

School Choice Program for Certain Students with Exceptionalities

1. What is the purpose of the School Choice Program for Certain Student with Exceptionalities?

The School Choice Program for Certain Students with Exceptionalities (SCP) empowers families of certain students with exceptionalities with additional financial resources to select the school that the family feels will best address the student’s needs.

FOR FAMILIES:

2. What students are eligible to participate in this program?

Students participating in the SCP must meet all of the following eligibility requirements:

- a) Student has been evaluated by a Louisiana public school district and determined to have any one of the following exceptionalities:
 - Autism
 - Developmental Delay
 - Mental Disability
 - Other Health Impairment
 - Specific Learning Disability
 - Traumatic Brain Injury
- b) The student has an Individual Education Plan, district provided services plan, or a nonpublic school created service plan; and,
- c) The student is eligible to attend a Louisiana public school.

3. Which schools currently participate in this program?

The following is a list of schools participating in the School Choice Program for the 2019-20 school year.

2019 – 20 Participating Schools				
Parish	School	Site Code	Grades Available in School Choice Program	Contact Phone #
Caddo	McKinney Byrd Academy	6A7001	K-12 TH	318.532.9849
Calcasieu	Immaculate Conception Cathedral School	505002	1 ST -8 th	337.433.3497
Calcasieu	Our Lady Queen of Heaven	505005	K-4 th ,6 th -8 th	337.477.7349
Calcasieu	Our Lady’s School	505006	2 nd ,5 th	337.527.7828
Calcasieu	St. Louis Catholic High School	505009	9 th -12 th	337.436.7275
Calcasieu	St. Margaret Catholic School	505010	K-8 th	337.436.7959
Calcasieu	St. Theodore Holy Family Catholic School	505011	K – 8 th	337.855.9465
East Baton Rouge	Angles Academy	674001	7 th -12 th	225.924.9770
East Baton Rouge	Diocese of Baton Rouge Special Education Program	502048	K-12 th	225.336.8735
East Baton Rouge	Greater Baton Rouge Hope Academy	705001	K – 12 th	225.293.0141
East Baton Rouge	St. Lillian Academy	9B3001	K-12 th	225.767.7097
East Baton Rouge	The Brighton School	694001	K-12 th	225.291.2524
East Baton Rouge	The Dunham School	692003	K-11 th	225.767.7097
Jefferson	Archbishop Rummel Jr. High School	506127	8 th – 9 th	504.834.5592
Jefferson	Archbishop Rummel Sr. High School	506005	10 th – 12 th	504.834.5592
Jefferson	Crescent City Christian	557001	K-12 th	504-885-4700
Jefferson	Ecole Classique	560001	K – 12 th	504.887.3507
Jefferson	St. Benilde School	506062	K-7 th	504.833.9894
Jefferson	St. Christopher School	506067	1 st -7 th	504.837.6871
Jefferson	St. Therese Academy	506161	K-12 TH	504.513.4400
Orleans	Raphael Academy	711001	K-12 th	504.524.5955
Orleans	St. Michael Special School	506099	K – 12 th	504.524.7285
Orleans	St. Stephen School	506116	K-7 th	504.891.1927

**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:
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St. Tammany	Our Lady of the Lake School	506034	K-2 nd ,4 th ,6 th -7 th	985.626.5678
St. Tammany	St. Paul's School	506101	8 th -12 th	985.892.3200
St. Tammany	St. Peter Catholic School	506103	K-7 th	985.892.1831

4. What are the special education services that each school may potentially offer to students through the School Choice Program for the 2019-20 school year?

2019 – 20 Participating Schools							
School	Autism	Developmental Delay	Emotional Disturbance	Mental Disability	Other Health Impairment	Specific Learning Disability	Traumatic Brain Injury
Angles Academy	X	X		X	X	X	
Archbishop Rummel Jr. High School	X	X		X	X	X	X
Archbishop Rummel Sr. High School	X	X		X	X	X	X
Crescent City Christian	X	X	X		X	X	
Diocese of Baton Rouge Special Education Program	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Ecole Classique	X	X			X	X	X
Greater Baton Rouge Hope Academy	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Immaculate Conception Cathedral School	X	X			X	X	
McKinney Byrd		X			X	X	
Our Lady of the Lake School		X			X	X	
Our Lady Queen of Heaven	X	X			X	X	
Our Lady's School	X				X		
Raphael Academy	X	X			X	X	
St. Benilde School	X	X		X	X	X	
St. Christopher School	X	X			X	X	
St. Lillian Academy	X	X		X	X	X	
St. Louis Catholic High School	X	X			X	X	
St. Margaret Catholic School	X	X			X	X	
St. Michael Special School	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
St. Paul's School	X				X	X	
St. Stephen School	X	X			X	X	
St. Peter Catholic School	X	X			X	X	X
St. Theodore Holy Family Catholic School	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
St. Therese Academy	X	X			X	X	
The Brighton School	X	X			X	X	
The Dunham School	X	X			X	X	

