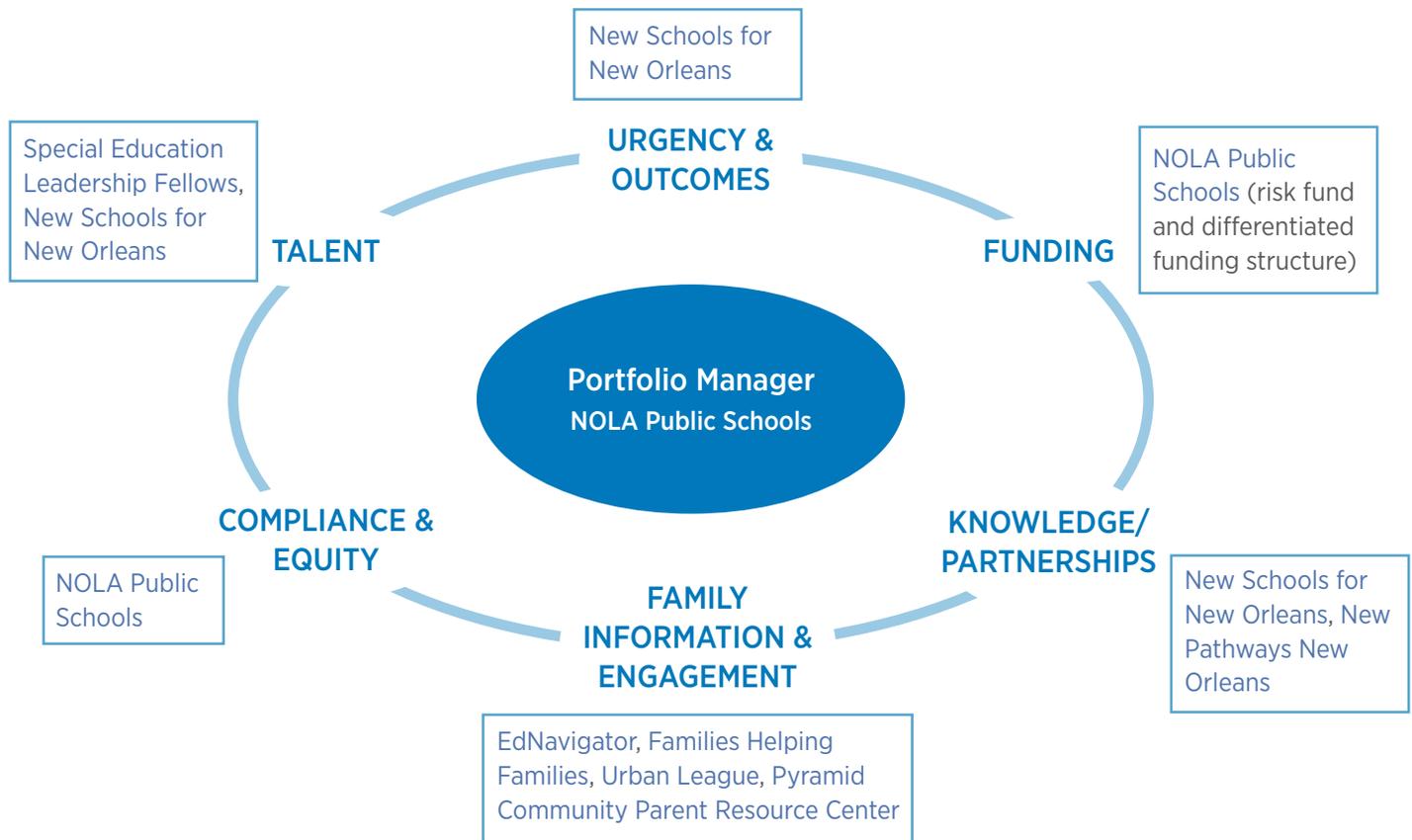


# Visual: Special Education Landscape

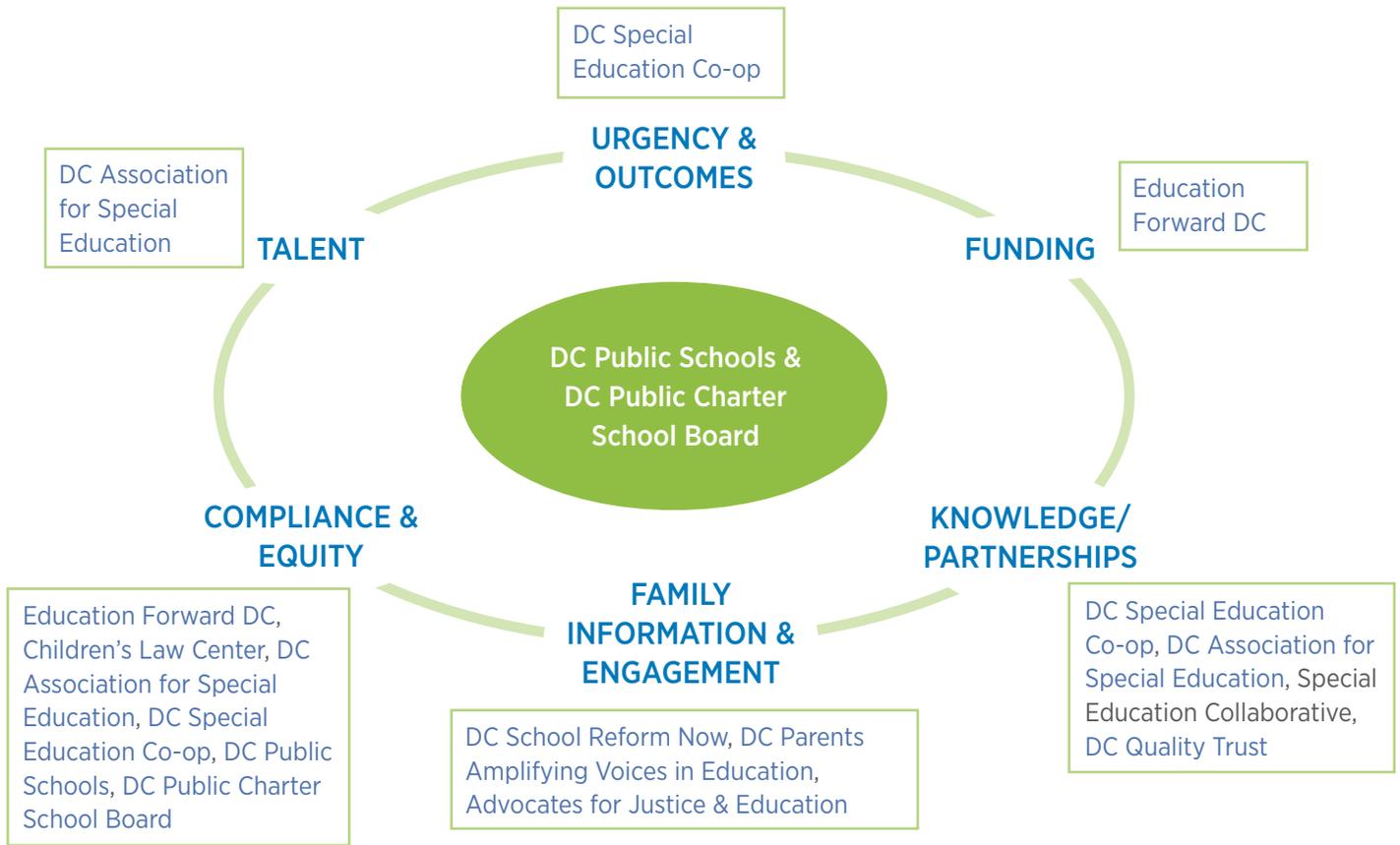
In a recent brief, we proposed six necessary elements for a city to develop an integrated strategy to improve special education: a strategy that is built on providing system-level supports. To understand how parents of children with disabilities find a good-fit school and the support their children need, we studied two “high-choice” cities: Washington, D.C., and New Orleans. As part of this study, we conducted a landscape analysis of the special education school choice supports available to families. A strength of both cities is that many organizations are working collaboratively to improve special education student outcomes and the family experience. This graphic shows the organizations we identified during the landscape analysis that provide special education school choice support. These organizations are shown by area of focus.

Note: We do not claim this is an exhaustive list of the organizations that support families. They are the organizations we identified through our snowball sampling procedures.

## Special Education Landscape in New Orleans



Special Education Landscape in Washington, D.C.



Six Elements to Develop an Integrated Strategy to Improve Special Education

Element	Description
URGENCY & OUTCOMES	Focus on rigor and continuous improvement: high expectations, accountability metrics, and consequences.
FUNDING	Adequate funding, incentives, local extraordinary needs funds.
KNOWLEDGE/PARTNERSHIPS	Partnerships with local providers (universities, mental health supports, social services), networks/shared services to support continuous improvement, research and knowledge development strategy (data, university partnerships), promote innovation.
FAMILY INFORMATION & ENGAGEMENT	Understandable and relatable parent information, help for families to navigate choices and find the best fit.
COMPLIANCE & EQUITY	Ensure equitable access and gap-closing outcomes, fair enrollment process (weighted for IEP status?), transportation to “best fit”, records transfers and compliance supports.
TALENT	Talent strategy: residencies and recruiting for leaders <i>and</i> teachers.