Louisiana Scholarship Program 2024-2025 Parent Application Webinar



Zoom Meeting Preparation



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- Please make sure you have turned off your camera to save bandwidth and prevent any connectivity issues.
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• Please submit questions during the presentation in the "Chat" function located on the bottom of your screen.



Agenda

- About the Louisiana Scholarship Program
- Eligibility
 - Who Needs to Submit an Application?
- **Application Process**
 - **Application Timeline**
 - Submitting your Application
 - Verifying Your Income and Residency
- Scholarship Awards-Match and Lottery
- Frequently Asked Questions
- **Application Timeline**
- Helpful Links





Louisiana Scholarship Program

About the Louisiana Scholarship Program

- The Louisiana Scholarship Program (LSP) provides thousands of low-income students, who would otherwise attend C, D, F, or T rated public schools, with the opportunity to attend the participating school of their choice.
- Currently, approximately 7,000 LSP students are attending nonpublic schools of their choice.
- Eligible applicants will receive state-funded Scholarships to enroll in participating nonpublic schools or high performing public schools.
 - If awarded, the Department will make tuition payments directly to the school on the student's behalf
 - Participating schools receive a per-student award equal to the school's required tuition and student fees as approved by LDOE
 - Any optional fees (e.g. transportation, before/aftercare, field trips, sports, fundraising fees, etc.) are the responsibility of the family



Eligibility Requirements

Eligibility

<u>New Student</u> – any student applying to the Scholarship Program for the first time, who did not receive an LSP scholarship for the current 2023-2024 school year.

New students must be:

- 1. A Louisiana resident.
- 2. Have a household income that does not exceed <u>250% of the federal poverty guidelines</u>.
- 3. Either entering kindergarten or enrolled in a public school with a C, D, or F grade on both October 1 and February 1 of the current 2023-2024 school year.

Homeschool students and students in grades K-12 who currently attend nonpublic schools are not eligible.

Who Needs to Submit an Application?

- Students who are applying to the Scholarship Program for the first time
- **Current Scholarship students in the highest grade at their current** school
- Current Scholarship students who would like to transfer to another participating school

Note: Schools will collect all income and residency verification for new students during the application cycle. This information is kept on file for audit purposes.

