# School Choice Program for Students with Certain Exceptionalities 2025 - 2026 School Application Webinar



#### **Zoom Meeting Preparation**



- Please make sure your phone or computer is muted to minimize background noise.
  - To do this, hover over the bottom left-hand side of your screen and click "Mute."



- Please make sure you have turned off your camera to save bandwidth and prevent any connectivity issues.
  - To do this, hover over the bottom left-hand side of your screen and click "Stop Video."



 Please submit questions during the presentation in the "Chat" function located on the bottom of your screen.



### Agenda

- Application Timeline
- Application
- **Application Process**
- **Submitting Your Application**
- **Demand Reports**
- Helpful Links





**Application Timeline** 

## 2025-2026 Application Timeline

STEP	DATE
Parent Application Webinar	January 31, 2025
SCP Online Application Opens	February 3, 2025
SCP Online Application Closes	March 7, 2025
Deadline for Families to submit all Documentation to Schools	March 14, 2025
Last day for schools to upload verified demand report on FTP	March 21, 2025
SCP Award Notification Letters to Families	April 29, 2025
Send Final Roster to SCP Schools for Review	April 29, 2025
Final Day to Submit Upload Final SCP Roster to FTP	May 30, 2025
SCP Summer Transfer Window Opens	June 9, 2025
SCP Summer Transfer Window Closes	July 18, 2025

#### 2025-2026 Application Timeline

#### 2025-2026 School Choice Scholarship Application opens on February 3, 2025.

- 1. Access the online application available on the LDOE website.
  - a. The link will not be active until February 3, 2025.
- 2. All online applications must be completed by March 7, 2025.
- 3. New Applicants only: Submit all eligibility documents to the first choice school by March 14, 2025.
- 4. Schools will have until March 21, 2025 to upload a verified demand report to the FTP.
- 5. 2024-2025 award notifications from the Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) will be sent to families by **April 29**, **2025**.

\*Failure to meet these deadlines will result in the application being marked incomplete and/or removal of the Scholarship award.



**Application** 

#### **Application**

2025-2026 School Choice Program Application will open on February 3, 2025.

- Families will be able to access the application using an online link that will be published on the LDOE website.
- An email will be sent to participating schools with a link to the <u>online</u> application.
  - The application will be available online using Jotform.

Schools will receive weekly demand reports via the FTP with a list of students that have selected their school as their first choice.

 Note: Students listed on your demand report are not guaranteed to be awarded to your school.



#### **Application**

Both new and returning students must complete an application yearly to be considered for a scholarship award.

- A **new applicant** is a student who is **not** currently participating in the School Choice Program.
- Families applying for a scholarship for a student who is not currently enrolled as an SCP student in grades K-12 **must** confirm their eligibility.

All applications must be submitted by March 7, 2025.

- New Applicants only: Families must submit all eligibility documents to their first choice school by March 14, 2025.
- Families will be required to submit copies of the IEP or district-created service plan along with proof of residency during the completion of the application.
- Continuing students are not required to provide eligibility documentation.





**Application Process** 

#### **Application Process**

Applying for the School Choice Program is a two-step process.

Step 1: Complete the online application using the LDOE website.

**Step 2:** Submit the eligibility documentation to the first choice Scholarship school.



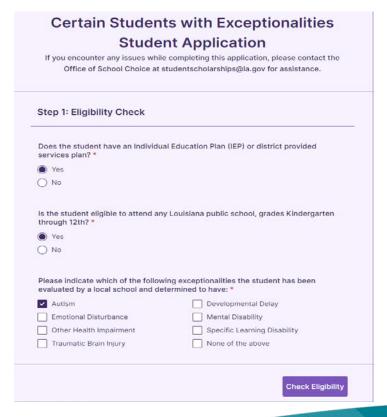
#### **Application Process**

The LDOE will attempt to place as many applicants as possible at their preferred school choice.

- Not all applying students are eligible.
- Demand for some schools and/or grades may be greater than the availability.
- State funding determines the final number of awards made.



### **Submitting Your Application: Eligibility Check**



To begin the application process parents must answer questions to confirm the following:

- a. The student has a current IFP or district provided service plan
- b. The student is eligible to attend any Louisiana public school in grades K-12
- c. Parents must indicate the student's exceptionalities



#### **Submitting Your Application: Eligibility Check**

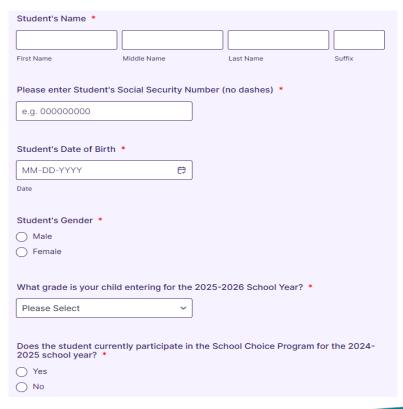
If a student does not meet the eligibility criteria, families will receive the following message:

#### Sorry, this student is not eligible to participate in this program.

Applicants must have an IEP or district provided service plan, must be eligible to attend any Louisiana public school, and must have at least one of the listed exceptionalities to quality.



