

ISSUE	LOUISIANA SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM	TUITION DONATION CREDIT PROGRAM	SCHOOL CHOICE PROGRAM FOR CERTAIN STUDENTS WITH EXCEPTIONALITIES
What are the student eligibility requirements?	Louisiana students entering kindergarten or enrolled in a C, D or F school with a family income that does not exceed 250% of the federal poverty guidelines are eligible.	Students are eligible if the student’s family income does not exceed 250% of the federal poverty guidelines and the student either: a) is entering kindergarten for the first time; b) was enrolled in a Louisiana public school during the previous year; or c) participated in either the Tuition Donation Program or Louisiana Scholarship Program during the previous year.	Students that have been evaluated by a Louisiana public school district and determined to be in need of services for specific exceptionalities and have an Individual Education Plan, district provided services plan or a nonpublic school created service plan. See the School Choice Program FAQ for a list of eligible exceptionalities.
Selected students receive a...	Scholarship from the Louisiana Department of Education, funded by state revenue.	Scholarship from a School Tuition Organization, funded by private donations.	Educational Certificate from the Louisiana Department of Education, funded by state revenue.
How much financial assistance do families receive?	Scholarship amount equals the school’s tuition and fees or per pupil funding in the district where the student lives, whichever is less.	School Tuition Organizations determine scholarship amounts. Amounts cannot exceed the school’s tuition and fees or 80% of state per pupil funding for elementary and middle school (approximately \$4,200) and 90% for high school (approximately \$4,700), whichever is less.	Educational certificate amount equals the school’s tuition and fees or 50% of per pupil state funding in the district where the student lives, whichever is less.
What are the financial costs for parents and families?	The scholarship covers all costs for tuition and mandatory fees. No application fee. Uniforms, after school care and other optional fees continue to be the family’s responsibility just like it would be at the local district school.	Parents and families must pay any tuition and fees greater than the scholarship amount. School Tuition Organizations may charge an application fee.	Parents and families must pay any tuition and fees greater than the educational certificate amount.
How do students apply?	Students apply to the Louisiana Department of Education for a scholarship.	Students apply to School Tuition Organizations for a scholarship.	Students apply to the Louisiana Department of Education for an educational certificate.
How are students selected?	The Louisiana Department of Education awards scholarships by lottery, based on student preferences and available space at participating schools.	School Tuition Organizations award scholarships on a first-come, first-served basis. If the number of students that meet the participating school’s enrollment criteria exceeds the number of available seats, the school must conduct a lottery to determine enrollment.	The Louisiana Department of Education awards educational certificates by lottery, based on student preferences and available space at participating schools.

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<p>How does this program impact students with disabilities?</p>	<p>Participating schools are not required to provide special education services. However, schools that meet program requirements may receive supplemental funding for the provision of such services. The supplemental funding may not exceed public school per pupil funding.</p>	<p>Taxpayers may designate donations for students with disabilities, students with a specific type of disability, or a specific student with a disability.</p>	<p>Schools need to provide educational services that specifically address the needs of participating students.</p>
<p>How do students select their school of choice?</p>	<p>To apply to participating schools, families must submit an application online at www.louisianabelieves.com/scholarship, students are allowed to list up to five choices.</p> <p>When the application process closes, the Louisiana Department of Education conducts a lottery to award scholarships to students.</p>	<p>Students apply directly to nonpublic schools for enrollment. Schools may use their own enrollment procedures. Accepted students may then use the scholarship towards a participating school's mandatory tuition and fees.</p> <p>School Tuition Organizations may limit their scholarships for use at a group of schools. Families should consult their intended nonpublic school and the School Tuition Organization to ensure that a scholarship award can be used at the school.</p>	<p>Students submit an application to the Louisiana Department of Education with the school of their choice identified. Students may mail this application directly to the Louisiana Department of Education, or in person at a participating school.</p> <p>Nonpublic schools maintain their own enrollment procedures. If accepted, the student can apply the educational certificate towards the school's tuition and fees.</p>
<p>What schools can participate in the program?</p>	<p>Public schools must be rated A or B based on the most recent school performance scores.</p> <p>Nonpublic schools must be approved by the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) and comply with Brumfield v. Dodd, a federal court order that prohibits discrimination. Nonpublic schools must also possess adequate organizational capacity and submit a notice of intent to participate to the Louisiana Department of Education.</p>	<p>Nonpublic schools that are eligible for State funding determined by the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education and comply with non-discrimination requirements of the law (Brumfield v. Dodd) are eligible to participate.</p> <p>Schools are not required to submit a notice of intent to participate to the Louisiana Department of Education before enrolling a student with a scholarship from a School Tuition Organization. However, School Tuition Organizations may use additional criteria to determine which schools they partner with.</p>	<p>Nonpublic schools must be approved by the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE), comply with Brumfield v. Dodd, a federal court order that prohibits discrimination, and be located in Caddo, Calcasieu, East Baton Rouge, Jefferson, Lafayette, Orleans, or St. Tammany parishes to be eligible. Schools submit a notice of intent to participate to the Louisiana Department of Education.</p> <p>Schools must also have provided services to students with exceptionalities for at least two years prior to joining the program, and employ teachers with valid certification in special education.</p>

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Are students required to take state tests?	<p>Scholarship students are required to take all state assessments outlined in the Louisiana School and District Accountability System.</p> <p>Results are publicly reported and schools with an average of ten or more students per grade or 40 or more students enrolled in tested grades schools receive a Scholarship Cohort Index (SCI).</p> <p>Student achievement on state assessments is used to determine the status of a school's continued participation in the program.</p>	<p>Students are required to take state assessments in English language arts and math. Results are publicly reported.</p>	<p>Students are not required to take state assessments.</p>
How are schools paid?	<p>The Louisiana Department of Education makes quarterly payments to each participating school (September, December, February, May).</p>	<p>School Tuition Organizations make quarterly payments to each participating school (September, December, February and May). Parents must endorse the check written to the school.</p>	<p>The Louisiana Department of Education makes quarterly payments to each participating school (September, November, February, May).</p>