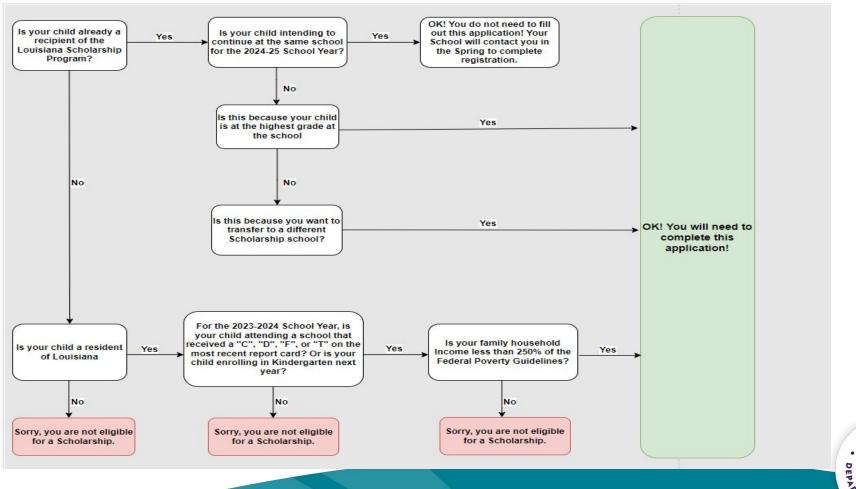


Different Types of Applications



Applicant Type	Description	Required Action(s) to be Considered for an Award
New Student	Any student applying to the Scholarship program for the first time in grades K-12.	 Complete a required application. Take eligibility documentation to the first choice school. Must meet income and residency criteria.
NSECD Student (NSECD students do not receive automatic placement into the Scholarship program)	A rising Pre-K 4 student who is applying to the Scholarship program for kindergarten.	 Complete a required application Take eligibility documentation to the first choice school. Must meet income and residency criteria.
"Terminal Grade" Student	Any current Scholarship student who is completing the final grade offered at their current Scholarship school.	 Students in terminal grades must complete a new Scholarship application for the upcoming school year. Those students who are in a terminal grade who fail to reapply will lose their Scholarship award. Students in terminal grades do not need to provide eligibility documentation to be considered for an award.
Continuing Scholarship Student	Any current Scholarship student who like to continue at the same Scholarship school the upcoming year.	No application is needed. The student placement will automatically rollover to the current scholarship school for the upcoming year.
Continuing Scholarship Student (switching to a different school)	Any current Scholarship student who would like to transfer to another participating scholarship school for the upcoming year.	 Students must complete a new Scholarship application for the upcoming school year. Students do not need to provide eligibility documentation to be considered for an award.







Application Process

Application Process

Applying for a Louisiana Scholarship is a two-step process:

Step 1 is completion of the online application.

Step 2 is submission of the income and residency verification to your first choice Scholarship school.

For Orleans Parish residents: Effective December 2022, the Louisiana Scholarship Program no longer accepts applications through NCAP (EnrollNOLA/OneApp).

To apply for the Louisiana Scholarship Program, Orleans parish residents must submit an application using the LDE website and complete the application process by submitting all required verification to their first choice Scholarship school.

Application Timeline 2024-2025

STEP	DATE
LSP Online Application Opens	December 11, 2023
LSP Online Application Closes	January 19, 2024
Income and Residency Verification Due	January 26, 2024
Award Notification Letters and Emails	April 22, 2024
Site Registration Begins (Accept 2024-2025 LSP Award)	April 22, 2024
Parent Webinar for LSP Site Registration	April 23, 2024
Site Registration Ends (Last day to accept 2024-2025 LSP Award)	May 24, 2024
LSP Summer Transfer Window Opens	June 10, 2024



Submitting your Application: Overview

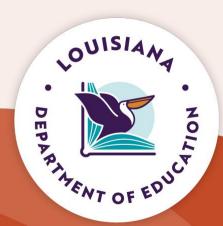
The 2024-25 Louisiana Scholarship application opens on December 11, 2023.

- 1. Access the online application available on the LDE website, found here.
 - The link will not be active until December 11, 2023.
- 2. Complete your online application by January 19, 2024.
- 3. Verify income and residency at your first choice Scholarship school by **January 26, 2024.**
- 4. Receive award notification from LDE via mail/email by **April 22, 2024** about the status of your application.
- 5. If offered an award, families must claim the Scholarship award by registering at your matched school by **May 24, 2024.**

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



Application Overview



Welcome to the Online Student Application for the Louisiana Scholarship Program

Prior to beginning this application, we encourage you to visit the Scholarship Program Family Participation Guide. This guide will provide you with a full overview of the Louisiana Scholarship Program.

Effective December 2022, the Louisiana Scholarship Program no longer accepts applications through NCAP (EnrollNola/OneApp).

To apply for the Louisiana Scholarship Program, Orleans Parish residents must submit an application using this online application and complete the application process by submitting all required verification to their first choice Scholarship school.

Families of students entering grades K-12 can submit this application for the Louisiana Scholarship Program for the 2024-2025 school year. Please read each question and carefully enter the requested information. Only complete and error-free applications will be considered. Any errors may result in the delay or disqualification of an application.

Applying for the Louisiana Scholarship Program is a two-step process.

- 1. Step 1 is completion of this application.
- Step 2 is completion of the income and residency verification at your first choice Scholarship school. See below for more information.*
 *For families applying for a student who does not currently participate in the Scholarship program.

