

OFFICE OF SCHOOL CHOICE

Nonpublic School Approval Document Checklist

Purpose

In order to receive state and federal funding, nonpublic schools in Louisiana must be approved by the Louisiana State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) and be compliant with the nondiscrimination requirements of ***Brumfield v. 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 Programs.

APPLICANT CATEGORIES

[Bulletin 741](#) Nonpublic lists the following designations for BESE-Approved schools:

1. **Accredited Approved:** The school is currently accredited by SACSCOC, Cognia, or NAIS and meets all other criteria for BESE approval;
2. **Non-Accredited Approved:** The school is not currently accredited by SACSCOC, Cognia, or NAIS, but has met all other criteria for BESE approval;
3. **Louisiana Montessori Accredited (LMA) Approved:** The school meets LMA's accreditation requirements and all other criteria for BESE approval; and
4. **Louisiana Montessori Provisionally Accredited Approved:** The school is actively working towards meeting LMA's accreditation requirements, but has met all other criteria for BESE approval;

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.

The BESE application link for the 2026-2027 school year will become available on August 1, 2025 on the [BESE - Approved Nonpublic Schools Webpage](#). All required documents must be completed and submitted as a part of your BESE application by October 15, 2025 to be considered for BESE approval. Please contact nonpublicschools@la.gov if you have any questions.

ACCREDITED SCHOOLS

New Nonpublic School	Returning Nonpublic School
<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Brumfield v. Dodd Initial Application</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete if your school is seeking Brumfield v. Dodd approval. It must be notarized. 	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Brumfield v. Dodd Annual Compliance Report</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete if your school is a returning BESE approved nonpublic school seeking Brumfield v. Dodd approval.
<input type="checkbox"/> 2 forms of verification that publicizes the school's nondiscriminatory admissions policy. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide website screenshots of its announcements, including newspaper advertisements, and/or copies of any brochures or similar publications. (A typed nondiscriminatory statement on a Microsoft word document is NOT acceptable.) 	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 forms of verification that publicizes the school's nondiscriminatory admissions policy. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide website screenshots of its announcements, including newspaper advertisements, and/or copies of any brochures or similar publications. (A typed nondiscriminatory statement on a Microsoft word document is NOT acceptable.)
<input type="checkbox"/> Accreditation letter or Certificate should be from one of the listed Nonpublic School Accreditation Organizations. <u>Nonpublic School Approval Process: Accreditation Organizations</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The expiration date must be visible on the accreditation letter or certificate. 	<input type="checkbox"/> Accreditation letter or Certificate should be from one of the listed Nonpublic School Accreditation Organizations. <u>Nonpublic School Approval Process: Accreditation Organizations</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The expiration date must be visible on the accreditation letter or certificate.
<input type="checkbox"/> Department of Health and Hospital (DHH) Inspection Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> School Building and Cafeteria Inspections If there is no cafeteria or the school is not providing meals, please submit in writing on letterhead. It cannot be dated prior to August 2024. 	<input type="checkbox"/> Department of Health and Hospital (DHH) Inspection Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> School Building and Cafeteria Inspections If there is no cafeteria or the school is not providing meals, please submit in writing on letterhead. It cannot be dated prior to August 2024.
<input type="checkbox"/> City or State Fire Marshal Inspection Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It cannot be dated prior to August 2024. 	<input type="checkbox"/> City or State Fire Marshal Inspection Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It cannot be dated prior to August 2024.
<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Program of Study</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For schools that serve 9th-12th grade 	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Program of Study</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For schools that serve 9th-12th grade
	<input type="checkbox"/> Annual Enrollment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Once enrollment has been submitted through EDLINK, submit a screenshot of the completion. If assistance is needed, submit a ticket through the Edlink Help Desk.

NON-ACCREDITED SCHOOLS

New Nonpublic School	Returning Nonpublic School
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<input type="checkbox"/> 2 forms of verification that publicizes the school's nondiscriminatory admissions policy. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide website screenshots of its announcements, including newspaper advertisements, and/or copies of any brochures or similar publications. (A typed nondiscriminatory statement on a Microsoft word document is NOT acceptable.) 	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 forms of verification that publicizes the school's nondiscriminatory admissions policy. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide website screenshots of its announcements, including newspaper advertisements, and/or copies of any brochures or similar publications. (A typed nondiscriminatory statement on a Microsoft word document is NOT acceptable.)
<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Nonpublic School Approval Questionnaire: New Applicant</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Nonpublic School Approval Questionnaire: Returning Applicant</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Department of Health and Hospital (DHH) Inspection Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> School Building and Cafeteria Inspections If there is no cafeteria or the school is not providing meals, please submit in writing on letterhead. It cannot be dated prior to August 2024. 	<input type="checkbox"/> Department of Health and Hospital (DHH) Inspection Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> School Building and Cafeteria Inspections If there is no cafeteria or the school is not providing meals, please submit in writing on letterhead. It cannot be dated prior to August 2024.
<input type="checkbox"/> City or State Fire Marshal Inspection Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It cannot be dated prior to August 2024. 	<input type="checkbox"/> City or State Fire Marshal Inspection Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It cannot be dated prior to August 2024.
<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Program of Study</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For schools that serve 9th-12th grade 	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Program of Study</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For schools that serve 9th-12th grade
	<input type="checkbox"/> Annual Enrollment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Once enrollment has been submitted through EDLINK, submit a screenshot of the completion. If assistance is needed, submit a ticket through the Edlink Help Desk.