LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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 2027-2028 school year will become available on August 1, 2026 on the Ed li nk Website. All required documents must be completed and submitted as a part of your BESE application by October 15, 2026 to be considered for BESE approval. Please contact nonpublicschools@la. gov if you have any questions.

ACCREDITED SCHOOLS

New Nonpublic School

- ☐ **Brumfield v. Dodd Initial Application**
  - Complete if your school is seeking Brumfield v. Dodd approval. It must be notarized.

- ☐ **2 forms of verification that publicizes the school's nondiscriminatory admissions policy.**
  - 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.)

- ☐ **Accreditation letter or Certificate should be from one of the listed Nonpublic School Accreditation Organizations.**
  Nonpublic School Approval Process: Accreditation Organizations
  - The expiration date must be visible on the accreditation letter or certificate.

- ☐ **Department of Health and Hospital (DHH) Inspection Report**
  - 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 2025.

  City or State Fire Marshal Inspection Report
  - It cannot be dated prior to August 2025.

- ☐ **Program of Study**
  - For schools that serve 9th-12th grade

- ☐

Returning Nonpublic School

- ☐ **Brumfield v. Dodd Annual Compliance Report**
  - Complete if your school is a returning BESE approved nonpublic school seeking Brumfield v. Dodd approval.

- ☐ **2 forms of verification that publicizes the school's nondiscriminatory admissions policy.**
  - 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.)

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  City or State Fire Marshal Inspection Report
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- ☐ **Program of Study**
  - For schools that serve 9th-12th grade

- ☐ **Annual Enrollment**
  - 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

- [ ] **Brumfield v. Dodd Initial Application**
  - Complete if your school is seeking Brumfield v. Dodd approval. It must be notarized.

- [ ] **2 forms of verification that publicizes the school's nondiscriminatory admissions policy.**
  - 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.)

- [ ] **Nonpublic School Approval Questionnaire: New Applicant**

- [ ] **Department of Health and Hospital (DHH) Inspection Report**
  - 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 2025.

  City or State Fire Marshal Inspection Report
  - It cannot be dated prior to August 2025.

- [ ] **Program of Study**
  - For schools that serve 9th-12th grade

- [ ]

Returning Nonpublic School

- [ ] **Brumfield v. Dodd Annual Compliance Report**
  - Complete if your school is a returning BESE approved nonpublic school, seeking Brumfield v. Dodd approval.

- [ ] **2 forms of verification that publicizes the school's nondiscriminatory admissions policy.**
  - 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.)

- [ ] **Nonpublic School Approval Questionnaire: Returning Applicant**

- [ ] **Department of Health and Hospital (DHH) Inspection Report**
  - School Building and Cafeteria Inspections
  - If there is no cafeteria or the school is not providing meals, please submit in writing on letterhead.
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