5. How much financial assistance is provided through this program?

Families participating in this program receive an educational certificate, which is paid directly to the school on behalf of the family. The certificate is worth either approximately 50% of the per-pupil allocation of state funds to the student's local school district, or the school's tuition and fees, whichever is less. This amount averages to \$2300 across the state. If the school's tuition and fees exceeds the certificate amount, then parents are responsible for paying the difference.

6. How does a student apply for participation in the program?

Families wishing for their student to participate in this program must complete the student application and turn the application into a participating school for which they are applying by March 15th. Once all applications are received, the Department will conduct a lottery to determine which students may participate in the program. Scholarships are awarded contingent upon funding availability.

Application Dates:

- February 4th, 2019 – LDE releases student application
- March 15th, 2019 – Applications due
- Late April/Beginning of May – LDE notifies families of award status

Instructions on how to submit an application may be found on the application itself. New students must submit all required documentation in order to confirm eligibility.

7. Does the school automatically enroll my student if selected to participate in this program?

Not necessarily. Each participating school still has discretion in maintaining their own admissions criteria and may decide whether or not to admit and enroll the student.

FOR SCHOOLS:

8. What are the eligibility requirements for schools to participate participation?

Schools wishing to participate in the School Choice program must meet all of the following eligibility requirements:

- a) Be approved by the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education
- b) Comply with the racial non-discrimination criteria set forth in *Brumfield, et al. v. Dodd*
- c) Operate in a parish with a recent census population greater than 190,000 persons:
 - Caddo
 - Calcasieu
 - East Baton Rouge
 - Jefferson
 - Lafayette
 - Orleans
 - St. Tammany
- d) Has provided educational services to students with exceptionalities for at least two years prior to participation
- e) Have teachers that hold appropriate certification in special education

9. How does my school sign up to participate in this program?

To participate, schools must complete and submit a Notice of Intent to participate form to the Louisiana Department of Education (LDE). The notice of intent form must include:

- Evidence of the school providing special education services for at least the past two years (Individual Education Plan, district provided services plan or a nonpublic school created service plan must be provided)
- Documentation that the school has teachers certified in special education.

The Notice of Intent to Participate form may be found on the [School Choice Program](#) website. Notice of Intent to Participate forms are due by January 25th, 2019. If you are interested in participating, please contact nonpublicschools@la.gov.

10. How does the Department of Education determine which students may participate in the program?

The LDE will conduct a random lottery to determine which students may participate in the program. Continuing students receive first preference. The number of new participants depends on the number of new students that applied, number of available seats indicated by schools, and funding available for the program.

11. What information should my school include in a nonpublic school created special education plan?

The following information should be included in the nonpublic school created special education plan:

1) the student's exceptionality; 2) the services provided by the school; 3) specificity of how those services address the student's exceptionality and needs; 4) indication that the plan will be active for the 2019-20 school year; and 5) parental consent of the plan (via signature).

12. Do schools maintain their admissions criteria?

Yes, participating schools maintain their own admissions criteria. Participating students must still be admitted and enroll in the school to use the educational certificate.

13. Does this certificate cover all expenses at the participating school?

Families are responsible for covering any additional tuition and fees not covered by the program certificate.

14. When will my school receive payment from the LDE for these students?

The LDE will make four equal payments to each participating school on behalf of the families in September, November, February, and May.

15. Do students participating in this program have to take the standardized state exams?

Students participating in this program do not have to take any standardized state exams.

16. Do participating students have to follow my school's discipline policies?

All students participating in this program are subject to their school's discipline policies and procedures.

17. Does this program require the school to submit any fiscal reports?

The only reports required for schools are enrollment verification reports before each quarterly payment. Other than that, no other fiscal reports or audits are required of each school.

If you have any questions regarding the School Choice Program for Certain Students with exceptionalities, please contact nonpublicschools@la.gov.