

PURPOSE

In order to receive state and federal funding, nonpublic schools in Louisiana must be approved by the state Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) and be compliant with the nondiscrimination requirements of *Brumfield vs. Dodd*. The nonpublic school approval process is intended to confirm that schools utilize “a curriculum of quality at least equal to that prescribed for similar public schools,” as required by the Louisiana Constitution. Additional accountability measures apply for eligible nonpublic schools that participate in the Louisiana Scholarship Program.

APPLICANT CATEGORIES

Nonpublic schools seeking state approval will be organized into three categories:

- *Category 1:* Schools with independent accreditation from the [Southern Association of Colleges and Schools \(SACS\)](#), [AdvancED](#), or from an agency recognized by the [National Association of Independent Schools \(NAIS\)](#)
- *Category 2:* Schools with accreditation from an independent group not listed above
- *Category 3:* Schools without accreditation

A “returning applicant” is any nonpublic school with state approval for the current school year. A “new applicant” is any school seeking state approval for the first time or without approval for the current school year.

REQUIREMENTS & TIMELINE

All forms can be downloaded on the Louisiana Department of Education website at <http://www.louisianabelieves.com/resources/library/nonpublic-schools>.

| Category 1 Schools | | Category 2 Schools | | Category 3 Schools | |
|--|---|---|--|---|---|
| Returning | New | Returning | New | Returning | New |
| - Brumfield v. Dodd compliance report - Fire & Health/Safety Filings* | - Brumfield v. Dodd initial application - Letter of accreditation - Fire & Health/Safety Filings* | - Brumfield v. Dodd compliance report - Returning Applicant Questionnaire (changes only) - Program of Study (changes only) - Faculty & Volunteer Letter - Fire & Health/Safety Filings* | - Brumfield v. Dodd initial application - Letter of accreditation - New Applicant Questionnaire - Program of Study - Faculty & Volunteer Letter - Fire & Health/Safety Filings* | - Brumfield v. Dodd compliance report - Returning Applicant Questionnaire (changes only) - Program of Study (changes only) - Faculty & Volunteer Letter - Fire & Health/Safety Filings* | - Brumfield v. Dodd initial application - New Applicant Questionnaire - Program of Study - Faculty & Volunteer Letter - Fire & Health/Safety Filings* |

The LDE will present nonpublic school approval recommendations to BESE in December.

* Fire- School inspection report must be from the state or local fire marshall *Health- School inspection report must be completed by the Department of Health and Hospitals

INSTRUCTIONS FOR SUBMITTING DOCUMENTS

The LDOE has created an [online survey](#) to collect all required documentation. Schools will no longer need to log in to the FTP to complete the NPS approval process. Completing this online survey is expected to take 10-15 minutes.

After reviewing the attached checklist, click on or copy and paste the following link into your browser to access the online survey and submit your school's documents:

<https://form.jotform.com/81773454351156>.

For schools that need technical support filling out the online survey, please watch [this help video](#)

QUESTIONS

Any questions or concerns about the nonpublic school approval process should be directed to nonpublicschools@la.gov.

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