NEW Scholarship Students

To be eligible to receive a Scholarship, new students must:

- Be a current resident of Louisiana
- Be one of the following:
 - Currently attending a "C," "D," "F," or "T" public school on both October 1 and February 1 of the current school year OR
 - Entering kindergarten for the first time at a "C." "D." "F." or "T" public school for the 2024-2025 school year.
- Have a family household income that does not 250% of 2022 Federal Poverty Guidelines (click here).

Please note that new Scholarship students need to submit eligibility documentation in person at their first choice school after submitting this application. Instructions for doing so are available in the Scholarship Application Guide available on our website: https://www.louisianabelieves.com/schools/louisiana-scholarship-program.

Current Scholarship Students

- Want your child to stay at his or her current school? No problem! If you wish for your child to return to his/her current school, no action is
 required on your part. If your current school serves the grade your student will enter in 2024-2025, you are guaranteed a seat if you wish to
 return.
- Want to add siblings to the scholarship program? If you currently have a child/children receiving the Scholarship and would like to apply for their sibling(s), you will need to complete an application for the new sibling. To apply for a sibling, complete this application. <u>Eligibility</u> documentation must be submitted for each additional sibling.
- Want to switch your child to another school next year? To apply to another school other than your current school, follow the instructions below.
 Continuing Scholarship students do not need to submit eligibility documentation.
- Is your child completing the final grade offered at their current scholarship school this year? Be sure to submit a new application for your child! Those students who are currently in the highest grade offered at their current school but do not submit a new application will lose their Scholarship award—no transfers will be allowed after the application deadline (January 22, 2024) has passed. <u>Continuing Scholarship</u> students do not need to submit eligibility documentation.

If you have any questions about the application process, please contact the Office of School Choice at studentscholarships@la.gov.



^{*} Homeschool students and students in grades K-12 who currently attend nonpublic schools are not eligible.*

Submitting Your Application: Eligibility Check

Step 1: Student Eligibility Check

My child is a current Scholarship student who wishes to transfer to a different Scholarship school? OR My child is a current Scholarship recipient in the highest grade offered at their current Scholarship school.	◎ No
osition in the ingreed grade should be their serious serious serious serious.	O Yes
If you answered "No" to the above question, please confirm that your child meets each of the eligibility requirements below:	
1. Is my child a resident of Louisiana?	⊚ No
	○ Yes
2. Is my child entering grades K-12?	⊚ No
	○ Yes
3. For the 2023-2024 School Year, did my child attend a school that received a "C", "D", "F", or "T" SPS letter grade on the most	⊚ No
recent report card? OR	O Yes
Will my child be attending Kindergarten for the first time?	
You can find a list of eligible schools on the LDOE website.	
4. Is my family household income less than 250% of the federal poverty guidelines, as established by the Federal Office of	⊚ No
Management and Budget?	O Yes
To view the 2024-2025 LSP income limits, click here.	
Continue	
Continue	

Submitting Your Application: Student Information



Step 2: Online Submission Eligibility Check

Directions: the following questions will allow us to expedite your application process. If you receive an error message, this does not necessarily mean you are ineligible to receive a Scholarship.

 What grade is your child entering for the 2024-2025 School Year? 		* Select One	~
Note: for all grades, please assume that your child will progress to the next grade level. Therefore, if your child is currently in 4th grade, please select 5th.			
2. Student Social Security Number (999-99-9999)	*		
3. Student Last Name	*		
4. Student First Name	*		
5. Student Date of Birth (MM/DD/YYYY)	*		
Continue			



Submitting Your Application: Student Information



Step 3: Student Information

131-31-3413
TEST
Another
None ~
01/01/2019
Pre-Kindergarten/No Grade •
Male
No •
☐ American Indian
Pacific Islander
Asian
Black
☐ White
☐ I prefer not to answer this.
-
Find It



Submitting Your Application: Multiple Birth Siblings

- Question 15-Multiple Birth Siblings: This is where you would enter information for multiple birth siblings (e.g. twin, triplet, etc.).
 - This helps to ensure that multiple birth siblings are placed at the same school.
- Completing this question on the application DOES NOT count as an application for the sibling(s) listed.

