




PRESS RELEASE

LOUISIANA TREASURER JOHN FLEMING, MD

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PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
MAY 9, 2025

WHY DID LOUISIANA TAXPAYERS PICK UP THE BAR TAB?

Baton Rouge, LA—On March 31, 2025, the Louisiana Department of Treasury launched the **Louisiana K-12 School Transparency Website**, the country's most comprehensive and transparent state educational website. The transparency portal on the Department of Treasury's home page contains voluminous information, including over 2 million data lines. Upon thorough examination of the financial data, some spending raises legitimate questions.

For example, why did the **Lycée Français de la Nouvelle-Orléans** charter school in New Orleans spend \$947.24 at Felipe's Mexican Taqueria and list the expense as "Materials and Supplies?"

Why did the **Noble Minds Institute**, a New Orleans charter school closing at the end of this school year, spend \$9,840 at Cure, a New Orleans bar?

Why did the **Esperanza Charter School** in New Orleans, which had been threatened with closure and identified as underperforming, spend \$1,575.85 on "Educational Services" at Bayou Beer Garden and \$1,555 on "Miscellaneous Expenditures" at Felipe's Mexican Taqueria?

Why did the **Dorothy Height Charter School** in New Orleans, now closed, spend \$5,596.58 at the Bayou Beer Garden and \$1,218.56 at Felipe's Mexican Taqueria?

Why did the **Harriet Tubman Charter School** in New Orleans spend \$5,150.75 on expenses labeled as "Operation and Maintenance of Buildings" at Lucy's Retired Surfers Bar and Restaurant, as well as \$1,218.56 on "School Administration" at Felipe's Mexican Taqueria?

Not to be outdone, the **Mildred Osborne Charter School** in New Orleans, which merged with another school due to "financial challenges," spent \$1,554.50 at Total Wine and More for "Instruction," and \$4,359 for "Special Education" and "Operation and Maintenance of Buildings" at Felipe's Mexican Taqueria.

Finally, the **Samuel Green Charter School** in New Orleans, which closed due to “low enrollment and poor performance,” spent \$2,135 at the Bayou Beer Garden on expenses labeled “Materials and Supplies.”

While none of these expenses at bars and restaurants are technically illegal, many questions are raised. Would these schools still be open today if more funds had been spent on the students instead of entertainment and other expenses?

Louisiana State Treasurer John Fleming said, “**The Louisiana K-12 School Transparency Website** holds our public-school officials accountable for spending your money. It will allow Louisiana’s citizens to uncover dubious public money expenditures by school districts.”

The Louisiana K-12 School Transparency Website gives Louisiana taxpayers easy access to details regarding how public schools spend public funds. This project aims to increase transparency in public school financial matters and community and parent involvement.

Dr. Fleming continued, “Sunlight is the best disinfectant to fight inefficiency. The more transparency we offer the people of Louisiana, the more efficient our state government will become, leading to enhanced educational outcomes for our children and better pay for our teachers.”

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For more information contact:

Jeff Crouere
Communications Director
Louisiana Department of Treasury
Office: (225) 342-0015
Jcrouere@treasury.la.gov

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Louisiana State Treasury | State Capitol, 3rd Floor P.O. Box 44154 | Baton Rouge, LA 70804 US

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