#### **Submitting Your Application: Student Information**



- Once eligibility has been confirmed, parents will be asked to enter the student's information.
  - This information includes name, date of birth, grade level, previous participation in the SCP program, gender, etc.



#### **Submitting Your Application: School Choices**

Do you wish to stay at your current school for the 2025-2026 School year? \*

Yes - Continue at current school

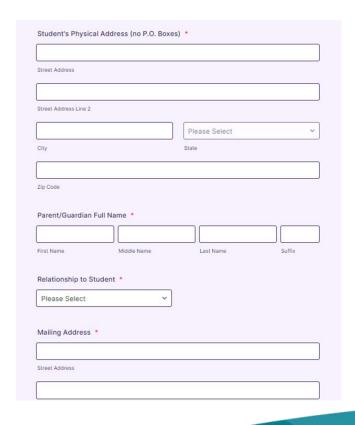
No - Apply to a new/different school

Please select up to three (3) participating schools below that you would like your student to attend, in order of preference. This rank order will be used to match your student with a school that has seats available. You should only select schools that you are interested in having your child attend. Your child may be assigned to any of the schools selected.\*\*There is no guarantee that you will receive a match.\*\*

	School
First Choice	~
Second Choice	*
Third Choice	<b>~</b>

- Continuing students will be asked if they would like to remain at their current SCP School.
  - Note: New applicants will not see this question.
- This page of the application will ask parents to select their requested school for the 2025-2026 school year from a dropdown list of participating schools.
- Families will be able select up to 3 school choices.

### **Submitting Your Application: Residency**



- Families will be asked to provide their physical address.
- This page will collect the parent/guardian information.

**Note**: Documentation must be in the parent and/or guardian's name and must match the student's address listed on the application.



#### **New Applicants - Required Documentation**

#### **New Participants - Required Supporting Documentation**

Families applying for **NEW** students must provide the following eligibility documents to your **first choice scholarship school by March 14, 2025**:

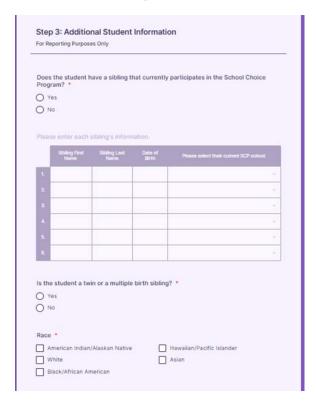
- Copy of student's current Individualized Education Program (IEP) or district-provided service plan
- One proof of residency documentation. Acceptable documents to verify residency include one of the following:
  - · Rental agreement or mortgage statement
  - · Landline telephone bill
  - · Cable or internet service bill
  - · Sewerage or water bill
  - · Electricity or gas bill
  - · A current property tax notice
  - Official Letter from a Government Agency such as the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) or Department of Health and Hospitals (DHH)

<u>Please note</u>: Documentation must be in the parent and/or guardian's name and must match the student's address listed on the application.

\*Continuing students do NOT need to provide eligibility documentation.\*

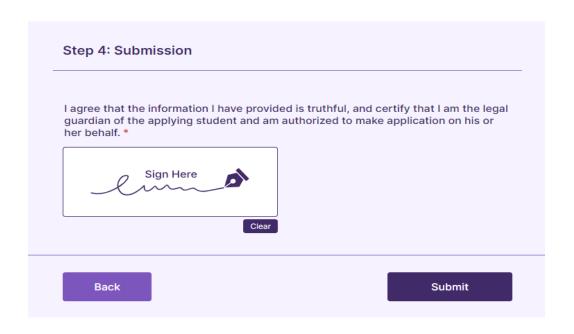
- New applicants to the program will be asked to provide the following:
  - A copy of their IEP or district created service plan.
  - At least one proof of residency document.
    - All documents must be current and should match with the student's address listed on the application.
    - The person listed on this document must be the parent/adult responsible for the student.
- All documentation must be submitted to your first choice school.

#### **Submitting Your Application: Additional Student Information**



- Families will be asked to enter sibling information for each applicant.
- This section will ask additional information about the student.

### **Submitting Your Application: Signature Page**



 At the end of the application, parents will be asked to sign the application.

#### **Submitting Your Application: Confirmation**

#### Thank You!

#### Your application has been received.

Families applying for NEW students must provide the following eligibility documents to your first choice school by March 14, 2025:

- A copy of the student's current Individualized Education Program (IEP) or district-provided service plan
- 2. One proof of residency documentation. Acceptable documents to verify residency include one of the following:
  - o Rental agreement or mortgage statement
  - Landline telephone bill
  - Cable or internet service bill
  - o Sewerage or water bill
  - o Electricity or gas bill
  - A current property tax notice
  - Official Letter from a Government Agency such as the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) or Department of Health and Hospitals (DHH)

Please note: Documentation must be in the parent and/or guardian's name and must match the student's address listed on the application.

