

Groups interested in submitting parent petitions should follow these steps:

1. Designate a Lead Petitioner, who must be the parent of a student currently enrolled at the school.
2. The Lead Petitioner collects all signed, original, official petition forms. The Lead Petitioner must submit one petitions per child for at least 50% of the school's official October 1 enrollment count plus one, on or before the deadline below. A parent with more than one child at the school should submit one form per child.
3. The Lead Petitioner has two options for submitting petitions:

Hand Deliver:	Certified Mail:
Megha Upadhyaya	Megha Upadhyaya
Office of Portfolio, 5th Floor	Office of Portfolio, 5 th Floor
Claiborne Building	Louisiana Department of Education
1201 N. 3rd St.	P.O. Box 94064
Baton Rouge, LA 70802	Baton Rouge, LA 70804

Electronic copies of petitions may also be emailed to megha.upadhyaya2@la.gov on or before the deadline. However, originals must still be either hand delivered or sent via certified mail on or prior to the deadline as well.

Mailed petitions must be postmarked prior to the deadline on February 9, 2018. Late submissions will not be accepted.

4. The Department will send a confirmation e-mail to the Lead Petitioner upon receipt.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

1. What is a Parent Petition?

A Parent Petition is a tool that enables parents to transfer their children's consistently low-performing school to the Recovery School District.

2. What is the Recovery School District (RSD)?

The Recovery School District (RSD) is a statewide school district under the Louisiana Department of Education that works with charter operators or other educational organizations to transform academically struggling schools into high-performing schools. The Recovery School District currently oversees schools in Orleans, East Baton Rouge, and Caddo parishes.

3. What will happen to my child's school if it is transferred to the Recovery School District (RSD)?

If your child's school is transferred to the RSD under the parent petition process, the school may be reopened as a Type 5 charter school or a school directly run by the RSD in partnership with another education provider as early as the 2018-19 school year. Your child's school can only be transferred to the RSD if your parent petition group turns in a successful parent petition and the State Superintendent of Education approves transferring your school to the RSD.

4. How do I know if my child's school qualifies for the parent petition process?

You may only fill out a parent petition if your child's school qualifies by consulting the list posted by the LDOE on its Parent Petition website page. Schools that are already under the jurisdiction of the RSD or are operated by the local school board pursuant to a Memorandum of Understanding or Shared Success Agreement with the Recovery School District are not eligible for parent petition. For a list of eligible schools, please visit the LDOE's [Parent Petition website page](#).

5. Can any member of the community sign the parent petition for my child's school?

No. Only parents or legal guardians of a student currently attending your child's school can sign the petition form.

PLEASE NOTE: Only one signed petition form can be turned in for each child. Only one parent or legal guardian may fill out a parent petition for each child. If you are the parent of siblings who both attend the same school, you may sign separate parent petitions for each child.

6. How many signed parent petition forms does my child's school need?

Your child's school needs enough parent petition forms signed by a parent or legal guardian to represent more than 50% of the total number of students currently attending the school. For example, if there are 100 students at the school, then at least 51 signed petition forms are required.

7. Can I make my own petition?

No. Only the parent petition form posted on the LDOE's [Parent Petition website page](#) will be accepted.

8. What are the protections for parents/legal guardians interested in signing a petition?

Any person harassing, threatening, or intimidating parents/legal guardians related to the parent petition may be subject to criminal prosecution under the laws of this state, including, but not limited to La. R.S. [14:122.1](#), [14:285](#), or [14:329.1](#).

BESE Policy provides that no person shall:

- intimidate, deceive, or misinform a parent/ legal guardian about the petition;
- intimidate a parent or legal guardian by the use of violence, force or threats to attempt to influence the parent's/legal guardian to sign or not sign the petition;
- physically prevent or delay a parent/legal guardian from accessing a petition or a meeting about the petition; or
- give or offer money or anything of value to a parent/legal guardian to influence a parent/guardian to sign or not sign the petition.

Further, members or employees of the local school board are not allowed to use school or district resources to support or oppose any parent petition effort.

9. If I sign the petition, will my information be shared publicly?

By signing the parent petition, you are consenting to have the parent petition form shared as a public record. This means that if the local school board, another organization, or any member of the public makes a formal public records request to the Louisiana Department of Education for the parent petition forms, the Department will be required by law to share the form with the person making the request.

However, it is important that you provide at least one reliable piece of contact information (preferably a phone number and/or email address) so that the Department may contact you in case there is a need to verify the authenticity of your parent petition form.

10. How do I turn in my petition?

Each parent petition groups must have a "Lead Petitioner." The Lead Petitioner is responsible for collecting and turning in the parent petition forms to the Louisiana Department of Education. Only the Lead Petitioner may submit the petition forms to the LDOE. The Lead Petitioner must collect all completed parent petition forms and submit all forms together, at one time.

PLEASE NOTE: The Department will not accept individual petition forms. Lead Petitioners may not submit a petition until they reach or exceed the required minimum number of signature forms specified by the Department.

11. Where can I get a petition?

You can contact your school's Lead Petitioner if one has been identified or download and print a petition found on LDOE's [Parent Petition website page](#).

12. What happens once the Lead Petitioner turns in the petitions to the Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE)?

The LDOE will review the parent petition forms to ensure enough signatures have been collected. The LDOE will contact the Lead Petitioner to let him or her know if enough signatures have been collected. If there are enough signatures, the LDOE will post a notification on the LDOE website within five business days of receiving the parent petitions. For 15 business days following the LDOE's post on the website, the LDOE will accept challenges to the validity of the signatures or the parent petition form. If any valid challenges to the parent petitions are received, the LDOE will investigate these challenges within 45 calendar days. If the LDOE finds that the parent petitions are valid, the State Superintendent of Education will make the decision whether to transfer the school to the RSD, no later than March 31, 2018.

13. Is there more written guidance on the parent petition process?

The law creating the parent petition was passed as part of Act 2 in the Spring of 2012, and is codified in Louisiana Revised Statute [17:10.5](#). The Board of Elementary and Secondary Education also has written policy on the parent petition, §502 of Bulletin 129 (<http://bese.louisiana.gov/documents-resources/policies-bulletins>).

14. Still More Questions?

E-mail: megha.upadhyaya2@la.gov at the LDOE Office of Portfolio.