

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 two categories:

- *Accredited schools*: Schools with independent accreditation from the [Southern Association of Colleges and Schools \(SACS\)](#), [AdvancEd](#), [Louisiana Montessori Association](#), or from an agency recognized by the [National Association of Independent Schools \(NAIS\)](#)
- *Non-accredited schools*: Schools without accreditation or with accreditation from an organization not listed above

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

| Accredited Schools | | Non-accredited Schools | |
|--|---|--|--|
| Returning | New | Returning | New |
| - Brumfield v. Dodd compliance report - Fire & Health/Safety Filings -Program of Study (high schools only) -Letter of accreditation | - Brumfield v. Dodd initial application - Letter of accreditation - Fire & Health/Safety Filings -Program of Study (high schools only) | - Brumfield v. Dodd compliance report - Returning Applicant Questionnaire - Program of Study (high schools only) - Fire & Health/Safety Filings | - Brumfield v. Dodd initial application - New Applicant Questionnaire - Program of Study (high schools only) - Fire & Health/Safety Filings |

All required documents must be submitted to the [Jotform](#) survey by October 15th to be considered for BESE approval.