, and participants are given the choice to compete in local Special Olympics Events.

Track - Special Olympics New Orleans also offers track.

Swimming Contact: Coach Kait Simpson (ksimpso4@tulane.edu)

Track Contact: Dan DiGiacomo (ddigiacomo88@gmail.com), (845) 323-5602

Swimming Lessons

JoJo's Hope-Elmwood

JoJo's Hope - Elmwood offers swimming and aquatic activity programs that are adapted to meet the need of individuals with mental or physical limitations. The therapeutic programs are specially designed for those with Multiple Sclerosis, Cerebral Palsy, Spinal Bifida, Autism, Down Syndrome and other disabilities This is a year-round program that cost \$30 per month.

Contact: Paula LaCour, (504) 385-0046

Website: www.jojoshope.org

YMCA of Greater New Orleans: Diverse Abilities Swim Lessons

The YMCA of Greater New Orleans' program provides specialized one-on-one or small group lessons for children with various special needs. Through this swimming program, parents and caregivers are given the opportunity to provide their children with the means to learn fundamental water safety and swimming skills in a safe environment.

Contact: Association Aquatics Director Rachael Jonas (rachaelj@ymcaneworleans.org), (504) 568-9622

Website: <https://www.ymcaneworleans.org>

Love Swimming

This is a year-round indoor swimming program specifically designed for children with special needs. The lessons build confidence through recognizing the unique personalities and strengths of each swimmer as an individual while focusing on water safety and developing practical swimming skills. The program is customized for each child's emotional and developmental abilities, with the goals of helping each child become physically active, while building self confidence and self esteem, and learning the life-saving skill of swimming. Through swimming, Love Swimming will offer the student another avenue for integration into a small group for high functioning special abilities children.

Contact: (504) 891-4662

Website: <http://loveswimming.com>

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)

- 1. How do I have my organization/program added to the guide?**
Please email ECS Project Manager Amanda Bonam (abonam@nolapublicschools.com) with "JOINING RESOURCE GUIDE" in the subject line to be added).
- 2. How do I recommend organizations to be included in the guide?**
Please email ECS Project Manager Amanda Bonam (abonam@nolapublicschools.com) with recommendations for additional organizations.
- 3. How do I give feedback on the guide?**
Please fill out the survey [HERE](#).
- 4. Does NOLA Public Schools have a Special Education Transitions Coordinator?**
Yes, Richard Hall serves as the NOLA Public Schools Transitions Coordinator. He can be reached at rhall@nolapublicschools.com
- 5. Where can I learn more about Child Search?**
Please visit the [NOLA Public Schools website](#)
- 6. Does NOLA Public Schools have any resources for general special education questions/support?**
Please visit the [Special Education Resources](#) page on the NOLA Public Schools website.
- 7. How can I update my organization's information within the guide?**
Email Amanda Bonam (abonam@nolapublicschools.com)
- 8. Does NOLA Public Schools have resources to support students with disabilities in the enrollment process?**
Yes, please contact Assistant Director of Specialized Programming Placement and Facilitation Dr. Zaheerah Clark (zclark@nolapublicschools.com)