

# SCHOOL CHOICE Simplified

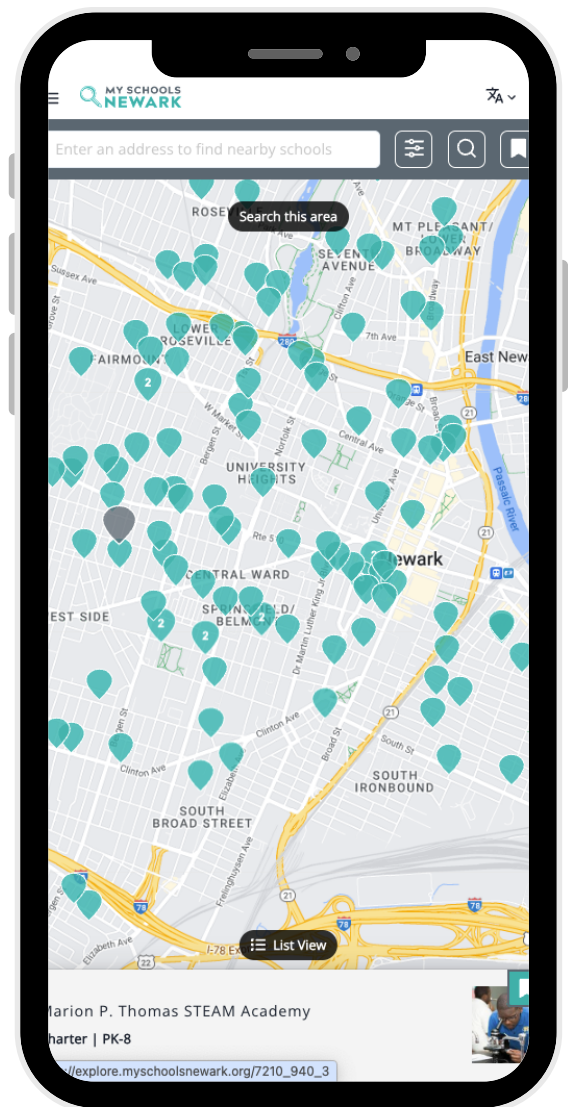
In the heart of Newark, New Jersey, a partnership between Avela and the New Jersey Children's Foundation (NJCF) has been reshaping the educational landscape in the city, providing families with fair access to educational opportunities. This collaboration, marked by innovation and a deep commitment to equity, has rolled out two significant initiatives: My Schools Newark and the Newark Common App. Here's a detailed look at the journey and accomplishments of this partnership:

## Visionary Beginnings and Strategic Development

The collaboration took its first significant step with the launch of My Schools Newark in March 2022. This platform was conceived as a free, comprehensive digital tool designed to give parents a centralized resource for information on every school across Newark, including district, charter, private, and early childhood programs. The initiative aimed to empower parents with the knowledge and tools needed to navigate Newark's diverse educational landscape effectively.

*"This really is an exciting new resource. To see info about ALL schools readily available on ONE platform is absolutely AMAZING!"*

-- Dane Tomlin, Newark Parent



[explore.myschoolsnewark.org](https://explore.myschoolsnewark.org)

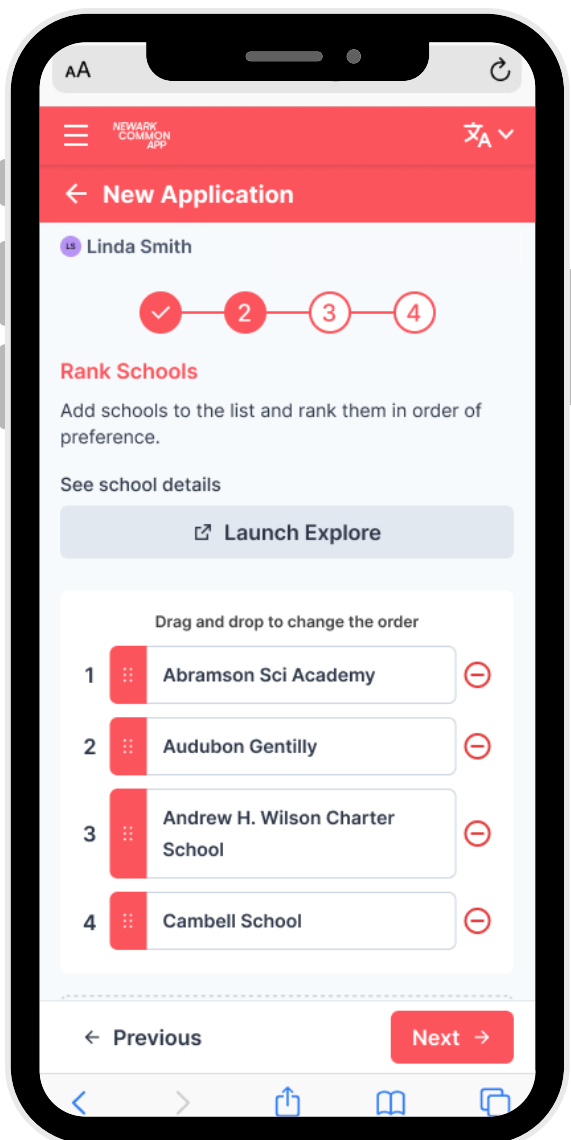


## The Newark Common App: A Leap Towards Inclusive Education

Expanding on the success of My Schools Newark, the partnership introduced the Newark Common App in March 2023. Initially focusing on charter schools, the vision for the app is to eventually include all educational institutions in Newark. The app streamlines the application process, making it more accessible and equitable for all families, a testament to the shared commitment of Avela and NJCF towards educational equity.

## Celebrating Milestones and Impact

The Newark Common App's journey has been marked by several milestones, from its strong launch to celebrating the release of the initial round of school matches for the 2023-24 school year. The platform's second year saw enhancements and added functionalities, reflecting ongoing efforts to improve and adapt based on community feedback and technological advancements. The initiative has significantly eased the enrollment process for Newark families, as evidenced by the high match rates and positive feedback from users.



[newarkcommonapp.org](https://newarkcommonapp.org)

## Community Engagement and Future Aspirations

The partnership has also been proactive in engaging the community and sharing insights, as seen in webinars and discussions aimed at driving equity in education. Such efforts underscore the belief in the transformative power of education and the importance of accessible financial aid, as highlighted by initiatives like the 2024 FAFSA Challenge launched in partnership with Newark Mayor Ras Baraka. This challenge underscores a broader commitment to educational access and success beyond the K-12 spectrum.

## Conclusion

The collaboration between Avela and the New Jersey Children's Foundation stands as a beacon of innovation and commitment to educational equity. By providing families with the tools and information needed to make informed decisions, they are breaking down barriers to access and fostering a community where every child has the opportunity to succeed. As this partnership continues to evolve, its impact on Newark's educational landscape promises to grow, paving the way for a future where inclusive education is not just an aspiration but a reality.