

# Parent Training Instructions

Administered by Odyssey

# Content

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- About Odyssey
- LA GATOR Facts
- Funding Prioritization
- LSP Students
- How do I know if I'm eligible?
- What do I need to apply?
- Steps to Apply
- Important information
- How do I contact Odyssey?
- Questions

# About Odyssey

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## Mission

Enable access to high-quality education across the U.S.



## Team

Our passionate team of developers, e-commerce and finance leaders, customer success experts, and former educators is dedicated to building tech solutions that empower parents to choose the best education for their children.

## Platform

As the first company designed specifically for education savings accounts (ESAs), our platform connects families, states, and vendors to help streamline application management, payment processing, order fulfillment, and communication while providing users with around-the-clock customer service.

<b>What is LA GATOR?</b>	<i>Louisiana Giving All True Opportunity to Rise</i> - Louisiana's first Educational Scholarship Account (ESA)
<b>What is an ESA?</b>	Scholarship that provides parents with an account that allows them to customize their child's education.
<b>What can I use it for?</b>	School tuition and fees, tutoring, educational therapies, textbooks and curricula, dual enrollment courses, uniforms, and more.
<b>Who is eligible?</b>	K-12 Louisiana students who meet one of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Participated in the Louisiana Scholarship Program the previous school year</li><li>● Entering kindergarten</li><li>● Enrolled in a public school the previous year</li><li>● From a family with total income at or below 250% of federal poverty guidelines</li></ul>

# Funding Prioritization

## PHASE 1:

1. Participated in the Louisiana Scholarship Program (LSP) previous school year
2. Families with a total income at or below 250% of the federal poverty guidelines **OR** students identified as having a disability under IDEA
3. Siblings of Louisiana Scholarship Program (LSP) **OR** students identified as having a disability under IDEA
4. Students entering kindergarten OR students who were enrolled in a public school the previous school year

## PHASE 2:

Families with a total between 251% and income at or below 400% of the federal poverty guidelines

## PHASE 3:

All remaining Kindergarten to Twelfth Grade students

# LSP Students

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- The Louisiana Scholarship Program will continue to be administered through the end of the 2024-2025 school year, but will sunset on June 30, 2025.
- The Louisiana Department of Education will contact current Louisiana Scholarship Program families on next steps for the 2025-2026 school year.
- Students who participated in LSP from 2024-2025 shall be awarded an amount equal to the award amount received during the 2024-2025 school year, subject to the allocation of state funds.
- The student shall continue to receive this award until they completes the school's terminal grade or until they leave the school, whichever comes first.
- All Louisiana Scholarship Program students and nonpublic schools will receive priority access to the LA GATOR Scholarship Program.

# How do I know if I'm eligible?

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Complete the pre-screener tool to help you and your family determine if you could be eligible to participate in the Louisiana GATOR Scholarship Program.

<https://withodyssey.typeform.com/LAGATOR>

This is not the official application. Applications will open by **March 1st, 2025**.



# What do I need to apply?

## Residency Documents :

State ID or Driver's License + any two (2) of the below items:

- Utility bill (electric, water, gas)
- Mortgage statement (past year)
- Bill of sale
- Lease agreement

Any combination is acceptable, including two different utility bills.

## Income Documents:

1040 Tax Form from either the 2023 or 2024 Federal Taxes

## Student Document:

Child's Birth Certificate

## Necessary Information

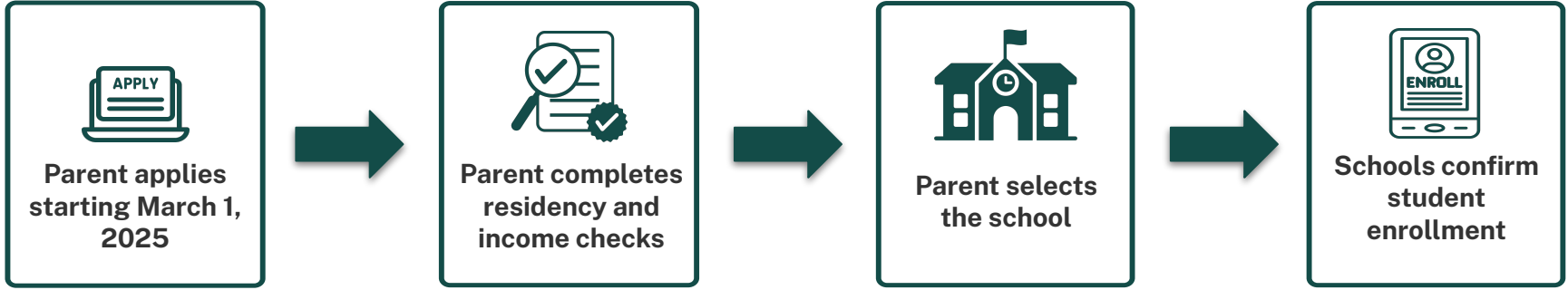
Social security number (SSN) or Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN) for the applicant (parent)