\*Continuing Students are not required to provide eligibility documentation.\*

- Once the application has been submitted, families will receive a Thank You message.
- A confirmation email will be sent to the email address provided on the application.
- This message will provide an overview of all the necessary eligibility documentation required for new students.

\*Families should contact <u>studentscholarships@la.gov</u> for assistance.





The LDOE will provide schools their demand reports at the end of each week during the application period.

- The report lists students who have applied and listed your school as their first choice.
- School should review their demand reports throughout the application period.

Demand Reports will be placed weekly in your school folder on the FTP.

- The folder will be labeled "2025-2026 SCP"
- You can access the FTP using this link.

\*The demand report does not guarantee that a school will be awarded these students once the lottery process is complete.

- Schools **must** verify that the student information (e.g., SSN, DOB, grade level, etc) is correct.
  - If corrections are needed, please update this information on the form.
- Schools are required to collect eligibility documentation for new students and review it for eligibility.
- All documentation must be kept on file at the school.
- **Column P (red arrow)** in the demand report will be used to indicate student eligibility.



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Submission Date	First Name	Last Name	Please enter Student's Social Security Number (no dashes)	Student's Date of Birth	Student's Gender	What grade is your child entering for the 2025-2026 School Year?	Does the student currently participate in the School Choice Program for the 2024-2025 school year?	Please select the student's current SCP school.		Parent/Guardi an Full Name		Parent/Guardi an Email Address	Parent/Guardi an Home Phone	Parent/Guardi an Alternate Phone	Eligible
1/26/2024	Mickey	Mouse	111002222	1/1/2024	M	4th	Yes	Disneyland Academy							Returning SCP stud
1/26/2024	Donald	Duck	222001111	1/1/2024	M	5th	No		ABC Academy						Yes
1/26/2024	Minnie	Mouse	999001111	1/1/2024	F	5th	Yes	Disneyland Academy	ABC Academy						Returning SCP stud
1/26/2024	Daisy	Duck	888771111	1/1/2024	F	8th	No		ABC Academy						No



Families applying as **new applicants** must provide the following eligibility documents to their first choice scholarship school by **March 14**, **2025**:

- Copy of student's current Individualized Education Program (IEP) or district-provided service plan
- Proof of residency documentation
  - Acceptable documents to verify residency must include one of the following:
    - Rental agreement or mortgage statement
    - Landline telephone bill
    - Cable or internet service bill
    - Sewerage or water bill
    - Electricity or gas bill
    - Current property tax notice
    - Official Letter from a Government Agency such as the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) or Department of Health and Hospitals (DHH)

Continuing students do NOT need to provide eligibility documentation

Note: Documentation must be in the parent and/or guardian's name and must match the student's address listed on the application.

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Schools will have a dropdown in **Column P** (red arrow) with 3 options to select from:

- Yes (for students who are eligible)
- No (for students who are ineligible)
- Returning SCP student (for students currently in SCP)

**Column H (green box)** indicates if a student is currently participating in the SCP program for the 2025-2026 school year. For students that have "Yes" in column H, select the "Returning SCP student" option.

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A	В	С	D	E	F	G	н	ı	J	K	L	М	N	0	Р
Submission Date	First Name	Last Name	Please enter Student's Social Security Number (no dashes)	Student's Date of Birth	Student's	entering for the 2025-2026 School Year?	Does the student currently participate in the School Choice Program for the 2024-2025 school year?	student's current SCP school.	schools	Parent/Guardi an Full Name	an Full Name	Parent/Guardi an Email Address	Parent/Guardi an Home Phone	Parent/Guardi an Alternate Phone	Eligible
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1/26/2024	Daisy	Duck	888771111	1/1/2024	F	8th	No		ABC Academy						No

- New Applicants only: Families must submit all eligibility documents to the first choice school by March 14, 2025.
- Once a school has completed the demand report, it should be uploaded to the FTP.
  - Completed reports should be saved as "Verified\_Report Name" and placed in the "2025-2026 SCP" folder.
- Schools will have until **March 21, 2025** to upload the final verified demand report to the FTP.

If you have any questions or issues with your demand report, please contact our office at <a href="mailto:studentscholarships@la.gov">studentscholarships@la.gov</a> for assistance.



**Helpful Links** 

#### **Helpful Links**

- SCP Application Guide 2025-20256
- 2025-2026 School Choice Program Application
- SCP Family Participation Guide
- SCP School Participation Guide
- School Choice Program for Students with Exceptionalities webpage





For questions about the School Choice
Program for Students with Exceptionalities
Program (SCP) email
<a href="mailto:studentscholarships@la.gov">studentscholarships@la.gov</a>.