



Annual Report 2023 Louisiana



100%
College-Bound



6
Tuition-Free
Public Schools



K-2, 6-7
Grades



3,000
Students Served

“Great Place to Work”

IDEA has been recognized as a “Great Place to Work” and received national rankings on *U.S. News & World Report’s* Top High Schools lists and Jay Mathews Challenge Index High School Rankings formerly known as America’s Most Challenging High Schools published in *The Washington Post*.

IDEA Louisiana

Dear Team & Family,

As we reflect on the past year, we are filled with excitement and hope for what is to come. Together, we have navigated unprecedented challenges, broken down barriers, and paved the way for a brighter future for each of our scholars. We are grateful for the resiliency and determination of the organization's students, teachers, leaders, and families.

2023 was a year defined by successes, achievements, and a cohesive effort to live out our mission of providing access to college for ALL children. As we look back, we are reminded of the moments that made us smile, laugh, and cheer and of the many outstanding accomplishments of our schools, including:

- IDEA welcomed over 80,000 students and more than 10,700 staff for the first day of school across eleven regions in 4 states.
- Class of 2023 included 1,961 seniors, 10,812 acceptances to colleges and universities, and \$157 million in grants and scholarships.
- 80% of 2023 seniors are first-generation college students
- 19 IDEA high schools, 55 middle schools, and 47 IDEA Elementary schools are ranked among the best in the nation by U.S. News and World Report

- IDEA has achieved 10,000 alumni and met the college matriculation goal for the 10th consecutive year
- IDEA announced new leadership: Jeff Cottrill, CEO and Superintendent; Cody Grindle, President; Ernesto Cantu, Chief Schools Officer; Marlon Shears, Chief Information Officer; Andrea Fernandez, Area Superintendent; and Dr. Dionel Waters, Area Superintendent

Looking ahead, we are filled with joy and optimism and remain deeply committed to our mission, vision, and values. As a Team & Family, we will continue to build upon our academic successes, student achievements, and innovative learning experiences while nurturing a collaborative and thriving community working toward a single mission of college for all.

Let us embrace the possibilities that lie ahead. Thank you for being a vital part of this community.

Sincerely,

Jeff Cottrill
CEO & Superintendent

Collin Sewell
Chair, Board of Directors



IDEA Innovation
Founded 2018, K-10



IDEA University Prep
Founded 2018, K-10



IDEA Bridge
Founded 2018, K-10

IMPACT IN ACTION

- IDEA named Dr. Clifford Wallace as the Executive Director of Louisiana. His extensive educational background and leadership experience have provided great successes to the region as he leads with high expectations and great support. In addition, IDEA Bridge opened their first CNP farm, where students learn how to grow and harvest food.
- In the 2022-23 school year, IDEA Public Schools Louisiana served nearly 3,000 college-bound students in grades K through 10 across Southern Louisiana. We are on track to maintain our legacy of sending 100% of our graduates to college.
- Our schools are like family. Parents, teachers, and administrators work as a team to help each student reach their full potential.



IDEA is a goal-oriented and data-driven family of public charter schools, open to all students in grades K–12. The district prioritizes achieving 100% college acceptance and matriculation for its students.



IDEA is held to the same academic standards as traditional public schools and prioritizes the development of the whole child, including character, emotional and physical health, and wellness.



IDEA teachers partner with students and families every step of the way to ensure students are prepared for success in college and life.



President Profile

Cody Grindle

Cody's nearly 14-year tenure with IDEA started in the classroom as an English teacher at IDEA Mission and evolved into technology roles on IDEA's Information Services Team. Two years ago, he became IDEA's first Chief Information Officer, leading the transformational work to turn data into information and empower all areas of IDEA with the tools to create value for our students and communities. Cody's keen insights and creative solutions have influenced nearly every aspect of IDEA's operations, from students' daily attendance to family recruitment and our COVID-19 pandemic response.

Previously, Cody was named one of the Top 30 Technologists, Transformers, & Trailblazers by the Center for Digital Education. Cody earned his B.A. in Political Science, Economics, & German at Wittenberg University in Springfield, Ohio, earning distinctions for work abroad in Moscow, Russia, and Freiburg im Breisgau, Germany.

As President, Cody oversees chiefs and teams supporting IDEA's operations, including Information Technology; Advancement; Human Assets; and Operations. A native of Cleveland, Ohio, Cody currently lives in Austin with his wife, Megan, three dogs, and three chickens.

133 IDEA Schools Recognized Among the Healthiest in the Nation

IDEA is excited to announce that 120 schools across the nation are among the top schools nationwide to earn a spot on the Alliance for a Healthier Generation 2022 list of "America's Healthiest Schools" for their commitment to promoting quality nutrition, regular physical activity, and strong wellness policies. Each school met at least four of the following categories:

- Ensuring Family & Community Engagement
- Nutrition & Food Access
- Local School Wellness Policy
- Health Education
- Physical Education & Activity
- Social Emotional Health
- Staff Well-Being
- Tobacco-Free Schools
- School Health Services

This distinction is a major accomplishment thanks to IDEA's Healthy Kids Here program. Launched in 2014, Healthy Kids Here is an initiative aimed at making IDEA one of the healthiest school districts in America with three main areas of focus including food, fitness, and instilling healthy habits for the future. With an emphasis on helping students gain a strong foundation of healthy habits, Healthy Kids Here provides students with healthy meals and snacks each day, five campus farm programs that keep schools supplied with delicious, locally grown, organic produce, physical fitness programs to keep scholars healthy and strong, while educating students and families about the importance of proper hygiene and healthy living. Health Aides lead the Healthy Kids Here work on each campus, partnering with the Child Nutrition Program and PE coaches throughout the year to deliver health programming and education.

For nearly 16 years, Alliance for a Healthier Generation's annual recognition program has honored schools that are implementing best practices that support children's learning and development, including meeting or exceeding federal standards for nutritious school meals and providing regular opportunities for students and staff to be active throughout the school day. It remains one of the country's longest-running, nationwide recognition programs honoring schools for achievements in nutrition, physical activity, and wellness policies.

IDEA Louisiana Financial Highlights

Statement of Financial Position

Assets	
Cash	\$2,687,821
Receivables	\$3,815,634
Investments	--
Pre-paid Items	--
Other	\$6,006,694
Net Property & Equipment	\$29,196,697
Total	\$41,706,846

Liabilities & Net Assets	
Current Liabilities	\$13,223,563
Payroll Liabilities	--
Long-term Liabilities	\$24,453,762
Net Assets	\$4,029,521
Total	\$41,706,846

Statement of Activities

Revenues	
State Funding	\$38,019,386
Federal Funding	\$4,189,547
Grants & Gifts	\$1,303,397
Other	\$17,063
Total	\$43,529,393

Expenses	
Instructional & School Leadership	\$14,332,668
Operations	--
Administration	\$6,552,162
Fundraising	\$986
Debt Service	--
Support & Ancillary Services	\$19,437,535
Total	\$40,323,351