LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

2025-2026 Direct Student Services FAQ

Louisiana will administer Direct Student Services (DSS) as a competitive grant opportunity to support local innovation aligned with state priorities. To minimize disruption and ensure a thoughtful implementation, the LDOE will reallocate approximately $5.8 million (1.5% of the total) for this year.

Timeline

- eGMS opens September 1
- Application Due October 1
- Allocation approvals to December BESE
- Allocations released after December BESE

Resources

- 2025-2026 Direct Student Services eGMS User Guide
- 2025-2026 Direct Student Services Rubric

Application Questions

Steve Carter

1. Does your school system choose to opt into the Direct Student Services (DSS) Steve Carter Tutoring Program?
2. Does your school system permit the Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) to submit payment for the DSS Steve Carter Tutoring Program on your behalf? By selecting “Yes,” you authorize the LDOE to submit payment for eligible students.
3. By checking the box below, the school system affirms that it will conduct targeted outreach to eligible families of K–12 public school students who are below proficiency in reading and/or math. This outreach will inform families about the availability of tutoring support through the DSS Steve Carter Tutoring Program and assist them in accessing services as needed.
4. Please provide a narrative describing how your school system will conduct targeted outreach to eligible families of K–12 public school students who are below proficiency in reading and/or math. Your response should explain how you will:
    - Inform families about the availability of tutoring support through the Steve Carter Tutoring Program
    - Assist families in accessing and navigating the program as needed

Artificial Intelligence (AI)-Powered Academic Interventions

1. Does your school system choose to apply for Artificial Intelligence DSS funding?
2. Which AI-enhanced tool(s) are you applying to expand access for?
3. Does your system currently utilize any of the listed AI tools?
4. How many additional student licenses are you requesting for each tool selected?
5. How many total students do you plan to serve through this AI-Powered Academic Interventions funding?

6. Will you prioritize licenses for CIR/UIR sites?
7. If yes, please list the CIR/UIR sites.
8. Why is your school system seeking additional access to these AI tools? Your response should address the following:
    - The specific instructional challenge or opportunity this application aims to address
    - Why your system is well-positioned to implement this tool effectively (e.g., existing infrastructure, staff readiness, prior success with pilot programs)
    - How will the tool support an innovative approach to learning or accelerate student outcomes?

General Questions

Questions	Answers
Is there a rubric for this competitive application?	Yes, 2025-2026 Direct Student Services Rubric.
Will an estimated allocation maximum per school system be provided? Will funds be allocated directly to the systems?	No, systems will not be provided an estimated allocation. **Steve Carter:** Award amounts will be displayed in eGMS, but the LDOE will retain the funding to issue payment on behalf of the recipients. **AI Licences:** Systems participating in the AI portion of the application should provide the number of desired licenses. Awards will be displayed in eGMS. Once awarded, systems will work with the approved vendors and secure their own contracts. Reimbursements will be submitted through eGMS. Recipients will be required to submit a budget for approval.
When will systems be notified of approved allocation?	Once an application is approved, the allocations will be presented at the December BESE for final approval. eGMS will display the awarded amounts after the December BESE meeting. Recipients will be required to submit a budget for approval if approved for AI licenses.

AI Application

Questions	Answers
Can AI funding only be used with labeled schools?	While CIR/UIR sites are a funding priority, funding may be allocated for schools without labels.

Will the state continue to fund Amira?	The state will continue the current pilot programs, and this will help increase student and school system access to these programs across the state.
Are Amira, Khanmigo, and Writable the only AI licenses available?	Currently, these are the AI vendors approved for this application. Should additional options become available, this will be communicated.

Steve Carter Application

Questions	Answers
How does a student qualify for Steve Carter?	**Student Eligibility:** The Steve Carter Education Program is for eligible public and public charter school students in grades K-12. Students in grades K-3 are eligible if they scored below proficient on the beginning-of-year screener in either literacy or math. 4th-12th grade students are eligible if they scored below mastery on the ELA or mathematics state assessment administered in the previous school year. For K-3 Math, a student's eligibility can also be determined by the classroom teacher if the student is exhibiting academic difficulties. A participating student may receive tutoring services in both reading and mathematics, but the total for all services shall not exceed $1,500. LEAs are required to inform parents/guardians if their child qualifies for the Steve Carter Education Program and provide an explanation of what the program provides.
Can approved tutors from the Accelerate Tutoring vendor guide be used to support Steve Carter tutoring?	Some of the Accelerate providers are also Steve Carter providers. Systems could suggest particular providers to parents as they register their child.
Are any of the approved HDT Vendors an option within this application?	Families will still register their child and be able to select an approved provider, and we will pay on their behalf. Systems will not register students; families will continue to register as they did in the past.
Can DSS also be used for RTI positions that are part-time employees to assist students? For example, using retired teachers to work 20-25 hours a week to tutor small groups?	No, DSS can only be applied to Steve Carter or the Artificial Intelligence (AI)-Powered Academic Interventions. Steve Carter is a separate program from Accelerate high-dosage tutoring. Systems will not receive this money directly. It will be spent by the state on the system's behalf directly to the

	Steve Carter vendor.
Is messaging available for schools to post for families?	Yes, guidance documents are being updated for the 25-26 SY and will be shared for those systems receiving this additional funding. If approved, systems would reach out to students below benchmark to apply for Steve Carter tutoring.

Please contact LDOE.grantshelpdesk@la.gov with questions.