SSN for each student applying

LASID for special education students. This can be found on an Individualized Education Program (IEP)



# Steps to Apply



To complete the application, you will need to provide information such as:

- Parent or Guardian details
- Address
- Student Information (birth certificates required)
- Tax details
- LASID information, if applicable

Odyssey and the Louisiana Department of Revenue will verify residency and income using SSN or ITIN.

If unsuccessful, parents must submit residency and income documents.

Student eligibility status will update automatically as the application is reviewed.

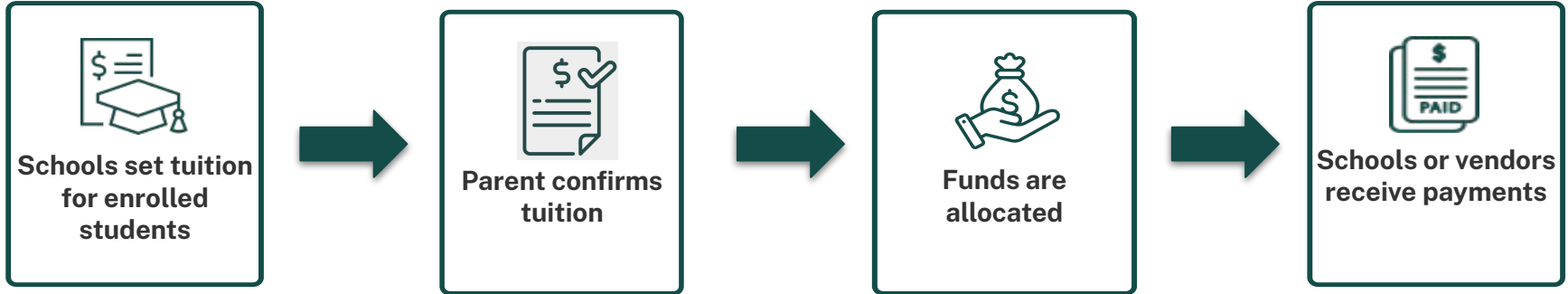
Once the application is submitted, parents will have the option to select their child's intended school through their Odyssey Account.

Parents may update their school selection at any time prior to the school confirming the enrollment.

Once parents select a school, the student's information will be displayed in the school's Odyssey Account for review and enrollment confirmation.

If the school denies enrollment, the parent will be given the option to select a different school.

# Steps to Apply



After school enrollments are confirmed, schools will set tuition & fees for students.

Tuition is paid quarterly, with parents able to opt into automatic or manual payments.

The parent confirms the tuition and fees set by the school for each student in their household within their Odyssey account.

After fund allocation, the parent's digital balance will show the available amount.

There will be no checks, direct deposits, reimbursements, or debit cards.

Funds can be used on tuition, Marketplace items, or a combination of both.

The Marketplace offers a variety of vendors, service providers, and items you can purchase by adding to the cart and checking out.

Schools receive tuition as directed by the parent & vendors will receive payment after order fulfillment.

# Important Information

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Applying for enrollment to a LA school is a **separate** process from applying for an ESA through the Odyssey portal. Identifying the school that the student plans to attend in the Odyssey Account has no bearing on whether the student will be admitted to that school. School enrollment is unrelated to the application and selection process, and is strictly between the family and the school.

For additional FAQs, visit:

- [Odyssey FAQ page](#) or
- [LDOE LA GATOR page](#)

# How do I contact Odyssey?

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- **General Inquiries:** 877-454-3788
- **LA GATOR Specific Phone Number:** 225-422-1538
- **LA GATOR Specific Email:** [help.la@withodyssey.com](mailto:help.la@withodyssey.com)

# Questions?

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**Additional  
information and  
resources can be  
found at  
[lagator.la.gov](https://lagator.la.gov).**