Last Name	First Name	Middle Name	Social Security Number
			1

- Parents must complete a SEPARATE application for each sibling that they wish to add to the Scholarship Program, even if they are listed here on the application.
- Eligibility documentation must be submitted for every new sibling applying for a Scholarship.

Submitting Your Application: Parent Information

Step 3: Parent/Legal Guardian Information

1. Parent/ Legal Guardian Last Name	
2. Parent/ Legal Guardian First Name	
3. Parent/ Legal Guardian Middle Name	
4. Suffix (Jr., Sr., etc.)	None ~
5. Relationship to Student	
6. Mailing Address	
7. Apartment Number (leave blank if none)	
8. Zip Code	
9. City	Find It
10. Home Phone	
11. Cell Phone	
12. E-mail Address (for confirmation and follow-up)	
13. How did you hear about this program?	In a Newspaper 🔻

Submitting Your Application: Sibling Information

- **Step 3: Sibling Information:** This is where you would enter information for additional siblings that are currently receiving and/or applying for a Scholarship.
 - This helps to ensure that the applicant is given sibling priority to the same school as their sibling in the lottery.
 - Failure to list the sibling information will result in the applicant not receiving sibling priority.

Step 3: Sibling Information Instructions: Please identify the student's siblings. Siblings will receive priority to a school, although not a guaranteed placement, if one of your children already attends and will continue to attend that school next year. Please note: A separate application needs to be submitted for each child. Last Name First Name Middle Name Social Security Number School Name Add Another

- Completing this question on the application DOES NOT count as an application for the sibling(s) listed.
- Parents must complete a **SEPARATE** application for each sibling that they wish to add the Scholarship Program, even if they are listed here on the application.
- Eligibility documentation must be submitted for every new sibling applying for a Scholarship.

- **Step 3: Income:** All new students should have a household income that does not exceed <u>250% of the federal poverty guidelines.</u>
 - New Student any student applying to the Scholarship Program for the first time, who did not receive an LSP scholarship for the current 2023-2024 school year

Step 3: Income Verification

13. Annual Family Household Income	
14. Number in Family Household	2 🔻

Instructions:

Families must submit **proof of income** for all immediate family members and/or guardians living in the home by bringing <u>one</u> of the following documents to the first scholarship school listed on the application:

- 2022 Federal Tax Return, total income* (If awarded a Scholarship, a household must proved a 2023 tax return at the time of registration in the Spring.)
- Last 4 consecutive check stubs (Must be for the current year and within 60 days from date of application)
- Most recent unemployment compensation statement
- DCFS placement form, in the case of foster children
- · Most recent pension statements
- Most recent Social Security benefits statement
- · Any income verification, benefits statement, or award letter from a government entity or tax-reporting business
- Louisiana Purchase Card Budget Sheet or Benefits Statement (The Louisiana Purchase card is NOT accepted as valid proof that the family is a SNAP participant.)

- 1. A household is defined as all immediate family members (parents and minor siblings) that reside in the home. However, it may also include any extended family members and/or guardians that have legal custody or guardianship of the student.
- 2. Income must be verified for all adults that are members of the household.
- 3. A household may provide their 2022 Federal Tax Return to verify income at the time of application. However, if awarded a scholarship, the household MUST provide a 2023 Federal Tax Return at the time of registration in the Spring to confirm eligibility.
- 4. If a household uses check stubs to verify income, the check stubs must be the last 4 consecutive check stubs (for the current year) within 60 days of the date of application.

2024-2025 Louisiana Scholarship Program Income Limits 250% OF CURRENT FEDERAL POVERTY GUIDELINES*				
2	\$49,300	\$4,108	\$1,896	\$948
3	\$62,150	\$5,179	\$2,390	\$1195
4	\$75,000	\$6,250	\$2,884	\$1442
5	\$87,850	\$7,321	\$3,378	\$1690
6	\$100,700	\$8,392	\$3,873	\$1937
7	\$113,550	\$9,463	\$4,367	\$2184
8	\$126,400	\$10,533	\$4,861	\$2431
Add this amount for each Idditional family nember	\$12,850	\$1071	\$494	\$247

^{*}Guidelines are updated annually. 2023 guidelines listed; 2024 guidelines will be available in January.

