

## **An Open Letter from the Superintendent of Schools Concerning BESE's Recent Decision**

January 22, 2009

By now you have heard the news that the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) voted in favor of State Superintendent Paul Patorek's recommendations -- that eight of the 12 EBRPSS schools (Banks, Capitol, Dalton, Lanier and Park Elementary Schools; Capitol, Crestworth and Kenilworth Middle Schools), identified as AUS 4 be placed into the Recovery School District (RSD).

The four remaining schools could operate under a supervisory memorandum of understanding (MOU) in which the RSD would have a significant role in developing and implementing the recovery plan. The four schools are Greenville, Claiborne and Winbourne elementary schools, and Istrouma High School.

We all know that this School System has made great strides in improving the academic performance at not only these schools, but every school in the School System. We've done this through the implementation of a comprehensive curriculum that has been aligned with state standards, first-class professional development, and research-based Literacy and Numeracy programs, as well as other reforms.

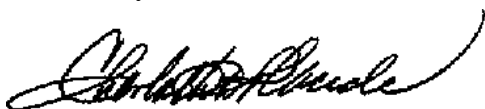
I want to thank all of you, as well as the community and parents, for supporting the School System during this process. The outpouring of community support for our students has been overwhelming. We must continue to build on this momentum; for without the support of the community, we cannot have a strong school system.

While there are some that will take this opportunity to portray the School System in a negative light, I want each of you to know that I appreciate your hard work and dedication to our students. Every effort will be made to maintain the stability of the school system as we move forward.

We must remain focused on providing quality instruction for all students. We will continue to improve student achievement and performance levels.

Our System continues to work to achieve our mission and vision, which is to educate and graduate all so that they will have better futures.

Sincerely,



Superintendent Charlotte D. Placide