2024-2025 Louisiana Scholarship Program Income Limits

Parents and/or guardians must provide one of the following documents for every member of the household to verify their annual household income is below 250% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines:

If the parent participates in any one of the programs below, the parent can bring evidence that they participate in the program.

- Placement form from DCFS in the case of foster children
- Most recent unemployment compensation statement
- Louisiana Purchase Card (SNAP) Budget Sheet or Benefits Statement
 - The Louisiana Purchase card is NOT accepted as valid proof that the family is a SNAP participant.
- Most recent Social Security benefits statement



If the parent does not participate in any of the programs previously listed, the parent will need to bring proof of income for every income-earning member of their household.

- 2022 Federal Tax Return, total income*
- Most recent pension statements
- Last 4 consecutive check stubs (for the current year) within 60 days of the date of application.
- Any income verification, benefits statement, or award letter from a government entity or tax-reporting business

*A household may provide their 2022 Federal Tax Return to verify income at the time of application. However if awarded a scholarship, the household MUST provide a 2023 Federal Tax Return at the time of registration in the Spring to confirm eligibility.



Submitting Your Application: Residency

Step 3: Residency Verification

Instructions:

You must provide proof of residency by bringing a document below to one of the schools selected on your application prior to the application deadline.

The address of residency should be where the child lives and should match the student address you entered on your application. The documentation must verify residency for current date.

This proof can consist of any of the following:

- Rental lease agreement/mortgage agreement
- Electricity/Gas Bill
- Telephone Bill
- · Cable or Internet service bill
- Sewage/water bill
- Current Official letter from a Government Agency (DCFS, DHH)
- · Homestead Exemption Notice
- Property Tax notice

Please note: If a telephone bill is used to verify residency, it must be a landline - cellular phone bills will not suffice.

Submitting Your Application: Submit Application

Step 3: School Selection

Please enter up to five (5) 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

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 quarantee that you will receive a match. Notification letters will be mailed by late April for Round 1.

Stud	dent Entering Grade:	Kindergart	en	
	Parish/School District		School Selections	
1	Select One	•	V	
2	Select One	~	V	
3	Select One	~	V	
4	Select One	~	٧	
5	Select One	~	v	

For a list of participating schools, please visit our website.

Step 3: Disclosures

🗆 I agree that the information I have provided is truthful, and certify that I am the legal guardian of the applying student and am authorized to make application on his

By submitting this application to the Louisiana Scholarship program, you are granting permission for the Louisiana Department of Education to utilize, and to disclose to third parties, any information provided by you in this application to verify eligibility for the program and if a Scholarship is awarded, to continue to utilize, and to disclose to third parties, this information as it relates to the award granted.

Once you hit submit, a confirmation email will be sent to the email address provided in the application.

Families are encouraged to choose multiple schools and rank them in their order of preference.



Verifying Your Eligibility

All verification for applications <u>must</u> be submitted **to schools in person** by **January 26, 2024.**

Families must go to their first choice Scholarship school listed on the application and bring the following:

- One qualifying proof of income for all members of the household
- One qualifying proof of residency

School staff will review documentation and if eligible mark your application as complete in our system.

<u>Please Note</u>: Being determined eligible for a scholarship, does not guarantee a Scholarship award.



Scholarship Awards (Match and Lottery)

Scholarship Awards: Match and Lottery

Once an application is submitted and deemed eligible, the application is entered into a lottery. Priority groups and random lottery numbers determine the order of awarding scholarships.

The Louisiana Department of Education will attempt to place as many applicants as possible in their preferred school choice.

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



Scholarship Awards: Match and Lottery

 The Scholarship lottery process uses the following priorities (listed in order) to make student awards.

1.	Students transferring from a closing Scholarship school.
2a.	Current Nonpublic School Early Childhood Development (NSECD) students, if applicable. This applies to students applying to the same school they attended while enrolled in NSECD.
2b.	Current Scholarship student applicants that are in a terminal grade.
3.	Siblings of current Scholarship students (In order to link students as siblings, all siblings must be listed on each application.) Only applies to children that are applying to a Scholarship school which their sibling already attends on a Scholarship.
4.	Applicants attending a D or F public school or students transferring from a sanctioned Scholarship school.
5.	Applicants attending a C school.
6.	Applicants residing in the same parish as the school, if school chose to offer a geographic preference.
7.	Current Scholarship students who wish to attend a different Scholarship school.

While these students receive priority in the lottery process, a Scholarship award cannot be guaranteed.





- Do current scholarship students transferring to another scholarship school next year need to prove eligibility? No.
- Must the applicant be listed on the family household tax return when used as proof of income? No.
- What documents can be used to prove income if the family household has no income?
 Unemployment statement, social security benefits, and SNAP benefits.
- Is a W-2 and/or 1099 an acceptable for proof of income? No, W-2s and 1099s only show individual income. Eligibility must be based on household income.
- I missed the application deadline, is there any way I can submit an application? No, we cannot accept application after the January 19, 2024 deadline.
- Can I email my eligibility documentation to LDE? No, all documentation must be submitted IN PERSON to your first choice Scholarship school.
- Can you resend the confirmation email? No, the automated system will not allow LDOE to resend the email.
- Can you I apply using a paper application? No, paper applications are not available.

- My child is currently in the highest grade offered at their current scholarship school. Will their scholarship just rollover to a new school? No, all families with terminal grade students must submit an application.
- Do I need to complete separate applications for each of my children, even if I listed them on a sibling's application? **Yes.**
- I'm applying to add my child's sibling to the Scholarship Program, do I have submit income and residency documentation? **Yes.**
- If I transfer my child to a C, D, or F school now or later in the school year, will they be eligible? No, students must be enrolled in a C, D, or F grade public school on BOTH October 1 and February 1 of the current school year.
- I made a mistake or would like to change some things on my application. Should I submit a new application? No, contact the Office of School Choice at studentscholarships@la.gov so that we can assist you with next steps.

- My child was awarded a scholarship. Will the tuition payments come directly to me? No, all tuition payments will be made directly to the scholarship school on behalf of the student.
- I would like to transfer my student to another participating scholarship school.
 What steps do I need to take? You must first accept the scholarship at your
 child's matched school. After you have accepted the award, you must go to the
 new school to complete a transfer form. Transfers cannot be requested until the
 transfer window opens on June 10, 2024.
- My child was awarded a scholarship for the 2024-2025 school year, but I would like
 to enroll them in a public school. If I enroll my child in a public school, will we lose
 our scholarship award? Yes. If a student is awarded a scholarship for the
 2024-2025 school year and the family chooses to enroll the student in a public
 school or a non-participating nonpublic school, the student forfeits their
 scholarship award for that school year.



Application Timeline

Application Timeline 2024-2025

STEP	DATE
LSP Online Application Opens	December 11, 2023
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Parent Webinar for LSP Site Registration	April 23, 2024
Site Registration Ends (Last day to accept 2024-2025 LSP Award)	May 24, 2024
LSP Summer Transfer Window Opens	June 10, 2024



Helpful Links

Helpful Links

- Louisiana Scholarship Program webpage
- LSP Family Participation Guide
- 2024-2025 LSP Income Limits
- 2024-2025 LSP Participating Schools (pending BESE Approval)
- Louisiana Scholarship Program Online Application (active on December 11, 2023)





Questions







Thank You For Joining Today's Call!

For questions about the scholarship program please send an email to:

Louisiana Scholarship Program studentscholarships@la.gov

